



REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CABINET BOARD

***Immediately Following Scrutiny Committee on
FRIDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2017***

COMMITTEE ROOMS A/B - NEATH CIVIC CENTRE

PART 1

1. Appointment of Chairperson
2. To receive any declarations of interest from Members.
3. Minutes of the previous Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board held on 22 September, 2017
(Pages 5 - 14)

To receive the Report of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services

4. PREVENT Plan (Pages 15 - 30)

To receive the Report of the Head of Property and Regeneration

5. Neath Food and Drink Festival 2017 (Pages 31 - 36)

To receive the Report of the Head of Planning and Public Protection

6. Primary Authority Partnership (Pages 37 - 44)
7. Planning Performance Annual Report 2016-2017 (Pages 45 - 98)

8. Food and Feed Service Delivery Plan 2017-18 and Enforcement Review 2016-17 (*Pages 99 - 168*)
9. Integrated Network Map - Active Travel (*Pages 169 - 222*)
10. Local Development Plan - Annual Monitoring Report (*Pages 223 - 414*)
11. **Forward Work Programme 2017/18** (*Pages 415 - 418*)
12. Any urgent items (whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Chairman pursuant to Statutory Instrument 2001 No 2290 (as amended).
13. Access to Meetings - to resolve to exclude the public for the following items pursuant to Regulation 4(3) and (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2290 and the relevant exempt paragraphs of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

PART 2

To receive the Private Report of the Head of Property and Regeneration

14. Workways + (Exempt under Paragraph 14) (*Pages 419 - 434*)
15. Delegated Power 2017 (Exempt under Paragraph 14) (*Pages 435 - 458*)
16. Former Afan Lido Procurement (Exempt under Paragraph 14) (*Pages 459 - 464*)

To receive the Private Report of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services

17. Private Urgency Action - 1385 (Exempt under Paragraph 14) (*Pages 465 - 472*)

S.Phillips
Chief Executive

Civic Centre
Port Talbot

20 October, 2017

Cabinet Board Members:

Councillors: D.W.Davies and A.Wingrave

Notes:

- (1) *If any Cabinet Board Member is unable to attend, any other Cabinet Member may substitute as a voting Member on the Committee. Members are asked to make these arrangements direct and then to advise the committee Section.*
- (2) *The views of the earlier Scrutiny Committee are to be taken into account in arriving at decisions (pre decision scrutiny process).*

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EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD

CABINET BOARD - 22 SEPTEMBER 2017

REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CABINET BOARD

Cabinet Board Members:

Councillors: E.V.Latham and A.Wingrave (Chairperson)

Officer in Attendance:

T.Davies

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

Agreed that Councillor A.Wingrave be appointed Chairperson for the meeting.

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CABINET BOARD HELD ON 21 JULY, 2017**

Noted by the Committee.

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE FROM 27 JULY, 2017**

Noted by the Committee.

4. **QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

Decision:

That the monitoring report be noted.

5. **LOCAL AUTHORITY NEW DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES - VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE (WALES) ACT 2015**

Decisions:

1. That the content of the final strategy 'Neath Port Talbot Healthy Relationships for Stronger Communities 2016 – 2019', as detailed at Appendix 1 to the circulated report, and its publication, be approved;
2. That the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services be authorised to progress the development of regional working with Western Bay partners.

Reason for Decisions:

To secure compliance by the Council with the new duties under Section 5 (1) of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015, and to also ensure the Council will be able to benefit from the Welsh Government grant that supports this legislation from 2018/19 when the grant will be pooled on a regional basis.

Implementation of Decisions:

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

This item has been subject to external consultation.

6. **URGENCY ACTION 0032 - SUBSTANCE MISUSE ACTION PLAN**

Decision:

That the following urgency action taken by the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services in consultation with the requisite Members, be noted:-

Officer Urgency Action No 0032 re: Substance Misuse Action Plan Fund (SMAF) Revenue for the Western Bay Area Planning Board (APB).

7. **ALLEGED PUBLIC FOOTPATH - TONMAWR**

Decision:

That no Modification Order be made, between points A-B-C-D from John's Terrace to the Business Park, Tonmawr in the Community of Pelenna, as detailed in the circulated report.

Reason for Decision:

The use is very localised and so cannot be representative of the public at large.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

This item has been subject to external consultation.

8. **ALLEGED PUBLIC FOOTPATH - COMMUNITY OF COEDFFRANC**

Decision:

That no Modification Order be made, between points A-B-C (Woodland Road to Ormes Road) and points B-E (Woodland Road to Dynevor Road) in the Community of Coedffranc, as detailed in the circulated report.

Reasons for Decision (points A-B-C above):

1. Only three people have said they would continue to support this application;
2. Point C does not connect to a public highway;
3. Any use west of point C to access those properties would not constitute use by the public at large.

Reasons for Decision (point B-E above):

1. Only four people supported this application which was too low a number to warrant making a modification order, particularly given the number of houses in the area;
2. These four cannot be said to represent the public at large, given they live in relative close proximity to the lane;
3. In 1955 the former Parish Council initially considered this lane as a possible Public Right of Way but later reversed that decision on the basis that it was used as a private street.

9. **ALLEGED PUBLIC FOOTPATH - COMMUNITY OF TAIBACH**

Decision:

That no Modification Order be made for the alleged public path/s situated at Cwm Gwineu Valley in the Community of Taibach.

Reason for Decision:

There is insufficient support for the claim nor has one route been clearly defined, also there is no provision within the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to claim a right to wander over land.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

This item has been subject to external consultation.

10. **HOUSING RENEWAL AND ADAPTATION SERVICE - EXTENSION OF REGENERATION WORKS FRAMEWORK**

Decisions:

1. That the requirements of competition be excluded and Rule 2.1 of the Council's Contracts Procedure Rules be suspended;

2. That the current framework agreement for Housing Renewal Works (the 'Framework') and the 6 framework agreements with each contractor appointed thereunder (the 'Framework Agreements') be extended for a period of six months from 1 October 2017, to allow the Council to run its own competitive tendering exercise which would be undertaken at the same time as the extension was put in place.

Reason for Decisions:

To ensure continuity of Housing Renewal Works pending the Council's intended competitive procurement exercise and the implementation of a new framework and new framework agreements resulting therefrom.

Implementation of Decisions:

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

11. **COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Decision:

That the introduction of a strategy document to assist in developing community resilience to local emergencies (the 'Community Resilience and Engagement Strategy'), as detailed within the circulated report, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

To improve service delivery and efficiency.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

12. **AIR QUALITY PROGRESS REPORT 2017**

Decisions:

1. That the contents of the 2017 Air Quality Progress Report and Detailed Assessment of Air Quality be noted;

2. That the 2017 Air Quality Progress Report and Detailed Assessment of Air Quality reports be made available to the public and other stakeholders via the Council website, and a copy sent to the Welsh Assembly Government for information.

Reason for Decisions:

To provide information about air quality in accordance with legislative requirements.

Implementation of Decisions:

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

13. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18**

Decision:

That the Forward Work Programme be noted.

14. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

Decision:

That pursuant to Regulation 4(3) and (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2290, the public be excluded for the following items of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

15. **URGENT ITEM**

Because of the need to deal now with the matter contained in Minute No. 16 below, the Chairperson agreed that this could be raised at today's meeting as an urgent item pursuant to Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2290 (as amended).

Reason:

Due to the time element

16. **URGENT REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PROPERTY AND REGENERATION - LAND AT EMPIRE AVENUE, BLAENGWRACH, NEATH**

Decision:

That the terms and conditions (as detailed within the private report) for the release of the restrictive covenant, at Land at Empire Avenue, Blaengwrach, Neath, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

To enable the proposal to progress.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

The Local Member for the Blaengwrach Ward has been consulted and is not in favour of the proposal.

17. **BAGLAN BAY INNOVATION CENTRE DILAPIDATION CLAIM**

Decision:

That the terms and conditions, as detailed within the private circulated report for settling the dilapidations claim at Baglan Bay Innovation Centre and the Solar Centre, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

To settle the outstanding dilapidation claim as a consequence of Welsh Government handing back the premises at the expiry of the lease term.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

18. **FORMER HAFOD CARE HOME**

Decision:

That the disposal of the former Hafod Care Home, Wenham Place, Neath to Pobl Housing, as detailed within the private circulated report, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

To enable the sale of surplus land for an innovative housing development and to attain a capital receipt.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

The Local Members for the Neath North Ward have been consulted and are broadly supportive of the scheme.

19. **COMMERCIAL PROPERTY GRANT - 11 CROFT ROAD, NEATH**

Decision:

That a grant offer be made in relation to the commercial property, 11 Croft Road, Neath, as detailed within the private circulated report.

Reason for Decision:

To implement the provisions of the grant scheme in accordance with the criteria and terms of administration of the grant.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

20. **COMMERCIAL PROPERTY GRANT - 34 ORCHARD STREET, NEATH**

Decision:

That a grant offer be made in relation to the commercial property, “Plaza Café”, 34 Orchard Street, Neath, as detailed within the private circulated report.

Reason for Decision:

To implement the provisions of the grant scheme in accordance with the criteria and terms of administration of the grant.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

21. **PORT TALBOT PERIPHERAL DISTRIBUTOR ROAD, PHASE 2, CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION**

Decision:

That the time limit to negotiate claims under the Port Talbot Peripheral Distributor Road Phase 2 scheme, to all the named parties within in the private circulated report, be extended to 31 December, 2017.

Reason for Decision:

To secure approval for the immediate action required in respect of claims under the Port Talbot Peripheral Distributor Road Phase 2 Scheme.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

CHAIRPERSON

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NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board

27 October 2017

Report of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services

K.Jones

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Members on how the new duties and responsibilities applied to local authorities following enactment of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 are being met.
2. To present the draft PREVENT Action plan to members for information
3. To obtain delegated authority from the Regeneration & Sustainable Development Cabinet Board to adopt the Venue Hire Policy to comply with s 29 and section E paragraph 45 of the Guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales on the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

Executive Summary

4. This report seeks support for the Prevent Action Plan developed to respond to the counter-terrorism and security duties placed on local authorities by the UK Government.
5. Local authorities now have a general duty to have regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

6. Local authorities generally, are discharging the PREVENT duty through local multi-agency PREVENT Action Groups. In Neath Port Talbot the group will convene twice a year to ensure the work in the Action Plan is discharged.
7. Statutory guidance requires Local Authorities to develop a venue hire policy to ensure their venues are not being used by those whose views could draw people into terrorism and to ensure staff are conversant in making checks on those individuals and groups booking Council owned venues.
8. The report seeks to update Members following the granting of delegated authority for relevant officers to take the steps necessary for the Council to comply with the new duties in September 2015.

Background

9. The UK Government has legislated to make certain provisions related to terrorism. S26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on local authorities to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism” in the exercise of their functions. This means that local authorities must place an appropriate weight on the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism when they consider all the other factors relevant to how they carry out their usual functions.
10. To enable the Local Authority to discharge this duty the Neath Port Talbot Prevent strategy has three specific strategic objectives
 - Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
 - Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support
 - Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.
11. To date we have
 - Set up a Channel Panel and dealt with 3 referrals via the Channel process.
 - Participated in the Western Bay CONTEST Board. As the chair rotates, Neath Port Talbot will Chair the meetings from Oct 2018 – July 2019

- Undertaken a Peer Prevent review
- Accredited 12 trainers and rolled out Workshop to Raise Awareness of PREVENT (WRAP) training to 800 employees and Councillors
- Drafted a venue hire policy
- Set up a PREVENT Action Group (PAG) with the Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

Financial Impact

12. There is no new recurring revenue funding identified for Neath Port Talbot Council to discharge the duties and responsibilities set out in this report. The Council continues to provide staff support to the Channel Panel and the Prevent Action Group.

Equality Impact Assessment

13. The Equality Act 2010 requires public bodies to “pay due regard to the need to:
 - eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
 - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share it.”

The Home Office considers that the new duties are relevant to fulfilling duties under the Equality Act 2010.

Workforce Impact

14. A small number of officers will need to participate in the work of the Prevent Action Group and with the implementation of the Action Plan.
15. It is not anticipated that there will be a significant impact on workforce other than as described above, other than to participate in the training programme.

Legal Impact

16. The Council's Constitution has been amended to reflect the delegated authorities that are needed to take the actions necessary to comply with the new duties and implement the Prevent Action Plan and Venue Hire Policy in line with the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 .

Crime and Disorder Impact

17. The Council has a legal duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to carry out all its various functions with "due regard to the need to prevent Crime and Disorder in its area".

Risk Management

18. There is a risk that the current staffing level will be insufficient to cover the duties if the level of extremism activity locally increases, this will be monitored and should it become a problem, further reports to Members will be provided.

Consultation

19. There is no requirement under the Constitution for consultation on this item.

Recommendations

20.
 - (1) That the Policy and Resources Cabinet Board authorises the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services to implement the Venue Policy for Neath Port Talbot buildings necessary to secure compliance by the local authority with s29 section E paragraph 45 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and associated statutory guidance issued by the Home Secretary in relation thereto.
21.
 - (2) That the Neath Port Talbot Prevent Action Plan be supported.

Reason for Proposed Decision

22. To provide the relevant officers with the delegated authority to implement the Council's venue hire policy and implement the requirement set out in Statutory guidance to have such a policy in place.

Implementation of Decision

23. The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices

24. Appendix one – Neath Port Talbot PREVENT Action Plan
Appendix two - Neath Port Talbot Venue Hire Policy

List of Background Papers:

25. **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015**
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/6/pdfs/ukpga_20150006_en.pdf
Prevent Duty Guidance
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417943/Prevent_Duty_Guidance_England_Wales.pdf

Officer Contact

26. Mrs Karen Jones, Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services. Tel: 01639 763284 or e-mail: k.jones3@npt.gov.uk

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Prevent Action Plan

| Action | Status | Lead | Next Steps / Action | Timescale | |
|---------------------|---|---|----------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Gap Analysis | | | | | |
| 1 | Communicate and promote the importance of the duty | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information available via the e-learning module is being made available to staff. Prevent page to be developed for website | Elinor Wellington / Rachel Dixon | Develop web page | End Dec. 2017 |
| 2 | Local authorities should use the existing counter terrorism local profiles produced by the police to assess the risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism | CTLTP received and actioned | Karen Jones | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CTLTP expected April 2018 Updates provided at regional CONTEST meetings feed back into local PREVENT Panel. Need to develop community intelligence with Community Safety partners. | Completed |
| 3 | Risk assessments should be informed by engagement with prevent co-ordinators, schools, registered childcare providers, universities, colleges, local prisons, probation services, health, immigration enforcement, youth offending teams and others as well as by a local authority's own knowledge of its area | A local Prevent Panel has been formed with the Community Safety Partnership to keep risk assessments under continuous review. | CSP Chairs | To be monitored by the Prevent Action Group | Completed |
| 4 | Local authorities should ensure that there are clear and robust safeguarding policies to identify children at risk | Working with Young People Services, Social Services and Schools | Alison Davies | Safeguarding policies are in place and will be monitored | Completed |
| 5 | Where risk is identified a Prevent action plan should be identified by the local multi-agency group | There are no specific risks identified which warrant action at this time | Elinor Wellington / Sian Morris | The PAG to agree when a specific risk is identified and to oversee the establishment of and Action Plan and agree actions | Completed |
| 6 | Local authority staff will be expected to make referrals to Channel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 Trainers accredited by Home Office training to deliver WRAP 810 staff trained as at 31/8/2017 Referral pathway is in place | Elinor Wellington / Rachel Dixon | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,000 Staff to receive WRAP training by 31.3.18 Referral pathway to be reviewed in light of Peer Prevent feedback | 31/03/18 |
| 7 | Local authorities must ensure that organisations who work with the authority on prevent duties are not involved in any extremist activity or espouse extremist views | WRAP training will support people in being able to assess the risk | Elinor Wellington / Rachel Dixon | Once Local Authority training is delivered further assistance/development of training for other partnerships to be considered via PAG | 31/03/18 |
| 8 | Local authorities should take the opportunity to write the principles of the duty into contracts in a suitable form when new contracts are being made | Not yet completed | Legal | Standard clause to be inserted into contracts and agreements | 31/03/18 |

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|----|--|---|--------------|---|-----------|
| 9 | The local authority should ensure that private and voluntary organisations supporting children are aware of and know how to contribute to Prevent related activity in their area | To be considered | N/K | Opening up WRAP to them will fulfil this requirement | Completed |
| 10 | Education and childcare specified authorities must have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Schools have received a copy of the updated Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies • All Schools have received additional training on Channel General Awareness • Guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales on the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism sent to schools • Head of Participation has informed all educational settings that they need to take due diligence in relation to preventing people being drawn into terrorism • Safer Recruitment procedures and policy has been reaffirmed to all stakeholders • All Educational settings have a detailed and robust Safeguarding visit and audit every 36months • Promotion to accountable managers on The WRAP Awareness raising training | Chris Millis | Head of Participation has met with both Participation coordinator and Operations Coordinator to discuss the development of corporate safeguarding | Completed |
| 11 | Specified authorities are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Schools have received a copy of the updated Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies. • All Schools have received additional training on Channel General Awareness | Chris Millis | Head of Participation has met with both Participation coordinator and Operations Coordinator to discuss the development of corporate safeguarding | Completed |
| 12 | Specified authorities will need to demonstrate that they are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having robust safeguarding policies in place to identify children at risk and intervening as appropriate. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Schools have received a copy of the updated Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies. • Training in Safeguarding and Child Protection follows a strict timetable • Updated Safeguarding in employment Policy • Updated Volunteer Safe Recruitment Policy • Training continues on a rolling programme | Chris Millis | Training continues on a rolling programme | Completed |

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|----|---|--|--------------|--|-----------|
| 13 | Specified authorities should make sure staff have training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School based training • Special Training events • Chair of Governor and Vice Chair training every term | Chris Millis | Training continues on a rolling programme | Completed |
| 14 | Specified authorities will be expected to ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E Safety Training events on a termly basis • Good Practice sharing by schools • ERW and HWB advice sent to all establishments • Princess Royal event run by the South West Grid for Learning who with the support of Welsh Government are raising awareness in e-safety. • Digital Decision sessions | Chris Millis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training continues on a rolling programme • E safety on HWB internet is comprehensive for both parents and pupils | Completed |

Peer Review Recommendations

Local Risk Assessment Profile

| | | | | | |
|----|--|---|---------------|---|---------------|
| 15 | NPTCBC to proactively provide information to WECTU to inform the CTLP | There is work to be done locally to develop Community Intelligence to inform the CTLP. | PAG members | Look for some good practice models and what would work in NPT | 31/03/18 |
| 16 | CTLP | | | | |
| 17 | CTLP recommendations to form the basis of the Prevent Action Plan | There are no CTLP recommendations that require action | Karen Jones | Continuously review position as new information becomes available | 31/03/18 |
| 18 | NPTCBC to understand own risk and threat assessment to inform action Plan | Current local threat and risk remain low but is continuously reviewed | Sheenagh Rees | Ensure regular two-way communications between PREVENT and Protect and Prepare group | 31/03/18 |
| 19 | Safer NPT to use community engagement resource to inform risk assessment | Need a good understanding of what is happening in the community, need to link in with BME community and better understand the local profile | Riaz Hassan | Complete Community profile exercise | 31/03/18 |
| 20 | National Probation Service to present initial findings of offender vulnerability to NPTCBC | Link in with National Probation Service regarding vulnerability | Eirian Evans | Profile to be presented at PAG | End Dec. 2017 |

Partnership Board

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|----|--|--|-------------------|---|-----------|
| 21 | Ensure PAG has relevant membership to oversee delivery of the Prevent Plan and understand risk and local threat | PAG setup on 22nd June and will meet twice a year. The members of the group will oversee this action plan | Elinor Wellington | Action Plan to be presented to next PAG | Completed |
| 22 | Ensure reporting lines are clear to CSP and Safeguarding Boards | The Prevent Action Group (PAG) will form part two of the Safer NPT Partnership Group to ensure reporting lines are clear | PAG | The PAG meets twice a year. The next meeting of the PAG is on December 7th 2017 | Completed |
| 23 | Currently FE representation in Prevent governance is lacking. Given the geography of the region it would be more practical for the FE sector to be represented at the Regional Contest Board | The FE representative currently attends the Channel Panel and PAG. Attendance at the Regional Contest Board is desirable | Barrie Phillips | No Further Action | Completed |

| Partnership Plan | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|--|---------------|
| 24 | Develop action plan based on existing good practice and in response to identified local risk and threat | This document is based on duties yet to be discharged and recommendations of the Prevent Peer Review that have been agreed by the PAG, as well as relevant CTLP recommendations. | Elinor Wellington | To be circulated to PAG for approval | Completed |
| Referral Process | | | | | |
| 25 | Review the referral pathway process to identify points at which referrals can be rapidly escalated to WECTU | The referral pathway needs to be refined and tested with Chanel Panel members, this will be reported back to and monitored by the Prevent Action Group | Elinor Wellington / PAG | Referral pathway to be approved at next Channel Panel meeting. | End Dec. 2017 |
| 26 | Create a flowchart for the referral pathway to share with partners and frontline workers to facilitate quicker decision making | A flowchart for the referral pathway is already in place and distributed via the WRAP training | Elinor Wellington | Monitor number of referrals from the pathway. | End Dec. 2017 |
| Channel Panel | | | | | |
| 27 | Channel meetings should be scheduled monthly | Channel Panels have been scheduled bi-monthly to reflect the current low number of referrals . | No Further Action | Should the referrals increase the Channel Panels will be increased to monthly, to accommodate the workload | Completed |
| 28 | Consider merging Channel with Swansea should there continue to be low numbers of cases | There are no plans to merge the NPT Channel Panel with Swansea at present as the Act clearly states that all LA's should have their own Channel Panel | No Further Action | PAG needs an assurance that Channel Panel is working effectively and periodically review cases to see if there | Completed |
| 29 | Consider allocating the chairing of channel to a more senior officer | The current Channel Chair Paul Lewis will remain in post but additional resources have allowed the role to change so that the additional work will be picked up by another officer, Elinor Wellington | No Further Action | The current arrangements will continue | Completed |
| Problem Solving | | | | | |
| 30 | Formalise a process for disrupting radicalisation in partnership | How we work with communities around tackling ideologies is unclear at the present time. We will note the point and come back to it at a later time. | Sian Morris | Look at Hate Crime Data and try to gain a better understanding of what the problems are locally. | End Dec. 2017 |
| Training | | | | | |
| 31 | Ensure a training audit takes place across the partnership to prioritise those officers in most need of Prevent training | A training audit has been completed and priority staff identified | Rachel Dixon / Elinor Wellington | To be monitored | Completed |
| 32 | Consider joining up with organisations on a regional basis to create a more efficient training plan | We explored the possibility of training on a regional basis but as all the local areas have an established training framework in place there is no real advantage to doing this. However, we are all training partners who work cross boundary | No Further Action | No Further Action | Completed |
| 33 | Create training packages that are relevant to local people including the use of local case studies and recognition of local threats | All attendees on our Home Office approved WRAP training courses are given a training pack which includes relevant literature and the referral pathway | No Further Action | No Further Action | Completed |
| Venue Hire Policy | | | | | |

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|-----------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|---|---------------|
| 34 | Develop venue hire policies and ensure staff are conversant in making checks on those booking venues | A draft Venue Hire Policy is in place and will be taken to the NPT Council Cabinet Board for approval shortly. | Elinor Wellington / Karen Jones | The venue hire policy will go to NPT Council Cabinet Board in November 2017 | End Nov. 2017 |
| 35 | Ensure libraries and other IT provision supplied by the local authority have web filtering software in place | We are assured that the right IT filters are in place; however identified attempts to access particular sites are not currently being reported anywhere | Steve John | Identified attempts to access particular sites needs to be fed into an intelligence process | 31/03/18 |
| Engagement | | | | | |
| 36 | Use the BME forum to understand the needs and issues of BME residents | NPT are funding a BME Development Worker to network with the BME community to better understand the needs and issues of BME residents. | Riaz Hassan | Community Profile is underway and will be shared with the PAG. | 31/03/18 |
| 37 | Expand the role of local tension monitoring arrangements to identify tensions around extremism, including locations and institutions contributing to this | The local tension monitoring arrangements are being reviewed | Inspector Declan Cahill | The local tension monitoring arrangements are being reviewed | End Dec. 2017 |
| 38 | Develop training for elected members on Prevent and ensure they have a mechanism for reporting community tensions identified through their engagement | Elected members have been given Prevent training and there is a referral pathway in place for them to report community tensions. | Karen Jones | Further WRAP and Prevent training will be given to new members in the near future | End Dec. 2017 |
| Communications | | | | | |
| 39 | Develop a Prevent webpage on the NPTCBC website | A Prevent webpage is under development. This will sit on the Community Safety website with links to the main NPT website | Jon Lewis / Elinor Wellington | Page to be completed and hits monitored | End Dec. 2017 |
| 40 | Ask the Communications Team to monitor social media for extremist messaging originating locally, and feed this in to tensions monitoring arrangements | The NPT media team have a digital news desk and are proactively monitoring social media, members want to know what constituents are concerned about and Officers are required to challenge any inappropriate posts and comments. The media team work closely with Community Safety to report any incidents of note. | Comms / Elinor Wellington | Review whether this arrangement is effective | 31/03/18 |
| 41 | Work towards developing a partnership social media / communications strategy | Not yet developed | Comms / Elinor Wellington | PAG to oversee this work | 31/03/18 |
| CTLP | | | | | |
| 42 | No current recommendations that are the responsibility of NPT | | | | |

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Venue Hire Policy

To discharge duties placed upon the Council under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 – s29 and section E paragraph 45 of the Guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales on the duty in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism (Revised 16th July 2015)

The Chief Executive holds overall responsibility for ensuring there is clear guidance in place identifying suitable use of Council premises. The governing bodies of all schools within Neath Port Talbot are responsible for suitable use of school premises. This guidance will be reviewed periodically, as appropriate, within this policy.

Directors and Heads of Service will ensure that these guidelines are implemented within their areas of responsibility and make decisions on when to reject or cancel bookings of concern, ensuring these are reported to the Prevent Coordinator

Accountable managers are responsible for the day to day operation of this policy and all staff are responsible for adhering to the policy.

Purpose.

Neath Port Talbot Council will not permit its accommodation to be let:

- For political rallies or demonstrations (this excludes all Local, National Assembly, Parliamentary and European Parliamentary election activities as outlined in s.95 and s.96 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 as amended or any other relevant legislation)
- For purposes which are illegal i.e. be they forbidden by law or unauthorised by official or accepted rules
- For functions attended by people whose presence may cause civil unrest or division within the community
- To an organisation or individual which has been banned by law

The Council also reserves the right to cancel any booking where it considers:-

- That such events may be contrary to the interest of the general public or contrary to any law or act of Parliament. Any bookings may also be subject to consideration from the police to ensure the safety of the community is assessed against the request for a venue booking.
- The users of the premises may do something that may cause or pose a risk of loss, damage or significant expense to the Council or harm the reputation of the Council.

NPT Council is committed to creating a community which is safe and inclusive, where facilities and activities are available to diverse groups of people having access

to similar life opportunities, knowing their rights and responsibilities and where local institutions act fairly. To this purpose, no individuals or groups will be denied the opportunity for access to local authority managed properties unless there is a justifiable reason to do so within the spirit of this policy.

Procedural guidance

Step 1

The following questions will assist staff in determining whether a booking is considered controversial;

- i. Establish what the venue will be used for and what type of event the customer is wishing to hold at the community centre or other community facility
- ii. Establish whether the name given is linked to any community group or organisation
- iii. Request a copy of the programme details and names of any speakers.
- iv. Request all contact details of the organiser (address, mobile, home and business contact number).
- v. If the customer is not a local resident, establish why they are holding an event in this area.
- vi. Ask the customer if they have used any other venues in the country, if so contact the previous venue(s) to establish what the event was.

Step 2

If you are concerned with the answers provided by the customer, speak to your manager. If the manager deems it appropriate they will cross reference the booking details provided with the web links and contacts below, or ask you to do so (in the order listed):

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/proscribed-terror-groups-or-organisations--2>
(This provides a list of all known terrorist groups within UK and Ireland).
2. Contact the NPTCBC Prevent Co-ordinator;

Paul Lewis – Tel: 01639 889723 E-mail: p.a.lewis1@npt.gov.uk or

Elinor Wellington – Tel 01639 686285 E-mail: e.wellington@npt.gov.uk

Step 3

If the booking is identified as controversial the relevant Head of Service will make the final decision on whether to cancel.

This decision will be shared in advance of being communicated to the booking organisation with other known venue providers and the Council's communications team.

A record of the decision will need to be retained by the department for future reference.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Prevent Coordinator.

Date of initial review; June 2018

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NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board

Friday 27 October 2017

Report of the Head of Property and Regeneration

S Brennan

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: ALL

NEATH FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL 2017

1. Purpose of Report

To update to Members on the success of the 2017 Neath Food & Drink Festival organised by the Regeneration and Economic Development Team.

2. Executive Summary

The Neath Food and Drink Festival 2017, held between Friday 29th September and Sunday 1st October, is now in its ninth year and the festival is growing in significance each year.

During the 2017 festival the following outputs were achieved;

- Over 56,000 visitors came to the town over the three days of the festival.
- An additional 916 car parking tickets sold.
- Social media posts reached an audience of 38,500.
- The highest ever number of food and drink producers (68) were attracted to this year's festival.

3. Background

Set in the heart of Neath Town Centre the Neath Food and Drink Festival has become an established and high profile event in the town's calendar. The festival has seen consecutive growth each year for the

past nine years, expanding from a one day festival at its inception to a three day festival in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

The Neath Food and Drink Festival was established as part of a strategy to promote the Town Centre and assists in developing Neath as a place to visit. The event also contributes to the growth of the visitor economy across the whole Neath Port Talbot by extending the tourism season into the autumn months.

In addition to its Regeneration and Economic Development objectives the festival's key aims are to promote local food, celebrate local producers and promote Neath's thriving food and drink scene.

4. Key Achievements

- **Footfall**

A footfall count which was undertaken by the NPTCBC Survey Team has evidenced that over 56,000 people came to Neath Town Centre over the festival weekend.



2,336 car parking tickets were sold during the course of the weekend across all car parks in Neath Town Centre. The average number of tickets sold the weekend prior to the festival and the weekend after, both of which experienced much more favourable weather, was 1,420; this represents an additional 916 tickets sold, an increase of 65%.

The footfall and car parking figures are highly encouraging and highlight how the festival draws visitors into the Town Centre who go on to spend money both at the festival stalls and within local business.

- **Range and Number of Stallholders**

68 food producers and 6 non-food producers attended this year's festival; this is the highest number of stall holders in the event's nine year history. 53 of these producer's originated in Wales, of this 14 were from Neath Port Talbot.



The increase in stall holders interested in attending the event shows that the event is highly popular with food and drink producers and is well established on the Welsh food festival calendar.

- **Social Media Reach**

A more co-ordinated approach was taken to the management of social media platforms for this year's festival. There was a key focus on promoting the festival using a short video produced the previous year.

The video was extremely effective and was viewed on Facebook 17,822 times reaching an audience of 38,500 people, generating 520 engagements (likes and comments).

Social media raised the profile of the festival and assisted in attracting the 56,000 footfall to the event.



The cost of social media marketing activities was minimal and in future year's social media will be used as the main promotional tool for the festival.

- **Involvement of Town Centre Businesses**

The festival gives local restaurants, cafes and pubs the opportunity to showcase what they can offer.

As the Festival has developed, more businesses in the town have actively engaged with the event by adapting menus and offering entertainment.

This year a full programme of live bands was hosted throughout the weekend by The Castle Hotel, Moruzzi and Co, Treats of Old Market Street and Charlies Champagne Bar and Grill.

Neath Inspired also funded a street entertainer who entertained the crowds during the weekend.



5. Funding the Event

This year's festival made a small loss of just over £3,000, however this cost can be off-set by the following;

- 56,000 visitors that spent money within the town centre economy
- Overnight stays by stall holders in town centre hotels
- An additional 916 car parking tickets sold during the festival weekend which generated additional income for NPTCBC.

This year pitch fees generated approximately £19,000 which assists in covering the cost of the event. A grant of £5,000 was also secured from Welsh Government's Strategic Business Growth Grant Scheme via Food and Drink Wales.

6. The Future of Neath Food and Drink Festival

There is significant potential to develop the Festival further to attract visitors on overnight stays to Neath Town Centre.

2018 marks the ten year anniversary of the Neath Food and Drink Festival, such a milestone will assist in attracting good press coverage so it is important that we think bigger and better for 2018.

Raising the profile of the event in 2018 will generate even more visits to the Town Centre in future years. We are currently looking at options for how this can be achieved.

7. Financial Impact

Please see above

8. Equality Impact Assessment

There are no equality impacts associated with this report.

9. Workforce Impact

There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

10. Legal Impact

There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

11. Risk Management

There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

12. Consultation

There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

15. Officer Contact

Mr Andrew Collins – Regeneration & Economic Development

Tel No: 01639 686416

E-mail: a.collins@npt.gov.uk

Mr Simon Brennan – Head of Property and Regeneration

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NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board

27 October 2017

Report of the Head of Planning and Public Protection

N. Pearce

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All

Primary Authority Partnerships

Purpose of Report

1. To seek delegated authority for the Head of Planning and Public Protection to enter into Primary Authority Partnerships with businesses.

Executive Summary

2. This report details the nature of a Primary Authority Partnership arrangement which Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council would wish to pursue with new and existing local businesses and confirms the need for delegated authority for the Head of Planning and Public Protection to enter into such Primary Authority Partnerships.

Background

3. The Environmental Health & Trading Standards department currently supports a number of local businesses that trade across council boundaries. This is done by providing regulatory advice to the business and liaising with other local authorities that approach it.

These voluntary partnerships are valued by businesses and provide an important service for the regulatory community by

enabling local authorities to co-ordinate their efforts. However, the following limitations apply to these partnerships:

- There are increased pressures on the department to fulfil their statutory enforcement obligations under increasingly complex legislation with fewer resources.
- Business may wish for a higher level of input than the local authority is currently able to resource.
- Businesses may lack confidence to rely on advice provided by this local authority because there is no requirement for other local authorities to respect the advice.
- Businesses may feel frustrated that the effort that they put into working with this local authority to improve their compliance is not recognised by other local authorities.
- There is no dispute resolution mechanism should local authorities disagree over interpretation of legal requirements, leaving the business in a difficult position.
- There is limited infrastructure to support voluntary partnerships and other local authorities may not be able to easily identify that an active partnership is in existence.

The **Primary Authority** scheme is designed to overcome many of these issues. It was established by the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 (“the 2008 Act”), and it allows businesses to form a partnership with a single local authority.

The scheme allows businesses to access assured advice on compliance, that must be respected by local authorities, thus addressing business concerns about consistency and giving them confidence. It also allows for the co-ordination of proactive inspection activities, thereby improving the effectiveness of local activities and reducing duplication of effort. The scheme supports local authorities in delivering protection for their citizens, workers and the environment.

Primary Authority is a key element of the Government’s commitment to improve the delivery of regulation in line with the statutory principles of good regulation. These principles are that

regulation should be transparent, accountable, proportionate, consistent, and targeted.

Primary Authority is the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, with Regulatory Delivery (RD) operating the scheme on behalf of the Secretary of State. A partnership between a local authority and a business, once it has been nominated by the Secretary of State, has a statutory basis.

A local authority that offers a Primary Authority partnership to businesses is demonstrating its willingness to work constructively with business to improve compliance. It is also taking on responsibility for leading and shaping the regulation of a single business or a group of businesses. This is done by providing tailored, assured regulatory advice and by guiding the way that other local authorities regulate the business or businesses so that it is both effective and efficient, including through the sharing of compliance information.

Primary Authority represents an important support service to locally based business. The Environmental Health & Trading Standards department has a commitment to support local businesses both as part of the national service and as part of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in its own right.

Supporting businesses is part of the authority's regeneration strategy, providing businesses with a place to grow and prosper and making Neath Port Talbot a better place to live. By providing access to the Primary Authority scheme, the Environmental Health & Trading Standards department will be offering a clearly defined commitment to business that quality regulatory support will be available and the advice given will be adhered to by Environmental Health & Trading Standards departments across England & Wales. This support, and the confidence that it brings to businesses, will encourage other businesses to set up within Neath Port Talbot. Other Welsh authorities have already embarked on Primary Authority partnerships, most notably Shared Regulatory Services (The merged Environmental Health, Trading Standards & Licensing departments of Cardiff, Bridgend and The Vale Of Glamorgan).

This Council has an obligation under the Regulators Compliance Code to provide businesses with advice and guidance about their

legal obligations in respect of environmental health, trading standards, fire safety and licensing legislation. Where businesses require additional advice and support services under Primary Authority the 2008 Act enables the Council to recover the costs associated in providing these services from the business. This will allow greater impact to be achieved from the existing resources deployed in providing support to business on regulatory issues.

Primary Authority is administered by RD. Standard terms and conditions for partnerships, made available by RD, mitigate the risks for participating local authorities to the minimum allowable in law. These standard terms and conditions will be placed in a Primary Authority Agreement which both the Council and the organisation will sign up to.

4. Matters For Consideration

The Council has already been approached to create a partnership with a local solar panel installer. The firm are keen to take advantage of the security, consistency and commitment of support that Primary Authority can bring.

If this report is approved, and once this partnership is firmly established, the department will look to expand to include other businesses based within Neath Port Talbot. Should locally based businesses wish to form a partnership in the meantime these will be considered on a case by case basis.

The Neath Port Talbot area has no large scale business based within its borders, but there are a number of food producers, retailers and service providers that serve the South Wales region. The department will liaise with the Economic Development department to disseminate the advantages of the Primary Authority scheme. Businesses will be considered on their level of compliance (both good and bad) and the trade sector in which they operate.

Currently, not all businesses will be eligible for the Primary Authority scheme. The Government has recently demonstrated its commitment to Primary Authority by extending the scheme to new areas of regulation, and enabling more businesses to participate. although the scheme will become more inclusive particularly for

smaller businesses and those that operate within a single authority from October 2017.

Existing support arrangements will continue, but these are currently under review and will be the subject of a separate report.

The service will be delivered on a cost recovery basis. The partnership agreement may specify delivery of advice on an ad hoc basis as and when required, or a minimum amount of time delivered through the year. Dependent on the business this may also mean an upfront charge. However, it is suggested that is dealt with on a case by case basis, to fit in with the businesses needs and resources.

Financial Impact

5. No significant adverse financial impact- the initial set-up costs are primarily associated with establishing the partnerships, but these are recoverable and will be dependent on the nature of the business.

Equality Impact Assessment

6. A Screening Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. After completing the assessment it has been determined that this proposal does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment.

Workforce Impact

7. No significant impact on current workforce. Specific officers and deputies will be delegated to act as contacts with partners and will incorporate these duties into their current work activities, in accordance with existing Job Evaluation responsibilities.

Legal Impact

8. The Primary Authority scheme was established by the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 ("the 2008 Act"), and it allows businesses to form a partnership with a single local authority. As indicated above, Primary Authority is administered by RD. Standard terms and conditions for partnerships, made

available by RD, mitigate the risks for participating local authorities to the minimum allowable in law. These standard terms and conditions will be placed in a Primary Authority Agreement which both the Council and the organisation will sign up to. There is potential for conflicts with other enforcement agencies over disagreements on the advice delivered.

Risk Management

9. None

Consultation

10. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendation(s)

11. It is recommended that

- (a) the Head of Planning and Public Protection be granted delegated authority to enter into any Primary Authority arrangements with organisations that meet the necessary criteria for entering such arrangements.
- (b) the Head of Planning and Public Protection be designated to be the representative of this Council for the purposes of the Primary Authority arrangement and to carry out on behalf of the Council all the delegated powers of such a Representative, and further delegates to Head of Planning and Public Protection the power to appoint an alternate or deputy for the purposes of the Primary Authority arrangement.

Reason for Proposed Decision(s)

12. An opportunity exists to provide assured advice, promote consistency and to encourage business confidence within Neath Port Talbot, whilst also accessing a means of cost recovery for time spent with the business by the Environmental Health & Trading Standards Department

Implementation of Decision

13. The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices

14. [Appendix 1 : Primary Authority & Growth](#) (Hyperlink)
15. [Appendix 2 : Primary Authority Changes 2017 : Unlocking the Potential](#) (Hyperlink)

List of Background Papers

16. None

Officer Contact

17. Nicola Pearce, Head of Planning and Public Protection.
Tel: 01639 686680 or e-mail: n.pearce@npt.gov.uk
- !8. Mark Thomas, Environmental Health and Trading Standards Manager. Tel 01639 685612 or email m.thomas2@npt.gov.uk

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NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board

27 October 2017

Report of the Head of Planning and Public Protection

Nicola Pearce

Matter for Decision

Ward Affected: All Wards

Annual Planning Performance Report

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To consider the content of the Annual Planning Performance Report on behalf of Neath Port Talbot Council and authorise its submission to the Welsh Government and its publication on the Council's website.

Executive Summary

- 2 The Welsh Government requires all Local Planning Authorities to submit an Annual Planning Performance Report relating to the operation of their planning functions. The report is required to identify the position of the service Corporately, a narrative explaining the local context for Neath Port Talbot, the staff structure and how that has changed over time, the income and expenditure levels for the service, the pressures experienced by the service, its achievements over the past year and priorities for the year ahead in addition to its overall performance in relation to a set number of different measures. The report primarily looks back over the period April 2016 to March 2017 although the priorities identified are forward looking to this financial year.

Background

3. The Annual Planning Performance Report for Neath Port Talbot is attached at Appendix 1. The report is generally very positive in terms of our overall performance despite the fact that both income levels and staff numbers have reduced over time. The independently conducted survey which was undertaken on our

behalf indicates that customers are generally very happy with the quality of service they received. This is in contrast to that received last year when it was a mixed picture. This is testament to the hard work of all staff who are trying to ensure that all customers receive a bespoke service relevant to their individual needs.

4. We are determining 96% of applications within the statutory determination period which puts us in the Top 4 in Wales. We are also approving 96% of applications which reinforces our objective which is to 'Approve Quality Development Quickly'. In terms of appeals, we successfully defended 63% of appeals submitted which is slightly below the Welsh average of 66% however this figure doesn't include the other appeals which we successfully defended in relation to enforcement and advertisement cases. Had these been included we would have achieved a success rate of 66%.
5. Despite having only two Enforcement Officers covering the entire County Borough we successfully investigated 289 enforcement cases and are in line with the Welsh average despite having restricted resources.
6. We have a housing land supply which exceeds 5 years, an adopted and up-to-date Development Plan and our service is accessible and transparent to all customers.
7. These are only a few of the areas of good practice evident for this authority. Notwithstanding these successes, it is evident that efforts need to be concentrated on improving our performance in relation to the determination of applications for 'major' developments. In order to address this, the service has recently appointed an additional senior planning officer. The service now has three senior officers who, together with the team leaders within Development Management, will aim to fast track major applications through the planning system to ensure that the council secures its ambitious regeneration objectives. It is anticipated that the performance for major applications will now improve going forward.
8. Having regard to the above it is clear to see that the Annual Planning Performance for 2016/17 is very positive and action is being taken to address the areas where improvement is required.

Financial Impact

9. The attached report indicates the income levels secured by the service together with the expenditure levels associated with the delivery of the statutory functions. Concern is expressed within the report that there has been a drop in major applications which normally attract the higher fees. These have historically cross subsidised the other applications which have smaller fees and which are insufficient to cover the cost of determination. This is a significant problem going forward given that workload levels are not decreasing but the operational budget of the service is reliant upon securing in excess of £800k of income. This is outlined within the attached report.

Equality Impact Assessment

10. There are no equality impacts associated with this report.

Workforce Impacts

11. There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Impacts

12. There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

Risk Management

13. There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

Consultation

14. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendation

15. That having considered the report attached as Appendix 1, it is resolved to authorise its formal submission to the Welsh Government and also publish the report on the Council's website.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

16. To comply with the requirements of the Welsh Government whereby each Local Planning Authority in Wales is required to produce, submit and publish an Annual Planning Performance Report by the 31 October 2017.

Implementation of Decision

17. The decision is an urgent one for immediate implementation, subject to the consent of the relevant Scrutiny Chair (and is therefore not subject to the call-in procedure).

Appendices

18. Appendix 1 – Annual Planning Performance Report.

List of Background Papers

19. Business Plan for Planning and Public Protection 2015/16 and 16/17.

Officer Contact

20. Nicola Pearce, Head of Planning and Public Protection
Telephone: 01639 686681. Email: n.pearce@npt.gov.uk



NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL CASTELL-NEDD PORT TALBOT

Annual Planning Performance Report 2016-17

Nicola Pearce – Head of Planning and Public Protection

ANNUAL PLANNING PERFORMANCE REPORT (APPR) – 2016-17

PREFACE

As the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Sustainable Development, I have responsibility for delivering the Planning function within Neath Port Talbot. The contribution of the Planning service to secure the broader regeneration aspirations of the Council cannot be underestimated. Through the adopted Local Development Plan and individual Development Management decisions, we are creating a place where everyone has an equal chance to be healthier, happier, safer and more prosperous. These responsibilities and statutory documents will also underpin the Council's ability to deliver its Wellbeing Goals which will in turn improve the health and wellbeing of our communities and as such the quality of life for all.

Councillor Annette Wingrave Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Sustainable Development.

CONTEXT

GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

Neath Port Talbot is located on the coast between the City & County of Swansea to the west and the County Borough of Bridgend to the east. We also share boundaries and characteristics with Carmarthenshire, Powys, Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Brecon Beacons National Park. The Authority also forms part of the wider Swansea Bay City region and is the link authority between West and South Wales. Following its designation earlier this year, the County also hosts the largest Enterprise Zone in Wales, the need for which arose from the economic downturn in the steel industry which in turn jeopardised the continued operation of the Port Talbot steelworks which is the biggest employer in the local area. It is anticipated that this designation will boost economic development within the local area which will result in spin off benefits to the wider region.

The County Borough has a resident population of 139,800 (Census 2011), covering an area of over 44,217 hectares, the physical characteristics of the County Borough, can be broadly divided into the following two areas; the coastal corridor and the valleys.

The coastal corridor encompasses a relatively narrow coastal strip extending around Swansea Bay where the main centres of population, employment and the M4 corridor are located. The main towns and settlements of Neath and Port Talbot continue to be the major focus for house building both by private market and registered social landlords.

The valleys are characterised by the attractive landscape setting of river valleys separated by upland plateaus and mountains. They are rural in aspect and contain scattered communities throughout. While the individual valleys have strong individual characteristics and identities, they share common features and problems. Historically large scale house building has predominantly been limited to Pontardawe and the Upper Swansea Valley.

Corporate Context

The Planning and Public Protection Service sits within the Environment Directorate which is one of four Directorates within the Council each of which report directly to the Chief Executive. In addition to Planning and Public Protection there are three further Heads of Service within the Environment Directorate which include the Head of Streetcare, Head of Engineering and Transport and the Head of Property and Regeneration. Each of the Four Directorates work towards achieving the following Corporate Priorities:

Safer Brighter Futures - To improve outcomes for children in need and children looked after by improving the performance of the Council's Children and Young People Services Department.

Better Schools Brighter Prospects - To raise educational standards and attainment for all young people.

Improving Outcomes Improving Lives - To maximise the number of adults who are able to live independently with or without support within the home of their choice within their community.

Prosperity for All - To support and invest in our town centres and communities to promote economic growth, regeneration and sustainability to maximise job opportunities and improve access to employment.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - Increase the percentage of waste recycled and composted.

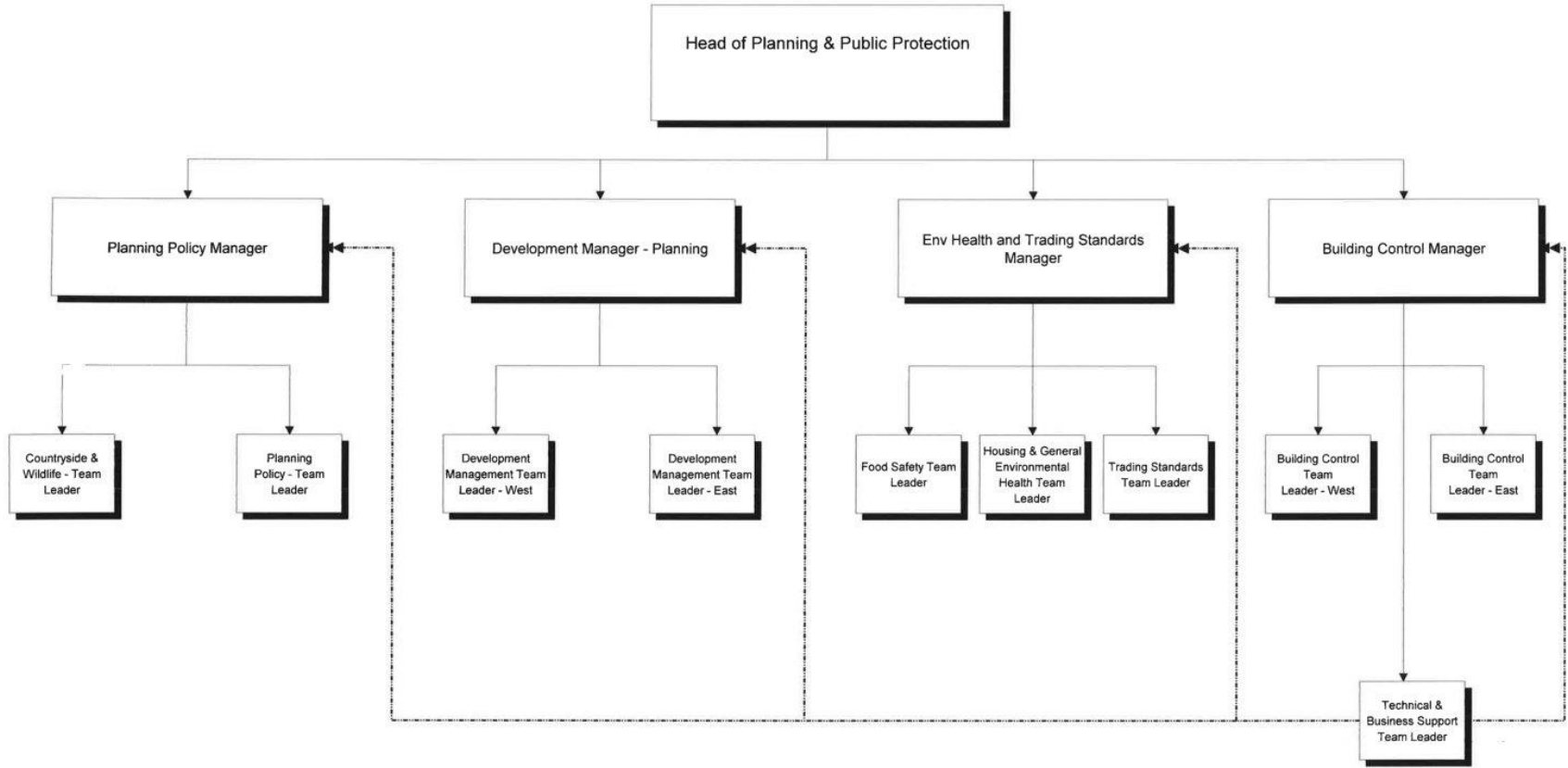
Digital by Choice - To Improve customer / citizen access to services and functions provided by the Council or on behalf of the Council and to improve the efficiency of those services and functions.

The Planning and Public Protection Service does not have a specific priority but contributes towards the achievement of all the Corporate Priorities to a greater or lesser extent. Given the level of information collected to compile the Local Development Plan we are also actively contributing to the preparation of the council's Wellbeing Plan which is currently in draft and subject to consultation.

Whilst the Planning function sits within a wider service area, this Report will primarily cover the traditional planning functions delivered by Neath Port Talbot Council.

The Planning and Public Protection Service

As stated above the service has been extended since April 2016 following its merger with the Environmental Health and Trading Standards service. As a consequence of this merger the following structure (to third tier level) was created as follows:



This enlarged service works collaboratively to secure the following:

Aim

To establish the framework for shaping, creating and delivering quality, safe, healthy and sustainable communities within which to live and thrive.

To secure this aim the following vision will be pursued:

Vision

A pro-active front loaded service where everyone works together to achieve a shared purpose of promoting and creating safe, healthy and sustainable places to work and live in. This will enable us to achieve the corporate priority of securing prosperity for all, better, simpler and cheaper.

Values

Adopting strong values are key to securing the above aim and vision. This new service aims to work collaboratively to maximise shared knowledge and learning thus improve efficiency. We intend to help each other to secure continuous improvement, improve communication both internally and to our external customers. We will work in an environment of openness, with consistency, transparency, and equality at the heart of all of our operating principles. We will reduce waste within our services concentrating on adding value and doing what matters for all of our customers.

The services offered by the traditional Planning Service within that overall structure are as follows:

Development Management

Planning Applications

The team deal with all applications made under primary and secondary planning legislation including the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Town and Country Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The main types of applications dealt with are:-

- Planning Applications (full, outline or 'reserved matters')
- Listed Building Consent
- Conservation Area Consent
- Applications for Certificate of Lawful use or Development (Existing and Proposed)
- Advertisements
- Minerals
- Waste
- Works to Protected Trees
- Hazardous Substances Consent
- High Hedges
- Hedgerow Removal

Pre-Application Advice

The team provides applicants / developers with a formal, chargeable, pre-application service which places significant importance upon the provision of the best possible advice to a potential

developer/applicant before a formal planning application is submitted. Officers seek to promote high quality development and use the pre-application service to front load the development process and therefore speed up the formal planning process.

Enforcement

The Enforcement section deals with complaints in respect of alleged breaches of planning control, which predominately relate to: -

- Undertaking building works without permission, or developing without complying with approved plans
- Failing to comply with condition(s) imposed on a planning permission
- Change of use of land or buildings without permission
- Untidy Land
- Unauthorised work to protected trees

Planning Appeals

If the Council refuses to give planning permission, or grants it subject to conditions, fails to deal with an application within statutory time limits, or issues an enforcement notice, the applicant/alleged offender has a right to appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. Planning Officers within the team deal with all appeals, which can be heard by one of three procedures: - Written Representations; Hearing or Public Inquiry.

Minerals and Waste

The Minerals and Waste service, including all applications for mineral works, aftercare and restoration, and monitoring of existing Mineral and Landfill sites is currently provided in conjunction with Officers within the Carmarthenshire County Council under a Service Level Agreement which is reviewed periodically.

Section 106 Agreements

The team is responsible for negotiating and monitoring compliance with all legal agreements made under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act.

Planning Policy

Planning Policy comprises the Planning Policy team and Countryside & Wildlife team. The teams cover the following areas of responsibility:

Planning Policy

- **Local Development Plan** – statutory duties in respect of the preparation, delivery, monitoring and review of the Local Development Plan (LDP). This ensures that development is delivered in a planned and sustainable way in accordance with the agreed corporate priorities and objectives of the Council.

- **LDP Evidence Base** – duties in respect of maintaining an up-to-date evidence base to support the LDP.
- **Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)** – duties in respect of preparing a raft of SPG setting out more detailed topic or site specific guidance on the way in which policies of the LDP will be applied in particular circumstances or areas.
- **Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessments** – duties in respect of preparing and publishing the Council's 5 yearly Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessments.
- **Joint Housing Land Availability Studies** – duties in respect of the annual production of studies outlining the extent of the housing land supply.
- **Active Travel** – statutory duties in respect of preparing and reviewing the Council's Existing Route Map (ERM) and Integrated Network Map (INM).
- **Cycling Network** – duties in respect of cycle route development and promotion.
- **Asset Sponsorship** – duties in respect of facilitating the partnership contract with a third party provider to generate income through the sponsorship of infrastructure / assets.

Countryside & Wildlife

- **Public Rights of Way Network** – statutory duties in respect of the registered network of footpaths, bridleways and byways [including the definitive map and statement; diversions and closures; maintenance in respect of structures and obstructions; and delivering the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP)].
- **Adopted Highway Network** – duties in respect of advising on the extent of the adopted highway network.
- **Biodiversity / Ecology** – statutory duties in respect of advising on all aspects of biodiversity conservation [including habitat management and species conservation (e.g. bats); Local Nature Reserves; Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation; and delivering the Local Biodiversity Action Plan].
- **Coed Cymru** – duties in respect of advising on the creation, management and funding of woodlands as part of the Coed Cymru network.

Having regard to the above functions the role of the Planning Service overall is to develop a robust, evidence based and deliverable Development Plan and to undertake the decision making process for individual developments in accordance with that plan.

After a lengthy and detailed evidence gathering process and a robust Examination in Public, the Council successfully adopted our Local Development Plan (LDP) in January 2016. The Plan period extends up until 2026 and supersedes the Council's Unitary Development plan which covered the period up until 2016.

The LDP sits alongside the Council's Single Integrated Plan (SIP) (2013-2023) which sets out the Vision for Neath Port Talbot and seeks to bring about a number of outcomes in respect of health, safety, sustainability, prosperity and education. The LDP has been prepared in order to provide a

spatial expression of the land-use implications of the SIP and the LDP Vision in particular complements the Council's overall vision as set out in the SIP.

In addition, there are a range of regional and local strategies and policy statements that provide the framework for the LDP. Some of these key strategies include:

- Joint Transport Plan for South West Wales (2015-2020);
- Regional Technical Statement 1st Review (2014);
- Shoreline Management Plan (2010);
- Swansea Bay City Region (2013);
- The Economic Growth Strategy for South West Wales (2013-2030);
- Neath Port Talbot Waterfront Regeneration Strategy (2011);
- Neath Port Talbot Local Housing Strategy (2015-2020);
- Neath Port Talbot Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2014);
- Neath Port Talbot Environment Strategy (2008-2026); and
- Neath Port Talbot Tourism Development Action Plan (2011-2014).

The LDP encompasses a broad range of social, economic and environmental issues and the Plan's objectives provide synergy with the Wales Spatial Plan – i.e. building healthy, sustainable communities; promoting a sustainable economy; valuing our environment; achieving sustainable accessibility; and respecting distinctiveness. The LDP seeks to deliver Neath Port Talbot's role in supporting the wider aims, objectives and aspirations of the City Region.

Economy & Employment

Employment in the County Borough has a relatively high proportion of jobs in the manufacturing and public sectors and a relatively low proportion in the service sector. The employment base is predominantly located along the coastal corridor where Tata Steel and the Council are the largest employers. In the Valleys, the largest employers relate to the mineral extraction industries with the remainder being employed in small and medium sized enterprises.

Significantly more people travel out of the County Borough to access work than those who travel inwards. This work travel pattern reflects the fact that the County Borough is part of the broader Swansea Bay travel to work area. The landbank of industrial land with good access to road, rail and sea performs an important role in the sub-region, as will the University of Swansea Science and Innovation Campus on Fabian Way and the Coed Darcy Urban Village.

Transport & Infrastructure

The coastal corridor is traversed by the key road and rail infrastructure which underpins the County Borough as a key employment area within the sub-region, providing connections eastwards, via the M4 and rail, to Cardiff and beyond, and westwards to Swansea and to the Midlands via the A465 (T) Heads of the Valleys road. The docks at Port Talbot are also considered an asset to the area providing for both general cargo and deep water facilities for bulk cargo.

Natural Resources

The County Borough contains mineral resources, both coal and aggregate, which are significant on a UK scale. They are also important both in terms of their contribution to the Welsh economy and more locally in terms of employment.

Virtually the whole of the County Borough is underlain by coal resources. Coal has been mined extensively within the area for centuries and has contributed significantly to the creation and sustenance of many of the valley communities. The two major hard rock quarries in the area at Gilfach (Neath) and Cwm Nant Lleici (Pontardawe), supply high specification aggregates to various markets.

Due to the extensive upland areas within the County Borough, there is also significant potential for the exploitation of the wind resource. Two of the Strategic Search Areas (SSA E and SSA F) identified by the Welsh Government are predominantly located within the administrative area and following their designation, there has been considerable interest from developers in the area.

Historic/landscape setting of the area

Heritage

The area has a wealth of historical, archaeological and architectural assets, in particular relating to the area's industrial history in coal, iron, steel and copper. It also has many older archaeological remains dating back to pre-Roman times. All of these are important characteristics of the area that provide local distinctiveness. Many, such as Margam Park and the canal network, also provide opportunities for tourism and recreation.

The historic heritage of the area is recognised through a range of designations. Within the County Borough there are 2 designated Landscapes of Historic Interest, 6 Historic Parks and Gardens, 6 Conservation Areas, 92 Ancient Monuments and 391 Listed Buildings.

Landscape & Ecology

Neath Port Talbot has a varied landscape and a number of distinctive habitats ranging from coastal salt marsh and sand dunes through to ancient woodlands and upland areas of purple moor grass. Some of these habitats are of European, National or local importance. Large areas of the County Borough contain conifer plantations and the area also contains important geological features including glaciated valleys and rock formations.

The natural heritage of the area is recognised through a range of designations. Within the County Borough there are 20 designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), 2 National Nature Reserves and 3 Local Nature Reserves.

Urban/Rural mix and major settlements.

As stated above the County Borough is split into two distinct character areas; The Coastal Corridor which broadly follows the M4 corridor and the Valley Areas which comprise 5 valleys in total.

In regard to the major settlements, the LDP has defined a Settlement Hierarchy that identifies those areas which are the most sustainable locations and can more appropriately accommodate growth in terms of their function. Neath, Port Talbot and Pontardawe are identified as the 3 main towns, with Briton Ferry, Skewen, Taibach and Glynneath identified as district centres.

The remaining settlements are categorised as either 'large local centres', 'small local centres', 'villages' and 'dormitory settlements'.

Population change and influence on LDP/forthcoming revisions.

The level of growth set out in the LDP is based on an economic-led scenario which is aspirational in its approach and aims to maximise job growth within the local economy. In order to address the key issues of the County Borough, wealth creation through job growth is fundamental to achieving the LDP vision.

This method has enabled the Authority to forecast how economic changes over the Plan period equate to the requirements for employment land and the number of new homes needed to accommodate the projected total population and required labour supply. This ensures alignment between employment and housing resulting in a more sustainable pattern of development which in turn improves the robustness of the LDP.

This approach has used the Welsh Government's 2008 population and household projections and detailed analysis of underlying trends in mortality and fertility rates and average household size. Based on the aspirational scenario of job growth (taking into account the Authority's aspiration to reduce unemployment and increase economic activity rates in line with the Welsh average), the population growth for the area has been driven by the ratio of working age population to total population. It is considered that this approach makes the projections more robust than purely trend-based projections which do not accurately reflect the Authority's aspirations for the area.

Based on the projected economic-led growth scenario of 3,850 jobs for the area, the Plan makes provision for an additional 7,800 new residential units, leading to an increase of approximately 7,000 people and a total population of 147,400 by 2026. This approach is aspirational, linked to the local economy and is set to complement the projected growth in economic activity and reduction in average household size in addition to helping meet the need for additional affordable residential units.

Budget and associated Implications

Given the identified priorities of the Council, funding has been and continues to be prioritised towards delivering/improving services within the Social Services and Education Departments. The additional financial pressures facing the Council, following the collapse of the economy in 2008 and the consequent austerity measures which followed, have had a significant impact upon the Environment Directorate which has seen its budget cut by £18.257 million since 2009/10 and currently stands at £32,710 million for 2017/18 which is 14.27% of the councils net budget. This equates to a 55.5% cut in the Directorate's budget. The Directorate has also been tasked with securing further savings of £1.1 million for 2018/19. To date the Directorate has identified an

additional £763k of proposed savings, £105k of which is to be delivered by the Planning Service. These are to be secured through a combination of income generation ideas and savings and will soon be the subject of a consultation exercise as part of the Council's Forward Financial Plan (FFP). Such cuts have resulted in a reduction in staff, the cessation of some non-statutory services, the implementation of alternative service delivery models and an increase in fees where local discretion allows.

The biggest impact of the budget cuts has been the reduction in staff whereby 718 FTEs staff have left the authority since 2011/12, 179 of which were members of staff within the Environment Directorate. A significantly higher proportion left the authority between 2008/09 and 2011/12 but specific data for that period is unavailable. These figures demonstrate that the staff levels of the council have reduced by 19% however the staff levels within the Environment Directorate have reduced by 25%. The impact upon the Planning Service is even greater. Despite losing only 17 members of staff during this period this is in fact a reduction of 32%. This reduction in staff coupled with the reductions experienced within the services which support the planning function i.e. highways, drainage, environmental health etc has had a significant impact upon performance and morale within the service. As a consequence staff feel under increased pressure, are becoming less flexible and sickness is increasing.

Sickness management is a Mandatory Corporate Measure and there is a requirement for Service managers to reduce sickness levels year on year. As a consequence of the departure of some members of staff, sickness levels within the overall Planning Service has increased from 298 days (5.6 days per employee) in 2015/16 to 406.5 days (10.9 days per employee) in 2016/17 which is above the council average of 9.9 days. Sickness levels are a major influence on the ability of the Council to deliver the service as workloads associated with the staff off sick must be covered by the remaining staff. The service is currently experiencing an increase in the number of members of staff who are taking sick as a consequence of increased stress levels and they are taking more time off during each sickness episode. Unfortunately it is likely that this trend will continue due to less staff having to cover an increased and more demanding workload going forward.

The level of staff sickness is not the only factor which impacts upon service delivery. The performance charts towards the end of this report indicate that whilst we are generally performing well in dealing with most types of planning applications, there is a significant issue in relation to our performance associated with determining major applications. This has been acknowledged and resources have been put in place to address this. This will be outlined in more detail below.

Due to the pressure on the council to make savings, the Service has over the years suffered a loss in specialist skills; in particular skills have been lost in relation to conservation and design, landscaping, drainage and Minerals. In terms of the latter, given that the Council has one of the largest actively exploited mineral resources in Wales, it is not possible to operate without the specialist skills of a mineral planner. Given the lack of available officers in this field, the Council signed up to a Service Level Agreement with Carmarthenshire Council in 2015 and they now provide both the mineral planning and mineral enforcement service for the council, albeit the decision making powers are retained by Neath Port Talbot. This is a mutually beneficial arrangement on the grounds that Carmarthenshire is now appropriately funded to maintain a team of officers thus improving the resilience of the team and officers are also able to improve their skills

and experience by working on a number of complex and controversial mineral developments within Neath Port Talbot.

The Development Management function is a fee earning service and as such the budget associated with this service is based on trend based historical fee income levels, with the shortfall covered by the central revenue budget. There is pressure every year to maximise fee income and thus reduce the need for revenue support to plug the gap. Year on year the service has failed to meet its income target, mainly as a result of a decline in the big fee earning major applications especially associated with mineral and renewable energy developments, the latter significantly affected by Central Government cuts to subsidies and Welsh Governments' introduction of Developments of National Significance (DNS) which would see any such major fees paid to WG rather than the Council. In previous years this budget gap has been plugged by reducing expenditure in other areas for example, freezing vacant posts for as long as possible and cross subsidising from other services. The service has also, where possible, sought to engage with developers in signing Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs) relating to strategic major developments, although such PPAs are voluntary and dependent on large-scale developments coming forward, which has not been the case recently. This annual pressure was acknowledged in the budget for 2017/18 when the income target was reduced by £100k. Despite this reduction, based on current income projections the service will still struggle to meet this reduced target by March 2018. Furthermore £30k of the budget savings target is associated with Development Management and it is likely, in the absence of other viable alternatives that the fee income target will increase next year.

The Planning Policy and Wildlife and Countryside section has very little fee income although grants are sought from various sources to undertake project work relating to active travel, biodiversity and improvements to the rights of way network. The service is however responsible for income generation through asset sponsorship activities. To this end we have recently entered into a contract with a private company who will market our assets with the aim of delivering sponsorship to achieve an increased income target from £33k to £108k for the forthcoming year.

Despite the above, the cost of delivering the service far outweighs the levels of income generated. The following chart identifies the overall expenditure levels for each of the services within the planning function both during 2011/12 and during the year 2016/17, thus enabling comparisons to be made over time and demonstrate the areas where we have made significant cuts over that period.

Comparison of Net Expenditure Levels between 2011/12 and 2016/17

| | Development Management | Countryside and Wildlife | Planning Policy | Total |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 2011/12 | £248,740 | £498,205 | £544,656 | £1,291,601 |
| 2016/17 | £253,140 | £232,656 | £330,771 | £816,567 |
| Difference | £4,400 | -£265,549 | -£213,885 | -£475,034 |
| % Change | +1% | -53% | -39% | -37% |

The above table indicates that there has been an overall reduction in expenditure associated with the Planning Service since 2011/12 of 37%. This is mainly as a consequence of staff reductions and a reduction in budgets associated with the maintenance of public rights of way and the delivery of projects associated with the Biodiversity Action Plan. This is a significant problem given their contribution to the Council's emerging Wellbeing Plan. As stated above, this budget is likely to further reduce in 2018/19 and again in 2019/20.

In terms of income levels, this is mainly secured within the Development Management section of the service through planning application fees, pre-application fees and Planning Performance Agreements. These income levels have reduced from £936,768 during 2015/16 to £731,012 in 2016/17. This reduction in income is, as stated earlier, a consequence of a reduction in the submission of big fee earning planning applications which were used to cross subsidise the processing of smaller applications where the fee income was woefully short of that required to deliver the service.

The introduction of non-material amendments (NMAs) has also significantly reduced fee income which have in turn resulted in a reduction in the submission of amended planning applications and their associated fees has also decreased fee income. The NMA process has also enabled applicants to amend conditions under this process which appears to undermine the S73 process. Fee income has also reduced as a consequence of the requirement to include the plan reference numbers within a planning condition on all decision notices. Such a requirement has enabled developers to submit more section 73 applications for what are often major alterations to previously approved schemes. These often take a considerable period of time yet result in the submission of very low fees. This is likely to be a continuing problem which due to the need to make further financial savings going forward will put pressure on the service to further reduce the staffing levels. This will have a significant impact upon performance – a vicious circle.

In an attempt to address the above, the council is pursuing a commercialisation agenda whereby we are potentially looking to deliver fee earning services (subject to legislative constraints). We

already provide both a statutory and non-statutory pre-application service which creates income as well as entering into Planning Performance Agreements wherever possible. The fee earning potential in the pure planning sense is very restricted beyond these areas. Nevertheless our asset sponsorship work together with the consultancy work provided by the Biodiversity section and our colleagues within the Public Protection part of the service will enable us to continue cross subsidising in an attempt to prevent further cuts going forward. This is not likely to be a long term solution to the delivery of statutory services if further cuts are passed on from Central to Local Government.

Our Local Story

In 2016/17 the Authority employed 12.4 FTE Planning Officers within the Development Management team who report to a Development Manager. They comprise of 2 Team leaders, 2 Senior Planning officers, 5.4 Planning Officers, and 3 Assistant Planners. We also employed 3 Enforcement Officers 1 of which deals with minerals and waste. During 2016/17 they determined 817 planning applications and investigated 289 enforcement complaints. Due to disappointing performance figures in relation to the determination of major planning applications, a business case was made for the appointment of an additional senior planning officer increasing the number of officers to three. These officers will concentrate on fast tracking major developments through the planning process with a view not only to improving the speed of determination but also enabling the Council to achieve its ambitious regeneration programme. Whilst it is acknowledged that this performance report refers to the period of 2016/17, the budget decision made at that time to appoint an additional senior planning officer is currently being implemented and has identified a serious problem in terms of recruitment.

When advertising a senior planning post on a salary of £30,785 to £34,721, we had a total of eight applicants few of whom were sufficiently experienced and/or qualified. We also advertised a temporary planning officer (for a period of one year but could be extended) on a salary of £27,668 and £30,955 and had one applicant who had no experience. After going through a shortlisting and interview process for the senior planner the candidate who scored the highest points after the interview declined the offer of appointment as he was clearly using the process to secure a better deal with his existing employer. An internal appointment was subsequently made however this did not actually result in a net gain in staff given the need to backfill his substantive post. The backfilling process further reinforced the difficulty in recruitment as we only secured six applicants for this post with a salary of between £27,668 and £30,955, only three of which had any experience or qualifications. A successful appointment has now been made however despite our best endeavours to secure staff into posts as quickly as possible it has taken over six months. It is hoped that these new appointments will result in a further improvement in the quality and speed of decision making within our planning service for the next annual report. Nevertheless I have highlighted this issue as it is clear that the Planning Service is finding it increasingly more difficult to secure suitably qualified and experienced staff on the salaries we are able to offer.

Despite the above, during this period the Planning Officers and Assistants carried a varied workload as follows:

Assistant Planners were allocated an average caseload of 139 applications last year and had an average determination rate of approximately 141 application each over the year

Planning Officers were allocated an average caseload of 60 applications last year and had a determination rate of approximately 66 applications over the year.

Senior Planning Officers and Team Leaders were allocated an average caseload of 37 applications per year and had an average determination rate of approximately 37 applications over the year.

(This includes applications which are not normally reported to the Welsh Government such as consultations from neighbouring authorities, TPOs screening and scoping opinions etc.)

It is encouraging to see that despite the significant legislative and procedural changes that the planning system has recently undergone, the above figures demonstrate an increase in terms of the caseload handled by all officers and an improvement in performance when compared with last year. Furthermore the recent appointments as referred to above will enable us to focus on the delivery of major projects without distracting our attention away from all other development proposals. In addition to improving the Authority's performance in that regard, our objective is to reinforce the message to all of our customers that Neath Port Talbot is a 'place to do business', with potential benefits to the local economy as a consequence.

It is noted from the above figures that the workloads carried by the officers appears to be less than that which was identified within a research document commissioned by the Planning Officers Society in 2004. This piece of research confirmed that a reasonable case officer workload should be in the region of 150 applications (not including pre-apps, appeals and other non-planning application related work). However, that research was undertaken some 12 years ago and the complexity of the planning legislation has increased significantly since then. The Planning Advisory service is currently undertaking research into the quality of the service, the cost of delivery as well as assessing the capacity of each service to deal with the demands from our customers. The results of that research have yet to be published. Neath Port Talbot has emphasised as part of this research that it is also in a unique position whereby the Planning service no longer has planning technicians to support it. As a result case officers are required to undertake their own administration of applications including the validation, registration, scanning and indexing of documents on the electronic document management system and preparing files for dispatch post determination. All of this takes time and resources and needs to be considered on top of the case number details.

In addition, the responsibilities of all Planning Officers are also currently being reviewed to ensure that any potential spare capacity is actively utilised to support delivery of the enforcement service.

Turning to Planning Policy, the section comprises the Planning Policy team (6 FTEs) and Countryside & Wildlife team (8.7 FTEs) who report to the Planning Policy Manager.

Whilst the number of staff within the Planning Policy team has reduced since the start of the LDP process (by 3 FTEs), the responsibilities have increased from being purely planning policy (i.e. LDP preparation, monitoring and review, Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) etc.) to now extending to include active travel / cycling promotion and development and asset sponsorship. Having successfully steered the LDP through an EIP concluding with the adoption of the plan in January 2016, the emphasis of the work in 2016/17 has primarily switched to delivering a number of associated SPG, implementing the LDP monitoring regime and delivering upon the requirements

of the Active Travel legislation [i.e. the Existing Route Map (ERM) and the Integrated Network Map (INM)].

The Countryside & Wildlife team, who are responsible for biodiversity, public rights of way and highways advice, also input into the planning process. The number of staff within the team has also reduced over a period of time (3.4 FTEs) and consequently the role of the team has had to be re-evaluated to now provide a greater emphasis on consultancy style advice to other departments. Both biodiversity and rights of way are consultees to Development Management. A total of 576 responses were provided on biodiversity, relating to 459 separate planning applications, and 26 instances of informal advice. For public rights of way, informal advice is provided on an ongoing basis, with 39 formal responses having been provided.

Despite the budget pressures and reduction in staff experienced within the service, the Planning Service has secured a number of achievements over the last financial years, which are summarised as follows:

1. In previous years the Development Management section experienced a reduction in performance following a loss of experienced staff. Considerable efforts have been expended in revising procedures and focussing on the determination of planning applications, in particular, in an expeditious manner, while maintaining the quality of developments. In addition, in line with Welsh Government guidance, efforts have continued to frontload negotiations on applications, while also securing agreements from applicants and agents to determine applications in accordance with agreed targets. This has resulted in Officers determining 97% of all applications 'on time', while overall ('8 week') performance increased to 83% in the final quarter of 2016/17.
2. In addition to the development of the S106 database, work has continued on development of a new protocol to ensure that the monitoring and management of S106 infrastructure and payments to the authority is improved. A dedicated s106 Officer, who was also involved in development and approval of the Planning Obligations SPG, has improved the Councils ability to secure maximum contributions from developers on time and in the right places. This in turn should reduce financial pressures upon the Council.
3. Training for all elected Members has continued in relation to Planning matters, with bespoke mandatory targeted training for those Members who sit on the Planning Committee. Such training has and will continue to improve the quality of decision making and is especially important given the significant legislative changes which have been introduced in a very short period of time.
4. The introduction of standardised procedures and protocols in relation to the delivery of the Planning Enforcement Service and the Planning Appeals service was identified in the previous business plan as a priority. This has been overtaken by events following the merger of Planning with Environmental Health and Trading Standards which enabled the creation of a joined up enforcement service in relation to restricted number of matters. The introduction of a new Enforcement Charter / Protocol was delayed pending completion of the POSW work on enforcement indicators. The new Charter is in the process of completion, along with associated changes to internal procedures to ensure the Authority continues to provide a robust and resilient planning enforcement service. Similarly, there have been National changes introduced to the Appeals process which have delayed revision

of internal procedures and protocols, and these will now be introduced during the second half of 2017.

5. Significant work continued during the year on the Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), including informal and formal consideration of matters relating to the Discharge of Requirements under the Development Consent Order (DCO) which was determined by the Planning Inspectorate within the Council's boundaries. Although the Tidal Lagoon PPA - which previously secured contributions towards the costs of employing a planning officer and covered part of the salary of an ecologist within the service - has not been formally renewed due to the uncertainties surrounding the project, additional contributions were secured to ensure that the Planning service was still able to devote appropriate resources to the ongoing preliminary work relating to the Requirements.
6. Although a Planning agents' workshop has not been held since March 2016, the service has used its agents email database to provide agents with information relating to the service, which has also proved useful to ensure that agents working within the County Borough are aware of changes in legislation and as such satisfy our expectations in terms of the quality and validity of new submissions. The use of agent emails and workshop sessions will continue to be delivered on a regular basis during 2017/18.
7. Following the grant of planning permission for the mineral development at East Pit in June 2015, considerable efforts have been expended by the Minerals Enforcement Officer to control the ongoing minerals working and progressive restoration of the site, and to ensure accordance with the extensive number of conditions and alternative S106 agreement. This scheme, once completed, will ensure that the site will be restored and put into appropriate aftercare, thus securing significant visual improvements in addition to preventing potential flooding from the void area in an uncontrolled manner. The ongoing operations have also secured the continued employment of those directly employed on site and those working within the supply chain for a further four years.
8. The planning application for an alternative restoration scheme in respect of the former Margam Open Cast coal Site was approved in February 2017 after many months of legal discussions over the necessary legal agreement and conditions. Following the grant of planning permission, considerable work has been undertaken by Officers of NPT and Carmarthenshire CC (under SLA) to monitor ongoing development and ensure discharge of, and full compliance with, the myriad of conditions. As a consequence, the potential dangers identified in previous years in respect of the potential flooding and safety risks from the flooded void have now been to a large extent addressed by the ongoing work, which will also when completed have a substantial positive impact on the wider area.
9. Work has also been ongoing in respect of an amended restoration and aftercare scheme at Selar former opencast site. This application has received a resolution to grant consent and is waiting for the signing of a section 106 agreement, with ongoing minerals monitoring work at the site in respect of such ongoing restoration. Once this work is underway, it means that all three of the large open cast coal sites within Neath port Talbot will have acceptable and deliverable restoration schemes.
10. The Council continues to deliver a robust and efficient pre-application service which provides choice in the level of service available to customers, in addition to giving them the

opportunity to continue having confidential discussions with the Council until such a time as a planning application is submitted.

11. The Service Level Agreement relating to the provision of a minerals service to the authority by Carmarthenshire Council, including the enforcement of minerals and waste in addition to scheduled visits, has continued, albeit the overall level of income from monitoring visits has reduced year on year.
12. The Delegated arrangements were updated to improve the efficiency of the service while, the public speaking protocol has also been updated to incorporate concerns/constructive criticism received from elected Members and members of the public in relation to the procedure since it was introduced in November 2014, thus enhancing the accountability and transparency of the Development Management service.
13. To support and supplement the adopted LDP, five strategically important SPG were consulted upon, finalised and adopted including those relating to Planning Obligations, Affordable Housing, Baglan Energy Park Development Framework, Pollution and Parking Standards.
14. By the end of March'17, a further batch of SPG was prepared and endorsed by the Council for the purposes of consultation, including those relating to Open Space and Greenspace, Renewable and Low Carbon Energy, Design and Development and the Welsh Language. All SPG will provide further clarity to developers and Development Management officers when interpreting policies within the LDP, and will reduce risk and should encourage good quality development within Neath Port Talbot.
15. Collaborative work with colleagues in the City & County of Swansea has continued through the year on the emerging joint SPG for the Fabian Way corridor. This SPG will help to secure a coordinated approach towards the redevelopment of this strategic corridor, in addition to securing funding through planning obligations which will itself deliver essential infrastructure required to facilitate our collective regeneration aspirations. Prior to finalising the document however, and given the importance of the Tidal Lagoon to the area, officers have agreed to await the UK Government's response to the Hendry Review. Pending the announcement, the SPG will be finalised and adopted as soon as is practicably possible.
16. A research project commissioned by the Countryside & Wildlife team to investigate and develop a 'Biodiversity Compensation Scheme' to support the planning process was completed. Funding for the project was secured from NRW and the RDP's LEADER programme and the project report is being used to inform the preparation of the emerging Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPG, which is being prepared jointly by the Planning Policy and Countryside & Wildlife teams.
17. Procedures have been finalised to secure the efficient and effective collection of data in order to monitor the effectiveness and delivery of the policy aspirations within the adopted LDP. The results of this will feed into the first Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) which is due for submission to the Welsh Government in October 2017 and annually thereafter.
18. In consultation with the building industry, work continues in respect of the preparation and publication of annual Joint Housing Land Availability Studies (JHLAS). Two studies have been

completed since the adoption of the LDP, both of which have demonstrated a 5-year land supply.

19. Work on the Active Travel Act commitment in respect of the Council's first Existing Route Map (ERM) was completed. Following the Welsh Government direction to revise the ERM, further work was undertaken on the highlighted routes and an amended ERM was submitted to the Welsh Government in July 2016. The Council subsequently received Ministerial approval of the amended ERM in August 2016. Work has continued and a timetable devised to ensure the delivery of a review of the ERM alongside the delivery of the Integrated Network Map (INM) to the Welsh Government by the deadline of 3rd November 2017.
20. In light of the new emerging planning regime in Wales and the introduction of Strategic Development Plans (SDPs), work has continued in respect of supporting and contributing to the regional agenda. Initial discussions have taken place in respect of the future role of authorities and the potential for future collaboration initiatives and studies. Neath Port Talbot has taken on the lead/secretariat role for the South West Wales region in 2017/18.
21. The Council's Asset Sponsorship Management Service contract with a third party provider has been restructured and extended. A full procurement exercise was undertaken and completed, and in addition to the established assets, the new contract seeks to establish pilot schemes in respect of additional assets, which will allow the Council to determine whether such arrangements prove viable to pursue in the longer term. Over the duration of the contract new initiatives and methods of advertising that generate incremental income will continue to be considered as appropriate.
22. Officers within the Countryside & Wildlife team have established closer working relationships with internal departments across the Council through the provision of an internal consultancy service, and further progress has also been made in supporting applicants in addressing biodiversity constraints early on in the planning process. Support at this early stage provides better opportunities to fully mitigate or compensate for biodiversity loss, whilst minimising delays in determination.
23. The Countryside & Wildlife team's involvement with large developments through steering groups is ongoing and ensures that ecological and rights of way matters continue to be appropriately dealt with. Examples include Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm Ecological Steering Group; Selar OCCS Nature Conservation Steering Group; Swansea University SSSI/Whitford Point Management Committee; and Mynydd Brombil Wind Farm Habitat Management Committee.
24. The Biodiversity Duty Plan, a requirement of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, has been drafted. The importance of the planning process in the recovery of biodiversity is fully recognised, with a number of planning improvement actions being integrated into the Plan.

These are the most significant achievements secured during 2016/17. In addition to the above, our staff continue to deliver statutory functions despite a decreasing budget for customers who have increasingly higher expectations. This will become gradually worse over the next few years when budgets become even more constrained. Managers within the section are monitoring and trying to

boost morale to ensure that sickness levels are maintained at a minimum and performance at a maximum although this is becoming more and more challenging.

Priorities going forward

There are a number of key priorities and service improvements which have been identified for this year, some of which intend to build upon and continue to improve upon the success secured up until recently. These include the following:

- **Deliver a mobile working platform for planning and enforcement officers to secure more efficient working practices.** We have purchased mobile tablets for use by officers on an experimental basis. It is anticipated that these can be used to enable officers to enter data direct into our back office system and take photographs which can automatically be loaded into the system. In time it is even hoped that officers can write the bare bones of a report whilst on site. This should in turn reduce duplication and improve the efficiency of the service.
- **Implement a new back office Planning system.** We have been in discussions with a new IT provider for some time now but due to concerns over some issues within the system, we delayed implementation until we were satisfied that it was able to deliver the promises made by the salesmen. These discussions were held in conjunction with the City and County of Swansea, who due to contractual issues have already implemented the new IT system. It is anticipated that our outstanding concerns will be addressed this calendar year to enable for its implementation in the New Year. It should be fully functional by 2017/18 and will put us in a better position to deliver the Welsh Government's regional collaboration agenda.
- **Develop and implement a new Planning Enforcement Charter.** A Planning Enforcement Charter will be prepared and implemented having regard to the Welsh Government's revised performance expectations, with the intention of ensuring that the service is transparent and accountable, and can be judged by the public against defined service delivery targets.
- **Develop our website to enable for the submission of complaints and supporting information.** It is proposed to develop a system to enable complainants to submit their complaints electronically together with supporting information which will enable us to prioritise complaints and speed up the investigation process. Complainants will be directed to submit all complaints (over time) through our website rather than via letter, email or telephone. They will be expected to submit details of the complaint together with photographs which will aid our investigations. This will enable a desk top assessment to be undertaken upon receipt of the complaint and may even allow officers to confirm whether a breach of the planning legislation has occurred without even leaving their desks. As stated above, and given that we only have two enforcement officers (and one mineral and waste enforcement officer – although he is currently tasked with delivering the restoration of three major open cast coal sites) this will enable us to focus our time and resources on the more serious complaints straight away. It is not suggested that we will ignore the less serious complaints, however we could through a triage system, group complaints together, and therefore save time and money as a consequence.

- **Officer time will continue to be focused on delivering the schemes forming part of the Vibrant and Viable Places (VVP) Project and in time the second phase of this programme.** A new senior officer has now been appointed and they, together with the two existing senior officers will be tasked with supporting developers through the planning application through early intervention. The constraints which could prevent schemes from coming forward will be identified at the earliest possible stage and partners will be engaged to identify viable and deliverable solutions to ensure that the schemes are approved having regard to all material planning considerations.
- **The Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) will be the subject of ongoing review in addition to ongoing management of the S106 database and adoption of protocols governing the monitoring and spend of section 106 contributions.** The new S106 database will enable thorough monitoring of requirements sought and work secured/payments received. Developers will in turn be able to identify the costs associated with bringing developments forward from the start thus allowing them to establish risk levels. The Council will be able to maximise the amount of infrastructure delivered by the private sector and monitor its delivery going forward.
- **Continue to unblock the bottlenecks in the Development Management Service and ensure that Senior Officers are involved in providing advice to officers at the earliest possible stage.** This will require us to continue re-assessing the workflow /procedures associated with the Development Management system to reflect the extensive legislative changes which have emerged since July 2015 when the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 received Royal Assent. The objective is to reduce the end to end time associated with the determination of planning applications. It is also proposed to address the need for late changes to proposed schemes especially those associated with major applications as these are currently impacting upon performance measures.
- **Continuation of Members training, building upon what has recently been rolled out.** A timetable of training will be drawn up to ensure that Members have regular training in subject areas that are necessary to enable them to undertake their planning responsibilities whether it is as a member of the Planning Committee or otherwise. As a consequence, Members will be better informed about legislative change and individual topic areas which are important to the decision making process. This will improve Members understanding of the planning system which is complex and constantly changing and will also improve the quality of decision making.
- **The programme of works associated with the alternative restoration scheme at the former Margam Open Cast Coal site is maintained and regularly monitored to ensure work is in accordance with the approved plans and conditions.** The objective is to ensure delivery of the alternative restoration scheme which prioritises site safety and security, and includes working closely with the Coal Authority to supervise restoration going forward, as the work needs to be undertaken within a restricted period of time and within a finite budget.
- **Facilitate the continued redevelopment of the Coed Darcy Urban Village.** This is a strategically important development for the County Borough. St Modwen who own the site

have stalled bringing forward future phases of this development site since securing a resolution to grant a variation of their S106 agreement in February 2015. The delays have been associated with viability and whilst the council is currently working with St Modwen to ensure that the S106 only seeks to secure essential infrastructure, the sticking point continues to be the delivery of affordable homes. The council will continue to work to ensure that the site is delivered with all essential infrastructure but in a manner that enables the developers to commence development.

- **Work to secure the objectives of the Valleys Task Force.** This task force aims to re-invigorate our valley communities. This may well involve the redevelopment of land which was not deliverable when the LDP was prepared and subsequently adopted. We are aware that a number of sites within our valley communities were previously identified as being within a flood zone and as such were unable to be included as allocations within the plan. The DAMs are continuously being reviewed now and some of those sites are now out of a floodrisk area. Furthermore sites which were previously considered to be unviable, through the support of this initiative may well be deliverable going forward. This is a challenge for the Planning Authority given that sites are likely to be coming forward as part of this Task Force initiative which are departures from the development plan.
- **Continue work on the remaining SPG required to support the LDP.** The next batch of four SPG will be consulted upon, finalised and adopted (i.e. Open Space and Greenspace; Renewable and Low Carbon Energy; Design; and Development and the Welsh Language). Work has already commenced on a further batch of SPG including Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPG and Landscape and Seascape SPG respectively. These two guidance documents will be prepared for the purposes of consultation. Work on the remaining SPG will also begin in due course – these include The Historic Environment; Port Talbot Harbourside & Town Centre Development Framework; Fabian Way Innovation Corridor; and Park Avenue Development Framework. Once adopted, the SPGs will provide further clarity to developers and Development Management staff when interpreting policies within the LDP. This will reduce risk and should encourage good quality development within Neath Port Talbot. The adoption of the SPGs will be the appropriate measure.
- **Complete the joint SPG for the regeneration of the Fabian Way corridor.** The SPG will direct developers to deliver the regeneration aspirations of both Councils in addition to securing S106 money to improve essential infrastructure along the corridor. As referred to above however, the timescale for the completion and adoption of the document will be dependent on the announcement of the UK Government's response to the Hendry Review given the critical nature of the Tidal Lagoon to the future regeneration of the Fabian Way Corridor.
- **Complete and submit the first LDP Annual Monitoring Report.** Work is ongoing in respect of the preparation of the first AMR, with the document due for submission to the Welsh Government in October 2017 and annually thereafter. Monitoring is an increasingly important aspect of evidence based policy making and monitoring systems are key mechanisms in developing a fuller understanding of the issues that impact upon communities and the extent to which existing policies are meeting their stated objectives.

- **Undertake / publish the annual Joint Housing Land Availability Study (JHLAS).** In consultation with the building industry produce a comprehensive review of the amount of available land for housing development.
- **Complete the Active Travel Act commitment in relation to the review of the ERM and completion /submission of the Integrated Network Map (INM).** Work is ongoing in respect of the review of the ERM and completion / submission of the first iteration of the Council's INM. The INM will set out the Council's aspirations for the next 15 years, identifying either improvements to existing routes that could be made or new routes that could be developed and added to the active travel network. The INM will be an important document for the Council and once approved, will be considered as part of the planning decision making process so that aspirations are realised as part of ongoing development.
- **Continue to support and contribute to regional collaboration initiatives / studies.** In its lead/secretariat role for the South West Wales region in 2017/18, the Council will seek to facilitate ongoing discussion and progress in respect of regional collaboration initiatives and studies.
- **Finalise and publish the Biodiversity Duty Plan which will outline how the Council intends to comply with the new, enhanced biodiversity duty outlined in the Environment (Wales) Act, 2016.** The Act places a greater duty on Councils in terms of enhanced biodiversity. The plan will need to identify the extent of these emerging duties and protocols will need to be developed to ensure that all services within the Council are complying with this increased duty. Training of all staff will be developed and delivered.
- **Improve upon joint working practices between service areas to remove duplication.** Work has already commenced on amalgamating enforcement activities previously carried out by different services within the council. This work will now progress to the next level following the appointment of an empty homes officer who will enforce the legislation currently used by Planning, Building Control, Pest Enforcement and Environmental Health to deal with redundant buildings and over grown land to bring buildings and parcels of land back into beneficial use. This will be achieved through a combination of measures with the last resort being an enforced sale. Not only will this result in a net increase in residential accommodation within sustainable locations, but it will also address the blight caused by these buildings and land upon the communities within which they are located. This is also likely to result in cost savings and improved debt recovery to the council as these problem buildings have undoubtedly in the past been the subject of extensive investigations by various sections who have served notices on the land owner and in certain circumstances taken direct action following non-compliance. The sale of the properties will ensure that the council re-coups these costs and reduces the need for the investigations in the first place.

WHAT SERVICE USERS THINK

In 2016-17 we conducted a customer satisfaction survey aimed at assessing the views of people that had received a planning application decision during the year.

The survey was sent to 219 people, 15% of whom submitted a whole or partial response. The majority of responses (49%) were from local agents. 33% were from members of the public. 9% of respondents had their most recent planning application refused.

We asked respondents whether they agreed or disagreed with a series of statements about the planning service. They were given the following answer options:

- Strongly agree;
- Tend to agree;
- Neither agree nor disagree;
- Tend to disagree; and
- Strongly disagree.

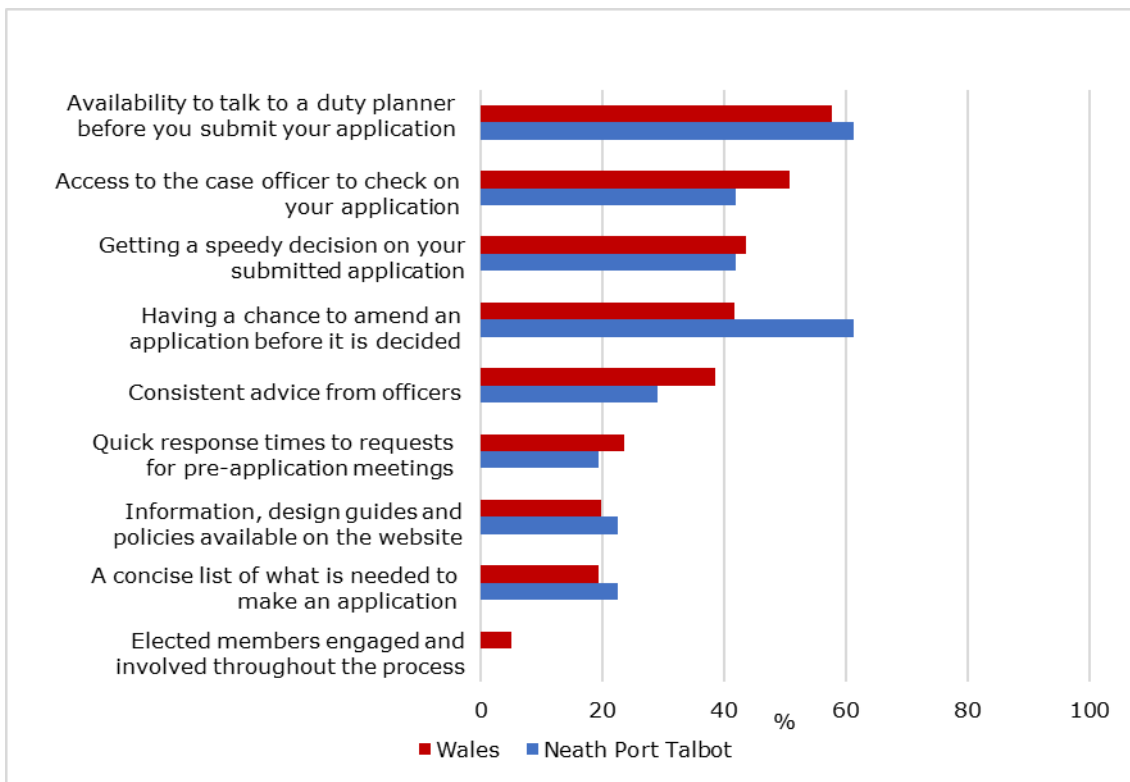
Table 1 shows the percentage of respondents that selected either 'tend to agree' or 'strongly agree' for each statement for both our Planning Authority and Wales.

Table 1: Percentage of respondents who agreed with each statement, 2016-17

| Percentage of respondents who agreed that: | % | |
|--|-----------------------|-------|
| | Neath Port Talbot LPA | Wales |
| The LPA enforces its planning rules fairly and consistently | 60 | 52 |
| The LPA gave good advice to help them make a successful application | 65 | 62 |
| The LPA gives help throughout, including with conditions | 58 | 52 |
| The LPA responded promptly when they had questions | 73 | 61 |
| They were listened to about their application | 65 | 59 |
| They were kept informed about their application | 65 | 51 |
| They were satisfied overall with how the LPA handled their application | 74 | 61 |

We also asked respondents to select three planning service characteristics from a list that they thought would most help them achieve successful developments. Figure 1 shows the percentage of respondents that chose each characteristic as one of their three selections.

Figure 1: Characteristics of a good planning service, Neath Port Talbot LPA, 2016-17



Comments received include:

- “Excellent service and customer focussed.”
- “NTP planning is probably the most efficient I deal with.”
- “Consistency within the planning application process as it seems some restrictions are not applied to all applicants.”

OUR PERFORMANCE 2016-17

This section details our performance in 2016-17. It considers both the Planning Performance Framework indicators and other available data to help paint a comprehensive picture of performance. Where appropriate we make comparisons between our performance and the all Wales picture.

Performance is analysed across the five key aspects of planning service delivery as set out in the Planning Performance Framework:

- Plan making;
- Efficiency;
- Quality;
- Engagement; and
- Enforcement.

Plan making

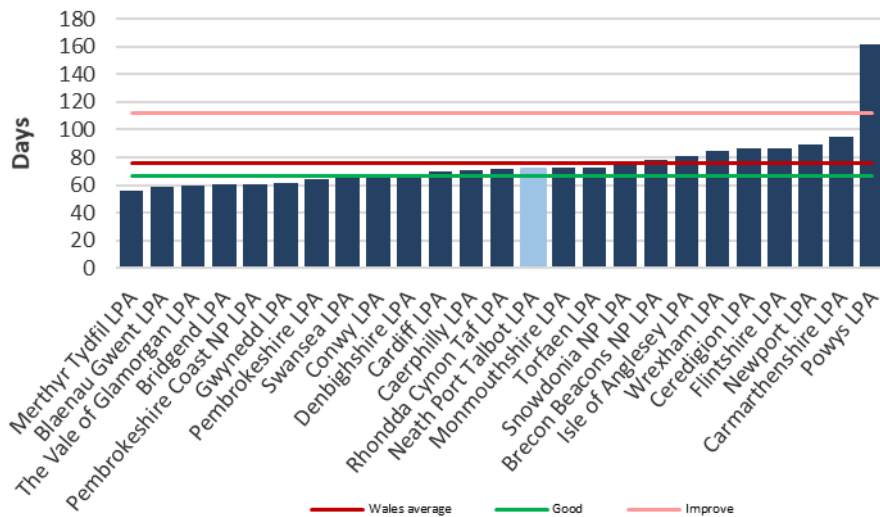
As at 31 March 2017, we were one of 22 LPAs that had a current development plan in place.

During the APR period we had 5 years of housing land supply identified, making us one of 6 Welsh LPAs with the required 5 years supply.

Efficiency

In 2016-17 we determined 817 planning applications, each taking, on average, 72 days (10 weeks) to determine. This compares to an average of 76 days (11 weeks) across Wales. Figure 2 shows the average time taken by each LPA to determine an application during the year.

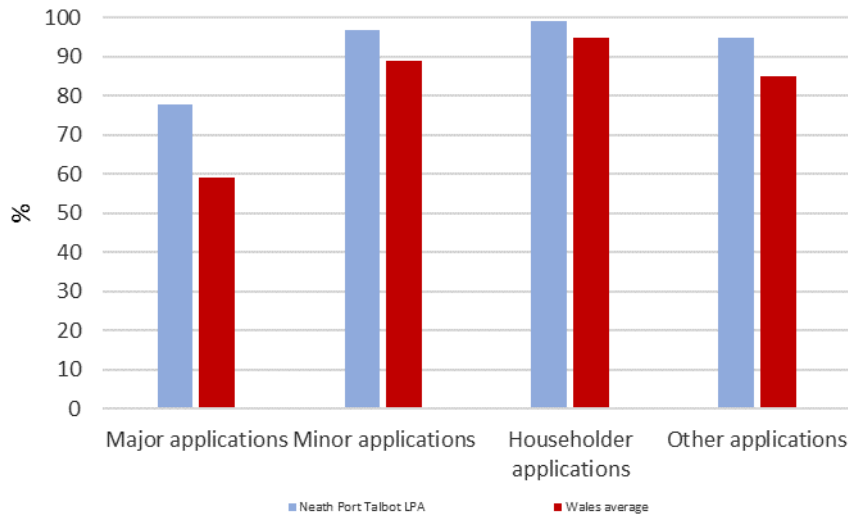
Figure 2: Average time taken (days) to determine applications, 2016-17



96% of all planning applications were determined within the required timescales. This was the fourth highest percentage in Wales and we were one of 20 LPAs that had reached the 80% target.

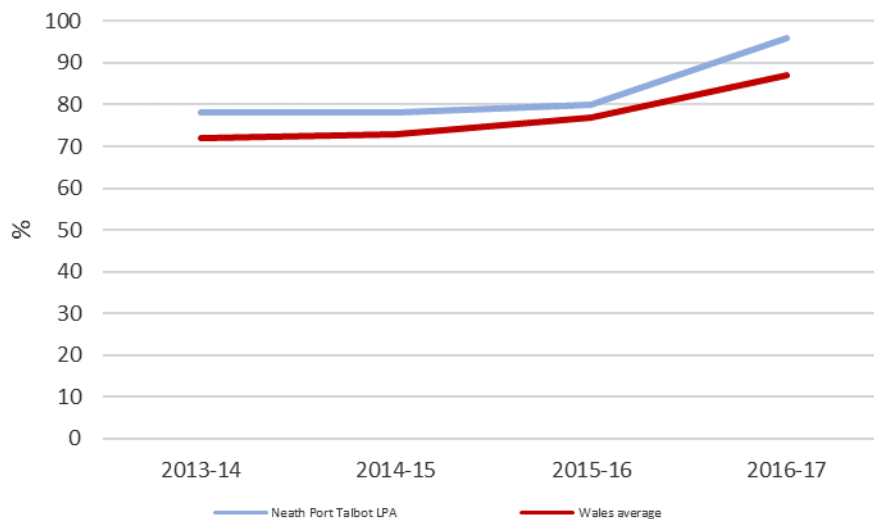
Figure 3 shows the percentage of planning applications determined within the required timescales across the four main types of application for our LPA and Wales. It shows that we determined 99% of householder applications within the required timescales.

Figure 3: Percentage of planning applications determined within the required timescales, by type, 2016-17



Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, as Figure 4 shows, the percentage of planning applications we determined within the required timescales increased from 80%. Wales also saw an increase this year.

Figure 4: Percentage of planning applications determined within the required timescales



Over the same period:

- The number of applications we received decreased;
- The number of applications we determined increased; and
- The number of applications we approved decreased marginally.

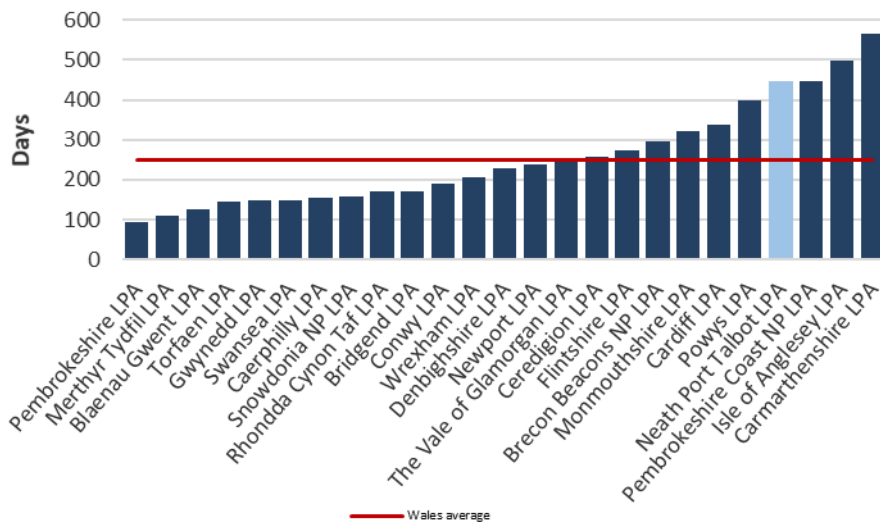
Major applications

We determined 27 major planning applications in 2016-17, 4% (1 application) of which was subject to an EIA. Each application (including those subject to an EIA) took, on average, 448 days (64 weeks) to determine.

This figure does however use a methodology preferred by the Welsh Government whereby they calculate an average over a quarter, then when all added together they again average the figure. This therefore doesn't accurately reflect the average figure which should in fact read 344 days (49 weeks). The actual average is far better and is demonstrating that we are improving the overall time taken to determine major applications.

Our commitment to further improvement is reflected by the fact that we have recently appointed a new senior planner who will concentrate on guiding developers submitting major applications through the planning process as efficiently as possible but without undermining our objective of 'Approving Quality Development Quickly'. Unfortunately Figure 5 shows, this was the fourth longest average time taken of all Welsh LPAs however this was based on the inaccurate figure rather than the actual figure.

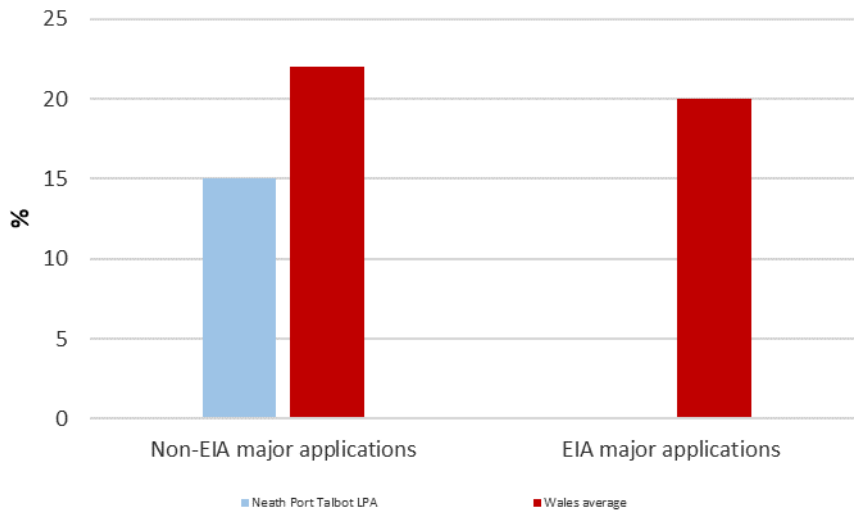
Figure 5: Average time (days) taken to determine a major application, 2016-17



78% of these major applications were determined within the required timescales, compared to 59% across Wales.

Figure 6 shows the percentage of major applications determined within the required timescales by the type of major application. 15% of our 'standard' major applications i.e. those not requiring an EIA, were determined within the required timescales during the year.

Figure 6: Percentage of Major applications determined within the required timescales during the year, by type, 2016-17

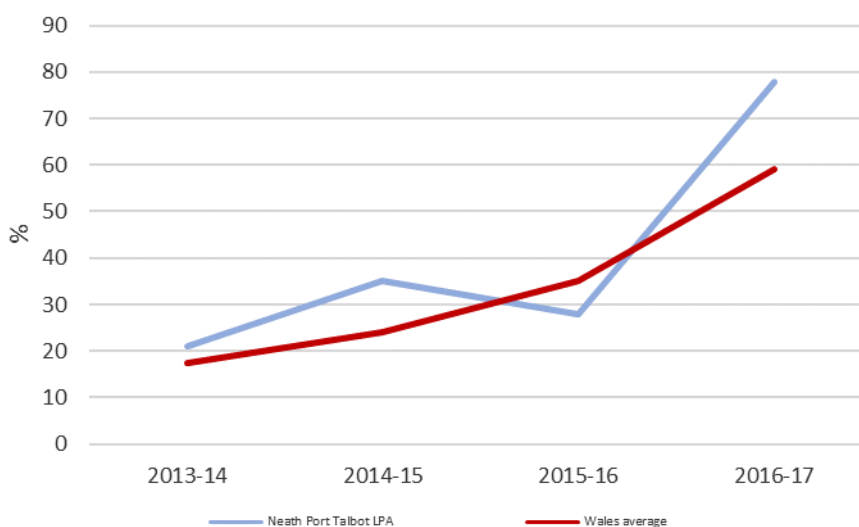


In addition we determined 17 major applications that were subject to a PPA in the required timescales during the year.

Since 2015-16 the percentage of major applications determined within the required timescales had increased from 28%. Similarly, the number of major applications determined increased while the number of applications subject to an EIA determined during the year decreased.

Figure 7 shows the trend in the percentage of major planning applications determined within the required timescales in recent years and how this compares to Wales.

Figure 7: Percentage of major planning applications determined within the required timescales



Over the same period:

- The percentage of minor applications determined within the required timescales increased from 83% to 97%;
- The percentage of householder applications determined within the required timescales increased from 96% to 99%; and
- The percentage of other applications determined within required timescales increased from 79% to 95%.

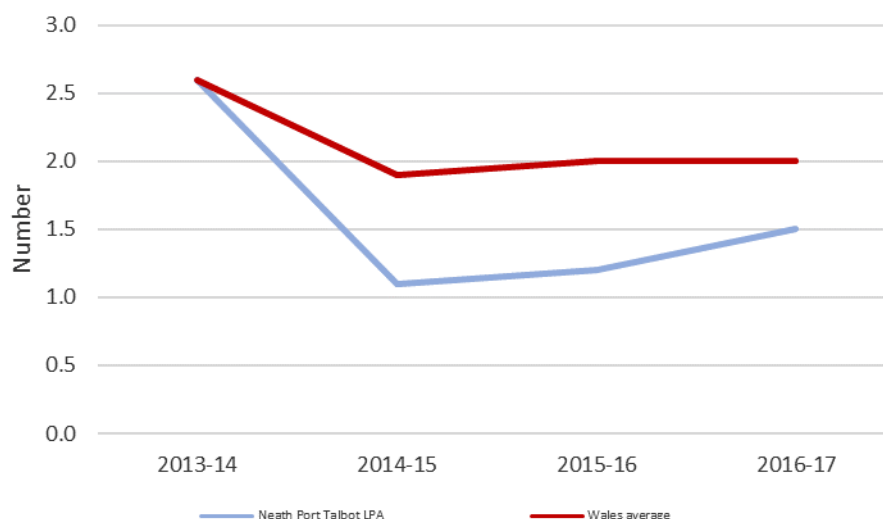
Quality

In 2016-17, our Planning Committee made 37 planning application decisions during the year, which equated to 5% of all planning applications determined. Across Wales 6% of all planning application decisions were made by planning committee.

8% of these member-made decisions went against officer advice. This compared to 11% of member-made decisions across Wales. This equated to 0.4% of all planning application decisions going against officer advice; 0.7% across Wales.

In 2016-17 we received 12 appeals against our planning decisions, which equated to 1.5 appeals for every 100 applications received. Across Wales 2 appeals were received for every 100 applications. Unfortunately this figure doesn't include several enforcement appeals and an advertisement appeal as these are not recorded by the Welsh Government. Figure 8 shows how the volume of appeals received has changed since 2015-16 and how this compares to Wales.

Figure 8: Number of appeals received per 100 planning applications

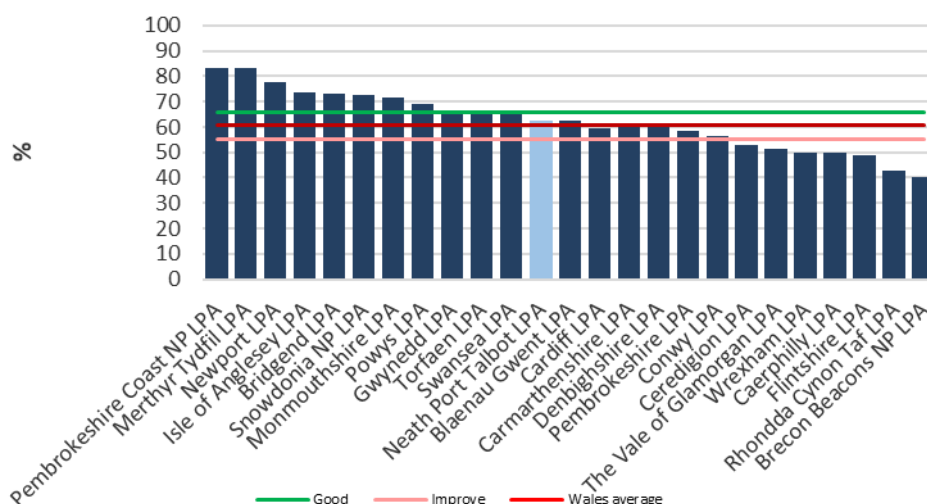


Over the same period the percentage of planning applications approved decreased from 96% to 84%. Whilst this appears to be a dramatic decrease it is actually as a reflection of a change in the method of calculating these figures. Previously, the Welsh Government included the discharge of conditions within the approval rate. Whilst they continue to use the number of such applications within the total number of applications received, they do not count the number of those submissions within the approval rate. If they had not changed the methodology, the figure would

have remained at an approval rate of 96%, demonstrating our continued commitment to working with developers to 'Approve Quality Development Quickly'.

Of the 8 appeals that were decided during the year, 63% were dismissed. As Figure 9 shows, this was higher than the percentage of appeals dismissed across Wales as a whole, but was below the 66% target.

Figure 9: Percentage of appeals dismissed, 2016-17



During 2016-17 we had 1 application for costs at a section 78 appeal upheld, making us one of the 11 LPAs to have at least one such application upheld in the year.

Engagement

We are:

- one of 24 LPAs that allowed members of the public to address the Planning Committee; and
- one of 20 LPAs that had an online register of planning applications.

As Table 2 shows, 65% of respondents to our 2016-17 customer satisfaction survey agreed that the LPA gave good advice to help them make a successful application.

Table 2: Feedback from our 2016-17 customer satisfaction survey

| | % | |
|---|-----------------------|-------|
| Percentage of respondents who agreed that: | Neath Port Talbot LPA | Wales |
| The LPA gave good advice to help them make a successful application | 65 | 62 |
| They were listened to about their application | 65 | 59 |

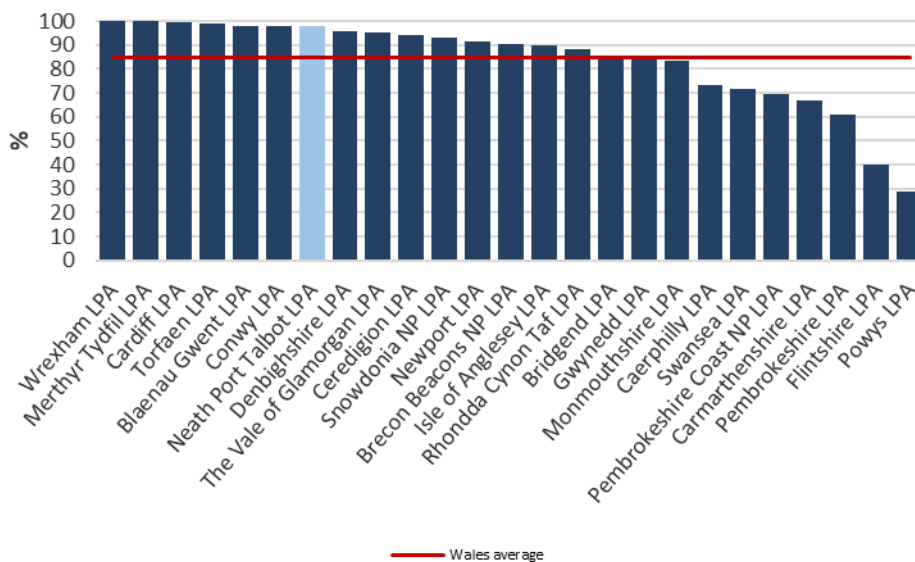
Enforcement

In 2016-17 we investigated 216 enforcement cases, which equated to 1.5 per 1,000 population. This compared to 1.9 enforcement cases investigated per 1,000 population across Wales. We took, on average, 10 days to investigate each enforcement case.

Unfortunately, the above is not an accurate reflection of actual performance. Our enforcement officers have been reviewing outstanding cases on the system and it appears that a number of cases which had indeed been investigated had not been updated on the system. Now that this has taken place, it is evident that we resolved 289 enforcement cases rather than 252, bringing us in line with the Welsh average. When calculated against the population it appears that we investigated 2 cases per 1000 population, which is above the Welsh average.

We investigated 98% of these enforcement cases within 84 days. Across Wales 85% were investigated within 84 days. Figure 10 shows the percentage of enforcement cases that were investigated within 84 days across all Welsh LPAs.

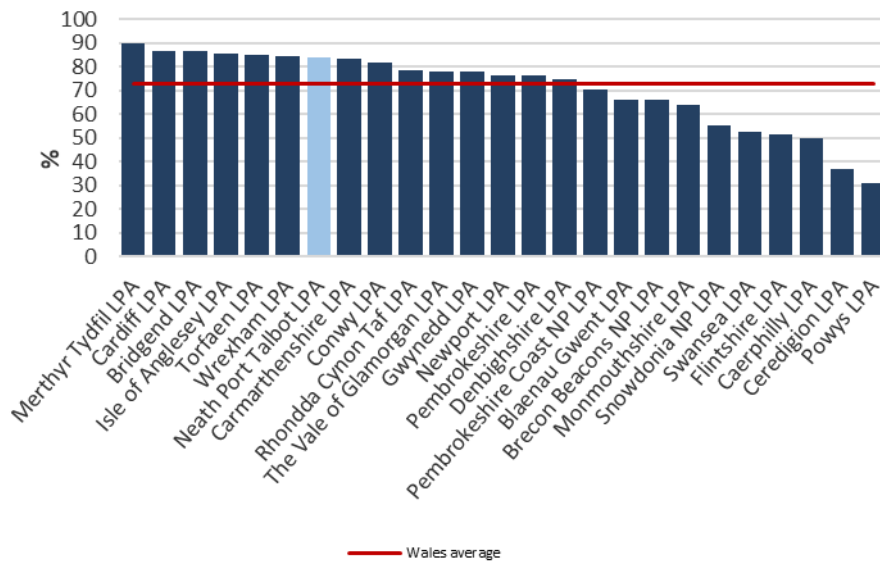
Figure 10: Percentage of enforcement cases investigated within 84 days, 2016-17



Notwithstanding the fact that we resolved 289 it was not possible to amend the chart above which indicates that we resolved 252 enforcement cases, taking, on average, 101 days to resolve each case. Whilst the table can't be updated to actually reflect the fact that we resolved 289, it is important to note this improved figure.

84% of this enforcement action was taken within 180 days from the start of the case. As Figure 11 shows this compared to 73% of enforcement cases resolved within 180 days across Wales.

Figure 11: Percentage of enforcement cases resolved in 180 days, 2016-17



ANNEX A - PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

OVERVIEW

| MEASURE | GOOD | FAIR | IMPROVE | WALES AVERAGE | Neath Port Talbot LPA LAST YEAR | Neath Port Talbot LPA THIS YEAR |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Plan making | | | | | | |
| Is there a current Development Plan in place that is within the plan period? | Yes | | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| LDP preparation deviation from the dates specified in the original Delivery Agreement, in months | <12 | 13-17 | 18+ | 58 | N/A | N/A |
| Annual Monitoring Reports produced following LDP adoption | Yes | | No | Yes | N/A | N/A |
| The local planning authority's current housing land supply in years | >5 | | <5 | 2.9 | 5.5 | 5.3 |
| Efficiency | | | | | | |
| Percentage of "major" applications determined within time periods required | Not set | Not set | Not set | 59 | 28 | 78 |
| Average time taken to determine "major" applications in days | Not set | Not set | Not set | 250 | 369 | 344 |

| MEASURE | GOOD | FAIR | IMPROVE |
|---|------|-----------|---------|
| Percentage of all applications determined within time periods required | >80 | 60.1-79.9 | <60 |
| Average time taken to determine all applications in days | <67 | 67-111 | 112+ |
| Quality | | | |
| Percentage of Member made decisions against officer advice | <5 | 5.1-8.9 | 9+ |
| Percentage of appeals dismissed | >66 | 55.1-65.9 | <55 |
| Applications for costs at Section 78 appeal upheld in the reporting period | 0 | 1 | 2+ |
| Engagement | | | |
| Does the local planning authority allow members of the public to address the Planning Committee? | Yes | | No |
| Does the local planning authority have an officer on duty to provide advice to members of the public? | Yes | | No |

| WALES AVERAGE | Neath Port Talbot LPA LAST YEAR | Neath Port Talbot LPA THIS YEAR |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 87 | 80 | 96 |
| 76 | 67 | 72 |
| 11 | 15 | 8 |
| 61 | 64 | 63 |
| 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Yes | Yes | Yes |

| MEASURE | GOOD | FAIR | IMPROVE |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| Does the local planning authority's web site have an online register of planning applications, which members of the public can access, track their progress (and view their content)? | Yes | Partial | No |
| Enforcement | | | |
| Percentage of enforcement cases investigated (determined whether a breach of planning control has occurred and, if so, resolved whether or not enforcement action is expedient) within 84 days | Not set | Not set | Not set |
| Average time taken to investigate enforcement cases | Not set | Not set | Not set |
| Percentage of enforcement cases where enforcement action is taken or a retrospective application received within 180 days from the start of the case (in those cases where it was expedient to enforce)? | Not set | Not set | Not set |
| Average time taken to take enforcement action | Not set | Not set | Not set |

| WALES AVERAGE | Neath Port Talbot LPA LAST YEAR | Neath Port Talbot LPA THIS YEAR |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 85 | 98 | 98 |
| 74 | 8 | 10 |
| 73 | 91 | 84 |
| 201 | 60 | 101 |

SECTION 1 – PLAN MAKING

| Indicator | 01. Is there a current Development Plan in place that is within the plan period? | |
|--|--|--|
| "Good" | "Fair" | "Improvement needed" |
| A development plan (LDP or UDP) is in place and within the plan period | N/A | No development plan is in place (including where the plan has expired) |

| Authority's performance | Yes |
|---|-----|
| <p>The Council's Local Development Plan (2011-2026) was adopted in January 2016. By the end of March'17, the Council had adopted 5 key Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) documents with a further batch of 4 prepared and endorsed for the purposes of consultation (these SPG were subsequently adopted by the Council in July'17). The Council has plans to prepare a further 6 SPGs in 2018.</p> <p>In addition to the above our first Annual Monitoring Report is due to be submitted to the Welsh Government in October 2017 with the first Review not scheduled until 2020.</p> | |

| Indicator | 02. LDP preparation deviation from the dates specified in the original Delivery Agreement, in months | |
|--|---|---|
| "Good" | "Fair" | "Improvement needed" |
| The LDP is being progressed within 12 months of the dates specified in the original Delivery Agreement | The LDP is being progressed within between 12 and 18 months of the dates specified in the original Delivery Agreement | The LDP is being progressed more than 18 months later than the dates specified in the original Delivery Agreement |

| Authority's performance | N/A |
|-------------------------|-----|
| | |

| Indicator | 03. Annual Monitoring Reports produced following LDP adoption | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| "Good" | "Fair" | "Improvement needed" |
| An AMR is due, and has been prepared | | An AMR is due, and has not been prepared |

| Authority's performance | N/A |
|-------------------------|-----|
| | |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Indicator | 04. The local planning authority's current housing land supply in years | |
| "Good" | | "Improvement needed" |
| The authority has a housing land supply of more than 5 years | | The authority has a housing land supply of less than 5 years |

| | |
|---|------------|
| Authority's performance | 5.3 |
| <p>The Local Authority successfully demonstrated that we have sufficient land available for housing however this is reliant upon the limited number of volume housebuilders delivering the planning permissions they have been granted.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that there are significant viability issues in the county borough and developers are struggling to deliver the essential infrastructure required to support housing developments whilst also securing a developer profit.</p> <p>It is anticipated that this problem will continue going forward. The Council are however looking to secure investment from the Valleys task force to try to secure financial support to enable developments to be delivered within our valleys communities where viability is at its most acute.</p> | |

SECTION 2 - EFFICIENCY

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Indicator | 05. Percentage of "major" applications determined within time periods required | |
| "Good" | "Fair" | "Improvement needed" |
| Target to be benchmarked | Target to be benchmarked | Target to be benchmarked |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Authority's performance | 78 |
| <p>This improved performance is as a result of an acknowledgement by developers that their applications are not straight forward and as such they have agreed to 'Extensions of Time'.</p> <p>The biggest constraint for major developments within this authority are normally associated with flooding, contaminated land and biodiversity, all of which take time to address properly in terms of acceptable submissions (especially for biodiversity whereby the survey periods are controlled by the seasons). They also take a long time to consider by both internal and external consultees who have restricted resources.</p> | |

| Indicator | 06. Average time taken to determine "major" applications in days | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| "Good" | "Fair" | "Improvement needed" |
| Target to be benchmarked | Target to be benchmarked | Target to be benchmarked |

| Authority's performance | 448 (344) |
|--|-----------|
| <p>Whilst the recorded Welsh Government figure is 448, if you calculate the average figure correctly it is in fact 344 days. Whilst this is still high at just shy of a year, it is important to note that these figures include a number of very old applications which have been with the authority for a number of years, and have as a result skewed the figures.</p> <p>Whilst the Authority tries its best to determine applications as quickly as possible, the constraints identified above make it very difficult and rather than refusing applications at submission, we allow developers to address the constraints and thereby improve the potential for developers to deliver their developments. This is reflected in our approval rate across the board of 96%.</p> | |

| Indicator | 07. Percentage of all applications determined within time periods required | |
|---|---|---|
| "Good" | "Fair" | "Improvement needed" |
| More than 80% of applications are determined within the statutory time period | Between 60% and 80% of applications are determined within the statutory time period | Less than 60% of applications are determined within the statutory time period |

| Authority's performance | 96 |
|--|----|
| <p>The Authority works with developers to ensure that we deliver our objective of 'Approving Quality Development Quickly'. Not only are we securing improvements to the overall quality of the development, but we also approving them either within the statutory period of 8 weeks or within an agreed extension of time with the applicant.</p> | |

| Indicator | 08. Average time taken to determine all applications in days | |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| “Good” | “Fair” | “Improvement needed” |
| Less than 67 days | Between 67 and 111 days | 112 days or more |

| | |
|---|----|
| Authority’s performance | 72 |
| <p>We were one of the first authorities in Wales to measure end to end times, following a systems review back in 2008 when it was considered to be important to acknowledge the amount of time taken to register an application. This is still considered important given the poor quality of a large number of submissions. The recently introduced national validation procedures have improved this situation however our customers find it too formal. We therefore ensure that the notices we send applicants are accompanied either by a jargon free letter/email and/or an explanatory phone call, to ensure that applicants know exactly what they need to do in order to submit a valid planning application.</p> <p>The pre-application service will help this situation improve further and whilst we encourage all prospective developers to use the service, many are deterred by the fact that fees are charged for the delivery of this service.</p> | |

SECTION 3 – QUALITY

| Indicator | 09. Percentage of Member made decisions against officer advice | |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| “Good” | “Fair” | “Improvement needed” |
| Less than 5% of decisions | Between 5% and 9% of decisions | 9% or more of decisions |

| | |
|--|---|
| Authority’s performance | 8 |
| <p>This figure can change quite dramatically given the very low numbers of applications determined by our Planning Committee. During this period 37 applications were determined by the Planning Committee and only 3 of those applications were determined contrary to officer advice. In total 817 applications were determined during this period and as such only 0.3% of applications were determined contrary to officer recommendation.</p> <p>This high percentage is therefore a reflection of the very high levels of delegation in place. This level of delegation does not however undermine the democratic process as officers are in constant contact with elected Members throughout the determination process.</p> | |

| Indicator | 10. Percentage of appeals dismissed | |
|--|---|---|
| “Good” | “Fair” | “Improvement needed” |
| More than 66% (two thirds) of planning decisions are successfully defended at appeal | Between 55% and 66% of planning decisions are successfully defended at appeal | Less than 55% of planning decisions are successfully defended at appeal |

| Authority’s performance | 63 |
|---|----|
| <p>This is an improvement when compared with last year and demonstrates the robustness of the Authority’s decision making process. Even though it is an improvement, the actual success rate is even higher as these figures do not take into account the appeals successfully defended in relation to enforcement cases and advertisements. Had these appeals been counted, the performance would have exceeded 66% and would have taken us into the green band.</p> | |

| Indicator | 11. Applications for costs at Section 78 appeal upheld in the reporting period | |
|--|--|--|
| “Good” | “Fair” | “Improvement needed” |
| The authority has not had costs awarded against it at appeal | The authority has had costs awarded against it in one appeal case | The authority has had costs awarded against it in two or more appeal cases |

| Authority’s performance | 1 |
|--|---|
| <p>Unfortunately the Authority had one award of costs against us during this period. It related to an appeal against conditions imposed on a retrospective development. The developer had built a bungalow within their rear garden without planning permission despite receiving pre-application advice confirming that permission was unlikely to be granted for a dwelling at that location.</p> <p>A retrospective application was submitted for the retention of the building as a granny annex. Given the Authority’s historical knowledge of this development and the Developers previous lack of compliance with the legislation and the advice from the planning authority, a legal agreement and conditions were imposed to secure the use of the building only as a granny annex rather than its originally intended use as an independent dwelling. It was acknowledged that this was a belt and braces approach however it was felt necessary given the fact that the applicant had failed to historically comply with the legislation. Despite the applicant willingly agreeing to all the conditions and signing the legal agreement they immediately appealed the conditions controlling the use of the building as a granny annex.</p> <p>Unfortunately the Planning Inspector considered that the actions of the Authority were excessive and did not acknowledge the problems experienced previously in</p> | |

securing compliance by the developer with the legislation. This was an extremely disappointing result and makes the enforcement of the planning legislation more difficult when you lose decisions and costs such as this. It is also even more worrying given the decline of enforcement services both in Neath Port Talbot and nationally and the increase in covert developments.

SECTION 4 – ENGAGEMENT

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Indicator | 12. Does the local planning authority allow members of the public to address the Planning Committee? | |
| “Good” | | “Improvement needed” |
| Members of the public are able to address the Planning Committee | | Members of the public are not able to address the Planning Committee |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Authority’s performance | Yes |
| <p>Since 2014, Members of the public have been allowed to address the Planning Committee. Unfortunately despite publicising this opportunity, the number of participants has been very low. The policy and protocol has recently been updated to specifically identify the ability of community councils to address committee in addition to members of the public. Despite this we have only had one community councillor address the committee to date.</p> | |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Indicator | 13. Does the local planning authority have an officer on duty to provide advice to members of the public? | |
| “Good” | | “Improvement needed” |
| Members of the public can seek advice from a duty planning officer | | There is no duty planning officer available |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Authority’s performance | Yes |
| <p>All officers are available to the public when they are in the office. We are aware that many authorities have a specific officer who is on a rota to cover all phones during specific periods of the day. Whilst this may be appropriate for general queries they will not be able to answer queries which are application specific without referring to the case officer. This referral results in at least two officers being involved in dealing with the query which seems to defeat the object of maximising the efficiency of the service. As a result all customers have access to their case officer during office hours. If the case officer is out on site or on leave, their colleague will assist if possible, thus maximising the quality of service to the public.</p> | |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Indicator | 14. Does the local planning authority's web site have an online register of planning applications, which members of the public can access track their progress (and view their content)? | |
| "Good" | "Fair" | "Improvement needed" |
| All documents are available online | Only the planning application details are available online, and access to other documents must be sought directly | No planning application information is published online |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Authority's performance | Yes |
| <p>This facility has been in existence for a number of years but is becoming increasingly difficult to resource. Whilst officers scan their own plans and application forms for current undetermined applications, the determined applications are scanned by a small administration team who service the whole of the Environment Directorate. Given the budget constraints affecting the council, back office staff have been severely hit by cuts and are struggling to keep up to date with scanning the planning files. There are concerns therefore about the ability for the system to be kept up to date going forward.</p> | |

SECTION 5 – ENFORCEMENT

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Indicator | 15. Percentage of enforcement cases investigated (determined whether a breach of planning control has occurred and, if so, resolved whether or not enforcement action is expedient) within 84 days | |
| "Good" | "Fair" | "Improvement needed" |
| Target to be benchmarked | Target to be benchmarked | Target to be benchmarked |

| | |
|---|----|
| Authority's performance | 98 |
| <p>We only have two enforcement officers covering the whole of the county borough. We have a system in place whereby our building control officers undertake basic checks in relation to householder development and if there is a potential non-compliance, they notify the enforcement officers. This is a tricky balancing act given that the building control officers are required to secure sufficient income to cover their operational costs and are also competing against the private sector.</p> <p>Nevertheless it is successfully enabling us to investigate cases quickly and see a high number of resolutions within statutory time periods.</p> | |

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Indicator | 16. Average time taken to investigate enforcement cases | |
| “Good” | “Fair” | “Improvement needed” |
| Target to be benchmarked | Target to be benchmarked | Target to be benchmarked |

| | |
|---|----|
| Authority’s performance | 10 |
| <p>Given that the Authority only has two enforcement officers covering the whole of the county borough, this is an excellent achievement. Despite this result further updates within our back office system actually indicate that we dealt with more cases than have been reported and the overall period for resolving them has decreased.</p> <p>Measures are being put in place to ensure that the back office system is kept up to date by all officers going forward.</p> | |

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Indicator | 17. Percentage of enforcement cases where enforcement action is taken or a retrospective application received within 180 days from the start of the case (in those cases where it was expedient to enforce) | |
| “Good” | “Fair” | “Improvement needed” |
| Target to be benchmarked | Target to be benchmarked | Target to be benchmarked |

| | |
|---|----|
| Authority’s performance | 84 |
| <p>This is a very good result given the limited resources available to the enforcement section.</p> | |

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Indicator | 18. Average time taken to take enforcement action | |
| “Good” | “Fair” | “Improvement needed” |
| Target to be benchmarked | Target to be benchmarked | Target to be benchmarked |

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Authority’s performance | 101 |
|--------------------------------|-----|

This is a disappointingly long period of time however it reflects the fact that a number of complex enforcement cases are taking a long time to deal with. These complex investigations are being dealt with in addition to covering all new complaints by only two officers.

SECTION 6 – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

The purpose of the Sustainable Development Indicators is to measure the contribution the planning system makes to sustainable development in Wales.

The Sustainable Development Indicators will be used to measure the progress against national planning sustainability objectives, set out in Planning Policy Wales, and can be used to demonstrate to our stakeholders the role and scope of the planning system in delivering wider objectives. The information will also be useful to local planning authorities to understand more about the outcomes of the planning system and help inform future decisions.

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Authority's returns | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All data has been returned. |

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Indicator | SD1. The floorspace (square metres) granted and refused planning permission for new economic development on allocated employment sites during the year. |
|------------------|--|

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Granted (square metres) | |
| Authority's data | 767 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Refused (square metres) | |
| Authority's data | 0 |

As seen from the figures above, we work proactively with our colleagues in the Regeneration section to support economic development on allocated sites. Unfortunately due to issues regarding viability, as explained earlier in this report, developer interest in the authority is marginal.

We are awaiting news from the Welsh Government in relation to the Valleys Task Force projects and anticipate that there will be greater interest in developing our valleys going forward. This will however prove a challenge for the Local Development Plan given that the majority of our allocated employment sites are within the coastal corridor. This may well result in an increase in employment developments approved within our valley communities which are technically

contrary to the LDP, on the basis that at the time of preparation and adoption, many of our sites were undeliverable due to lack of available finance and/or lack of developer interest. The Valleys task force projects aim to address this in certain areas. Furthermore a number of sites which were previously identified as being appropriate under previously adopted plans were removed from the most recently adopted LDP due to issues of flooding. The new DAM maps have recently indicated that a number of these sites are no longer affected by flooding and as such may well be available to deliver the council's economic development aspirations.

For these reasons it is anticipated that the floorspace will increase going forward.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Indicator | SD2. Planning permission granted for renewable and low carbon energy development during the year. |
|------------------|--|

| | |
|--|---|
| Granted permission (number of applications) | |
| Authority's data | 3 |

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Granted permission (MW energy generation) | |
| Authority's data | 5.4 MW (solar/wind/heat pump) |

This output is a combination of solar, wind and heat pumps.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Indicator | SD3. The number of dwellings granted planning permission during the year. |
|------------------|--|

| | |
|---|-----|
| Market housing (number of units) | |
| Authority's data | 230 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Affordable housing (number of units) | |
| Authority's data | 241 |

These figures relate to the number of dwellings approved. Given concerns nationally relating to land banking, it remains to be seen when or if these units will be developed. The figures do however highlight that Registered Social Landlords are active within this County borough. In fact they are often the only developers interested and willing to deliver developments in marginally viable areas.

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Indicator | SD4. Planning permission granted and refused |
|------------------|---|

| | |
|--|--|
| | for development in C1 and C2 floodplain areas during the year. |
|--|--|

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Number of residential units (and also hectares of non-residential units) that DID NOT meet all TAN 15 tests which were GRANTED permission | |
| Authority's data | 2 dwellings and 1.28ha of land |

| | |
|--|---|
| Number of residential units (and also hectares of non-residential units) that did not meet all TAN 15 tests which were REFUSED permission on flood risk grounds | |
| Authority's data | 0 |

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Number of residential units (and also hectares of non-residential units) that MET all TAN 15 tests which were GRANTED permission | |
| Authority's data | 96 dwellings and 0.121ha of land |

The Council acknowledge that large areas of land are identified as being at risk of flooding and whilst we are able to refuse applications immediately upon submission if they are within zone C2, we are aware that developers have in the past been able to address the concerns of NRW to ensure that future occupiers are not at risk of flooding nor will there be third party detriment.

This is becoming increasingly important given that many of our schemes formed part of the Welsh Government's Vibrant and Viable Places Programme and were key to the regeneration aspirations of the council for this part of the county borough. Much of this area was within a C1 zone as defined by the NRW flood maps. Given the importance of developing this area, which at the time was under threat due to concerns that the steel works would either cease to operate or significantly reduce operations, the council commissioned hydrologists to review the NRW flood map. That review resulted in significant changes to the flood model which has since been adopted by NRW. These changes enabled areas which were previously identified as being prone to flooding to be sufficiently mitigated thus enabling their re-development.

These sites would not have met the tests had the model not been interrogated by the Council.

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Indicator | SD5. The area of land (ha) granted planning permission for new development on previously developed land and greenfield land during the year. |
|------------------|---|

| Previously developed land (hectares) | |
|---|----|
| Authority's data | 27 |

| Greenfield land (hectares) | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Authority's data | 10 |

These figures are in accordance with the trajectory which formed part of our LDP supporting documents.

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Indicator | SD6. The area of public open space (ha) that would be lost and gained as a result of development granted planning permission during the quarter. |
|------------------|---|

| Open space lost (hectares) | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Authority's data | 0 |

| Open space gained (hectares) | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Authority's data | 87 |

This figure seems impressive and is as a consequence of the current restoration of the former Margam Open Cast Colliery Site. The council has spent years addressing the restoration of this site with the former and current owners. It has been particularly controversial and litigious given the transfer of ownership and associated liabilities together with the fact that insufficient funds were available within the bond to take direct action.

A solution was eventually negotiated which whilst not being in accord with the restoration scheme originally approved and anticipated by the public, is nevertheless acceptable. Work is progressing well on site and once complete should result in the creation of a beautiful, yet natural environment for residents and visitors.

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Indicator | SD7. The total financial contributions (£) agreed from new development granted planning permission during the quarter for the provision of community infrastructure. |
|------------------|---|

| Gained via Section 106 agreements (£) | |
|--|---------|
| Authority's data | 424,920 |

| Gained via Community Infrastructure Levy (£) | |
|---|--|
|---|--|

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Authority's data | 0 |
|-------------------------|---|

For viability reasons the council does not currently intend to progress with CIL.

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NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board

27 October 2017

Report of the Head of Planning and Public Protection

N. Pearce

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All

**Environmental Health And Trading Standards:
Food And Feed Service Delivery Plan 2017-2018 And
The Food And Feed Law Enforcement Review 2016-2017**

Purpose of Report

- 1 To inform Members of the work plan for 2017-2018 of the Authority's Food and Feed enforcement service and the review of the Food and Feed enforcement service for 2016 -2017.

Executive Summary

2. Food hygiene, and Food & Feed standards enforcement remains a priority for the service.
3. Food hygiene inspection resources were prioritised and continue to be prioritised on undertaking all high risk food premises together with an initiative to address the backlog of lower risk premises (focussing on certain Category D-rated premises). The broadly compliant indicator remains consistently high and resources are being put in place to ensure that this continues to be the case as this is a National Performance Indicator. National and local food sampling initiatives were carried out throughout the year, and we will continue to take part and make use of sampling resources made available. The service supports the FSA's National Food Safety Week as an important initiative to raise awareness of current issues, and also utilises Social Media opportunities. The

new business team within the Food and Health Protection team contribute to providing advice and coaching to businesses prior to the start of trading, in an attempt to give businesses relevant good practice and to inform them of their legal requirements. This has previously been a service which has been provided free of charge however in line with our councils, the service is currently considering charging for this service going forward.

4. The new feed arrangements appear to have been a success, and the section will exploit the regional connections that have been forged. There are clear issues with the number of interventions for food over the past year and resources have been allocated to address this. Regional working and intelligence gathering should continue to be developed and there are clear priorities for the service in relation to both food and feed and these need to be addressed, but without ignoring other issues that are appearing on the horizon.

Background

5. The Food Safety Act 1990 and the Food Standards Act 1999, together with associated statutory guidance, require local authorities to make provision for the enforcement of food and animal feeding stuff safety measures and to plan for service delivery on an annual basis. The proposed Service Delivery Plan, attached as Appendix 1, sets out the way in which the Environmental Health and Trading Standards Service intends to deliver food and feed law enforcement during the period 2017-2018.
6. It sets the scene for the enforcement function locally, whilst recognising national priorities. It sets the hierarchy of priorities for which the service is responsible, and indicates the range of interventions which are designed to maximise the health gain and public protection from the resources available.
7. The aims and objectives of the food and feed law enforcement service are:

- To help to maintain a safe and healthy environment in the County Borough.
 - To ensure food and feed produced or consumed within the area does not present a risk to health and to take action to prevent it entering or limiting its introduction to the food chain.
 - To ensure the effective control of feed destined for consumption by animals entering the food chain and pet animals.
 - To encourage good practices in food safety, food & feed standards and fair-trading, and to take action to discourage practices which are unfair to other traders or threaten health.
 - To enforce the relevant environmental health and trading standards legislation via a variety of interventions at premises in the County Borough, e.g. sampling, intelligence led investigations and surveys, and investigation of complaints, malpractices and cases of food poisoning.
 - To ensure that resources are targeted where they are most effective and address areas of highest public health risk
 - To respond to requests for advice and to seek to raise awareness of food safety and food & feed standards issues
 - To help business owners to comply with their obligations under food & feed legislation and to take appropriate action as per the enforcement policy against those who will not.
8. The authority must carry out an annual food and feed law enforcement performance review as part of the Framework Agreement (2010) between the Local Authority and the Food Standards Agency, which is attached at Appendix 2.
 9. The framework agreement sets out the planning and delivery requirements of feed and food official controls, based on the existing statutory Codes of Practice.
 10. The performance review considers the various requirements of “The Standard”, which include planned inspections / interventions,

sampling, service requests and complaints, promotional work, training of staff and monitoring arrangements.

Financial Impact

11. None

Equality Impact Assessment

12. A Screening Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. After completing the assessment it has been determined that this proposal does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment

Workforce Impact

13. No impact on current workforce

Legal Impact

14. None

Risk Management

15. None

Any Other Impacts

16. None

Consultation

17. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item

Recommendation(s)

18. The Food & Feed Service Delivery Plan 2017- 2018 and the Food & Feed law enforcement review 2016-2017 are for information.

Reason for Proposed Decision(s)

19. To inform members of the work plan for the Food & Feed enforcement service for 2017-2018 and of the Food & Feed law enforcement review 2016-2017.

Implementation of Decision

20. The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices

21. Appendix 1 - Food and Feed Service Delivery Plan 2017-2018
Appendix 2 - The Food and Feed Law Enforcement review 2016–2017.

List of Background Papers

22. None

Officer Contact

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NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL CASTELL-NEDD PORT TALBOT

FOOD & FEED LAW ENFORCEMENT
SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN

2017-2018



CONTENTS

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| CHAPTER 2 | Background |
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| CHAPTER 4 | Resources |
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| CHAPTER 6 | Review of previous plan/s |

Appendices

- A Decision Making Structure**

- B Department Structure**

- C Section Structure**

- D Numbers of premises in each ward**

- E Action Plan and Targets**

1.0 SERVICE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 Purpose of the Service

It is the policy of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to strive to ensure that food and drink intended for sale for human consumption, which is produced, stored, distributed, handled or consumed within the County Borough is without risk to the health or safety of the consumer; that it is described accurately and that it bears all required labeling and information. Additionally, the plan encompasses Feed law enforcement to recognise the importance of ensuring food safety from the very beginning of the food chain (at producer/farm level), through to the consumer (the farm to the fork principle).

The Food Standards Agency (FSA), as part of its national Food Safety Framework Agreement, requires all local authorities to prepare a service delivery plan which reviews the implementation of the previous plan and details the delivery of their food safety enforcement responsibilities for the following year.

The plan seeks to ensure that national priorities and standards are delivered locally and provides a balanced approach to local food safety enforcement. This is achieved by not merely directing resources towards the programmed inspection process, but also by ensuring that adequate provision is made to address food & feed complaints, food poisoning notifications and other reactive work, advice to businesses, and also the ability to follow-up on intelligence driven areas of work such as sampling, food fraud and targeted inspections.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the food and feed law enforcement service are:

- To help to maintain a safe and healthy environment in the County Borough
- To ensure food and feed produced or consumed within the area does not present a risk to health and to take action to prevent it entering or limiting its introduction to the food chain

- To ensure the effective control of feed destined for consumption by animals entering the food chain and pet animals
- To encourage good practices in food safety, food & feed standards and fair-trading, and to take action to discourage practices which are unfair to other traders or threaten health.
- To enforce the relevant environmental health and trading standards legislation by means of interventions at premises in the County Borough, e.g. inspections, sampling, intelligence led investigations and surveys, investigation of complaints, malpractices and cases of food poisoning.
- To ensure that resources are targeted where they are most effective and address areas of highest public health risk
- To respond to requests for advice and to seek to raise awareness of food safety and food & feed standards issues
- To help business owners to comply with their obligations under food & feed legislation and to take appropriate action as per the enforcement policy against those who will not.

1.3 Link to corporate objectives and plans

In delivering the food and feed law enforcement service the Food and Health Protection section and Trading Standards section will continue to promote the corporate aims and objectives of the authority and sustain the reputation of the council. It also aims to contribute towards the wellbeing goals of the council as contained within the Council's Wellbeing Plan. In particular the service will be delivered in a manner that is sensitive to service users and citizens individual expectations.

A corporate performance management framework monitors performance of all services within the Council. Local performance indicators are reported on a quarterly basis.

Local and National Performance Indicators exist for these services (see Paragraph 3.1.4 below).

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Profile of Neath Port Talbot

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council is a Unitary Authority, situated in South Wales and is a recognised statutory Food Authority. The towns of Neath, Port Talbot and Pontardawe are the largest settlements in the Borough. A number of other villages and settlements are dispersed throughout the remaining rural valley areas of the County Borough. The County Borough serves a population of approximately 139,800 (Census, 2011) and covers an area of 44,217 hectares. It is the seventh largest authority in terms of population in Wales. There are approximately 1666 food/feed premises within the County Borough (being circa 1422 food premises and circa 244 feed premises) in which food or drink and feed or drink is produced, manufactured, processed, stored or sold. (See section 3.1 for further details on type of premises etc.).

2.2 Organisational Structure

The Charts attached as appendices A, B and C illustrate the organisational Structures of the Sections.

The functions of Environmental Health and Trading Standards sit within the responsibility of the Head of Planning & Public Protection service in the Directorate of Environment.

In February 2016, Environmental Health and Trading Standards services were transferred to the Environment Directorate, this followed an earlier restructure in September 2013.

The day to day service delivery of the Food & Feed Services are overseen by the Team Leader- Food & Health Protection, and the Team Leader- Trading Standards & Animal Health respectively.

External services are provided to the section by:

- Public Health Wales (formerly the Public Health Laboratory Service, PHLS) at West Wales General Hospital, Carmarthen– for food examination (Microbiological).
- Public Analysts (Minton, Treharne & Davies Ltd and Public Analyst Scientific Services Limited) – for food & feed analysis (Non-microbiological).
- Occasional use of contracted workers (contractors / locum officers) to cover maternity and other staffing shortfalls, or emergencies.
- Food Standards Agency - for guidance and partnership working opportunities.
- Citizens Advice Consumer Service - referrals of food and feed complaints.

2.3 Scope of the Food & Feed Law Enforcement Service

The Food Hygiene service is delivered by officers of the Food Safety Section. The Food Standards and Feed functions are delivered by officers of the Trading Standards section.

These sections provide the major link between the authority (as regulator of all food & feed businesses) and businesses within the County Borough.

In addition to providing the food safety and standards functions, the service also undertakes work in the arenas of fair trading enforcement; occupational health, safety and welfare; investigation and control of communicable diseases; health promotion; product safety; weights & measures; animal welfare; consumer frauds; petroleum licensing enforcement and underage sales.

The work of the service in relation to food/feed involves applying numerous Acts and Regulations to approximately 1666 food/feed businesses within NPT, including:

- Intervention at business premises to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation in accordance with the authority's annual intervention / inspection programme.
- Providing advice and assistance to businesses to ensure both the protection of the

consumer and that trade, business and industry can compete on a fair and equitable basis.

- Sampling of a range of products sold on the open market with an emphasis on those produced within the County Borough in accordance with the annual sampling programme and policy (which includes food, animal feed and product safety).
- Health Promotion in relation to businesses and their employees.
- Investigating complaints of a criminal nature made by the public of items purchased and services received by them within the County Borough.
- Responding to food & feed alerts for food & feed produced or imported into the UK.
- Inspecting weighing and measuring equipment at commercial premises within the County Borough and providing a verification / certification service.
- Investigation of notifications of infectious diseases received by the Authority, including food poisoning to ascertain their cause, prevent their spread and if possible, prevent their recurrence.
- Assisting food businesses (particularly high risk premises) with the requirement for a documented Food Safety Management System (FSMS), based on HACCP principles (Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Points).
- Assisting feed businesses with the requirement for feed safety management systems, based on HACCP principles.
- Animal Health and Welfare enforcement, including inspection of welfare of livestock and animal movement documents.
- Providing Food Hygiene Ratings for businesses covered by the legislation.
- Investigating consumer fraud perpetrated by businesses within NPT and by businesses outside NPT, whose actions affect people and businesses within NPT.
- Working with partners in disseminating advice on combatting scams and educating consumers on the dangers of scams.

- Business advice, explaining their rights and obligations both criminally and civilly.

The sections primarily act in a proactive, intelligence led way, but also respond to complaints regarding businesses and issues affecting consumer purchases. This includes complaints of food hygiene, health and safety, fair trading, metrology etc., and also commercial complaints of pest infestation, drainage, waste accumulations, water sampling and inspections for licensing.

When necessary, Environmental Health Officer contractors and Trading Standards Officer contractors are used to cover long term sickness/maternity leave/vacant posts or project work funded by external sources.

The selection and use of external contractors will be a decision taken by the Environmental Health & Trading Standards Manager in consultation with the Head of Planning and Public Protection and will be subject to the following types of criteria:-

- That there is a direct need to ensure statutory duties are undertaken & relevant performance targets are met / outcomes realised.
- External contractors must meet the competency requirements of the Food Standards Agency Food Law Code of Practice (Wales) - General qualification and experience requirements, and
- The cost of the work can be met within existing authorised budgets and is in accordance with the Council procurement policies, or the cost of the work is being met externally (e.g. via the Food Standards Agency Wales).

2.4 Demands on the Food & Feed Service (Food Hygiene; Food Standards; Feed Standards)

The tables in 3.1 show the current breakdown of the numbers and types of premises within the County Borough. There are currently circa 1422 food and 244 feed premises which are subject to food & feed controls trading within the County Borough, which includes approximately 1348 registered food premises.

There are 3 specialist feed manufacturers operating within the County Borough which require familiarity with the operation due to their technical nature. The inspection of these businesses require specific understanding, qualifications and competencies from the feed officers concerned.

Food Hygiene and Food Standards advice leaflets in various languages are available to those outlets which require them, additionally multi-language on-line resources are available, such as those in relation to good food hygiene practices, as part of the Food Standards Agency's initiative called "Safer Food, Better Business" (SFBB).

The Food Standards Agency has placed an emphasis on "interventions" at food & feed businesses rather than solely on full inspections. Full inspections / audits should be targeted on the businesses of highest risk, or for a specific reason (such as a complaint). Lower risk businesses will not necessarily be subject to a full programmed inspection, but will perhaps be dealt with by means of a focussed survey or as part of the food sampling programme.

The authority's food and feed enforcement activity is recorded on the Authority APP system. The annual returns and enforcement data that are to be submitted to the Food Standards Agency are exported from this system via the Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System (LAEMS).

The service is mainly provided between the normal council office hours of 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 4.30 pm Friday. Outside of normal office hours, emergency food safety issues are currently directed initially to a 24 hour emergency call out service and the officer on-call has access to senior food officers in an emergency. Increasingly, additional work (including programmed inspections) is conducted at times outside of normal office hours. This is in response to the need to deal effectively with businesses as we move more into a 24 hour economy, weekend and evening working is becoming increasingly common.

The correspondence address for Environmental Health & Trading Standards is Civic Centre, The Quays, Brunel Way, Baglan. SA11 2GG. The services can be contacted via telephone on 01639-685678.

In addition, the Council's website (www.npt.gov.uk) is used to provide information about food safety services for consumers and business and also provides a direct email address for service requests i.e. ehd@npt.gov.uk & tsd@npt.gov.uk The service also uses Facebook (NptEnvHealth/TradingStandards) and Twitter (NPTEHTS) and other Social Media.

Further demands will be made on the service in 2017/18 due to:

- The Freedom of Information Act.
- The continuing impact (long term) on food safety of the Pennington Report following the public inquiry (2009) into the (fatal) South Wales E. coli outbreak (2005) and recommendations for enforcement.
- Sustaining collaboration on the operation of the Mandatory Food Hygiene Rating Scheme and Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Regulations 2013 and to provide open feedback on the compliance levels achieved by individual businesses.
- The further development of alternative enforcement activities, resulting in a reduction of low risk inspections, but with increased and targeted, educational and promotional work.
- Continued promotion of the requirement for relevant Businesses to be operating to a documented Food Safety Management System, which is commensurate with their activities.
- The continued repercussions of the new Consumer Rights Act and The Powers of Entry Code of Practice, redefining how Trading Standards, operate and use their powers.
- The continued development of Trading Standards' intelligence led approach. Implementing the Intelligence Operating Model and deploying resources accordingly, identifying the areas of greatest need. Sharing intelligence related to food and feed with enforcement agency partners.
- The implications of the Simpson Review, and the subsequent Compact between Welsh Government and Local Authorities and the push for collaborative working and regionalisation of the services.
- Further development of cross boundary and regional work in the fields of food and feed, to ensure that resilience is built into service delivery.
- To continue to expand health promotion (e.g. food safety messages, nutrition, & smoking issues) into the daily delivery of the food service.
- The adoption and implementation of the Primary Authority System.
- Continuing to abide by the Framework Agreement and the Feed Law Code of Practice,

and the soon to be revised Food Law Code of Practice for Wales and accompanying Practice Guidance.

- Continued implementation of Feed (Hygiene & Enforcement) Regulations 2005 and EU regulation 1831/2003, until such time as replacement regulations are introduced following the exit from EU.
- Considering the national food and feed priorities set by the Food Standards Agency.
- Continue to advise consumers and traders on the Food Information Regulations 2013, which set out new requirements for food labeling, description and declaration of allergens.
- Identifying food businesses supplying “co-products” (i.e. former foodstuffs reprocessed as animal feed) and advising them of their obligations and responsibilities.
- Trading standards will continue to target nutrition issues relating to vulnerable sections of society and the food sold to the public sector.
- Tackling the areas identified as local priorities for food standards, including food allergens, food supplements (commonly sold over the internet) and adulteration and substitution of food.
- Closer working with internal local authority sections delivering food to service users (schools etc.), protecting the vulnerable, sharing information and ensuring best value for local authority services
- The continued development of the regional feed enforcement delivery model with Swansea Trading Standards as per the agreement with the Food Standards Agency.
- Continue to risk assess the unrated feed & food businesses within the county borough.
- Accommodating service delivery in line with the identified priorities relevant to the service, in-addition to NPT’s Forward Financial Plan (FFP).
- To continue to monitor for the presence of illicit and /or counterfeit foodstuffs that have been detected in other authorities, utilising and analysing intelligence received from the Regional Intelligence Analyst, Food Fraud Unit, local intelligence sources and partners.

- To develop procedures to minimise the duplication of efforts from both environmental health officers and trading standards officers when visiting food and feed premises.

2.5 Regulation Policy

An enforcement policy for the Environmental Health and Trading Standards services has been formulated and approved by Members. Members have also adopted the provisions of the Enforcement Concordat and the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 which are reflected in the enforcement policy.

Officers employed in the section will seek to ensure owners of food & feed businesses comply with relevant food & feed legislation by means of:

- providing information and advice,
- raising awareness of the law and good practice associated with the legislation,
- providing education and training,
- taking enforcement action where necessary.

The type of enforcement action taken will depend on the circumstances and the merits of each case. Officers will follow the guidance contained in relevant Food Law Code of Practice, Practice Guidance, the Primary Authority scheme etc. and the relevant internal policies.

In performing its enforcement function the authority will continue to strive to ensure that the overall objective of protecting the health, safety and economic well-being of residents and visitors within the County Borough is met.

3.0 SERVICE DELIVERY

3.1 Interventions at Food and Feeding stuffs establishments

3.1.1 Intervention Policy

The Food Law Code of Practice (Wales) has introduced the concept of 'a suite of interventions' as a key to improving compliance with food law by food business operators. The range of possible interventions allows officers to use their professional judgment to apply a proportionate level of regulatory and enforcement activities to each food business. Interventions will be applied in a risk-based manner such that more intensive regulation is directed at those food businesses that present the greatest risk to public health.

Interventions are split into 2 categories- those that are recognised by the European Union as 'official controls', and those that are not. Interventions that are official controls include:- inspections; monitoring; surveillance; verification; audit; and sampling (where the analysis is to be carried out by an official laboratory). Other interventions which do not constitute official controls include:- education, advice & coaching provided at a food establishment; and information & intelligence gathering.

The authority will continue to implement a planned programme for food hygiene and food standards interventions and feed inspections at premises within the County Borough. A degree of flexibility will be factored in to allow important issues to be adequately addressed, especially where enforcement action becomes necessary to protect public health.

Food Hygiene

The intervention programme is based on the intervention rating scheme contained in Annex 5 of the Food Law Code of Practice, which means that, dependent on risk, premises should be inspected or subject to a suitable intervention within a range of 6 months to 3 years. In addition, approved product premises require increased intervention frequencies whilst certain low risk premises may at the discretion of the authority be subject to an alternative enforcement regime.

Food Hygiene Interventions will be undertaken in accordance with the guiding themes contained within the Food Hygiene Interventions Procedure, the relevant legislation, Food Law Code of Practice and Practice Guidance and the Industry Guides. Officers will carry out food hygiene interventions to ensure that food meets the requirements of food hygiene and safety law, including microbiological quality; absence of pathogenic micro-organisms; and safety for consumption.

During interventions, competent officers will carry out statutory duties under the relevant legislation, provide advice and information to personnel within food premises and undertake any necessary follow up visits and take formal action where necessary. Particular emphasis will be given to assessing and advising food businesses on the requirement of a documented food safety management system and food hygiene training.

Table 1 (a) below, illustrates the number of programmed interventions programmed going forward, based on their Risk Rated category (Highest Risk premises:- category A premises = 2 interventions per year; category B premises = 1 intervention per year; category C premises = 1 intervention at least 18 monthly. Lowest risk premises:- category D premises = 1 intervention every 2 years; category E premises should be inspected every 3 years or can be subject to an Alternative Enforcement intervention in lieu of inspection). New premises are classed as unrated initially until formally inspected (prior to opening / within 28 days of opening).

Table 1(a) Planned Food Hygiene Interventions due 2017/18 (as at 1st April 2017)

| RISK CATEGORY | NUMBER OF PREMISES CARRIED FORWARD | (NUMBER OF PREMISES IN CATEGORY 2017/18) | NUMBER OF NEW INTERVENTIONS DUE / PLANNED 2017/18 | TOTAL NUMBER DUE / PLANNED 2017/18 | ESTIMATE NUMBER DUE / PLANNED 2018/19 |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| High Risk:- | | | | | |
| A | 0 | (5) | 10 | 10 | <i>e.10</i> |
| B | 0 | (64) | 64 | 64 | <i>e.64</i> |
| C | 0 | (483) | 305 | 305 | <i>e.330</i> |

| | | | | | |
|--|----------|-------|-----|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Unrated | 7 | --- | --- | 7 | --- |
| Approved Premises | 0 | (1) | 3 | 3 | --- |
| Total | --- | --- | --- | 389 | e.405 |
| ESTIMATE: New Businesses | --- | --- | --- | Circa e.120 – 150 | Circa e.120-150 |
| ESTIMATE:No of premises likely to Cease Trading | | | | Circa e.120 – 150 | Circa e.120-150 |
| Low Risk:- | | | | | |
| D | 29 | (183) | 56 | [85]* | e.75 |
| E | 287 | (578) | 100 | [387]** | e.114 |

- *In accordance with the Framework Agreement and frequencies set in the Food & Feed Law Code of Practice, Category D premises should receive an intervention every 2 years. Such interventions can alternate between an intervention that is an official control and an intervention that is not an official control. However, where resources are capped, the priority will remain with the Higher Risk categories.

- ** In accordance with the Framework Agreement and frequencies set in the Food & Feed Law Code of Practice, Category E premises should be subject to an intervention every 3 years, which could be part of an Alternative Enforcement Strategy. However, where resources are capped, the priority will remain with the Higher Risk categories.

In addition to the planned interventions above, any newly opened / change of ownership of food premises will be targeted for inspection / an intervention. In 2016/17, there were 218 requests for advice in relation to food premises registration and new food businesses, and a similar figure is estimated for 2017/18.

It is estimated that in addition to the planned primary inspections/interventions to be undertaken, a further 150 food hygiene “revisits” will also be carried out. This detailed involvement with Food Business Operators and their staff is an ideal opportunity to progress Best Practice standards and promote health and well-being in the wider context, as well as ensuring improvements are made.

As a result of the Mandatory Food Hygiene Rating Scheme, we now issue eligible premises with a Hygiene Rating score, and publicise this on the national website: www.food.gov/ratings . As part of the scheme, businesses who initially fail to meet the highest standard (Score of 5), but who subsequently implement improvements are entitled to apply for a re-assessment visit. This has caused an increase in demand for resources to undertake these re-inspections, but due to the importance of implementing the scheme and the need to support businesses going forward, we will prioritise this work area.

Food Standards & Feed Standards

The inspection / intervention programmes are based on the inspection rating scheme contained in Annex 5 of the Food Law Code of Practice and the Feed Law Code of Practice, which means that, dependent on risk, all premises will be scheduled for an inspection or intervention within a range of 12 months to 5 years. Certain low risk premises may, at the discretion of the authority, be inspected via an alternative enforcement regime.

An alternative enforcement strategy has been in place for Low risk rated (Category C) Food Standards premises since 2006. Following the Food Standards Agency Audit, many more businesses that had been deemed “outside” the inspection programme have been redesignated as Unrated and brought back into the inspection programme. Consequently during 2017/18 a new initiative will be embarked upon in conjunction with officers of the Food Hygiene team, who will combine assessment of key food standards issues during their routine assessments of C rated or likely to be C rated food businesses, for food hygiene purposes.

Feed Standards premises are subject to primary or secondary inspections.

A primary inspection is an inspection of a feed business in which the appropriate elements set out in the relevant inspection form for the business concerned are considered.

Authorised officers may, however, use their professional judgment and decide to cover only certain elements where they consider it appropriate to do so.

A secondary inspection is any other visit to a feed business that is not a primary inspection, for any purpose connected with the enforcement of feed law, including:

- Sampling visits
- Visits to check on the progress of measures required after a previous inspection
- Complaints visits
- Visits to discuss aspects of feed safety management procedures based on HACCP principles.

Officers undertaking food and feed standards inspections will ensure that the food or feed business is meeting the legal requirements relating to quality, description, composition, labelling, presentation and advertising of food and of materials or articles in contact with food. Animal health officers have the responsibility of inspecting the feed hygiene systems on farms, this is carried out as part of their routine animal health inspection.

During inspections / interventions competent officers will carry out statutory duties under the relevant legislation, provide advice and information to personnel within food premises and take formal action where necessary.

Table 1(b) Planned Food Standards Interventions due 2017/18 and estimated for 2018/19:-

| CATEGORY | (TOTAL NO. OF PREMISES IN CATEGORY 2017/18) | NO. OF PREMISES CARRIED FORWARD | NO. OF NEW INTERVENTIONS DUE / PLANNED 2017/18 | TOTAL NUMBER DUE / PLANNED 2017/18 | ESTIMATED NUMBER OF REVISITS 2017/18 | ESTIMATED NUMBER DUE / PLANNED 2018/19 |
|-----------------|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| A | (11) | 0 | 11 | 11 | 5 | 10 |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------|-----|-----|--------------|-----------|------------|
| B | (259) | 58 | 51 | 109* | 12 | 125 |
| C | (665) | 411 | 57 | 468** | 5 | 133 |
| UNRATED | (409) | 409 | 0 | 409 | 10 | 0 |
| OUTSIDE | (96) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | (1440) | 878 | 119 | 997 | 32 | 268 |

* In accordance with the Framework Agreement and frequencies set in the Food & Feed Law Code of Practice, Category B premises should receive an intervention every 2 years. Such interventions can alternate between an intervention that is an official control and an intervention that is not an official control. However, where resources are capped, the priority will remain with category "A" businesses and unrated.

** In accordance with the Framework Agreement and frequencies set in the Food & Feed Law Code of Practice, Category C premises should be subject to an intervention every 5 years, which could be part of an Alternative Enforcement Strategy. However, where resources are capped, the priority will remain with the higher and unrated risk categories.

Table 1(c) Planned Feed Standards Interventions due 2017/18 and estimated for 2018/19: Feed is now co-ordinated on a regional basis. Locally Neath Port Talbot has been paired with Swansea as a region. The Food Standards Agency dictate the level of funding, and direction and inspection and sampling programme. The table below outlines the inspection programme for Swansea and Neath Port Talbot for the forthcoming year.

| Type of Business | Profiled Inspections |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Manufacturer | 0 |
| Co Product Producer | 0 |
| Mobile Mixer | 0 |
| Importers | 0 |
| Stores | 1 |
| Distributor | 0 |
| Transporter | 0 |
| On Farm Mixer - R10 | 3 |
| On Farm Mixer - R11 | 2 |
| Supplier of Surplus Food - R07 | 7 |
| Pet Food Manufacturers | 1 |
| Total Inspections Inland Feed | 14 |
| | |
| PRIMARY PRODUCTION | Profiled Inspections |
| Livestock Farms - R13 | 79 |
| Arable Farms - R14 | 5 |
| Total Inspections At Primary Production | 84 |
| TOTAL INSPECTIONS | 98 |

3.1.2 Premises Profile

The authority currently has circa 1422 food premises and approximately 245 feed businesses (mainly farms) trading in the borough (of which circa 1348 food businesses are registered by NPTCBC, the remainder are registered elsewhere, but can trade with NPT). There are many in-year changes to the number and type of premises which are active at any one time. The majority of the premises are situated in and around the main towns of Neath and Port Talbot. Additionally, there are several industrial estates containing food premises, which include a number of food storage/distribution units (see Appendix D for numbers of premises by Ward area).

The following tables illustrates the type and number of food & feed premises within the authority. There has been a significant increase in the number of feed premises as more have been detected, all premises that supply feed that is given to animals that go into the food chain are caught by the legislation.

Table 2a: Types of premises: 2014- onwards.

| TYPE OF PREMISES (FOOD) | NO. OF PREMISES (2014/15) | NO. OF PREMISES (2015/16) | NO. OF PREMISES (2016/17) | NO. OF PREMISES (2017/18) |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Primary Producer [F01] | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Manufacturer / Packer [F02] | 20 | 23 | 24 | 23 |
| Importers / Exporters (EU) [F03] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Distributor / Transporter [F04] | 17 | 19 | 15 | 15 |
| Supermarket/Hypermarket [F05] | 46 | 47 | 42 | 23 |
| Small Retailer [F06] | 250 | 247 | 243 | 232 |
| Retailer / Other [F07] | 48 | 52 | 53 | 71 |
| Restaurant/Café/Canteen [F08] | 182 | 186 | 192 | 189 |
| Hotel/Guest House [F09] | 17 | 19 | 18 | 22 |

| | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Pub/Club [F10] | 217 | 215 | 203 | 209 |
| Takeaway [F11] | 139 | 146 | 147 | 145 |
| Caring Premises [F12] | 210 | 217 | 211 | 217 |
| School/College [F13] | 101 | 101 | 95 | 96 |
| Mobile Food Unit [F14] | 45 | 52 | 55 | 52 |
| Restaurants & Caterers – Other [F15] | 113 | 118 | 132 | 123 |
| Importers/Exporters (3 rd Countries) [F16] | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| TOTAL NO. OF PREMISES | 1409 | 1446 | 1433 | 1420 |

Ongoing feed work has allowed the department to improve its record keeping. This, along with deregistration of some businesses accounts for the large drop in registered feed premises.

| | Animal Feed Revised Coding (from 2016/17). | No. of PREMISES (2016/17) | No. of PREMISES (2017/18) |
|---|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A | Manufacturer Using / containing additives | 2 | 2 |
| B | Manufacturer Not Using Additives | 3 | 3 |
| D | On Farm Mixer Using Additives | 1 | 1 |
| E | Store - In Region Distribution | 3 | 4 |
| I | Importer - Out Of Region Distribution | 1 | 2 |
| J | Surplus Food Supplier | 12 | 8 |
| P | Co Product Producer - In Region | 2 | 0 |
| S | Livestock Farm | 275 | 210 |
| T | Arable farm | 17 | 10 |
| U | Any Other Business | 1 | 0 |
| X | Not Known | 1 | 1 |
| | Total Number of Premises: | 318 | 241 |

3.1.3 Resources For Inspections / Interventions

Food Hygiene

The Environmental Health & Trading Standard service was restructured in April 2016 resulting in a team based on 1.0 Team Leader; 0.8 Senior EHO; 5.03 EHO's; 1.85 Enforcement Officers; 1.0 Enforcement Officer (currently Training), and 0.33 Support Officer. This equates to approx. 10.0 FTE (Full Time Equivalents)- see breakdown in table below for fuller details. It is estimated that the required resource to deliver all aspects of the Framework Agreement and Code of Practice is 12.0 FTE. In 2017, additional funding (approx. 0.216 FTE) has been secured to strengthen the food hygiene team. It is anticipated that the current combined staffing level is sufficient to carry out most of the prioritised areas of work, including the foreseeable (planned) inspection programme at High Risk premises. However, temporary staff and locums/contractors have also been utilised in previous years to support the service, when additional resources have been needed. Some flexibility is maintained from the cross-utilisation of staff from and to other parts of the service (see Chapter 4 on Resources for fuller details on the current staffing structure). One member of the team is currently training towards their Higher Certificate in Food Safety and Legislation qualification.

Food Hygiene Resources- Required and Allocated.

| | Estimate of Required Resources | Allocated | Relative priority assigned |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Food hygiene inspections: Cat A-C | 3.8 | 3.8 | High / Medium-high |
| Food hygiene inspections: Cat D | 0.6 | 0.0 | Medium-low |
| Food hygiene inspections: Cat E | 0.4 | 0.0 | Low |
| Food hygiene Complaints | 1.3 | 1.2 | High / Medium-high |
| Food hygiene Sampling | 0.2 | 0.2 | Medium |
| FH New Businesses & | 1.9 | 1.5 | Medium-high |

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Compulsory Registrations | | | |
| FH Advice & Promotional work | 0.3 | 0.3 | Medium / Medium-low |
| FH Revisits | 0.6 | 0.6 | Medium-high |
| FH Rating Scheme Re-Rating visits | 0.2 | 0.2 | High |
| FH Rating Scheme enforcement | 0.1 | 0.0 | Resources diverted when required. |
| FH Prosecutions | 0.1 | 0.0 | Resources diverted when required. |
| Food Fraud investigations and surveillance | 0.1 | 0.0 | Resources diverted when required. |
| Food hygiene Unrated inspections & work carried forward. | 0.2 | 0.1 | Medium |
| Food Related Infectious Disease control, inc. food poisoning cases & outbreaks | 1.0 | 1.0 | High |
| Food hygiene Approved Premises | 0.1 | 0.1 | High |
| FH Import & Export; & Novel foods | None at present | 0.0 | Resources diverted when required. |
| FH Service Improvement (Monitoring, Planning, Reviews, Policies, Consultations) | 0.8 | 0.7 | High / Medium-high |
| Food hygiene safety alerts | 0.1 | 0.1 | Medium |
| Other Food hygiene work | 0.2 | 0.2 | Resources diverted when required. |
| TOTALS (in FTE's): | 12.0 | 10.0 | |
| 2017: Additional 0.216 FTE to fund audit findings | | 10.216 | |

Food Standards and Feeding stuffs

The Retail and Industrial enforcement section of trading standards includes consists of 1.2 Trading Standards Officers and 2 Enforcement Officers food qualified officers who conduct food inspections/ interventions as a core part of their work alongside other duties. One enforcement officer is currently studying for her food qualification which should be completed in January 2018. This officer is currently utilised for unofficial control work. All feed enforcement officers are HACCP trained. The 2 trading standards officers and additional enforcement officers have non primary producer/farm inspection duties. Inspection of feed on farms is the responsibility of another enforcement officer and the assistant enforcement officer. All officers are suitably qualified and deemed competent, and carry out the assessments on an annual basis. The proportion of time spent by each officer on the feed and food function can be found in part 4 (Resources) of this document.

| Food Standards Function | Estimate of Required Resources | Allocated |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Food Standards Interventions | 2.1 | 1.0 |
| Food Standards Complaints | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Food Standards Home Authority / Primary Authority | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Food Standards Business Advice | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Food Standards Sampling / Incidents | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Food Hygiene Primary Production Inspections | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Liaison & Promotion | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Food & Feed safety alerts | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Sub-Total | 3.6 | 2.2 |
| <i>Estimation of additional resource required to recover Backlog of Food Standards Work (short term: 2 years approx.)</i> | 2.1 | 0.0 |

Currently the department devotes 2.2 Full Time Equivalent officers to food standards enforcement work.

At current intervention rates, to achieve inspections targets as per the code of practice (that is, inspection of A, B, C rated and Unrated businesses) and taking into account complaints and sampling work, the department would need to increase the number of full time equivalent qualified and competent officers to approximately 5.7 to overcome the backlog, particularly unrated businesses, in a reasonable period of time (estimated as two years).

Currently, unrated businesses are subject to a postal or e-mailed self-assessment questionnaire. Using the responses and the information gathered from the food registration documentation, businesses are prioritised. For example an unrated food manufacturer will be visited before an unrated retailer selling prepacked, long life, food. Additionally, the Food & Health Protection section and the Trading Standards section are combining unrated and new business contact work to avoid duplication, and as mentioned earlier in this document the Food & Health Protection team will be inspecting certain “C” rated or likely to be “C” rated food standards rated businesses. This will allow Trading Standards to focus on the higher risk food standards businesses.

To then maintain the inspection rate the department would need to maintain 3.6 FTE food officers.

Feed work provisions are now arranged regionally and funded directly by the Food Standards Agency.

3.1.4 Targets and Priorities for 2017/18 (including any planned projects)

Food Hygiene:

1. To ensure a high level of Business compliance with Food Hygiene legislation. This is illustrated by the percentage of food businesses which are classed as “Broadly Compliant” when assessed against the definition provided by the National PI / Public Accountability Measure (PAM): PPN/009 “The percentage of food establishments

which are 'broadly compliant' with food hygiene standards”;

2. To undertake a suitable variety of Regulatory Interventions to promote good health and ensure legal compliance to avoid dangerous health risks. This will include the issuing and administration of the Mandatory Food Hygiene Rating Scheme which was introduced on 28th November 2013;
3. To undertake inspections / interventions at high risk premises for food hygiene. (See tables 1(a) and (b) for number of inspections due). [This was formerly a National PI: PPN/001 (ii); until deleted after 2010/11. It is currently monitored as a Background PI & remains a Council KPI]. This PI is based on the inspection of 100% of Category A premises; and 100% of Category B premises. With respect of Category C premises, interventions will be part of a risk based strategy.
4. To inspect or otherwise assess new businesses for compliance with legal standards, whilst being aware of the likely needs of new businesses to require timely advice, tailored to their undertaking at the planning and “startup” stages. [This was formerly a National PI: PPN/008; until deleted after 2010-2011. It is currently monitored as a Background PI & remains a Council KPI].
5. To respond to infectious disease incidents, complaints and enquiries within the target response time laid down by the Authority.
6. To promote the improved understanding and implementation of food safety management systems for food businesses in the County Borough.
7. In 2017/18, to develop a cross-discipline approach to undertake certain combined food hygiene and food standards assessments, following appropriate training and up-skilling of staff.

Food Standards and Feeding stuffs

1. To undertake a suitable level and variety of Regulatory interventions to promote food and feed safety from farm to fork and to ensure legal compliance and promote fair competition and trading.
2. To achieve 100% of inspections/interventions of “A” rated premises for food standards & feed purposes

3. To inspect or otherwise assess unrated businesses for compliance with legal standards.
4. To assess businesses for compliance with basic legal standards, to ensure that significant breaches are acted upon and proper controls are evenly applied to all businesses in a fair and equitable manner. [This was formerly a National PI: PPN/007, until deleted after 2010/11. It is currently monitored as a Background PI & remains a Council KPI].
5. To complete the annual food sampling plan, including the cross border regional projects it has embarked upon.
6. To complete the regional feed delivery plan
7. To continue to implement the Intelligence Operating model across the service.
8. To maintain competency and training for all relevant staff.
9. In 2017/18, to continue to support and develop the cross-discipline approach to undertake certain combined food hygiene and food standards assessments, following appropriate training and up-skilling of staff of officers from both teams.

3.1.5 Possible Restrictions on Providing Service

Staffing levels remain tight, and are already prioritised on key areas of work. Extended periods of staff absence can cause acute staffing problems, however this issue is constantly monitored. Due to the wide variety of other work undertaken by these officers, they will need to maintain their competencies in a variety of disciplines to remain flexible and of optimum value when emergencies occur.

The section has had little turnover of food and feed qualified personnel in the last two years. However there is continuous pressure within the council generally to cut staff resources as far as possible.

The section has a wide remit and food and feed standards work is a high priority. Occasionally, projects and targets need to be re-assessed to focus on the areas of greatest need. Restructures and conflicting demands on the department have meant new staff have

been drafted in to work on areas that they are not familiar with. In the past the department has needed to utilise the services of locums/contractors to cover the short term deficits, however, this is an option that has become less available to the service, due to tightening budgetary constraints. To overcome this the department is focussing on the areas which require most attention and making use of the intelligence led approach advocated by National Trading Standards and have implemented the Intelligence Operating Model for Trading Standards

3.1.6 Experience of Officers and Access to Expert Information When Necessary

All relevant officers within the Section are appropriately qualified and experienced to deal with routine and many unusual matters associated with all current types of food & feed premises within the area.

Additional training will be given to staff as and when considered necessary, e.g. if a new business sets up and has a specialised process of which staff have not had previous experience.

Staff also have access to relevant environmental health and trading standards literature, the Internet, Technical Indexes, Police National Legal Database, Knowledge Hub etc. They also have access to representatives of coordinating groups and panels specialising in food and feed enforcement and the authority's public analyst.

Staff can quickly liaise with other authorities via emails, using the EHC-net (Environmental Health Confidential Network), TS Link (Trading Standards Interlink system) the Knowledge Hub the Trading Standards Regional Intelligence Analyst intelligence database and Local Intelligence Officer network. Where additional expertise is required the Head of Service will be briefed and a suitable response will be formulated. Where appropriate, assistance from the Food Standards Agency and other partners/colleagues may also be sought.

Trading Standards has representation on the Glamorgan regional coordinating groups for food standards. The section participates in surveys and exercises held under the auspices of the Glamorgan Group, the Welsh Heads of Trading Standards (WHOTS) and the Food Standards Agency. Swansea Trading Standards represent Neath Port Talbot's interests in regional feed coordination. Regular communication takes place between the two authorities on feed issues and delivery of feed enforcement across the Swansea / Neath Port Talbot region.

The sections work closely and liaise with the Public Health Laboratory, Public Health team of the NPHS, and the Public Analysts when expertise is required. The Authority's public analyst service is consulted during the drafting of the sampling programme for sampling subjects, costs and sampling techniques.

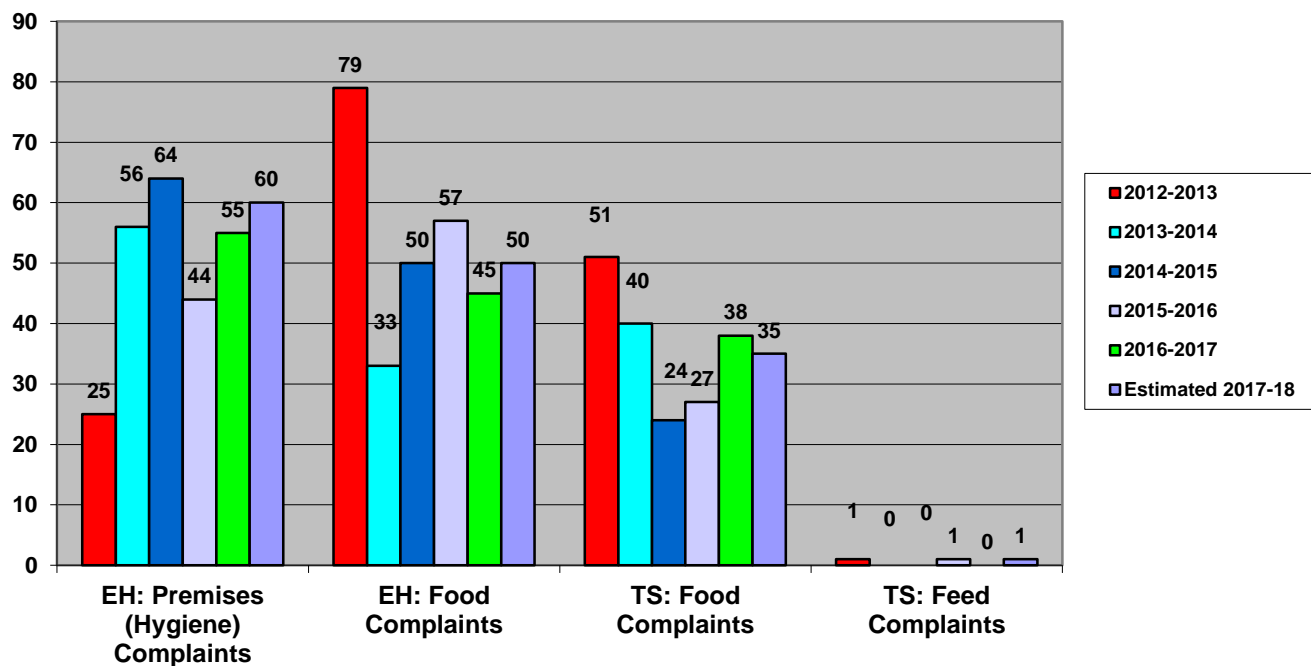
3.2 Food and Feeding stuff Complaints

The authority will continue to ensure that all notified complaints in relation to food and feeding stuffs are suitably investigated and dealt with promptly and consistently. Environmental Health & Trading Standards follow their internal procedures in relation to food and feed complaints, in addition to the food safety policy and internal performance targets.

The following graph shows the actual number of complaints received for 2012/2013 through to 2016/2017, with an estimate for 2017/2018.

Table 3: Food Complaints

Food & Feed Complaints



The reactive workload is equivalent to approximately 1.5 FTE- based on 1.2 FTE for food hygiene and 0.3 FTE for food standards and feeding stuffs.

The demands placed on this Reactive service are periodically reviewed, to ensure that resources for investigating food complaints are targeted on a risk basis. The available resources will need to be focused on significant food safety risks, to ensure the widest possible protection of public health. As a consequence, certain categories of service request may need to receive a much more streamlined response.

3.3 Primary Authority Scheme & Home Authority Principle

The authority will continue to provide advice and assistance to food businesses for which we are home authority and/or originating authority and to any that may set up their decision making centre within the authority. The Trading Standards department is in the early stages of establishing a non-food primary authority relationship, with a commitment to initiate other partnerships, including food and feed. We will provide any relevant information to other food authorities that make enquiries about such businesses.

The Primary Authority scheme requires UK enforcement authorities to be mindful of national inspection plans organised with multi-site businesses, to ensure consistency of approach on a nationally coordinated basis (See also our Enforcement Policy and Primary Authority Policy). Any potential enforcement action would similarly need to be coordinated with the Primary Authority of the business involved. Details of the scheme and participating partners are maintained by the Governments' Regulatory Delivery department. A national / regional / multi-site business can establish a primary authority relationship with any appropriate local authority for a specific function (Food Hygiene, Food Standards etc.)

Where a product has been produced or manufactured in another part of the UK, liaison is instigated with the relevant local authority / authorities under the Home Authority principle. Essentially an investigating Authority's first point of contact will be the enforcement authority for food or feed that is local to the business being investigated. Increasingly, food is imported from Countries within the European Community and other parts of the world. Where infringements are detected, investigations are coordinated through the Food Standards Agency and relevant border inspection points / ports.

3.4 Advice to Businesses

The authority will continue to provide relevant advice and assistance to existing and prospective businesses within the area. In 2016/2017, 6 food standards requests for advice and 108 food hygiene enquiries were received, requiring advice on various food matters.- The levels of food standards enquiries has dropped this year, this can be attributed to the introduction of the new allergen legislation last year, which saw requests for advice increase considerably. This year's figure is more typical of levels of requests for advice. It is estimated a similar number of enquiries will be received in 2017/18. The service is currently delivered free of charge but the council is considered delivering this service as a fee paying service in future to ensure that costs are recovered.

Advice is provided to businesses in the following ways.

1. During inspections and as part of follow up documentation;
2. Via mail drops e.g. food alerts, information leaflets/letters,
3. Startup advice on request;
4. New business questionnaires
5. Via social media (i.e. Facebook / Twitter)
6. Through guidance information available on the Council's website
7. Distribution of relevant food safety material to food businesses;
8. Seminars for businesses and training/awareness events;
9. Press releases and media campaigns

The existing resources within the department should be able to meet the estimated number of enquiries.

3.5 Food and Feed Sampling

The Authority believes that sampling is integral to food and feed law enforcement. The sampling policy has been drafted for the following purposes:

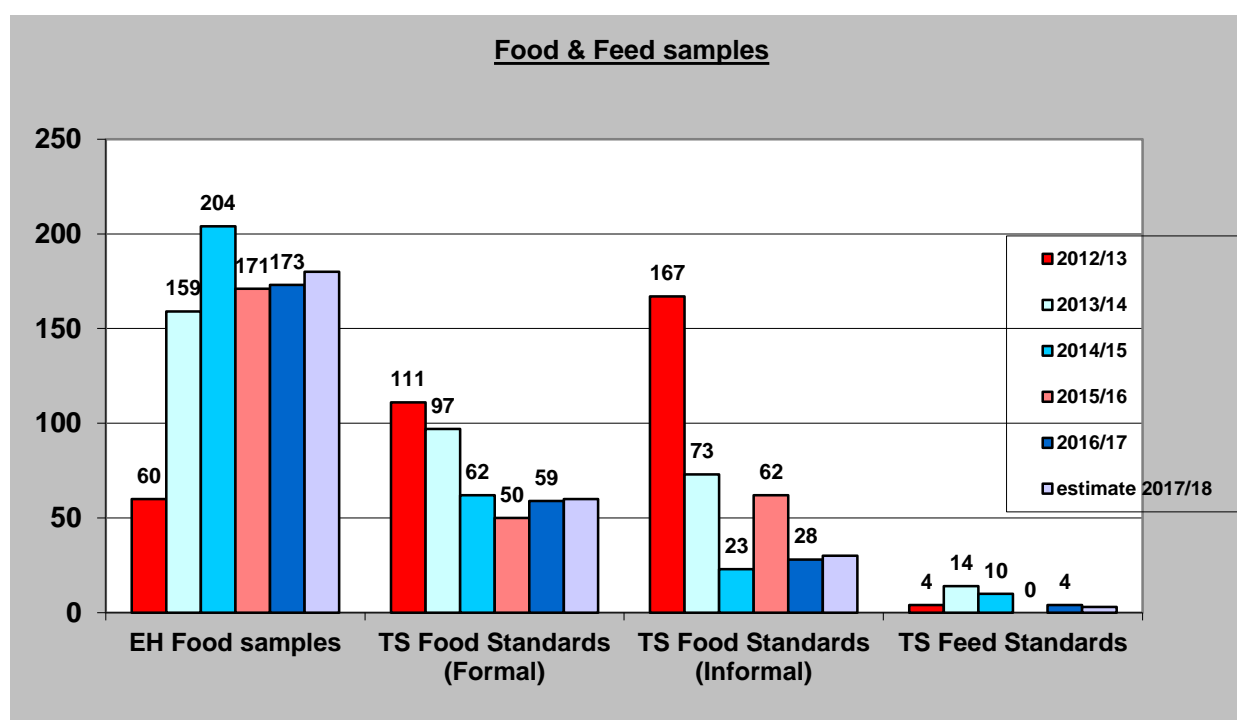
- Protecting public health
- Detecting and deterring fraudulent activities
- Verifying that official control checks are effective
- Giving customer's sufficient information to make informed choices
- Ensuring that food standards are maintained
- Informing the enforcement approach
- Providing product quality advice to the producer
- Promoting fair trade and deterring bad practice

Food sampling trends and intelligence are examined and inform the authority's food sampling plan. Priority areas for sampling are identified on the basis of safety, consumer or trade detriment, type of food or feed business and risk. Additionally, food samples can be taken as part of a programmed intervention if deemed appropriate or in connection with enforcement investigations.

The Authority is encouraged to participate in various co-ordinated sampling programmes such as the Welsh Food Microbiological Forum targeted surveys; the All Wales 'Shopping Basket' Food Sampling Survey; Welsh Head of Trading Standards Surveys; Glamorgan Trading Standards Group Surveys; public analysts co-ordinated surveys; Food Standards Agency surveys and the FSA food & feed priorities.

Following the implementation of regional food standards and feed enforcement across Wales, there are now regionally led food and feed sampling programmes directly funded by the FSA which Neath Port Talbot will be participating in. Other internal sampling programmes can be carried out as and when necessary and are incorporated into the annual plan of food sampling devised respectively by Environmental Health and Trading Standards. Food sampling has dropped considerably, as most of our current food work has been proactively advising businesses on the provisions of the new Food Information Regulations.

Table 4: Numbers of Samples taken.



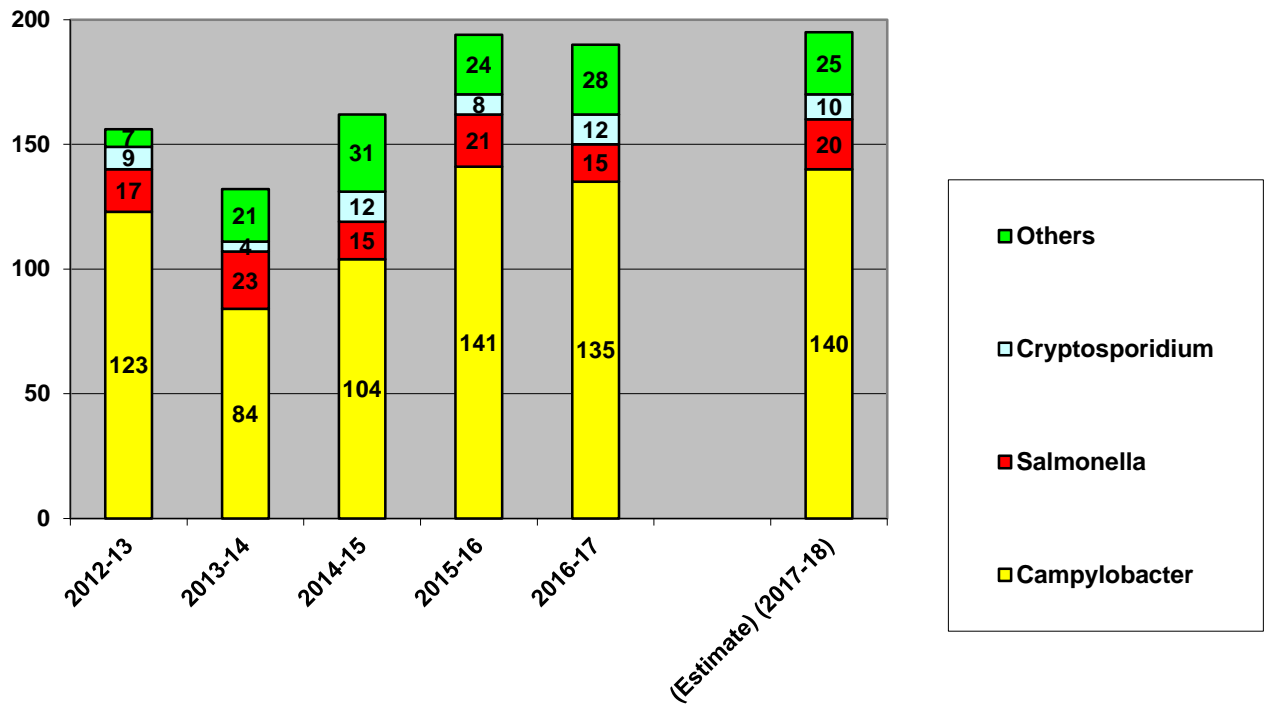
Resource allocation:- approximately 3 days a month are spent by one officer (usually a Support Officer) sampling foods for microbiological analysis and undertaking the subsequent administration. Samples taken are submitted to either the local Microbiology testing laboratory (PHW- lab) or Public Analyst within 24 hours of sampling. A similar amount of time is spent by Trading Standards staff on sampling with samples submitted weekly to the Public Analyst.

3.6 Control and Investigation of Outbreaks and Food Related Infectious Disease

All formal notifications (of all types of Infectious Disease notifications) are recorded in the Infectious Disease Register. Subsequent investigations are based on the type of organism, the number of cases, and are in accordance with the over-arching Communicable Disease Outbreak Control Plan for Wales (re-issued September 2012 by Chief Medical Officer-Wales). Additionally, there are various supporting infectious disease investigation procedures utilised locally by Neath Port Talbot. During 2016/17, we received 190 infectious disease notifications (135 of these were Campylobacter; 15 were of Salmonella; 12 were of Cryptosporidium; and 28 “others”). Periodically, we receive complaints from members of the public as self-referrals. These are often reported as suspected cases of food poisoning. Initially, advice is given for the case to report to their GP, but invariably these are followed up as service requests and investigated accordingly. They are also reported to the NPT Consultant in Communicable Disease Control. Workloads are consistently high in this area of work, and where Emergencies / Major Outbreaks occur, they are dealt with as top priority, with other work being re-scheduled.

The existing resources within the department will be able to cope with the estimated number of food poisoning cases, as each inspecting officer also deals with reactive work. This work forms part of the reactive workload which is estimated to be equivalent to approximately 1.5 FTE.

Table 5: Graph to show Notifications of all Infectious Diseases, including Food-related



3.7 Food & Feed Safety Incidents

The service has a documented procedure which deals with action to be taken following the receipt or initiation of a food alert.

The current Code of Practice requires the specific recording of actions taken following the receipt of a food or feed alert.

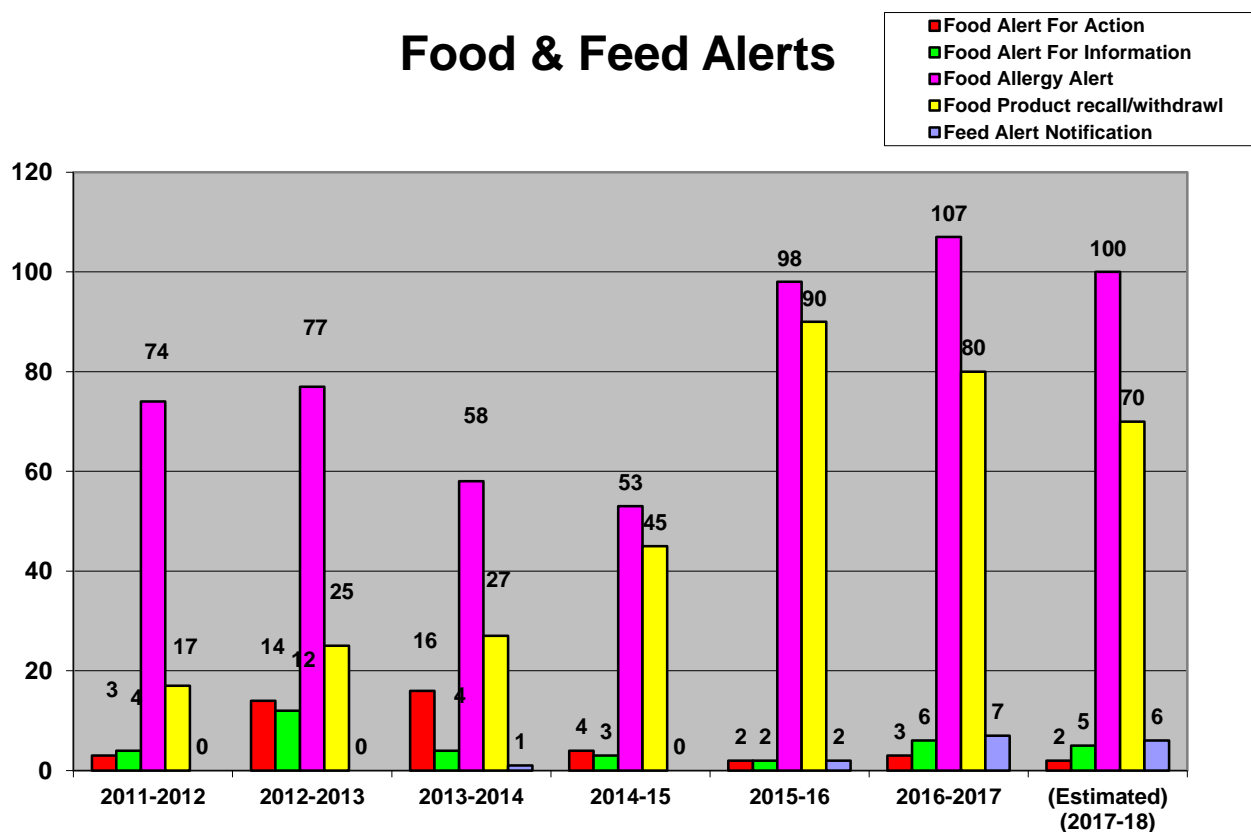
Alerts are received by a direct email from the Food Standards Agency Wales (FSA-W) to enforcement officers. The warning procedure for food incidents recognises that Alerts for Action (FAFA) are required to be dealt with quickly, and are treated as a very high priority-which often takes priority over other work of the sections. More often, Food Alerts for Information are issued. Most food alert warnings received require only a small amount of officer resource. However on occasions it will be necessary to provide more resources to deal with onerous alerts.

Businesses in the area will be encouraged to withdraw affected products from sale or supply. Initially requests will seek compliance through voluntary co-operation, however formal enforcement procedures exist to ensure an appropriate response. If a food complaint or related matter being investigated by an officer of this authority has possible widespread implications, the Food Standards Agency Wales and other relevant agencies will be contacted immediately via the applicable Food Incident report form/ mechanisms.

Any actions taken following receipt of a food alert are recorded on the 'Authority Public Protection' (APP) database system used by this authority.

During 2016/17, a total of 203 Food/Feed Alerts were received, of which 3 were classed as a FAFA (Food Alert- For Action); 6 alerts were classed as FAFI (Food Alert- For Information); 107 were classed as Food Allergy Alerts; and the department also received 80 Food Product Recall / Withdrawal Alerts. There were 7 Feed Alert Notifications. Recent numbers and trends are detailed in the graph below, and an estimate for 2017/18 is given.

Table 6: Food & feed alerts.



There is always a significant number of allergy alerts, however few of these require action on the part of the food authority. The existing resources within the department will be able to cope with the estimated number of food alerts / food incidents, as each inspecting officer also deals with reactive work. This work forms part of the reactive workload which is estimated to be equivalent to approximately 1.5 FTE.

3.8 Liaison with other Organisations

The authority has a number of arrangements to ensure enforcement action is consistent with neighbouring local authorities. Officers participate in a variety of external liaison groups, which are summarised below:

Table 7: Breakdown of resource allocation for liaison with other organisations.

| GROUP | AVERAGE RESOURCE ALLOCATION | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------|
| TS Glamorgan Food Group | 4 days per year | 1 Officer |
| TS NPT/Swansea Feed Region | 4 days per year | 1 Officer |
| TS Glamorgan Group | 4 days per year | 1 Officer |
| WHoTS Animal Health and Welfare Panel | 4 days per year | 1 Officer |
| WHOTS Group | 6 days per year | 1 Officer |
| WHoEHG Food Safety (Task Group & Technical Panel) | 4 days per year | 1 Officer |
| WHoEHG Communicable | | |

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Disease (Task Group & Technical Panel) | 4 days per year | 1 Officer |
| WWhoEHG: Environmental Health Group | 4 days per year | 1 Officer |
| Welsh Food Microbiological Forum | 3 days per year | 1 Officer |
| Meetings with CCDC | Estimate 2 days per year | 1 Officer |
| Consultee to Building Control & Planning Department & Licensing Department. | Estimate 2 consultations per week | 1 Officer |
| Regulatory Delivery | Estimate 2 days per year | 2 Officers (HJ & LEW) |
| Welsh Food Fraud Coordination Unit | Estimate 2 days per year | 2 Officers (HJ & LEW) |
| National Food Crime Unit | Estimate 2 days per year | 2 Officers (HJ & LEW) |
| Ad hoc meetings with NPTCBC Education and Social Services Departments | 4 days per year | 1 Officer |
| <p>Key: WWhoTS = Welsh Heads of Trading Standards.</p> <p>WWhoEHG = Welsh Heads of Environmental Health Group</p> <p>CCDC = Consultant in Communicable Diseases</p> <p>APP = Authority Public Protection (computer database package)</p> <p>SHIP = Strategic Health Improvement Partnership</p> | | |

3.9 Food and Feed Safety and Standards Promotion / Intelligence Gathering

Educational and promotional activities are considered to be important aspects in the delivery of a comprehensive food safety service.

Promotion of food safety issues is achieved in the following ways:

- Food information available directly from the Food Safety section & Trading Standards section of the Council and via their websites.
- Attending consumer education events, and disseminating information on the work of the department, including food and feed standards work.
- Liaison with NPTCBC Procurement and Care services in respect of food issues and specifications of food supplied to Neath Port Talbot.
- Targeted advice/information sent to relevant groups on issues of county or national significance.
- Active promotion of National Food Safety Week (e.g. through displays in the Local Shopping Centres, or through social media, or amongst local groups/communities).
- Arranging and conducting hand washing demonstrations in conjunction with local schools. Also, we facilitate presentations/talks to pupils of local educational establishments including schools, colleges, universities and voluntary groups, when requested.
- Targeted seminars and training sessions can be provided on subjects such as Food Safety Management System requirements- particularly aimed at high risk caterers, or high risk food sectors.
- Food hygiene courses can be offered by the service for external and internal candidates.
- Use of Local Intelligence Liaison Officer and Regional Intelligence Analyst (RIA)
- Attendance and membership of regional feed and food liaison groups.

The authority will continue to promote food safety and standards in all areas of its work. Most inspections are carried out pro-actively and include an element of the promotion of “best practices” by officers to ensure premises achieve good practices over and above the basic compliance of relevant legislation. Prospective business owners will be positively encouraged to seek the advice of the department before the food business opens to prevent possible food hygiene and standards contraventions from occurring.

Wherever possible, evaluation of the effectiveness of environmental health interventions is assessed- primarily by the use of feedback forms, including training course evaluation forms.

Part of the health promotion function, which deals with Businesses, is integrated within the food service delivery team. Although there is no specific staffing resource allocated to this function, the daily contacts which the Teams have with businesses are an important opportunity to positively influence the wider business community, their employed staff and customers.

Intelligence is served via the authorities APP/Flare database system. In addition, the Knowledge Hub (reference site), TSlint (reference site), FSSinet (food sampling system) Memex (All Wales Trading Standards intelligence database system) and EHC net provide means of informal data and intelligence sharing, whilst more formal means are provided by the Memex system, and via the authorities intelligence officer – who sits in the Trading Standards Fraud team, the Regional Intelligence Analyst funded by money administered by the National Trading Standards Board based in Newport and the Food Fraud Unit based in Ceredigion.

4.0 RESOURCES

4.1 Financial Allocation

The table below provides a summary of actual expenditure and income for the Food Service.

Table 8: Budget Figures

| | Budget 2017/18 £ |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Revenue Budget | |
| Expenditure | |
| Staffing- Food Hygiene | 411,603 |
| Staffing- Infectious Disease | 45,734 |
| Staffing- Food Standards | 92,812 |
| Staffing- Animal Feeding Stuffs | 31,544 |
| Transport (TS) | 8,795 |
| Transport (EH) | 5,680 |
| Equipment (EH) | 3,860 |
| Legal Fees – Trading Standards | 800 |
| Sampling & Analysis – Food Hygiene | 260 |

| | |
|--|---------|
| Sampling and Analysis – Trading Standards – Food & Feed only | 1,500 |
| Total Expenditure | 602,588 |
| Income | |
| Government Grant | 0 |
| Other Income | 6,090 |
| Total Income | 6,090 |
| Net Expenditure | 596,498 |

4.2 Staffing Allocation (estimates)

Food Hygiene: All EHO's currently in post have either the B.Sc. (Hons) degree, M.Sc. or Diploma in Environmental Health and are approved by EHRB (Environmental Health Registration Board). Two Enforcement Officers hold the Higher Certificate in Food Premises Inspection, and another is currently training. Table 9a below illustrates the FTE number of staff working on food hygiene law enforcement (food hygiene and associated matters) including support staff and their relevant competencies as per the Code of Practice.

Table 9a - as at 1/4/2017 (expressed as FTE's- Full Time Equivalents)

| | EHORB (EHO) | EHORB (Higher Risk premises) | Non-EHORB (Support Staff) | Total |
|--------------------|---------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|
| Team Leader (F&HP) | 1.0 | | | |
| Senior EHO (F&HP) | 0.81 (+0.11*) | | | |
| EHO (F&HP) | 5.03 (+0.11*) | | | |

| | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Enforcement Officer | | 1.86 | | |
| Enforcement Officer (Training) | | | 1.0 | |
| Support Officer | | | 0.33 approx. | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Total as at 2017-04-01 (plus * Temporary increase) | 6.84 (+0.22 Temporary) | 1.86 | 1.33 approx. | 10.03 (+0.22*) = 10.25 |
| | | | | |
| <i>Total as at 2016-04-01</i> | <i>6.84</i> | <i>1.86</i> | <i>1.33 approx.</i> | <i>10.03</i> |
| <i>Total as at 2015-04-01</i> | <i>5.2</i> | <i>1.0</i> | <i>3.9</i> | <i>10.1</i> |
| <i>Total as at 2014-04-01</i> | <i>5.1</i> | <i>1.0</i> | <i>3.0</i> | <i>9.1</i> |
| | | | | |

Food Standards & Feed Standards: The 2.0 Trading Standards Officers undertaking food standards work hold the Diploma in Trading Standards or one of its antecedents necessary to allow officers to undertake food & feed standards inspections One enforcement officer holds the Diploma in Consumer Affairs (DCA) together with the Food and Agricultural Standards paper, and another Enforcement Officer holds the Diploma in Consumer and Trading Standards (DCATS) Food qualification (See Table 6b).

Table 9b - as at 1/4/2017

| Food Standards | DTS | DCA | DCATS Qualified | (Unqualified) | Total |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----------------|---------------|-------|
| | | | | | |
| TS Team Leader | 0.2 | | | | 0.2 |
| TSO | 1.0 | | | | 1.0 |
| Enforcement Officer | | 0.4 | 0.4 | | 0.8 |
| Assistant Enforcement | | | | 0.1 | 0.1 |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Officer | | | | | |
| Admin | | | | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| | | | | | |
| Total as at 2017-04-01 | 1.2 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 2.2 |
| | | | | | |
| <i>Total as at 2016-04-01</i> | <i>1.2</i> | <i>0.4</i> | <i>0.4</i> | <i>0.2</i> | <i>2.2</i> |
| <i>Total as at 2015-04-01</i> | <i>1.5</i> | <i>0.3</i> | <i>0.3</i> | <i>0.8</i> | <i>2.9</i> |
| <i>Total as at 2014-04-01</i> | <i>1.5</i> | <i>0.3</i> | <i>0.3</i> | <i>0.8</i> | <i>2.9</i> |
| <i>Total as at 2013-04-01</i> | <i>1.2</i> | <i>0.3</i> | <i>0.3</i> | <i>0.8</i> | <i>2.9</i> |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Feed | DTS | DCA | DCATS Qualified | (Unqualified but Competent) | Total |
| | | | | | |
| TS Team Leader | 0.1 | | | | 0.1 |
| TSO | 0.1 | | | | 0.1 |
| Enforcement Officer | | 0.0 | | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Assistant Enforcement Officer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Admin | | | | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| | | | | | |
| Total as at 2017-04-01 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 0.8 |
| | | | | | |
| <i>Total as at 2016-04-01</i> | <i>0.3</i> | <i>0.4</i> | <i>0.0</i> | <i>0.5</i> | <i>1.2</i> |
| <i>Total as at 2015-04-01</i> | <i>0.3</i> | <i>0.1</i> | <i>0.0</i> | <i>1.0</i> | <i>1.4</i> |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

For staffing structure see Appendix C

4.3 Staff Development Plan

The department is committed to providing appropriate training for staff. A training and development plan is in place for the Environmental Health and Trading Standards Service. All food & feed enforcement staff participate in one-to-one supervisory review with a manager approximately every 6-9 weeks and an annual appraisal. Regular Food Hygiene Team meetings are held to discuss ongoing food and communicable disease issues. Trading Standards hold fortnightly briefing sessions to update staff on new developments in the field, business plan progress and administration issues.

The training and development budget for 2017/18 for the whole of the EH & TS service is initially set at £ 9,800. However, some additional funding from the receipts obtained from the Proceeds of Crime Act is ear-marked for use in providing enforcement training.

The Authority participates in the All-Wales Communicable Disease Lead Officer Training events funded by the Wales Centre for Health. All-Wales update training on food related topics is also provided by the Food Standards Agency on key issues, but is of necessity restricted to usually 2 officers per local authority, and is often free. Officers are expected to maintain their competencies, and undertake to ensure their continuing professional development (CPD) by undertaking suitable study or training equivalent to a minimum of 20 Hours per annum (from 1st January, annually). This is monitored by the respective service managers and discussed during the one to one reviews. There is considerable reliance placed upon the Food Standards Agency for external training in respect of food and feed standards matters.

4.4 Legal Expenditure

Legal fees and costs for taking action in connection with food standards and food hygiene cases have remained fairly constant over the past few years. Whilst there is no direct budget allocated for this purpose, resources are provided as needed from both the commissioning directorate and Corporate legal services, and costs incurred by both are applied for at the conclusion of the legal action- where there is an overspend/shortfall in resource, this is

reported to the Head Of Service for subsidising on an ah-hoc basis, or from central reserves. Receipts from the Proceeds of Crime Act can be re-invested in enforcement related actions. There has been a moderate rise within food standards of cases referred for prosecution as significant infringements have been detected. This is likely to continue to persist over the coming years as intelligence indicates that there is continued infringement of allergen, adulteration and misdescription legislation within Neath Port Talbot.

5.0 QUALITY ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The quality of the food service will be regularly assessed to ensure the Service Delivery Plan and Food Standards Agency framework agreement on local authority enforcement ('The Framework Agreement Standard') is being achieved.

Management monitoring

Evaluation methods to be used will include:

- Monitoring of performance measures is carried out on a Quarterly basis, and reported to the relevant Member forum for scrutiny. Additionally, ad-hoc internal checks are undertaken to monitor progress towards the Business Plan priorities.
- Monitoring of inspections by Senior EH officers and EH & TS Team Leaders.
- Monitoring of inspection reports and records.
- Officer reviews held every 6-9 weeks, plus an annual appraisal, which includes a competency assessment for food and feed enforcement as appropriate.
- Accompanied visits and Peer assessments- following internal protocols.

These evaluations are recorded.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has discretion to undertake audits (full or focussed) of food authorities, and their latest full assessment was undertaken in 2014, with a follow up visit in August 2016.

6.0 REVIEW

6.1 Review Against Service Plan

6.1.1 Food Hygiene

Strategically, the Head of Service and the Environmental Health & Trading Standards Manager have overall responsibility for the direction and performance of the service. The Environmental Health & Trading Standards Manager is the Accountable Manager for the food hygiene function. The manager reviews the key performance measures and service improvements contained in the plan on a quarterly basis as part of the performance management process. Quarterly performance monitoring reports are reported internally, and a quarterly report is presented to Cabinet Board and the associated Scrutiny Committee.

In addition, regular meetings are held with the food hygiene team (food and health protection). This is to ensure that on-going projects, improvements and inspection targets outlined in this service plan and the business plan are effectively monitored and managed.

Achievements for 2016/7 included:-

- Inspecting 100% of all High Risk premises for food hygiene purposes.
- Issuing over 500 food hygiene ratings to businesses;
- Participating in National Food Safety Week
- Sampling food products in line with the all-Wales surveys of food quality
- Serving 31 hygiene improvement (enforcement) notices to ensure certain businesses met minimum legal standards;

6.1.2 Food Standards and Feeding stuffs

Strategically, the Head of Service and the Environmental Health & Trading Standards Manager have overall responsibility for the direction and performance of the service. The Environmental Health & Trading Standards Manager is the Accountable Manager for the

food & feed standards functions. The Manager reviews the key performance measures and service improvements contained in the plan on a quarterly basis as part of the performance management process, these are reported internally at quarterly intervals to Cabinet Board and the associated Scrutiny Committee.

Achievements for 2016/17 include:-

- Inspecting 100% of high risk premises for food standards purposes.
- Participating in the Glamorgan Group of Trading Standards Authorities coordinated sampling exercises.
- Continuing to exercise vigilance into the supply of illegal and counterfeit alcohol, both on inspection and as part of coordinated sampling exercises.
- Taking regular samples at schools to compare food supplied with that described in the local authority specifications, investigations on failures are ongoing.
- As part of an international monitoring exercise, the sampling of food supplements. Investigating breaches of composition (illegal ingredients – often harmful to consumer), labelling and descriptions. This work will continue into the next financial year.
- Continuing to identify and investigate a number of food fraud offences at takeaways and restaurants involving the substitution of beef for lamb in meal and, cheaper cheese analogue substituted for cheese.
- The continued delivery of advice to traders in respect of allergen information provision and establishment and maintenance of allergen control systems. This has been identified as a priority area, and continues into the new financial year.
- Meeting the targets set by the new WHOTS/FSA regional feed delivery group.

6.2 Identification of Variation from the Plan

Variations from the Service Plan will be identified annually. Reasons for the variance and whether or not these are justified will also be given.

Trading Standards has large backlog of inspectable businesses for Food Standards purposes. This is due to other work of a higher priority taking precedence and the identification of a number “C” rated businesses (such as child minders) that the department’s existing resources will not currently allow it to visit. Accordingly, the department focussed on the areas of highest risk, i.e. “A” rated premises. However, the introduction of the food hygiene team in carrying out inspections of key food standards issues at specific “C” rated food standards will help to alleviate the pressure. Proactive inspections will continue to be

subject to the same competition for resources as other work, and will be prioritised as necessary.

With regard to food hygiene interventions at lower risk rated premises, there remains a deficit, with priority remaining with resources being directed at inspection of higher risk and investigation of non-compliant premises.

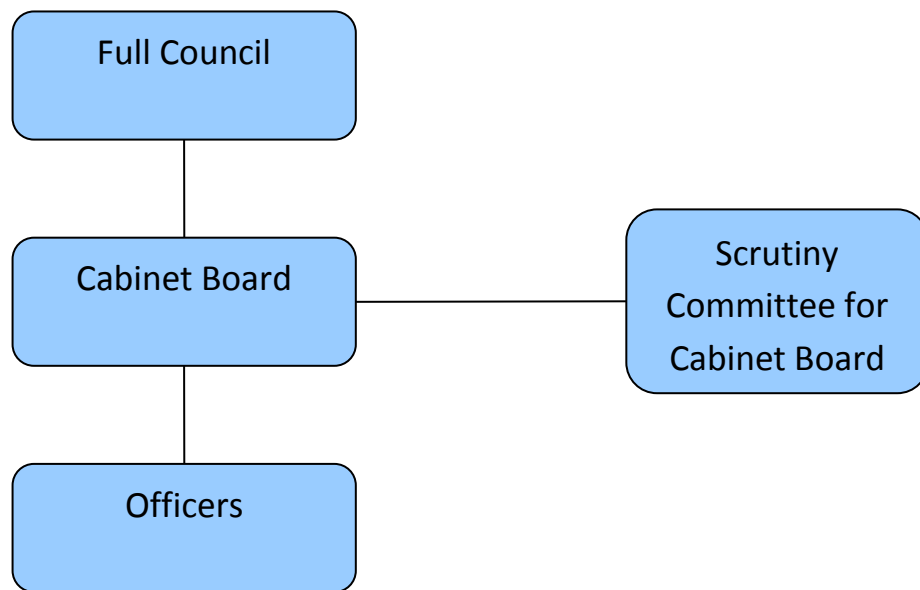
6.3 Areas for Improvement

Over the past 5 years, the changes to food safety legislation and the challenges faced by food safety enforcement authorities have been significant. National priorities continue to be influenced by the Food Standards Agency, Regulatory Delivery and National Trading Standards (NTS), as well as the impact of the final report from the South Wales E.coli O157 public enquiry, and the ongoing visits from the EU Food & Veterinary Office to Welsh Authorities. Consequently, the food service will need to respond to these and improve the service further, particularly in light of funding challenges. However, some of the current planned improvements for 2017/18 and beyond include:-

1. Reviewing out of hours provision and cover arrangements in relation to outbreaks of communicable disease and service delivery- particularly emergencies;
2. Developing a training programme for officers involved in the investigation of outbreaks of communicable disease
3. Undertaking suitable promotional activities / campaigns.
4. Establishing measures to assess the quality of the service provided
5. Consulting more with stakeholders
6. Continuing to review food standards, food hygiene (primary producers) and feed legislation in relation to qualification of officers and demands on the service
7. Continuing to develop the use of the Intelligence Operating Model for Trading Standards.
8. Continuing to improve the use of alternative enforcement strategies in relation to food inspections.
9. The challenges of the white paper on local government reorganisation
10. Addressing the demands on the service from the Food Standards Agency paper "Regulating Our Future"

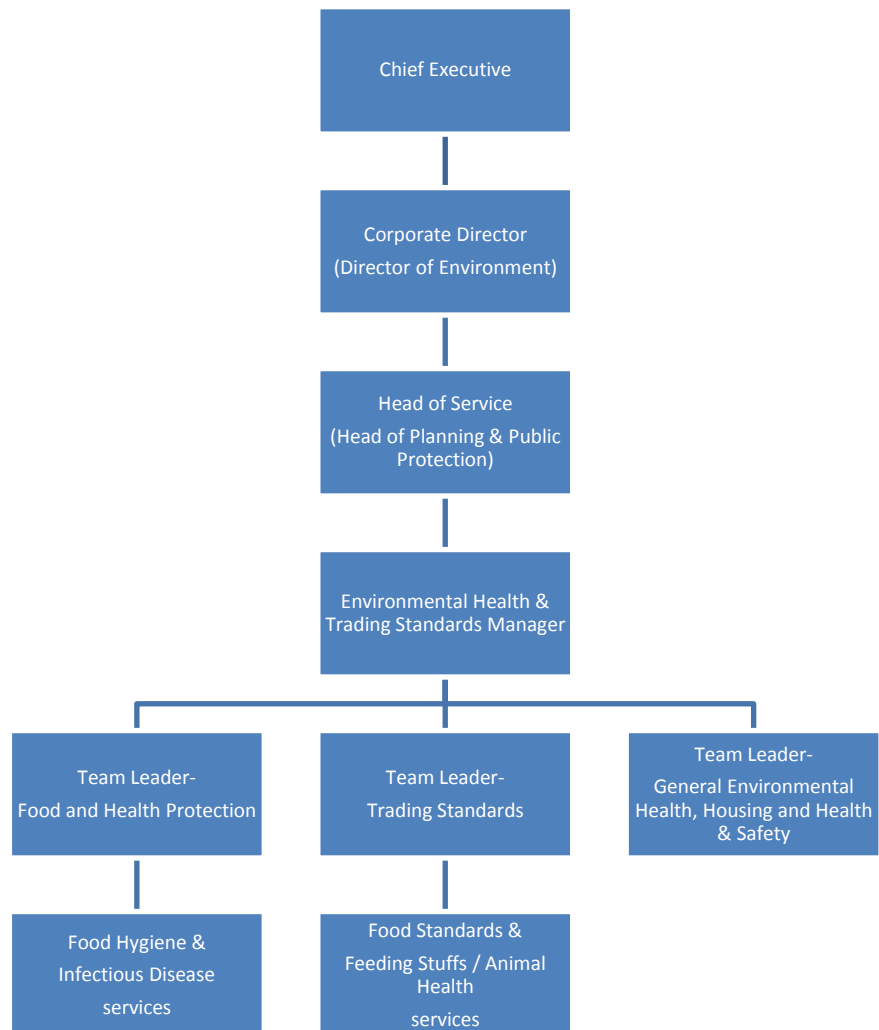
APPENDIX A

Decision Making Structure:



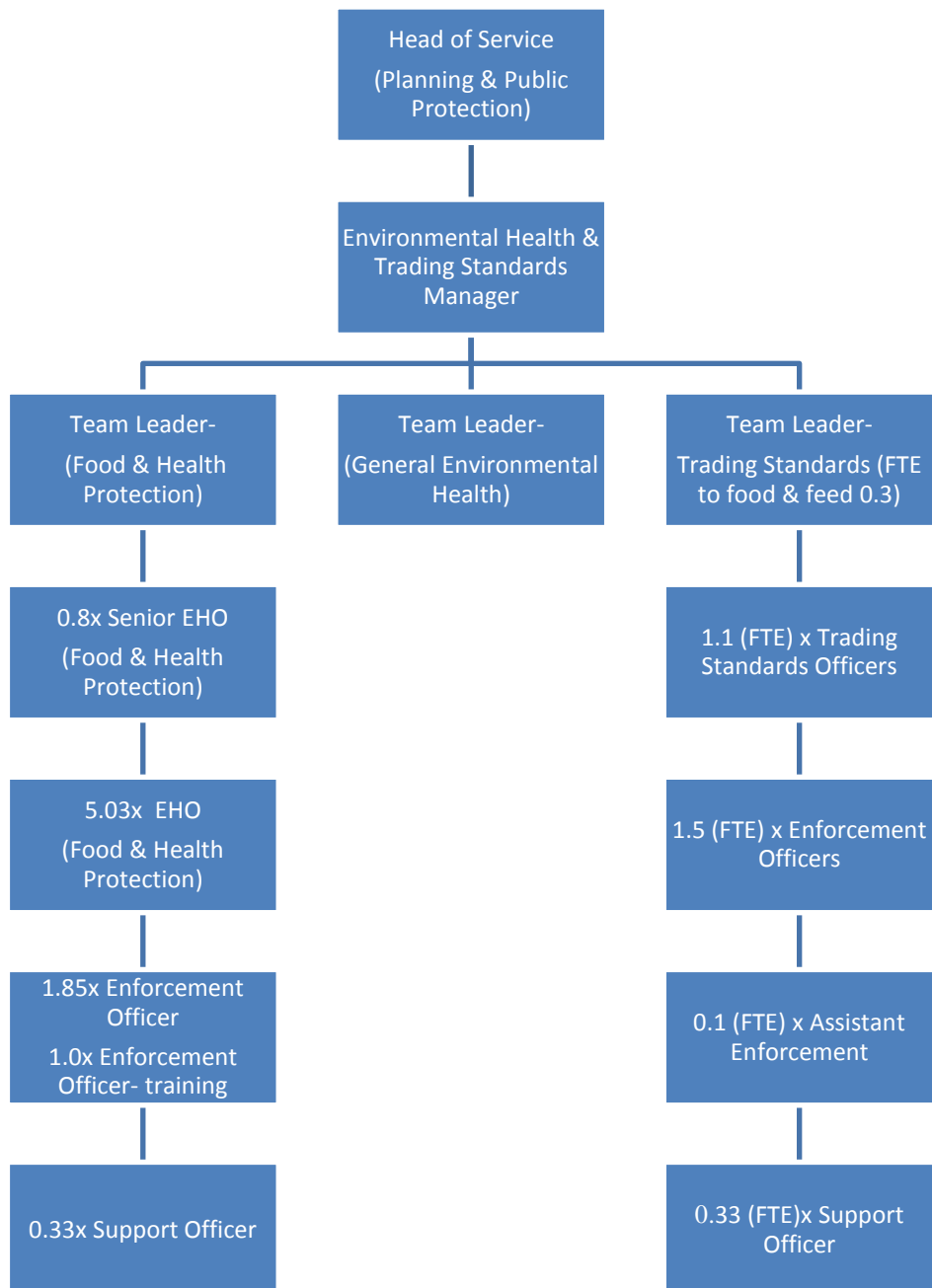
APPENDIX B

Department Structure:



APPENDIX C

Service Structure: (As at 1/4/2017)



APPENDIX D

Number of Registered Food Premises by Ward (2016 & 2017)

| WARDS : | (WARD CODES) | 2016 | 2017 | WARDS: | (WARD CODES) | 2016 | 2017 |
|------------------|--------------|------|------|-------------------------------|--------------|------|------|
| NEATH | | | | PORT TALBOT | | | |
| Aberdulais | ABD | 13 | 14 | Aberavon | ABV | 83 | 83 |
| Alltwen | ALL | 12 | 12 | Baglan | BAG | 40 | 40 |
| Blaengwrach | BLA | 12 | 14 | Briton Ferry East | BFE | 54 | 51 |
| Bryncoch N | BRN | 21 | 22 | Briton Ferry West | BFW | 13 | 15 |
| Bryncoch S | BRS | 38 | 36 | Bryn and Cwmavon | BRY | 48 | 51 |
| Cadoxton | CAD | 13 | 10 | Coedffranc C | COC | 45 | 46 |
| Cimla | CIM | 17 | 19 | Coedffranc N | CON | 10 | 10 |
| Crynant | CRY | 18 | 15 | Coedffranc W | COW | 39 | 44 |
| Cwmllynfell | CWM | 12 | 12 | Cymmer | CYM | 31 | 32 |
| Dyffryn | DYF | 29 | 27 | Glyncorrgwg | GLC | 10 | 11 |
| Gwaun-cae-Gurwen | GCG | 25 | 27 | Gwynfi | GWY | 12 | 11 |
| Glynneath | GLN | 42 | 37 | Margam | MAR | 51 | 50 |
| Godrergraig | GOD | 4 | 4 | Port Talbot | POR | 83 | 84 |
| Lr Brynamman | LBR | 7 | 8 | Sandfields E | SAE | 46 | 48 |
| Neath (East) | NEE | 44 | 47 | Sandfields W | SAW | 43 | 38 |
| Neath (North) | NEN | 150 | 145 | Taibach | TAI | 42 | 41 |
| Neath (South) | NES | 21 | 21 | Port Talbot area Total | | 650 | 654 |
| Onllwyn | ONL | 9 | 9 | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------|-----|------|------|
| Pelenna | PEL | 12 | 11 | Other / Out of area | xxx | 0 | 0 |
| Pontardawe | PON | 88 | 90 | NPT Combined Total | | 1349 | 1348 |
| Resolven | RES | 26 | 25 | | | | |
| Rhos | RHO | 12 | 14 | | | | |
| Seven Sisters | SEV | 20 | 19 | | | | |
| Tonna | TON | 20 | 20 | | | | |
| Trebanos | TRE | 7 | 7 | | | | |
| Ystalyfera | YST | 27 | 28 | | | | |
| Neath area Total | | 699 | 693 | | | | |

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND TRADING STANDARDS SERVICE

Review of Food and Feed Law Enforcement Performance 2016 / 2017

1.0 Introduction

In May 2014 the Food Standards Agency carried out an audit of the Food and Feed law enforcement services of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council. The audit was undertaken to ensure compliance with the Framework Agreement (2010). An action plan was agreed to implement a number of recommendations to improve the service in areas identified by the audit report.

3.27(ii) of the Action Plan recommended that the authority:-

“ carry out an annual food and feed law enforcement performance review for approval by the relevant member forum or senior officer, as appropriate (The Standard – 3.2)”

This is the aforesaid review, submitted to the Head of Planning and Public Protection for approval.

2.0 Planned inspections/interventions 2016/2017:

2.1.0 Food Hygiene:-

| RISK CATEGORY | NUMBER OF PREMISES CARRIED FORWARD | BALANCE OF NEW INTERVENTIONS DUE / PLANNED BY 31/3/2017 (TO EXCLUDE ANY PREMISES WHICH CEASE TRADING) | NUMBER PREMISES INSPECTED / INTERVENTIONS ACHIEVED AS AT 31/3/2017 | OUT-TURN / ACHIEVED |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| High Risk:- | | | | |
| A | 0 | 14 | 14 | 100% |
| B | 0 | 44 | 44 | 100% |
| C | 0 | 274 | 274 | 100% |
| | | | | |
| Low Risk:- | | | | |
| D | 29 | 95 | 64 | 64/95 = 67% achieved. (31 to be carried |

| | | | | |
|----------|------------|------------|----------|--|
| | | | | forward). |
| E | 294 | 304 | 9 | 9/304 = 3% achieved. (295 to be carried forward). |

Commentary:

Resources were prioritised on undertaking all High Risk food premises, together with the commencement of an initiative to address the backlog of lower risk premises (primarily focussing on Category D-rated premises).

2.1.1 Broadly Compliant PI: (PAM009)

The out-turn PI for 2016/17 was : 94.92% (based on 1066/1123 premises achieving a 3/4/5 FH Rating).

The out-turn PI for 2015/16 was : 92.73% (based on 1033/1114 premises achieving a 3/4/5 FH Rating).

The out-turn PI for 2014/15 was : 92.83% (based on 1023/1102 premises achieving a 3/4/5 FH Rating).

2.1.2 Food Hygiene Ratings:

606 Food Hygiene inspections/ratings were undertaken;

35 Food hygiene re-ratings were undertaken;

The FSA website had regular uploads of data (at least every 28 days), and additional ad-hoc uploads were undertaken to take account of important in-month changes.

| RISK CATEGORY | NUMBER OF PREMISES CARRIED FORWARD | BALANCE OF NEW INTERVENTIONS DUE / PLANNED BY 31/3/2017 (TO EXCLUDE ANY PREMISES WHICH CEASE TRADING) | NUMBER PREMISES INSPECTED / INTERVENTIONS ACHIEVED AS AT 31/3/2017 | OUT-TURN / ACHIEVED |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| A (every 12 months) | 0 | 9 | 9 | 100% |
| B (every 24 months) | 11 | 80 | 44 | 55% |
| C (every 5 years) | 345 | 442 | 5 | 1% |
| UNRATED (not yet | 173 | 173 | 61 | 35% |

| | | | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|--|
| visited) | | | | |
| TOTAL | 529 | 704 | 119 | |

2.2 Food Standards : Planned Interventions

Resources were directed to inspecting the A, B and Unrated businesses within the county borough. C rated (low risk) businesses as a consequence are being left from the inspection programme. The department is looking to address this shortfall by the use of alternative enforcement questionnaire, developed in conjunction with the food hygiene team. Additionally, food standards inspections of certain C rated and some unrated businesses will be carried out by environmental health officers at the same time as their food hygiene inspections. The department has experienced a turnover of staff, but will shortly be back up to full strength for the final half of 2017/2018. Finally, following Food Standards Agency advice, many businesses have been brought back into the inspection programme, but extra resources have been found to address the extra inspection work.

Trading Standards is now intelligence led and the main focus of food standards work is on catering premises, particularly in addressing concerns on allergens, presence of illegal or restricted colours and the adulteration or substitution of food. Furthermore it continues to take part in coordinated operations and enforcement in the field of food supplements, an area that is complex and has been the subject of numerous food safety warnings. Consequently, the department is directing resources to this area.

Progress and quality on interventions are monitored by the Trading Standards Team Leader via spot checks, accompanied visits, annual appraisals and quarterly staff review meetings.

2.3 Feed Standards : Planned Inspections

Feed enforcement within Wales is now funded directly by the Food Standards Agency, and administered by the Welsh Heads of Trading Standards. Wales is divided into regions, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea form one of these regions. Co-ordination across the Swansea / Neath Port Talbot area is delivered by an officer from Swansea Trading Standards, the Trading Standards Team Leader in Neath Port Talbot acts as liaison with Swansea.

The feed inspection programme is drafted by WHOTS and the FSA based on the feed registers from each authority. The FSA categorises feed businesses by feed registration and approval type. These businesses are required to be inspected during the forthcoming year. Each region is expected to carry out inspections at those premises.

Neath Port Talbot and Swansea met their feed inspection targets last year. As to be expected, there were changes in the registration and approval from the register. With agreement from the FSA, replacement businesses were identified to be inspected.

| Type of Business | Profiled Inspections | % Completed | No. to be completed |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Manufacturer | 5 | 100.00% | 0 |
| Co Product Producer | 8 | 87.50% | 1 |
| Mobile Mixer | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Importers | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Stores | 3 | 66.67% | 1 |
| Distributor | 3 | 100.00% | 0 |
| Transporter | 2 | 50.00% | 1 |
| On Farm Mixer - R10 | 1 | 0.00% | 1 |
| On Farm Mixer - R11 | 3 | 66.67% | 1 |
| Supplier of Surplus Food - R07 | 4 | 275.00% | -7 |
| Total Inspections Inland Feed | 29 | 110.34% | -3 |
| | | | |
| PRIMARY PRODUCTION | Profiled Inspections | % Completed | No. to be completed |
| Livestock Farms - R13 | 50 | 144.00% | -22 |
| Arable Farms - R14 | 1 | 0.00% | 1 |
| Total Inspections At Primary Production | 51 | 141.18% | -21 |
| TOTAL INSPECTIONS | 80 | 130.00% | -24 |

The Food Standards Agency is satisfied with the delivery of the feed enforcement service across Wales.

3.0 Samples:

3.1 Food Hygiene:-

Samples were mainly taken in accordance with the National Sampling priorities, as agreed via the Welsh Food Microbiological Forum (WFMF). Additionally, local sampling initiatives were undertaken to increase the surveillance of locally available products, and to maximise the benefit of sampling allocations- in conjunction with Wales Public Health Laboratory, based at Glangwilli Hospital, Carmarthen. During the period 1/4/2016-31/3/2017, 173 samples were taken, of which 127 were Satisfactory; and 41 were classed as Borderline (but not a fail), and 5 were Unsatisfactory.

Satisfactory samples do not attract any further action.

All borderline samples are followed up with an advisory letter to encourage reviews of pertinent controls, such as temperature controls; stock rotation; handling practices.

All unsatisfactory results are followed up with advice on suggested improvements to undertake, together with further sampling- to ensure that standards are addressed and improved, or products are no longer sold.

3.2 Food Standards

The Trading Standards Team Leader acts as chair for the Glamorgan Food Group. Coordinating and arranging the regions sampling programme.

Sampling initiatives are intelligence led.

- Mis-description of food supplied to local schools. The department continues to sample from local schools to ensure that specification and nutrition requirements are met.

- Sampling from takeaways and catering establishments in relation to substitution of ingredients, mis-description of meals illegal use of colours and non-declared allergens. These areas and this trade sector have been identified as a priority due to the level of infringements nationally and the potential for harm.

Sampling and any subsequent investigations are monitored by the Trading Standards Team Leader via spot checks, annual appraisals and quarterly staff review meetings.

3.3 Feed Standards

The new regional co-ordinated framework agreement has led to more support being available for taking samples. As part of the regional sampling programme and in line with the national priorities for sampling, the service took 3 samples, none of which failed on analysis.

4.0 Service requests / reactive work:

4.1 Food Hygiene:-

Food service requests- all types = 748

Of which:-

FNA (Food new business- advice for speculative start-up) = 07.

FNB (Food new business- advice & advisory interventions prior to trading) = 133.

FNC (Food new business- trading) = 69

Also, the Food & Health Protection service received the following:-

Infectious Diseases- service requests = 236;

Food alerts [FPI] (for social media) = 80 (mainly dealt with by Support staff).

Whilst target response times have been established for all service requests, a further analysis will be undertaken to ensure that they remain fit for purpose, and that prioritisation of resources (in accordance with lean systems principles) will ensure the best utilisation of resources, whilst managing expectations of service requestors.

4.2 Food & Feed Standards

The department received 4 requests for food advice last year that were not as the result of an intervention. These varied from business start-ups to specific issues.

2 requests for feed advice were received.

Through the Citizens Advice Consumer Service and other means, the department received 38 food complaints during 2016/17. Most of the complaints related to the sale of out of date food (best before and use by). The businesses were advised accordingly.

There has been little information from the public in relation to description (including presence of allergens) of food within NPT, this is notable considering the levels of infringement found when the department carries out interventions.

No feed complaints were received.

The department received 96 food alerts. As with Food hygiene these are mainly dealt with by support staff. Where necessary they will be escalated by the Trading Standards Team Leader. No feed alerts were received.

Requests for advice and complaints are fed into the authorities intervention plan which in turn leads to the identification of priorities and work areas for the forthcoming year.

Response times and investigations / advice are monitored by the Trading Standards Team Leader via spot checks, annual appraisals and quarterly staff review meetings.

5.0 Promotional work:

5.1 Food Hygiene promotional work:-

The service was able again to support National Food Safety week (in July 2016) - focussing on Reducing Food Waste (freezing) and advice on Use By and Best Before dates.

5.2 Food Standards Promotional work :-

The section has assisted other departments in promoting business support and advice sessions by contacting local FBOs to raise awareness of planned events.

In conjunction with Swansea Trading Standards and the Food Standards Agency, the department ran allergen training events aimed at caterers at the beginning of the year.

The section identified specific issues to advise businesses on, and advice was sent out via mail and e-mail to the relevant FBOS. This focussed:

- Food allergen advice to retailers, manufacturers and caterers.
- Takeaways / chip shops - use of colours and substitution / description
- DNP (a harmful chemical found in food supplements)

5.3 Feed Standards Promotional Work

New feed businesses are regularly identified and contacted to ensure that they are properly registered.

6.0 Primary Authority:

6.1 Food Hygiene, Food Standards and Feed Standards-

The Primary Authority scheme is UK wide and each LA must have regard to any established partnerships between businesses and regulators. Whilst currently there are no food business partnerships which NPT are responsible for, there are many which NPT must have regard to during the inspection of premises within the borough. NPT Trading Standards have begun drafting their first Primary Authority relationship. This is with a non-food business. Dependent on its success the scheme may be offered to other businesses within the county borough. Where such partnerships exist, and cover businesses operating with NPTCBC, we liaise with the relevant LA's to give specific feedback following inspections which are subject to an agreed (UK wide) inspection plan, and general feedback where problems are discovered.

7.0 Safety Incidents:

7.1 Food hygiene:-

No food safety incident reports (e.g. withdrawals) necessitated initiation by EH of NPTCBC.

All notifications of withdrawals requiring specific action are prioritised.

7.2 Food Standards

No food safety incident reports (e.g. withdrawals) necessitated initiation by TS of NPTCBC.

All notifications of withdrawals requiring specific action are prioritised.

7.3 Feed Standards

1 feed safety incident was instigated by NPT TS in relation to a local pet food producer. This was notified to the FSA. The distribution of the pet feed concerned was restricted to West Wales. Buyers were identified, and the product was recalled and destroyed.

8.0 Staff Development / Training / Continuing professional development:

8.1 Food hygiene:-

All staff have achieved their expected CPD (which is set at a minimum of 10 hours per calendar year) ; additionally:

1 member of staff (JC) has completed the Food Premise Inspection qualification, and been given a revised (restricted) Authorisation.

1 member of staff (NMH) has completed 2 years post-qualification experience in food hygiene inspection work, and been given a revised Authorisation.

1 member of staff (REJ) is working towards achieving 2 years post-qualification experience.

8.2 Food Standards

All staff met their required 10 hours CPD in 2016/17. This was achieved by a combination of courses run by the Food Standards Agency, Welsh Heads of Trading Standards, online courses run by the FSA and workshops run within Neath Port Talbot. One officer has embarked on the food standards qualification, which would bring some extra resilience to food standards delivery. Qualification should be complete by January 2018.

8.3 Feed Standards

All but one member of staff met their required 10 hours CPD in 16/17. This was achieved by a combination of courses run by the Food Standards Agency, Welsh Heads of Trading Standards, online courses run by the FSA and workshops run within Neath Port Talbot Standards

9.0 Monitoring:

9.1 Food hygiene monitoring:-

LAEMS data is provided annually to the Food Standards Agency - which gives detailed information on the key performance statistics for each Council across the UK, for submission to EU. The detail covers areas such as: intervention totals and by risk category; enforcement actions; number of premises by type and risk categorisation; samples taken; staffing levels; certain service requests etc.

On a quarterly basis key performance indicators are reported to Scrutiny Committee and the associated Cabinet Board, and are publically available.

Line managers keep track of inspection targets, and the reactive workloads on a monthly basis, or more frequently when required.

9.2 Food & Feed Standards monitoring:-

LAEMS data is provided annually to the Food Standards Agency- which gives detailed information on the key performance statistics for each Council across the UK, for submission to EU. The detail covers areas such as: intervention totals and by risk category; enforcement actions; number of premises by type and risk categorisation; samples taken; staffing levels; certain service requests etc.

Each officer's intervention programme is set at the beginning of the year. This is reviewed and updated during the relevant officer's quarterly review. Section progress is checked on a quarterly basis, key performance indicators are reported to Scrutiny Committee and the associated Cabinet board, and are publically available.

The TS Team Leader monitors officer inspection targets and reactive workloads formally during the quarterly review. If issues with performance are identified, this frequency is increased. Food / Feed Aide Memoires and post inspection reports are reviewed by the Trading Standards Team Leader.

Feed standards inspections progress is fed back to WHOTS and the FSA via the regional lead officer. The Trading Standards Team Leader and regional lead identify and address issues with performance against the inspection programme

10.0 Review of Policies/Procedures

10.1 Food Hygiene / Food Standards / Feed Standards:

All major food policies and procedures are kept under review, with in-year updates made when necessary. A comprehensive review was undertaken in 2015-2016.

11. Conclusions

Food hygiene, and Food & Feed standards enforcement remains a priority for the service.

Food hygiene inspection resources were prioritised on undertaking all high risk food premises together with an initiative to address the backlog of lower risk premises (focussing on certain Category D-rated premises). The broadly compliant indicator remains consistently high- this is a National Performance Indicator. National and local food sampling initiatives were carried out throughout the year, and we will continue to take part and make use of sampling resources made available. The service supports the FSA's National Food Safety Week as an important initiative to raise awareness of current issues, and also utilises Social Media opportunities. The new business team within the Food and Health Protection team contribute to providing advice and coaching to businesses prior to the start of trading, in an attempt to give businesses relevant good practice and to inform them of their legal requirements.

The new feed arrangements appear to have been a success, and the section will exploit the regional connections that have been forged. There are clear issues with the number of interventions for food over the past year and resources have been allocated to address this. Regional working and intelligence gathering should continue to be developed and there are clear priorities for the service in relation to both food and feed and these need to be addressed, but without ignoring other issues that are appearing on the horizon.

12. Review of report by Head of Service

I have reviewed and approve of this report.



Nicola Pearce

Head of Planning and Public Protection

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regeneration & Sustainable Development Cabinet Board

27th October 2017

Report of the Head of Planning and Public Protection

Nicola Pearce

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All

Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 – Consideration of the representations received following consultation on the revised Existing Route Map (ERM) and Integrated Network Map (INM) for Neath Port Talbot; the proposed amendments to the maps; and to authorise submission of the maps to the Welsh Government for approval.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To consider the representations received following consultation on the revised ERM and INM for Neath Port Talbot; the proposed amendments to the maps; and to authorise the submission of the maps to the Welsh Government for approval.

Executive Summary

- 2 The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 (*the Act*) makes it a legal requirement for the Council to map and plan for suitable routes for active travel within the following settlements: Neath, Port Talbot, Pontardawe, Croeserw, Cymmer, Brynamman, Gwaun Cae Gurwen, Blaengwrach, Glynneath, Cwmafan, Seven Sisters and Resolven.
- 3 Active Travel is defined as walking and cycling for everyday purposeful short-distance journeys, such as journeys to school, work, or for access to shops or services. Active travel does not include journeys purely made for recreation or social reasons.
- 4 The Act requires local authorities to prepare, publish and keep under review an Existing Route Map (ERM) and an Integrated Network Map (INM).

- 5 Revisions to the Council's ERM (first approved in 2016) and a *draft* INM, setting out the Council's aspirations for the next 15 years, were prepared for the purposes of consultation. The formal consultation period ran for 12 weeks from Monday 26th June to Monday 18th September 2017.
- 6 This report considers the representations received following consultation, together with the proposed amendments to the maps and seeks authorisation to submit the maps to the Welsh Government for approval.

Background

- 7 In November 2013, the Welsh Government introduced the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 (*the Act*) which makes it a legal requirement for local authorities in Wales to map and plan for suitable routes for active travel within settlements specified by Welsh Government.
- 8 Those settlements in Neath Port Talbot include: **Neath, Port Talbot, Pontardawe, Croeserw, Cymmer, Brynamman, Gwaun Cae Gurwen, Blaengwrach, Glynneath, Cwmafan, Seven Sisters and Resolven.**
- 9 Active Travel is defined as walking and cycling for everyday purposeful short-distance journeys, such as journeys to school, work, or for access to shops or services. Active travel does not include journeys purely made for recreation or social reasons.
- 10 The Act requires local authorities to prepare, publish and keep under review the following two maps:
 - **Existing Route Map (ERM)** – primarily intended to inform the public of the existing routes in the County Borough that the Council considers suitable for active travel meeting Welsh Government standards; and
 - **Integrated Network Map (INM)** – required to set out the Council's aspirations for the next 15 years, identifying improvements to existing routes or new routes that the Council considers should be added to the network. The INM is therefore mainly a tool to enhance the forward planning of active travel and to support infrastructure development planning.

Consultation

- 11 A limited number of additions to the Council's ERM (first approved in 2016) and a *draft* INM, setting out the Council's aspirations for the next 15 years, were prepared for the purposes of consultation. The formal consultation period ran for 12 weeks from Monday 26th June to Monday 18th September 2017.

Existing Route Map (Additional Routes)

- 12 Following consultation, the Council did not receive any comments in respect of the limited number of proposed additions to the ERM. Consequently, no further changes to the additional ERM routes (as presented in **Appendix 1**) are proposed.

Integrated Network Map

- 13 Following consultation, the Council received a total of 54 comments from 19 different organisations or individuals. These comments were either submitted directly online via the interactive questionnaire, by email or in writing. In addition, comments were also collected as part of the community engagement events and school workshop activities that took place over the 12 week period.
- 14 The proposed responses and recommendations to all the comments received are set out in **Appendix 2**.
- 15 Having had regard to the comments received, it is considered appropriate to recommend a limited number of changes to the INM. Accordingly, the amended INM is presented in **Appendix 3**, with the proposed changes summarised in the table below:

| NEATH | | |
|--------------|------------|--|
| INM-NEA-C022 | Cycling | A48 Roundabout to Bethal Street, proceeding to Church Street (connecting to INM-NEA-C012) Reason: This additional route would act as an important link between the A48 roundabout and two identified INM routes (INM-NEA-C012 and INM-NEA-P005). |
| PORT TALBOT | | |
| INM-PT-C016 | Cycling | Christchurch Road to Baglan Moors Retail Park Reason: This additional route would provide a good link between INM-PT-C011 and the retail outlets available at Baglan Moors. |
| INM-PT-P012 | Pedestrian | St. Theresa's to Fairway (connecting to INM-PT-C002) |

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|--|
| | | Reason: This additional route would act as an important connection to an identified INM route (INM-PT-C002) and an ERM route along Western Avenue (NPT-PT-P00190). |
| INM-PT-P013 | Pedestrian | Sandown Road (Moorland Road to Victoria Road), Sandfields Reason: This additional route would act as a good link between two identified pedestrian INM routes (INM-PT-P007 and INM-PT-P008). |
| PONTARDAWE | | |
| INM-PON-C011 | Cycling | Rhos to Cwmtawe Comprehensive School Reason: This additional aspirational route would provide a safe link between the settlement of Rhos and Cwmtawe Comprehensive School. |

- 16 In accordance with national guidance, upon submission of the revised ERM and INM to the Welsh Government for approval, accompanying documents will be submitted providing evidence of the extent of consultation undertaken. The Consultation Report will focus on the variety of means by which the consultation has been promoted and facilitated and the level and nature of the responses received.

Financial Impact

- 17 Funding to create and publish the maps has been provided by the Welsh Government as part of the Local Transport Fund. Costs will therefore be accommodated within existing budgets.
- 18 In respect of the delivery of schemes, it should be emphasised that as the INM is an aspirational document and not a commitment to deliver, there are consequently no financial implications for the Council in the longer term.
- 19 For those schemes that are delivered, it is expected that they will primarily be funded as part of ongoing development, either directly or by means of financial contributions received from developers.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 20 In order to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010, an Equality Impact Assessment Screening Exercise has been carried out. The Screening Exercise concluded that there is no requirement to carry out an additional separate exercise.

Workforce Impacts

21 There are no workforce impacts in respect of this report.

Legal Impacts

22 The report addresses the legal requirement for the Council to map and plan for suitable routes for active travel within certain settlements specified by Welsh Government.

Risk Management

23 The Council will be in breach of its legal requirement to prepare and publish Active Travel maps should there be a failure to implement the proposed recommendations.

Recommendation

24 That having considered the report, it is resolved to make the following recommendations for approval:

1. That the four additional ERM routes presented in Appendix 1 be agreed and authorisation given to submit to the Welsh Government for approval.
2. That the responses and recommendations to the representations received as set out in Appendix 2 be agreed.
3. That the INM presented in Appendix 3 be agreed and authorisation given to submit to the Welsh Government for approval.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

25 The recommendations are needed to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.

Implementation of Decision

26 The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices

27 Appendix 1 – Existing Route Map (Additional Routes)

- 28 Appendix 2 – Responses and Recommendations to the INM Representations
- 29 Appendix 3 – Integrated Network Map (Schedule & Maps)

List of Background Papers

- 30 The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013
- 31 Statutory Guidance for the Delivery of the Active Travel (Wales) Act
- 32 The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 – Design Guidance

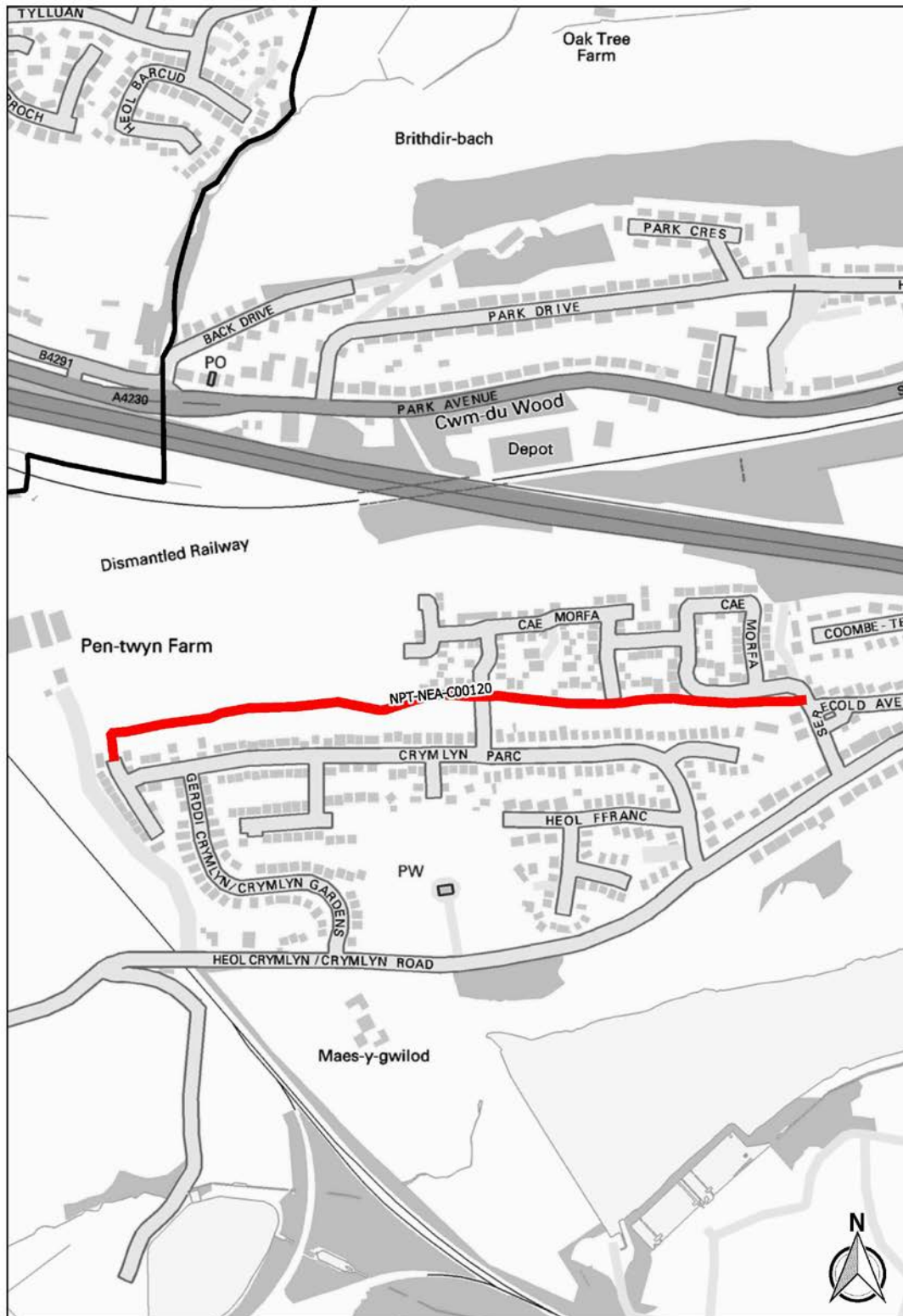
Officer Contact

- 33 Ceri Morris – Planning Policy Manager [Tel: 01639 686320 / E-mail: c.morris1@npt.gov.uk]

APPENDIX 1 – Existing Route Map (Additional Routes)

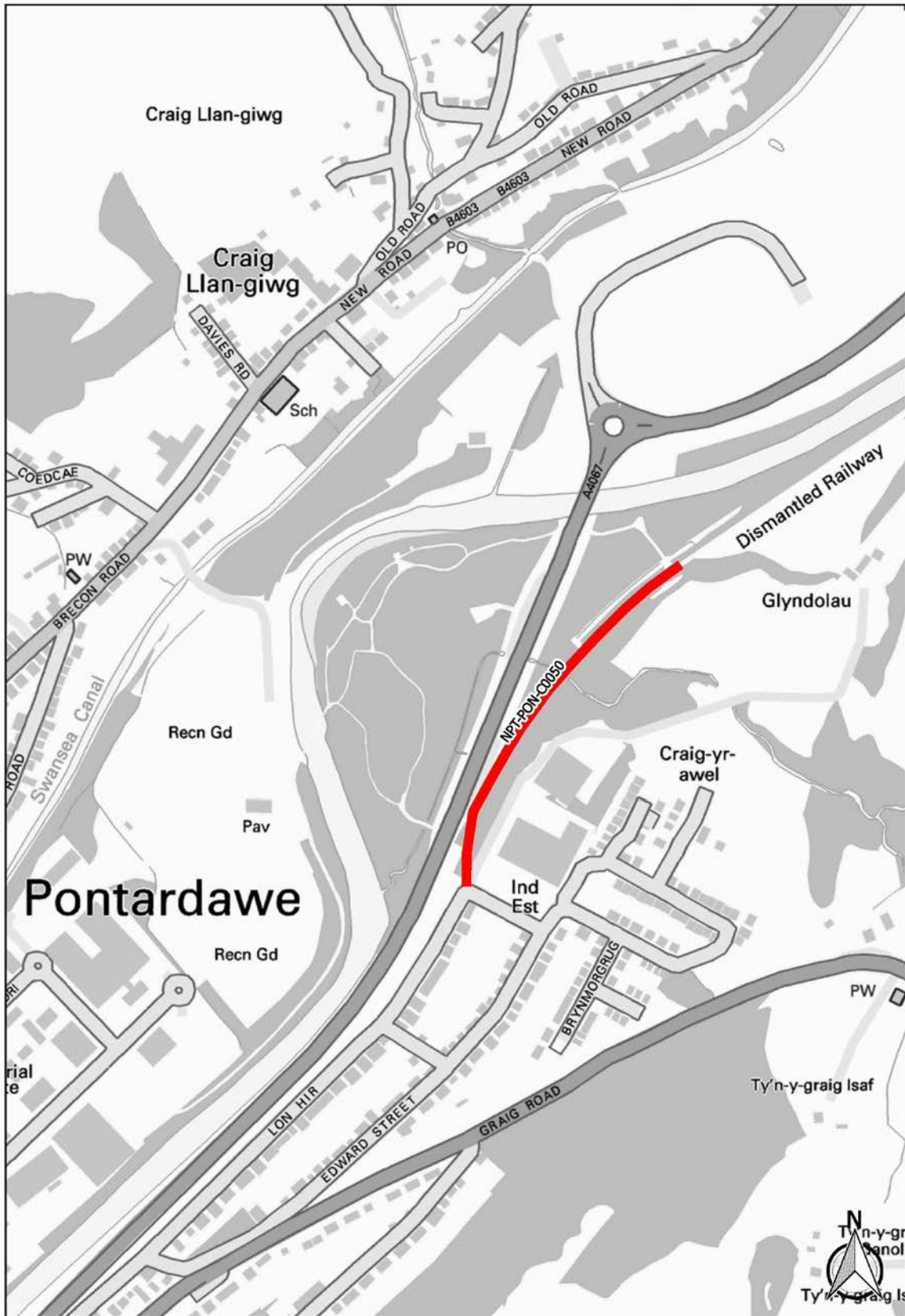
Settlement: Neath

| | | | | | |
|--------------|---|-------|-------|----------------|-----|
| Ref: | NPT-NEA-C00120 | Type: | Cycle | % Audit Score: | 82% |
| Description: | Crymlyn Parc to Serecold Avenue, Skewen | | | | |



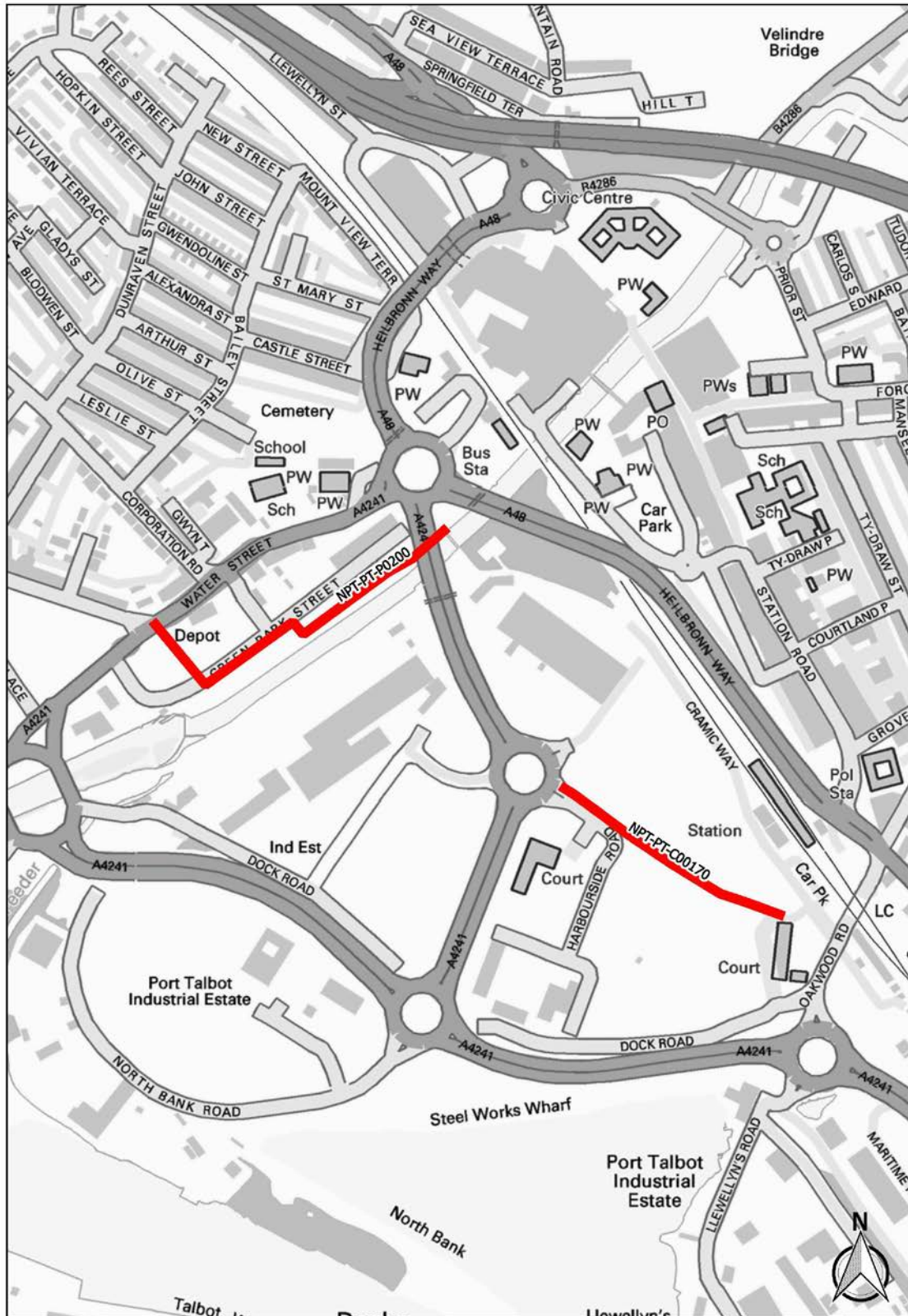
Settlement: Pontardawe

| | | | | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|-------|-------|----------------|-----|
| Ref: | NPT-PON-C0050 | Type: | Cycle | % Audit Score: | 78% |
| Description: | Bryn Morgrug to Valley Route | | | | |



Settlement: Port Talbot

| | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-------|------------|----------------|-----|
| Ref: | NPT-PT-C00170 | Type: | Cycle | % Audit Score: | 88% |
| Description: | Port Talbot Parkway to Harbour Way | | | | |
| Ref: | NPT-PT-P0200 | Type: | Pedestrian | % Audit Score: | 95% |
| Description: | Port Talbot Bus Station to Green Park | | | | |



APPENDIX 2 – Responses and Recommendations to the INM Representations

Table 2(a) – Representations derived from completed Questionnaires and Correspondence

| Ref | INM Route | Name | Organisation | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
|----------------|-----------|---------------|------------------------|---|--|
| GENERAL | | | | | |
| INM1 | General | Tony Moon | Rhondda Tunnel Society | <p>I have just looked at the Active Travel Consultation Map for Neath Port Talbot. Unfortunately it misses out Blaengwynfi and Abergwynfi altogether so these communities are to remain isolated even though they are connected by a cycle path to Cymmer and from there right down the Afan Valley to Port Talbot (which your map does not show).</p> <p>These seem to be a serious omission, especially with the prospect of the tunnel re-opening and it becoming a route for residents of Cymmer, Croeserw and the Gwynfi's to get to the more developed upper Rhondda Valley and train links to Cardiff and beyond. Can you include Blaengwynfi and Abergwynfi (and Glyncoerrwg) as places to be considered for Active Travel? Incidentally Rhondda Cynon Taf has shown their active travel route coming right up to the tunnel mouth.</p> | <p>In developing the draft INM, the focus of the Council's work has been on the settlements specified within the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 – the settlements of Abergwynfi, Blaengwynfi and Glyncoerrwg are not specified within the Act.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this point, in advance of the consideration of routes, a detailed methodology was developed to improve clarity and to justify the development of the draft INM. Several sources were utilised including the Council's ERM (approved by Welsh Government Ministers in August 2016) and Local Development Plan (adopted in January 2016); the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 Design Guidance; the National Cycle Network; consultation events and public surveys.</p> <p>Accordingly, a number of elements fed into the preparation of the INM including the crucial element of the identification / plotting of key trip attractors.</p> <p>It was established that there were little or no trip attractors identified in some rural areas and consequently, the inclusion of some routes linking the more rural built-up areas was not considered to be justified.</p> <p>In specific regard to the re-opening of the Rhondda Tunnel, in addition to the reasons cited above, given the fact that the feasibility / deliverability of the project has yet to be fully established and given the likely timescales for delivery should the project prove viable, it is not considered appropriate to include at this time. The Council will however review the position in future iterations of the INM.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
| INM2 | General | Brian Gibbons | Gwynfi Miners | <p>We are very disappointed at its content. We urge a major revision of the document to more accurately reflect the needs and practice in the Upper Afan Valley in general and Aber / Blaengwynfi in particular. We are shocked at neither</p> | <p>In developing the draft INM, the focus of the Council's work has been on the settlements specified within the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 – the settlements of Abergwynfi, Blaengwynfi and Glyncoerrwg are not specified within the Act.</p> |

| Ref | INM Route | Name | Organisation | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
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| | | | | <p>Abergwynfi, Blaengwynfi or, indeed Glynorrwg is included as any of the sub-areas. No explanation is given on how the sub-areas were selected which is also a major weakness in the document. What criteria were used in the selection process?</p> <p>We believe that at the very least the communities of Gwynfi and Glynorrwg should be included as sub-areas. They are areas of substantial cycling / walking activities. While there is room for improvement in the volume, walking and cycling is used by residents in these communities to access local school, medical, social care, recreational and transport facilities that are located at Cymmer. Both Gwynfi and Glynorrwg communities are judged not to be eligible for free school transport and so cycling / walking are options available to those who attend Cymer Comprehensive School to study or work.</p> <p>People from Gwynfi who cycle / walk to Cymmer or use it as an intermediate point on a longer journey use a combination of either the A4107 and the existing cycle / walking track depending on their destination. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If working at or visiting Ty Nant Care Home people regularly walk along the cycle / walking track to Gelli Crossing and then take the A4107 to get to Ty Nant. • If using Cymmer Health Centre or Substance Abuse Centre people would use either the cycle track or the A4107 to walk / cycle. • Afan Valley Swimming Pool; There are a range of options again using the A4107 and / or the existing cycling / walking track. <p>You will be aware that the Gwynfi community has amongst the lowest car ownership in Wales and residents are heavily dependent on public transport which is problematic in itself. Anyone who travels along the A4107 will see any local people walking or cycling either along this road or along the adjacent cycling / walking track.</p> <p>As well there are plans afoot to re-open the Rhondda Tunnel from Blaengwynfi to the Rhondda. This will again</p> | <p>When determining which settlements were to be included in the Act, Welsh Ministers gave regard to issues such as density of population, size, proximity to other densely-populated localities above a particular size and proximity to community services / facilities.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this point, in advance of the consideration of routes, a detailed methodology was developed to improve clarity and to justify the development of the draft INM. Several sources were utilised including the Council's ERM (approved by Welsh Government Ministers in August 2016) and Local Development Plan (adopted in January 2016); the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 Design Guidance; the National Cycle Network; consultation events and public surveys.</p> <p>Accordingly, a number of elements fed into the preparation of the INM including the crucial element of the identification / plotting of key trip attractors.</p> <p>It was established that there were little or no trip attractors identified in some rural areas and consequently, the inclusion of some routes linking the more rural built-up areas was not considered to be justified.</p> <p>In specific regard to the re-opening of the Rhondda Tunnel, in addition to the reasons cited above, given the fact that the feasibility / deliverability of the project has yet to be fully established and given the likely timescales for delivery should the project prove viable, it is not considered appropriate to include at this time. The Council will however review the position in future iterations of the INM.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |

| Ref | INM Route | Name | Organisation | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
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| | | | | increase the level of walking and cycling in the area and not just for recreational purposes. | |
| INM3 | General | Beth Preece | Public Health Wales | Our Healthy Schools Team has sent the information to schools via their newsletter. No individual comments but a statement in support that any change that brings about better access or opportunities to walk / scoot or cycle can only be a good thing for schools. | The comment is noted. Recommendation: Not applicable. |
| INM4 | General | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | <p>Sustrans Cymru's assessment of NPTCBC's draft Integrated Network Map has been limited as there is insufficient information available to understand what improvements to routes are proposed.</p> <p>Sustrans Cymru understands that designs and ideas for long term routes may not yet be developed. Sustrans Cymru would have liked to have seen more information about shorter term schemes. There is insufficient detail to understand why shorter schemes plans have been prioritised and how the proposed improvements will address the issues that have been identified and create routes for active travel.</p> <p>Sustrans Cymru is keen to work with Neath Port Talbot Council to develop ideas and plans for these shorter term schemes, particularly where they coincide with the National Cycle Network.</p> | <p>The Council has followed Welsh Government guidance in the preparation of the draft INM. The guidance stipulates that the 'prioritisation' stage (i.e. categorising the routes as short, medium or long term), should not be finalised until post-consultation. It should also be emphasised that route prioritisation is entirely a matter for the Council.</p> <p>To inform the consultation stage, the Council categorised the routes as either 'short' or 'long' term, with the short term routes being those which the Council considers have the potential to be prioritised and are on parts of the network that are most likely to have the greatest impact on increasing rates of active travel.</p> <p>Informed by the auditing and consultation stages, a schedule of routes will be submitted alongside the maps to the Welsh Government, which will identify the priority status of each route and a description of the necessary improvements / upgrades as relevant.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
| INM5 | General | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | <p>In reviewing the network plans for walking and cycling, Sustrans Cymru believes a lack of network aims misses the opportunity to help citizens understand how improvements and new routes set out in the network plan may benefit them, and help them switch to sustainable travel and lead to more active lifestyles.</p> <p>The Active Travel Design Guide clearly states: "<i>When developing their active travel networks, local authorities should be clear what the aims of the network are, the journeys they are planning to cater for and the people they are hoping will use the network</i>" (para 5.8.10, p83, Welsh Government Active Travel Design Guidance).</p> <p>Whilst the plan includes several schemes that are much welcomed there is a risk that the key messages and</p> | <p>The Council does not accept that there is a lack of a communications strategy associated with the INM.</p> <p>The consultation document prepared by the Council was clear in its definition of Active Travel, the type of journeys that would be catered for, and the key messages / aspirations of the Council for the next 15 years.</p> <p>In addition, these key messages and aspirations were communicated via a comprehensive consultation / communications strategy which included correspondence to key stakeholders; development of a questionnaire / on-line survey; school workshops; engagement events / roadshows; website with 'interactive' maps; press releases; social media posts; maps and supporting documents distributed to Civic Centres and libraries; and staff newsletters.</p> |

| Ref | INM Route | Name | Organisation | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
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| | | | | <p>aspirations of the Integrated Network Map will be lost and the INM not supported as the plan lacks a communications strategy to enable citizens to show their support or more importantly change their travel behaviour.</p> <p>Sustrans Cymru is keen to work with Neath Port Talbot Council in the future to develop ideas and plans for the implementation of the Integrated Network Map.</p> | <p>These efforts combined resulted in a good response to the consultation, all of which will be documented in a 'Consultation Report' to be submitted to the Welsh Government alongside the INM.</p> <p>In terms of ongoing implementation, the INM will be an important document for the Council and will be considered as part of the planning decision making process so that where possible, aspirations are realised as part of ongoing development.</p> <p>Successful implementation of the INM / Active Travel (Wales) Act however, can only be achieved through partnership working involving Local and Central Government, key stakeholders / organisations and developers.</p> <p>Recommendation: Not applicable.</p> |

LOWER BRYNAMMAN & GWAUN CAE GURWEN

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| Page 181 INM6 | | Tim Dunn | | <p>I have looked at the cycling routes on the Council website and there is a major problem with the Ammanford to Brynamman cycle path whether it is being used for commuting or recreation.</p> <p>What is the point of having a cycle path that is impossible to use due to the number of locked gates and kissing gates that make the route unusable? I understand that some road crossings need to be protected by gates, but the kissing gates provided are too narrow for anything but the lightest road bike to pass through. Larger heavier mountain bikes or heavy bikes with pedal assist batteries cannot easily pass through these gates. Also, the narrowed gateways that allow pedestrians to pass between the metal bars are too small for bike handlebars.</p> <p>The cycle path is very underused and a major reason for this would be its unsuitability for cycle access.</p> | <p>The comments are noted. The installation and use of the existing gates / barriers on the cycle network are there for health and safety reasons and specifically to prevent access by motorbikes and/or other illegal users.</p> <p>The Council will continue to review the use of such infrastructure in accordance with the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
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CROESERW & CYMMER

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| INM7 | INM-CROE-C001: Croeserw to Caerau via Menai Avenue | Matthew Gilbert | Bridgend CBC | Bridgend CBC agrees that the route along South Avenue and Pen-y-Mynydd in Croeserw that leads towards the County Borough boundary with Caerau as it will link to proposal INM-MA-1 in the Bridgend Draft INM | <p>The support for the route is noted.</p> <p>Recommendation: Not applicable.</p> |
| INM8 | INM-CROE-C001: | Matthew | Bridgend | Bridgend CBC agrees with the proposed route from | The support for the route is noted. |

| Ref | INM Route | Name | Organisation | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
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| | Croeserw to Caerau via Menai Avenue | Gilbert | CBC | Croeserw to Caerau via Menai Avenue (INM-CROE-C001) as this will connect with proposal INM-MA-1 in the draft Bridgend INM. | Recommendation: Not applicable. |
| INM9 | | Matthew Gilbert | Bridgend CBC | The draft Bridgend INM includes proposal INM-MA-17 which relates to a connection from Brynheulog (north of Caerau) towards Afan Argoed to provide access to a tourism generator. We would request that a connection from the County Borough Boundary is considered for inclusion within the NPT draft INM. | Whilst it is acknowledged that the draft INM for Bridgend includes the proposal as described, the Council considers that this route would predominantly be for the purposes of tourism / leisure. On this basis, it is not considered appropriate to include a connection within Neath Port Talbot. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| GLYNNEATH / BLAENGWRACH / RESOLVEN | | | | | |
| INM10 | INM-GLYN-C001: Abergarwed to Glynneath INM-RES-C001: Blaengwrach to Resolven south of A465 | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | There is an obvious gap between these two proposed routes. Filling this gap would not only enable a connection between two strategic routes but could also improve opportunities for active travel within the village of Resolven. | The identified routes run parallel to the north and south of the A465 (T) respectively. Whilst it is acknowledged that the connection of these two routes would benefit an integrated network, the safety concerns of traversing the A465 (T) override the potential benefits. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM11 | INM-GLYN-C001: Abergarwed to Glynneath | Anonymous | | Sections of the B4242 from Aberdulais to Glynneath are very poor in condition. The amount of quick fix filler tarmac is a joke. The road surface approaching the junction to the A465 roundabout at Resolven is some of the roughest in the local area and is very hazardous to cyclists. The cycle route marking on the roads consist of several haphazard placement of short section of "cycle path", some of which are overgrown with encroaching vegetation. | The comment is noted. As a result of the auditing and consultation process, the description of the route will highlight the need for improvements / upgrades particularly in respect of sections of the B4242 and the approach to the A465 roundabout (INM-GLYN-C001 and INM-NEA-C014). Any necessary improvement works will reflect the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM12 | INM-GLYN-P001: Residential area to Doctors' Surgery / Pharmacy via High Street | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Sustrans Cymru is aware that the Trunks Road Agency was looking at walking and cycling improvements in conjunction with works to A465. This would focus specifically on NCN46. There is a gap in the NCN at Glynneath. There is an opportunity to fill this gap and improve opportunities for active travel within Glynneath. | The comment is noted. Based on the applied methodology however, and in particular the key element of the identification / plotting of trip attractors, an extension to this route is not considered to be justified. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| PONTARDAWE | | | | | |
| INM13 | INM-PON-C001: Crynant to Ystalyfera | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Pleased to see that these routes are included (as short term schemes) however, unable to add further comment as no detail of proposed improvements have been included. The | The support for the routes is noted. As a result of the consultation and auditing process which examined |

| Ref | INM Route | Name | Organisation | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
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| | INM-PON-C004: Glais to Cwmtawe School INM-PON-C008: Pontardawe to Godre'r Graig via Route 43 | | | route requires widening in places and there is a narrow bridge across the river. We are also aware that the route needs resurfacing, lighting and improved destination signage. | issues such as surface quality, lighting, signage etc., the description of the route will highlight the need for improvements and upgrades. All upgrades will need to be considered in accordance with the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM14 | INM-PON-C010: NCN43 to Pontardawe Town Centre | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Route linking the NCN to Pontardawe is welcomed however no detail has been provided on what improvements will be made. Lack of network planned within the town centre itself to connect other proposed routes and link key destinations such as the existing retail park and primary school in the town. | The support for the route is noted. As a result of the auditing and consultation process, the description of the route will highlight the need for improvements. Any necessary improvements will reflect the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes. The Council does not accept that there is a lack of network planned serving the town centre of Pontardawe. There are a number of long term aspirational routes identified in this first iteration of the INM. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM15 | INM-PON-C006: Rhydyfro Primary School to Pontardawe | Anonymous | | It is very difficult cycling from Pontardawe to Rhydyfro as the roads are narrow, busy and steep. You hold up cars cycling up Gelligron hill. Ideally there should be a dedicated bike lane or cycle path to get the cyclists off the road. | The comment is noted. As a result of the auditing and consultation process, this route has been identified as a longer term aspiration. All alignment options, designs and ideas will need to be considered in accordance with the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM16 | INM-PON-C007: Clydach to Cwmtawe School and Pontardawe Leisure Centre | Anonymous | | Pontardawe to Clydach along the canal is not suitable for road bikes. The surface is too rough. | The comment is noted. As a result of the auditing and consultation process, the description of the route will highlight the need for surface upgrades. Any necessary upgrades will reflect the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM17 | | Owain Lewis | | You should improve the cycle path around the Rec in Pontardawe. As a long term prospect to improve the path from Neath to Pontardawe: use and improve the public footpaths between | The comments are noted. At present, there is a short term route identified around the recreation ground (INM-PON-C008) and as a result of the auditing and consultation process, the description of the route will highlight the need for upgrades. Furthermore, a new long term aspirational route |

| Ref | INM Route | Name | Organisation | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
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| | | | | Fforest Goch and Primrose Lane, Rhos; improve the path to Alltwen and use the roads Lon Tan Yr Allt and Lon Y Wern. | <p>(INM-PON-C005) has been identified running adjacent to the recreation ground.</p> <p>In respect of a route between Neath and Pontardawe and as a result of the auditing and consultation process, route INM-NEA-C001 has been identified as a longer term aspiration.</p> <p>All alignment options, designs and ideas for new routes will need to be considered in accordance with the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
| INM18 | | Roland Lanchbury | Cilybebyll Community Council | The Council expresses its surprise that the route from Rhos to Pontardawe, along Primrose Lane via a Public Right of Way and Lon y Wern Alltwen, and then on to Pontardawe via Tesco, does not figure in the list of improvements under the Pontardawe section. Perhaps you would consider adding this to that section. | <p>The comment is noted. There is however a number of issues associated with the suggested alternative route, including safety issues relating to the narrow nature of Lon Y Wern.</p> <p>On this basis therefore, the Council considers that the inclusion of the route is not justified.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
| INM19 | | Jane Hennell | Canal & River Trust | <p>The Canal & River Trust has responsibility for 2,000 miles of canals, rivers, docks and reservoirs, along with museums, archives and the country's third largest collection of protected historic buildings. In Wales, as Glandwr Cymru, we own and maintain most of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal as well as the Swansea canal which runs through Neath Port Talbot as well as promoting the restoration of the nearby Neath and Tennant Canals which are in private ownership. The Trust has a range of charitable objectives including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To hold in trust or own and to operate and manage inland waterways for public benefit, use and enjoyment; • To protect and conserve objects and buildings of heritage interest; • To further the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment of inland waterways; and • To promote sustainable development in the vicinity of any inland waterways for the benefit of the | <p>The comments are noted.</p> <p>Recommendation: Not applicable.</p> |

| Ref | INM Route | Name | Organisation | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
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| | | | | <p>public.</p> <p>The Trust works extensively with private, public and voluntary partners to conserve, enhance and improve the waterways of Wales.</p> <p>The Town and Country Planning Association (in association with British Waterways, as we were at the time) produced a document entitled 'Unlocking the potential and securing the future of Inland Waterways through the planning System'. http://www.tcpa.org.uk/pages/inland-waterways.html. This document considers Inland Waterways as a Form of Sustainable Transport. Waterways and towing paths play an important role in widening travel choices for cycling, walking, freight and public transport. The towing path network provides a motor-vehicle-free environment in which to travel to work, school or home, and 100 tonnes of carbon dioxide CO2 are saved per 1 kilometre of towing path upgraded.)</p> <p>The Trust welcome any opportunity for the recognition and promotion of the canal towpaths suggest that they are treated as sustainable transport routes as well as a recreational asset. Towpaths can also be useful in providing connections between other routes.</p> <p>The Swansea canal towpath should remain as a permissive path, and whilst we would wish to promote the suitability of the other canals for use in this way, this should of course be with the consent of their owners.</p> <p>We note that several responders have highlighted the need for towpath surface improvements to enable better use for cyclists in particular. The Trust wishes to work with the Council and in conjunction with local preservation and restoration societies, to promote and upgrade the towpath for the benefit of all, through continuing to seek additional funding opportunities to improve the towpath and canal itself.</p> | |
| INM20 | | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | <p>Pleased to see routes proposed from residential areas on the edge of Pontardawe - need to ensure routes connect across the town centre to enable people to choose cycling</p> | <p>The support for the routes is noted.</p> <p>Recommendation: Not applicable.</p> |

| Ref | INM Route | Name | Organisation | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
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| | | | | for everyday journeys. | |
| INM21 | | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Sustrans Cymru is concerned that no pedestrian improvements are planned with Godre'r Graig and its links with NCN 43. In particular, there is a need to provide better crossing facilities over the A4067. Linking these small communities will enable people to have more travel options for everyday journeys. | The comment is noted. Based on the applied methodology however, and in particular the key element of the identification / plotting of trip attractors, an identified route in this location is not considered to be justified. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM22 | | Jeffrey Hughes | | <p>If you are serious about getting more people cycling and getting people out of their cars, you must get the Council to provide resurfaced roads safe and fit for purpose and this means the surface is steam rolled flat and even.</p> <p>The A474 at Fforest Goch has recently been resurfaced and is so uneven it represents a health and safety hazard to cyclists. Unfortunately the contractors haven't rolled the surface to finish the job and left the road uneven and rough where cyclists ride (about a metre from the kerb). There are also sharp chippings sticking out of tar which is also a hazard. They left the cars roll their own track in the middle of the road but for cyclists the road is rough and uneven. Another hazard is the height of the "go slow" lettering on the road. The paint is about 15mm high causing a very rough ride. Can you please try and get the road where the cyclists use rolled with a steam roller as this surface is not fit for purpose and any future resurfacing needs steam rolling as well.</p> <p>A path from where the NCN 43 comes out in Lon Hir to nearly the top of Graig Road (A474). At the moment there are only steps and you have to carry your bike up the steps which is hard work or cycle to Alltwen and then cycle back from the bottom of Graig Road (A471) which is frustrating if you are going to Neath - especially if you are going to work.</p> | <p>Whilst the comments in respect of road surfacing being fit for purpose are noted, this issue lies outside the remit of the INM.</p> <p>In regard to the suggested additional route, the Council has assessed a potential route from where the NCN43 joins Lon Hir and then on towards the top of Graig Road (A474) however, due to the gradient along the route it was not considered justified to include in the INM.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
| NEATH (including SKEWEN / TONNA / CIMLA / JERSEY MARINE / BRITON FERRY) | | | | | |
| INM23 | INM-NEA-P004: Pen yr Heol residential area to Skewen Train Station | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Disappointing that the proposed route only relates to pedestrian not cycling infrastructure. There is an opportunity here to link routes for Coed Darcy and alongside the M4 for cycling. Recommend that this route is designed and delivered both for walking and cycling. | The comment is noted. In developing the first iteration of the INM, and to ensure consistency with the Council's ERM (approved by Welsh Ministers in August 2016), the focus of the Council's work has been to identify routes either for pedestrian or cycle use. 'Shared-use' routes have therefore not been identified. |

| Ref | INM Route | Name | Organisation | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
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| | | | | | <p>There is a requirement to review the ERM / INM every 3 years, and future reviews of the maps will consider the potential for shared-use routes.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
| INM24 | INM-NEA-P011: Dwr Y Felin Comprehensive School and Neath College to Wauanceirch Primary School | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Could the route be developed for walking and cycling to enable people to continue their onward journey? There is a gradient to consider but people will still wish to cycle along this route and it serves two schools. | <p>The comment is noted.</p> <p>In developing the first iteration of the INM, and to ensure consistency with the Council's ERM (approved by Welsh Ministers in August 2016), the focus of the Council's work has been to identify routes either for pedestrian or cycle use. 'Shared-use' routes have therefore not been identified.</p> <p>There is a requirement to review the ERM / INM every 3 years, and future reviews of the maps will consider the potential for shared-use routes.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
| INM25 | INM-NEA-C021: NCN47/NCN4 - Baldwin's Crescent (Bay Campus) | Neil Hinds | | I am supporting the inclusion of INM-NEA-C021. Need to improve the track surface. | <p>The support for the route is noted.</p> <p>Recommendation: Not applicable.</p> |
| INM26 | INM-NEA-C021: NCN47/NCN4 - Baldwin's Crescent (Bay Campus) | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Showing as short term on the map but long term in the table. Short term improvements are needed on this route. Sustrans Cymru is keen to liaise with NPTCBC to discuss the improvements needed. | <p>The comment is noted. The Council confirms that this is an editing error in the consultation document. The route is a short term priority for the Council.</p> <p>Recommendation: Amend INM table to read 'short term'.</p> |
| INM27 | INM-NEA-C020: Coed Darcy | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Sustrans Cymru welcomes plans to include cycling routes to Coed Darcy. The route has been in the pipeline for many years. What are the timescales for the development of this route and what type of infrastructure is being considered? | <p>The support for the route is noted.</p> <p>The delivery of this particular route is a longer term aspiration linked to the delivery of the Coed Darcy Southern Access Route (SAR).</p> <p>Discussions are continuing between the Council and St Modwen Developments Ltd to assess the robustness of the S106 Legal Agreement, and in due course, a revised trigger for the delivery of the SAR will be agreed and inserted to require completion of the SAR before a specified date or occupancy level (whichever is sooner).</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |

| Ref | INM Route | Name | Organisation | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
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| INM28 | INM-NEA-C019: Swansea University Bay Campus | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Sustrans Cymru welcomes the long term proposal to develop a walking and cycling route along the south side of Fabian Way. | The support for the route is noted. Recommendation: Not applicable. |
| INM29 | INM-NEA-C017: Jersey Marine to Neath College | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Welcome this route as a long term improvement for cycling. | The support for the route is noted. Recommendation: Not applicable. |
| INM30 | INM-NEA-C016: Jersey Marine to Coed Darcy | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Welcome this route but believe it should be a short / medium term aspiration to help encourage sustainable travel habits from a growing / new development. | The support for the route is noted. The long term aspirational status of the route reflects the fact that the development of Coed Darcy will be delivered over the longer term. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| Page 188 INM31 | INM-NEA-C010: Briton Ferry to Neath | Anonymous | | <p>Neath generally suffers with particularly poor provision for cycling and it could be a really good hub for cycling bearing in mind the good provisions that are within the local area - such as the canal routes and NCN4, but it is fundamentally inaccessible because of the one-way system and lack of formal provision for cycling. It would be really good to see these problems overcome in the coming years.</p> <p>As someone who commutes from Briton Ferry to Swansea, I would readily welcome improved provision for cycling between Briton Ferry and Neath.</p> <p>With regard to INM-NEA-C010, I would ask that consideration be given to the creation of a route adjacent to Rockingham Terrace and Railway Terrace. The verge is largely wide enough to allow for this and it would encourage those not comfortable with cycling on these roads to consider using a bicycle and would improve the links to NCN4, south of Briton Ferry.</p> <p>Provision for cyclists north of Rockingham Terrace is very difficult due to the narrow widths of the road and footways, but it would provide a significant benefit for the town. The canal route cannot be relied on for utility travel due to the low bridges and its isolated and unlit nature.</p> | <p>The comments are noted.</p> <p>At present, there is one short term route identified between Briton Ferry and Neath (INM-NEA-C012), and as a result of the auditing and consultation process, the description of the route will highlight the need for upgrades.</p> <p>In addition, route INM-NEA-C010 has been identified as a longer term aspiration. All alignment options, designs and ideas will need to be considered in accordance with the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes.</p> <p>In respect of the creation of an additional route adjacent to Rockingham Terrace / Railway Terrace, whilst the Council does not consider the suggestion to be a viable option due to on-street parking, connection with the A474 and trip attractors, an alternative new route has been identified in the vicinity.</p> <p>Recommendation: Amend INM to include a connecting route from the A48 roundabout to INM-NEA-C012.</p> |
| INM32 | INM-NEA-C010: Briton Ferry to Neath | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Sustrans Cymru welcomes this long term proposal for an additional route that can serve everyday stations between Neath and Briton Ferry. It will be important for this route to | The support for the route is noted. Recommendation: Not applicable. |

| Ref | INM Route | Name | Organisation | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
|-------|--|---------------|----------------|---|---|
| | | | | connect to NCN47 to improve permeability and choice in the network. | |
| INM33 | INM-NEA-C009: Neath to Cimla | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Sustrans Cymru welcomes this proposed route to link up the community and destinations within Cimla to the town centre. This route should also look to improve conditions for walking as well as cycling. | The support for the route is noted. Recommendation: Not applicable. |
| INM34 | INM-NEA-C001: Neath to Pontardawe INM-NEA-C010: Briton Ferry to Neath INM-NEA-P015: Residential area to Neath via Pen y Wern Road | Anonymous | | <p>The recently installed turning bollards on Penywern Road have created an even more dangerous exposure to cyclists trying to navigate upwards toward the proposed route to Pontardawe. They have created pinch points at every bollard, meaning vehicles now squeeze cyclist even closer to the kerb when they are being past. The pedestrian crossing at the top of Penywern has a badly filled trench running across it which is a hazard to cyclists, this forces them to swerve into the path of following vehicles. The new bollards, again installed without the consultation of local cycling stakeholders.</p> <p>The priority should be the removal of the recently installed turning bollards on Penywern Road and to use the extra space freed up to provide a segregated safe cycling path to negotiate the hill.</p> <p>Briton ferry to Neath is one of the most dangerous routes I'm forced to cycle on. The blind spots from parked cars, poor road surface, narrowing of the road, no cycling provision whatsoever.</p> | <p>The comments are noted. The bollards have been installed along Penywern Road to increase safety due to traffic speeds.</p> <p>In respect of a route between Neath and Pontardawe and as a result of the auditing and consultation process, route INM-NEA-C001 has been identified as a longer term aspiration.</p> <p>In regard to routes between Briton Ferry and Neath, at present, there is one short term route identified (INM-NEA-C012), and as a result of the auditing and consultation process, the description of the route will highlight the need for upgrades, including surface and visibility works.</p> <p>In addition, route INM-NEA-C010 has been identified as a longer term aspiration.</p> <p>All alignment options, designs and ideas for routes will need to be considered in accordance with the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
| INM35 | | Anonymous | | The section of cycle path that runs alongside the M4 from Llandarcy roundabout, is poorly maintained, overgrown and is littered with debris. The route which takes you over the Briton Ferry Bridge is rough and is continually littered with loose chipping, glass and debris. | The comment is noted. This section of the network as described however is not included within the draft INM. Recommendation: Not applicable. |
| INM36 | INM-NEA-C001: Neath to Pontardawe | Anonymous | | I echo previous comments on the need to repair and improve paths between Rhos and Pen Y Wern hill, Neath. Also the cycle track along the canal between Pontardawe and Clydach needs surfacing to allow a full range of bikes to utilise and complete and link the excellent existing tarmac covered paths either side of this route (i.e. to Ystalyfera and the Clydach to Swansea route). | The comments are noted. In respect of a route between Neath and Pontardawe, as a result of the auditing and consultation process, route INM-NEA-C001 has been identified as a longer term aspiration. In regard to the route between Pontardawe and Clydach (along the canal), as a result of the auditing and consultation process, the |

| Ref | INM Route | Name | Organisation | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
|-------|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------------|--|--|
| | | | | A safe cycle link from Rhos to Cwmtawe School would provide an excellent introduction for children to get to and from school and improve their fitness and independence at a key age. There is an off-road path between Primrose Lane and Gwyn Street that could be improved to allow safe passage. | <p>description of the route will highlight the need for surface upgrades.</p> <p>In respect of a route between Rhos and Cwmtawe School, whilst currently the INM includes three pedestrian routes (INM-PON-P002; INM-PON-P005 and INM-PON-P007) which would enable access, the Council considers it appropriate to include a long term aspirational cycle route on the INM.</p> <p>All upgrades to existing routes and final alignment options, designs and ideas for new routes will need to be considered in accordance with the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes.</p> <p>Recommendation: Amend INM to include a cycle route between Rhos and Cwmtawe School (INM-PON-C011).</p> |
| INM37 | INM-NEA-C001: Neath to Pontardawe | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Pleased to see this route included, particularly as it is currently promoted as a commuter route and does not meet active travel standards. Given this we would recommend that delivering this route is a short term priority. Given current road conditions and speed, Sustrans Cymru would recommend that cycling facilities are segregated from the carriageway. | <p>The support for the route is noted.</p> <p>As a result of the auditing and consultation process, route INM-NEA-C001 has been identified as a longer term aspiration.</p> <p>All alignment options, designs and ideas for new routes will need to be considered in accordance with the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
| INM38 | | Peter Langton | | The old A48 cycle/pedestrian path around Junction 43. Traffic regularly jump the lights (orange is seen as a signal to accelerate) so it is dangerous to cross the slip ways. Requires pedestrian crossing to make it safer (would make it safer for traffic as well). The newly cleared canal path from Neath Abbey to Jersey marine goes across a Bailey bridge which waste haulage trucks seem to like racing across. | <p>The comments are noted.</p> <p>The existing S106 Agreement associated with the Coed Darcy development requires a series of improvements to Junction 43 of the M4. Work has already been completed in regard to the initial phases of improvement works and all works have been completed to current standards.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
| INM39 | INM-NEA-C007 | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Good to see this alignment shown. However, unable to add further comment as no detail of proposed improvements have been included. In our previous submission, Sustrans Cymru recommended a fully segregated cycle route is needed between the border with Swansea and Neath Abbey Road (bridge over River Neath). | <p>The support for the route is noted.</p> <p>All alignment options, designs and ideas for this long term aspirational route will need to be considered in accordance with the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |

| Ref | INM Route | Name | Organisation | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
|-----------------|-----------|---------------|----------------|--|--|
| INM40 | | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Within the town centre of Neath itself there appears to be several gaps in the network, both for pedestrians and those cycling. It is not clear if this is because there are existing routes that will connect up short term changes. There appears to be no cycling improvements planned for the town centre. Given the proximity of the train station to the town centre it is important that those choosing to cycle are able to access the town centre as part of their journey to the station or to access areas of the town to the south and east. | <p>The Council does not accept that there is a lack of routes planned for Neath town centre.</p> <p>The identified INM routes, when combined with the number of existing routes already identified on the Council's ERM (approved by Welsh Government Ministers in August 2016), is considered to provide a sufficient number of opportunities for active travel in and around the town centre.</p> <p>In particular, there are four long term aspirational cycling routes identified serving Neath town centre: INM-NEA-C001 (Neath to Pontardawe); INM-NEA-C002 (Neath to Skewen); INM-NEA-C009 (Neath to Cimla); and INM-NEA-C010 (Neath to Briton Ferry).</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
| Page 191 M41 | | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Missed opportunity to improve access for people living close to the town centre in communities such as Ty'n Y Caeau. Given the close proximity of these communities to destinations in the town centre there is the potential for people to walk and cycle more if good infrastructure is provided. In addition there are missed opportunities to improve access to NCN 47 to the northeast of the town centre, for example along Llantwit Road. | <p>The Council does not accept that there has been a missed opportunity in respect of the communities of Ty'n Y Caeau and Llantwit.</p> <p>The following three routes are identified within close proximity: INM-NEA-P007; INM-NEA-P009; and INM-NEA-C011.</p> <p>These identified routes, combined with the existing routes already identified on the Council's ERM (approved by Welsh Government Ministers in August 2016), is considered to provide sufficient opportunities for such areas.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
| INM42 | | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Sustrans Cymru is aware that both NPTCBC and CCoS is considering improvements to Baldwin's Bridge and Fabian Way. This will be a major change to the network and given the now heavy use by people walking and cycling to and from Bay Campus it is really good opportunity to improve what is an uncomfortable and unattractive pinch point on the cycle and pedestrian network. Sustrans Cymru would welcome being involved in discussions to identify how this part of the route can be improved. | <p>The comment is noted.</p> <p>Recommendation: Not applicable.</p> |
| INM43 | | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | There is a missed opportunity in Briton Ferry to improve links between route 47 and Brunel Way for walking and cycling. NPTCBC should consider measures here to make walking and cycling to schools (primary and secondary) and the station easier. | <p>The comment is noted. The Council has recently completed improvements to routes in the area and the assessment / audit of this particular link will be considered as part of a future review of the ERM / INM.</p> |

| Ref | INM Route | Name | Organisation | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
|--|---|---------------|---------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| PORT TALBOT (including BAGLAN / ABERAVON / SANDFIELDS / TAIBACH / MARGAM) | | | | | |
| INM44 | INM-PT-P002: Port Talbot Parkway | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Given the link to NCR 887 and potential links to NCR 4 south of the station, it is recommended that this route is improved for cycling as well as pedestrians. | <p>The comment is noted.</p> <p>In developing the first iteration of the INM, and to ensure consistency with the Council's ERM (approved by Welsh Ministers in August 2016), the focus of the Council's work has been to identify routes either for pedestrian or cycle use. 'Shared-use' routes have therefore not been identified.</p> <p>There is a requirement to review the ERM / INM every 3 years, and future reviews of the maps will consider the potential for shared-use routes.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
| INM45 | INM-PT-C015: Bae Baglan to Baglan | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Improving links between Baglan and Bae Baglan are welcomed as the current provision over the railway and M4 is not sufficient, uncomfortable to use and an attractive environment. | <p>The support for the route is noted.</p> <p>Recommendation: Not applicable.</p> |
| INM46 | INM-PT-C011: Baglan Way | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Sustrans Cymru is pleased to see the route along Baglan Way has been identified in the short term schemes. Sustrans Cymru would be keen to understand what improvements are planned for this route | <p>The support for the route is noted. As a result of the auditing and consultation process, the description of the route will highlight the need for improvements / upgrades.</p> <p>Any necessary upgrades will reflect the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
| INM47 | INM-PT-C010: NCN887 River Afan to Port Talbot Parkway INM-PT-C012: Neath Port Talbot Hospital Link INM-PT-C014: Bus Station to Hospital | Beth Preece | Public Health Wales | We welcome the plans in the short term and longer term to improve routes from Port Talbot bus station, train station and surrounding areas to Neath Port Talbot Hospital and Primary Care Resource Centre. Given the numbers accessing these services then shorter term amendments to routes could have a more immediate impact. | <p>The support for the routes is noted.</p> <p>Recommendation: Not applicable.</p> |
| INM48 | INM-PT-C010: NCN887 River Afan to Port Talbot Parkway | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Improvements to this route would be welcomed as an important link to the station. | <p>The support for the route is noted.</p> <p>Recommendation: Not applicable.</p> |

| Ref | INM Route | Name | Organisation | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
|-------|--|-----------------|---------------------|--|---|
| INM49 | INM-PT-C007: Bryn to Maesteg | Beth Preece | Public Health Wales | The 'old dram' road which is the path that links one end of Bryn village to the other and is the main route to get to the GP, Community Centre and school apart from walking on the main road with traffic is the main road with traffic which is slowly being overtaken by the greenery and there are no lights. | In developing the draft INM, the focus of the Council's work has been on the settlements specified within the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 – the settlement of Bryn is not specified within the Act and has therefore not been assessed / audited for suitable active travel routes. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM50 | INM-PT-C007: Bryn to Maesteg | Matthew Gilbert | Bridgend CBC | The proposed route from Bryn to Maesteg does not appear to have significant potential as an Active Travel Route and therefore a connection on the Bridgend County Borough side of the boundary has not been included with the Council's draft INM. Whilst it may be considered for a future iteration of the INM, we would request that it is removed from the final INM at this time. | Whilst it is noted that there is not a connection included within the draft INM for Bridgend as described, a route connecting Bryn to Maesteg is nevertheless a long term aspiration of the Council. Notwithstanding the fact that designs and ideas for long term routes may not be developed at this time, the Council considers it would be a missed opportunity not to identify the route as a long term aspiration in the INM. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM51 | INM-PT-C005: Port Talbot Steelworks - Alternative NCN4 | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Improving facilities alongside Harbour Way for cycling is welcomed however Sustrans Cymru also believes that there is an opportunity to improve facilities along the A48. The opening of Harbour Way has reduced pressure on the A48 and should allow the A48 to become more a local road / street where the primary function is no longer through traffic. Making the street easier to walk and cycle along will enable people to access the everyday destinations such as schools, medical facilities and shops along it on bike and by foot. | The support for the route is noted. In respect of the A48, whilst it is acknowledged that the opening of Harbour Way may well reduce traffic levels along the road, there remain a number of safety issues associated with the route (e.g. on-street parking etc.). The Council considers that the identified route is the more justifiable option in the longer term. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM52 | INM-PT-C003: Afan Way to Riverside Road | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Sustrans Cymru is keen to see the reconnection of Route 4 along the River Afan and welcomes this scheme. | The support for the route is noted. Recommendation: Not applicable. |
| INM53 | | Anonymous | | Cycling provision in Neath Port Talbot is among the poorest I've experienced in Wales and falls way behind major cities in the UK, and is bottom of the league compared to European cycling provisions. The disjointed cycling paths in the area are generally poorly maintained, overgrown, littered with debris and are largely planned without the consultation of local cycling stakeholders. Cycle path along Harbour Way heading east stops at the entrance to the Tata Steelworks roundabout, abruptly. This path should have been maintained along the full length of | The comments are noted. In implementing the requirements of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013, the INM sets out the Council's aspirations for the next 15 years. The INM will identify where improvements can be made to existing routes or where new routes should be added to the network. The INM will be used as a tool to enhance the forward planning of active travel and to support infrastructure development planning. In respect of Harbour Way, as a result of the auditing and consultation process, proposals have been identified for a new route along the road (INM-PT-C005) which is accessed from the A48 |

| Ref | INM Route | Name | Organisation | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
|-------|-----------|---------------|----------------|---|--|
| | | | | the new road along the grass verge that now exists. All along this road the crossing of junctions is hazardous to cyclists as they are forced to negotiate a doglegged sharp turn instead of flowing through the junction by the use of drop kerbs in line with the direction of travel. | through Tollgate Road and past Groeswen fields. In addition, there are proposed upgrades to route INM-PT-C008, which links through to the Harbourside area of Port Talbot. All upgrades to existing routes and final alignment options, designs and ideas for new routes will need to be considered in accordance with the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM54 | | Lindsey Brown | Sustrans Cymru | Lack of improvements planned for Port Talbot Centre particularly cycling. The current alignment of Route 887 to the north is unnecessarily long, poorly overlooked and misses the opportunity for those cycling to access and spend money in the town centre. Sustrans Cymru believes that consideration should be given to how a link between Route 887, the town centre and the station can be created to bring people in to use the facilities and services of the town. | The Council does not accept that there is a lack of routes planned for Port Talbot town centre. The identified INM routes, when combined with the number of existing routes already identified on the Council's ERM (approved by Welsh Government Ministers in August 2016), is considered to provide a sufficient number of opportunities for active travel in and around the town centre. Furthermore, the construction of the Integrated Transport Hub is nearing completion and will deliver further opportunities for walking and cycling. Recommendation: No amendment required. |

Table 2(b) – Representations derived from Community Engagement Events

| Ref | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
|--|--|--|
| ABERAFAN SHOPPING CENTRE, PORT TALBOT | | |
| INM55 | Used to be a bridge crossing the river on the cycle route between Dyffryn and Cymmer near the DIY shop. Re-opening the bridge would make active travel journeys in the area more feasible. | The comment is noted. As a result of the auditing and consultation process, the Council concluded that, based on a limited number of trip attractors, an active travel route crossing the river by the DIY shop would not be viable. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM56 | There is no suitable walking route for pedestrians from Margam towards Bridgend. | As a result of the auditing and consultation process, the Council concluded that, based on a limited number of trip attractors, an active travel route from Margam towards Bridgend would not be viable. Recommendation: No amendment required. |

| Ref | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
|-------|---|---|
| INM57 | Pedestrian routes need to be improved near Blanco's Hotel & Restaurant. | <p>The comment is noted.</p> <p>The pedestrian routes in proximity to Blanco's Hotel and Restaurant have been audited as part of the Active Travel Act process.</p> <p>Subsequently, there are two short term pedestrian proposals (INM-PT-P007 – Sports Centre to Port Talbot Bus Station and INM-PT-P006 – Bus Station to Port Talbot Parkway) as well as one long term aspirational cycle route proposal (INM-PT-C014 - Bus Station to the Hospital) that are aimed at improving the routes near Blanco's Hotel and Restaurant.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
| INM58 | In general, the surfacing on cycle paths is of poor quality in NPT, road bikes often suffer punctures and cyclists therefore choose to cycle on the road, even when there is an allocated cycle path available. | <p>The comment is noted.</p> <p>All of the cycling, walking and shared-use routes throughout the County Borough have been audited using the Route Audit Tool provided by the Welsh Government.</p> <p>The Route Audit Tool provides a useful numerical tool for assessing the quality of routes. Routes that have a poor quality will be subject to review and appropriately amended.</p> <p>Any necessary upgrades will reflect the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
| INM59 | On the canal path there are styles that stop cyclists from accessing sections. The directness of some routes could be improved, for example between Aberafan Hospital and the Civic Centre. | <p>The comments are noted.</p> <p>All cycling, walking and shared-use routes throughout the County Borough have been audited using the Route Audit Tool provided by the Welsh Government. In advance of this response, the canal path was audited and identified for proposed upgrades.</p> <p>With regard to the route from the hospital to the civic centre, a more direct cycle route has been proposed on the draft INM as a long term aspiration (INM-PT-C014).</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
| INM60 | 'Boris' style electric bikes could be a useful method of engaging the old and unfit in cycling, acting as a stepping stone with the aim of them cycling conventionally in future. | <p>The comment is noted.</p> <p>At present, there are two locations within the County Borough that provide the option to hire bikes (these are however not controlled by the Council). Such schemes are recognised by the Welsh Government (particularly at interchanges between multiple forms of public transport) as appropriate locations for cycle parking facilities with hire, repair and retail facilities.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
| INM61 | The junction on Pentyla Hill in Port Talbot is unsuitable. | <p>The comment is noted.</p> <p>A long-term aspirational proposal to improve the walking provision through the junction on Pentyla Hill has been included in the draft INM. This route is identified as INM-PT-P010 (Civic Centre to Baglan).</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |

| Ref | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| GWYN HALL, NEATH | | |
| INM62 | Many restrictions on tenant canal route from Neath town centre to Neath Abbey, it is unsuitable for prams / wheelchairs etc. | As part of the auditing process stipulated within the Active Travel (Wales) Act, the Council audited routes throughout NPT. The audits, as well as the consultation process will aim to provide improvements to identified issues such surface, use of barriers etc. Any necessary upgrades will reflect the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM63 | Baglan retail park – cars near the LIDL roundabout are going very fast and it puts people off using the walking / cycling paths. | The comment is noted. The INM identifies a number of routes which link to the retail park at Baglan, including INM-PT-P001, INM-PT-P005 and INM-PT-P011. Any necessary improvements / upgrades will reflect the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM64 | Canal route is overgrown and needs to be cleaned – signage could also be improved. | As part of the auditing process stipulated within the Active Travel (Wales) Act, the Council audited routes throughout NPT. The audits, as well as the consultation process will aim to provide improvements to identified issues such as health and safety, vegetation overgrowth and signage. Any necessary upgrades will reflect the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM65 | The bridge crossing river near Zoah's Ark needs to be tidied. | As part of the auditing process stipulated within the Active Travel (Wales) Act, the Council audited routes throughout NPT. The audits, as well as the consultation process will aim to provide improvements to identified issues such as health and safety. Any necessary upgrades will reflect the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM66 | There needs to be an improved link between Neath town centre and Neath Abbey. | The comment is noted. The INM identifies a number of routes (both pedestrian and cycling) to improve the links between Neath town centre and Neath Abbey. Any necessary improvements / upgrades will reflect the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM67 | Canal route – cyclists are forced to dismount to go through barriers. | The comment is noted. The installation and use of the existing gates / barriers on the cycle network however are there for health and safety reasons and specifically to prevent access by motorbikes and/or other illegal users. The Council will continue to review the use of such infrastructure in accordance with the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM68 | Canal Road, Neath – barrier left open which | The comment is noted. The installation and use of the existing gates / barriers on the cycle network however are there for health and |

| Ref | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
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| | protruded into path and cyclists were crashing into it. | safety reasons and specifically to prevent access by motorbikes and/or other illegal users. The Council will continue to review the use of such infrastructure in accordance with the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| TESCO, PONTARDAWE | | |
| INM69 | There should be a map showing the locations of secure cycle parking, so that people know where they can safely leave their bikes and plan journeys accordingly. | The Council's website provides a map showing existing facilities for secure cycle parking across the County Borough: https://www.npt.gov.uk/6869 Recommendation: Not applicable. |
| INM70 | Route in Ynysmeudwy is currently for walking but could be suitable for cycling as well. The route runs through the nature reserve along the canal and could be added as an INM route. | The comment is noted, albeit the Council is unclear as to which pedestrian route the comment refers. In developing the first iteration of the INM, and to ensure consistency with the Council's ERM (approved by Welsh Ministers in August 2016), the focus of the Council's work has been to identify routes either for pedestrian or cycle use. 'Shared-use' routes have therefore not been identified. There is a requirement to review the ERM / INM every 3 years, and future reviews of the maps will consider the potential for shared-use routes. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM71 | Should be a walking route between Garth Eithin and Pontardawe, footway is narrow at present and could be improved by cutting back vegetation. | The comment is noted. Based on the applied methodology however, and in particular the key element of the identification / plotting of trip attractors, the inclusion of the route as described is not considered to be justified. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM72 | INM-PON-C007 – on-road route is unsuitable for cyclists as surface quality is poor (e.g. potholes). | The comment is noted. As a result of the auditing and consultation process, the description of the route will highlight the need for improvements, including those relating to surface quality. Any necessary improvements / upgrades will reflect the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM73 | A-frames need to be removed from routes (for example the canal route) as they are a barrier for cyclists and wheelchairs etc. | The comments are noted. The installation and use of the existing gates / barriers on the cycle network however are there for health and safety reasons and specifically to prevent access by motorbikes and/or other illegal users. The Council will continue to review the use of such infrastructure in accordance with the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM74 | The canal bridge in Ystalyfera (on the canal route) is blocked off, the landowner may have blocked it, but would be useful if it were to be opened. | This comment lies outside the remit of the INM and as such is not considered to be a relevant issue for the INM. Recommendation: Not applicable. |

| Ref | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
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| INM75 | Routes between Pontardawe and Ystalyfera are poorly maintained and need to be cleared. | This comment relates to maintenance regimes associated with specific routes and therefore lies outside the remit of the INM. Recommendation: Not applicable. |

Table 2(c) – Representations derived from Secondary School Presentations & Workshops

| Ref | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
|--|--|--|
| BAE BAGLAN COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, SANDFIELDS | | |
| INM76 | There should be a separate lane for cyclists along Aberavon Beach away from pedestrians. | The shared use path along Aberavon sea front (indicated on the ERM) adheres to the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes and as such is not considered necessary to propose a separate lane for cyclists (away from pedestrians) in the INM. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM77 | There should be safer routes to Morrisons. | There are two short term routes identified which would offer safe routes to Morrisons. The first, (INM-PT-P009), which crosses Afan Way (A4241), through the residential area of Village Gardens and secondly, (INM-PT-P001) along Southdown View to Lidl, both of which connect to the longer term aspirational route (INM-PT-P011) at Morrisons. Any necessary upgrades will reflect the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM78 | Old Road Baglan should be a cycle route. | There are longer term proposals to upgrade a section of Old Road, Baglan for cycling (INM-PT-C001). Further consideration of extending Old Road were ruled out due to issues relating to the width of streets and safety for cyclists and pedestrians. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM79 | There should be a safe route from Ascot Drive to Bae Baglan. | There are no proposals to provide a route from Ascot Drive to Bae Baglan, however there is a longer term proposal (INM-PT-C015) to upgrade the route from Bae Baglan School to Baglan Community Church, which is a short distance from Ascot Drive. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM80 | There should be a link between St Theresa's and Western Avenue. | In advance of the consultation there were no proposals to provide a link between St. Theresa's and Western Avenue. However, as a result of the consultation, the Council are proposing a new pedestrian route along Farm Drive to connect the proposed longer term aspirational route along Fairway (INM-PT-C002) and the Existing Route along Western Avenue (NPT-PT-P00190). Recommendation: Amend INM to include a pedestrian route along Farm Drive (INM-PT-P012). |
| INM81 | Replace the bridge at McDonalds. | This comment lies outside the remit of the INM and as such is not considered to be a relevant issue for the INM. Recommendation: Not applicable. |

| Ref | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
|-------|---|---|
| INM82 | Add a cycle track from the sports centre to Briton Ferry. | As a result of the auditing and consultation process, consideration was given to the cycling infrastructure from the sports centre to Briton Ferry. However, it was concluded that due to the location of the sports centre and limited traffic / footfall, and the predominantly leisure driven activities associated with the sports centre, it was not considered a viable INM route for the Active Travel Act. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM83 | There should be a route from the hospital to Port Talbot. | As a result of the auditing and consultation process, a longer term aspirational route (INM-PT-C014) has been proposed from the hospital to Port Talbot bus station which leads to Port Talbot Town Centre via an underpass. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM84 | There should be a route from Bae Baglan to the beach. | As a result of the auditing and consultation process, there are short-term proposals to upgrade the route to the east of Bae Baglan travelling south along Seaway Parade and Rhodfa Purcell to the beach (INM-PT-C009). Any necessary upgrades will reflect the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM85 | There should be better signs. | As part of the auditing process stipulated within the Active Travel (Wales) Act, the Council audited routes throughout NPT. The audits, as well as the consultation process will aim to provide improvements to identified issues such as signage. Any necessary upgrades will reflect the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM86 | Would use the cycle shelter but there are thefts from it. | This comment lies outside the remit of the INM and as such is not considered to be a relevant issue for the INM. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM87 | Make canal routes safer. | As part of the auditing process stipulated within the Active Travel (Wales) Act, the Council audited routes throughout NPT. The audits, as well as the consultation process will aim to provide improvements to identified issues such as health and safety. Any necessary upgrades will reflect the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM88 | Old Road Baglan extending beyond INM-PT-C001 from Briton Ferry Bridge to Sunnycroft Roundabout. | At present, there are longer term proposals to upgrade a section of Old Road, Baglan for cycling (INM-PT-C001). Further consideration of extending Old Road from Briton Ferry Bridge to Sunnycroft roundabout were ruled out due to issues relating to the width of streets and safety for cyclists and pedestrians. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM89 | Christchurch Road Baglan – Baglan Moors to Baglan Moors Retail Park. | As a result of the auditing and consultation process, the Council consider this route is a viable improvement to the draft INM. As a result, the Council has added this route to the INM improving the route to Baglan Moors Retail Park. Recommendation: Amend INM to include a short term cycle route along Christchurch Road to Baglan Moors Retail Park (INM-PT- |

| Ref | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
|---|---|--|
| | | C016). |
| INM90 | Sandown Road – Moorland Road to Victoria Road Aberafan. | As a result of the auditing and consultation process, the Council consider this route is a viable improvement to the draft INM. As a result, the Council has added this route to the INM, subsequently providing a link to the route along Victoria Road (INM-PT-P007). Recommendation: Amend INM to include a short term pedestrian route along Sandown Road – Moorland Road to Victoria Road, Aberafan (INM-PT-P013). |
| CWMTAWE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, PONTARDAWE | | |
| INM91 | There should be better paths to Asda. | The comment is noted. There are a number of routes identified on the INM that are located adjacent to the supermarket in Ystalyfera. In particular, a route is identified between Godre'r Graig and the supermarket (INM-PON-P001). Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM92 | There should be more crossings. | As part of the auditing process stipulated within the Active Travel (Wales) Act, the Council audited routes throughout NPT. The audits, as well as the consultation process will aim to provide improvements to identified issues such as signage. Any necessary upgrades will reflect the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM93 | Route into mountains needed. | Based on the fact that active travel does not include journeys purely made for recreation or social reasons, routes to such locations are not justified. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM94 | Cycle track from Rhos to Pontardawe. | The comment is noted. Whilst currently the INM includes three pedestrian routes (INM-PON-P002; INM-PON-P005 and INM-PON-P007) which would enable access to Pontardawe, the Council considers it appropriate to include a long term aspirational cycle route on the INM. It is considered that the additional route proposed between Rhos and Cwmtawe School (Comment Ref: INM36) would address the required access. All alignment options, designs and ideas for new routes will need to be considered in accordance with the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes. Recommendation: Amend INM to include a cycle route between Rhos and Cwmtawe School (INM-PON-C011). |
| INM95 | INM should be easier to read. | The comment is noted. The presentation of the Active Travel maps will be governed by the Welsh Government mapping software which will be utilised to generate the final INM maps. Recommendation: No amendment required. |
| INM96 | There should be more cycle paths. | The comment is noted. The INM sets out the Council's aspirations for the next 15 years, identifying improvements to existing routes or new routes that the Council considers should be added to the network. The INM will be used to enhance the forward planning of active travel and to support infrastructure development planning. |

| Ref | Comment | Officer Response / Recommendation |
|--------|---|---|
| | | <p>The consultation draft INM includes a total of 58 cycling routes. Informed by the auditing and consultation stages, a schedule of routes will be submitted alongside the maps to the Welsh Government, which will identify the priority status of each route and a description of the necessary improvements / upgrades as relevant.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
| INM97 | There should be more cycle tracks through Ystalyfera. | <p>The comment is noted. The INM identifies a total of nine cycle routes which would serve Ystalyfera and the surrounding area (INM-PON-C001 through to INM-PON-C009).</p> <p>The identified INM routes, when combined with the existing routes already identified on the Council's ERM (approved by Welsh Government Ministers in August 2016), is considered to provide a sufficient number of opportunities for active travel in and around Ystalyfera.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
| INM98 | Safer paths needed from Trebanos to Pontardawe. | <p>The comment is noted. As a result of the auditing and consultation process, a route is proposed between Clydach, through Trebanos and on to Cwmtawe School and Pontardawe Leisure Centre (INM-PON-C007). The description of the route will highlight the need for improvements, including those relating to safety.</p> <p>Any necessary improvements / upgrades will reflect the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
| INM99 | More paths needed to the centre of Neath. | <p>The comment is noted. The identified INM routes, when combined with the number of existing routes already identified on the Council's ERM (approved by Welsh Government Ministers in August 2016), is considered to provide a sufficient number of opportunities for active travel in and around Neath town centre.</p> <p>In particular, there are four long term aspirational cycling routes identified serving Neath town centre: INM-NEA-C001 (Neath to Pontardawe); INM-NEA-C002 (Neath to Skewen); INM-NEA-C009 (Neath to Cimla); and INM-NEA-C010 (Neath to Briton Ferry).</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |
| INM100 | New route down Wern Road needed. | <p>The comment is noted. As a result of the auditing and consultation process, a pedestrian route is proposed through the settlement of Ystalyfera, via Wern Road (INM-PON-P004). The description of the route will highlight the need for improvements.</p> <p>Any necessary improvements / upgrades will reflect the Welsh Government design guidance standards for Active Travel routes.</p> <p>Recommendation: No amendment required.</p> |

APPENDIX 3 – Integrated Network Map (Schedule & Maps)

[Note: Proposed additions to the INM Schedule and Maps are highlighted]

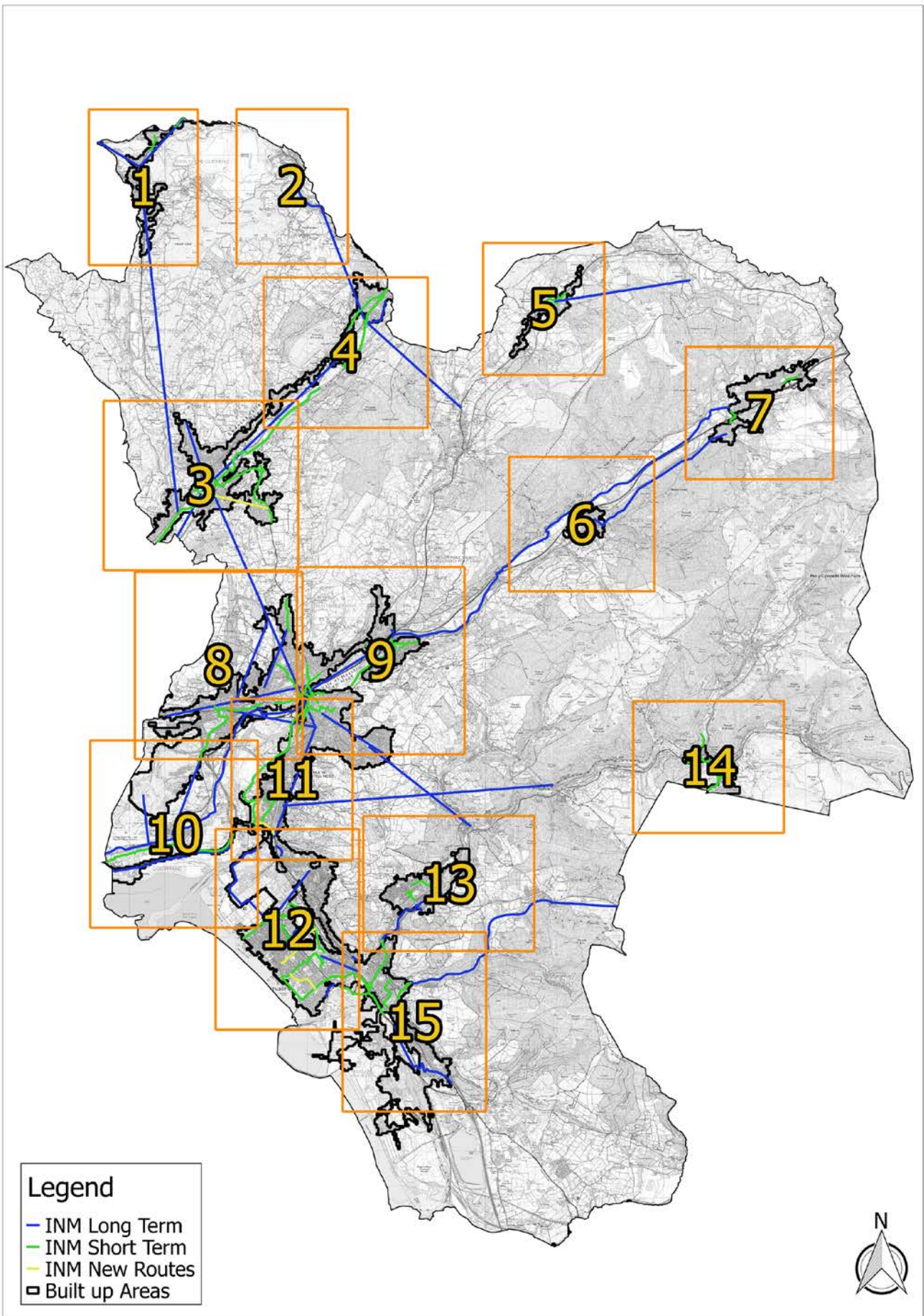
| Route Ref | Type | Settlement | Description | Priority (Term) |
|---------------|------------|------------------|---|-----------------|
| | | | | |
| INM-BLAE-P001 | Pedestrian | Blaengwrach | Glynneath to High Street | Short |
| | | | | |
| INM-LBA-C001 | Cycling | Brynamman | Forge Washery Amman Valley | Short |
| INM-LBA-C002 | Cycling | Brynamman | Cwmllynfell Amman Valley | Long |
| INM-LBA-P001 | Pedestrian | Brynamman | Residential Area / Connection to GCG & School Street | Short |
| | | | | |
| INM-CROE-C001 | Cycling | Croeserw | Croeserw to Caerau via Menai Avenue | Short |
| | | | | |
| INM-CWM-P001 | Pedestrian | Cwmafan | Residential Area to Cwmafan Infants & Junior School via Ty'r-Owen | Short |
| INM-CWM-P002 | Pedestrian | Cwmafan | Residential Area to Salem Road via Heol Jiwbilli | Short |
| INM-CWM-P003 | Pedestrian | Cwmafan | Ynysygwas Hill | Long |
| INM-CWM-C001 | Cycling | Cwmafan | Port Talbot to Cwmafan | Long |
| | | | | |
| INM-CYM-C001 | Cycling | Cymmer | NCN linking to Cymer Afan Comprehensive School & Croeserw | Short |
| INM-CYM-C002 | Cycling | Cymmer | Cymmer to Routes leading to Glyncorrwg | Short |
| INM-CYM-P001 | Pedestrian | Cymmer | Cymmer Bus Depot to Cymer Afan Comprehensive School | Short |
| | | | | |
| INM-GLYN-C001 | Cycling | Glynneath | Abergarwed to Glynneath | Long |
| INM-GLYN-P001 | Pedestrian | Glynneath | Residential area to Doctors Surgery and Pharmacy via High Street | Short |
| | | | | |
| INM-GCG-C001 | Cycling | Gwaun Cae Gurwen | Gwaun Cae Gurwen to Garnant | Long |
| INM-GCG-C002 | Cycling | Gwaun Cae Gurwen | Gwaun Cae Gurwen to Brynamman | Long |
| INM-GCG-C003 | Cycling | Gwaun Cae Gurwen | Pontardawe to Gwaun Cae Gurwen | Long |
| | | | | |
| INM-NEA-C001 | Cycling | Neath | Neath to Pontardawe | Long |
| INM-NEA-C002 | Cycling | Neath | Neath to Skewen | Long |
| INM-NEA-C003 | Cycling | Neath | Bryncoch to Taillywd Road | Long |

| | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|--|--------------|
| INM-NEA-C004 | Cycling | Neath | Cimla to Afan Valley along B4287 | Long |
| INM-NEA-C005 | Cycling | Neath | Neath Abbey to Bryncoch | Long |
| INM-NEA-C006 | Cycling | Neath | Neath College to Cadoxton | Long |
| INM-NEA-C007 | Cycling | Neath | Skewen | Long |
| INM-NEA-C008 | Cycling | Neath | Briton Ferry to Cynonville via Tonmawr | Long |
| INM-NEA-C009 | Cycling | Neath | Neath to Cimla | Long |
| INM-NEA-C010 | Cycling | Neath | Briton Ferry to Neath | Long |
| INM-NEA-C011 | Cycling | Neath | NCN47 Neath to Tonna (Henfaes Road) connections to Tonnau Primary Community School | Short |
| INM-NEA-C012 | Cycling | Neath | NCN47 Bridge near Industrial Estate – Industrial Estate, Melincryddan | Short |
| INM-NEA-C013 | Cycling | Neath | Industrial Estate, Melincryddan – NCN 47 Bridge Street | Short |
| INM-NEA-C014 | Cycling | Neath | Resolven to Aberdulais and Tonna | Long |
| INM-NEA-C015 | Cycling | Neath | NCN47 Tonna Henfaes Road (connections to Tonnau Primary Community School) to Aberdulais | Short |
| INM-NEA-C016 | Cycling | Neath | Jersey Marine to Coed Darcy | Long |
| INM-NEA-C017 | Cycling | Neath | Jersey Marine to Neath College | Long |
| INM-NEA-C018 | Cycling | Neath | Tennant Canal | Long |
| INM-NEA-C019 | Cycling | Neath | Swansea University Bay Campus | Long |
| INM-NEA-C020 | Cycling | Neath | Coed Darcy | Long |
| INM-NEA-C021 | Cycling | Neath | NCN47/NCN4 – Baldwin's Crescent (Bay Campus) | Short |
| INM-NEA-C022 | Cycling | Neath | A48 Roundabout to Bethal Street, proceeding to Church Street (connecting to INM-NEA-C012) | Short |
| INM-NEA-P001 | Pedestrian | Neath | Two residential areas linking in Ysgol Maes Y Coed | Short |
| INM-NEA-P002 | Pedestrian | Neath | Tonna Hospital to residential area in centre of Tonna | Short |
| INM-NEA-P003 | Pedestrian | Neath | Coedffranc Primary School to Neath Abbey Infants School | Short |
| INM-NEA-P004 | Pedestrian | Neath | Pen yr Heol residential area to Skewen Train Station | Short |
| INM-NEA-P005 | Pedestrian | Neath | Church Street/Shelone – NPT-PT-P0080 | Short |
| INM-NEA-P006 | Pedestrian | Neath | Briton Ferry Train Station – Giant's Grave Road | Short |
| INM-NEA-P007 | Pedestrian | Neath | Bridge Street to residential area via canal towpath | Short |
| INM-NEA-P008 | Pedestrian | Neath | Dwr Y Felin Comprehensive School & Neath College To Cadoxton | Short |
| INM-NEA-P009 | Pedestrian | Neath | Neath Train Station to Dyfed Road Leisure Centre | Short |
| INM-NEA-P010 | Pedestrian | Neath | Residential / commercial area to Dwr y Felin Comprehensive School & Neath College | Short |
| INM-NEA-P011 | Pedestrian | Neath | Dwr y Felin Comprehensive School & Neath College to Waunceirch Primary School | Short |
| INM-NEA-P012 | Pedestrian | Neath | Llandarcy Business Centre / residential area to Pen yr Heol residential area | Short |
| INM-NEA-P013 | Pedestrian | Neath | Neath Train Station – Milland Road Industrial Estate | Short |
| INM-NEA-P014 | Pedestrian | Neath | Angel Street to Dwr-y-Felin Comprehensive School | Short |

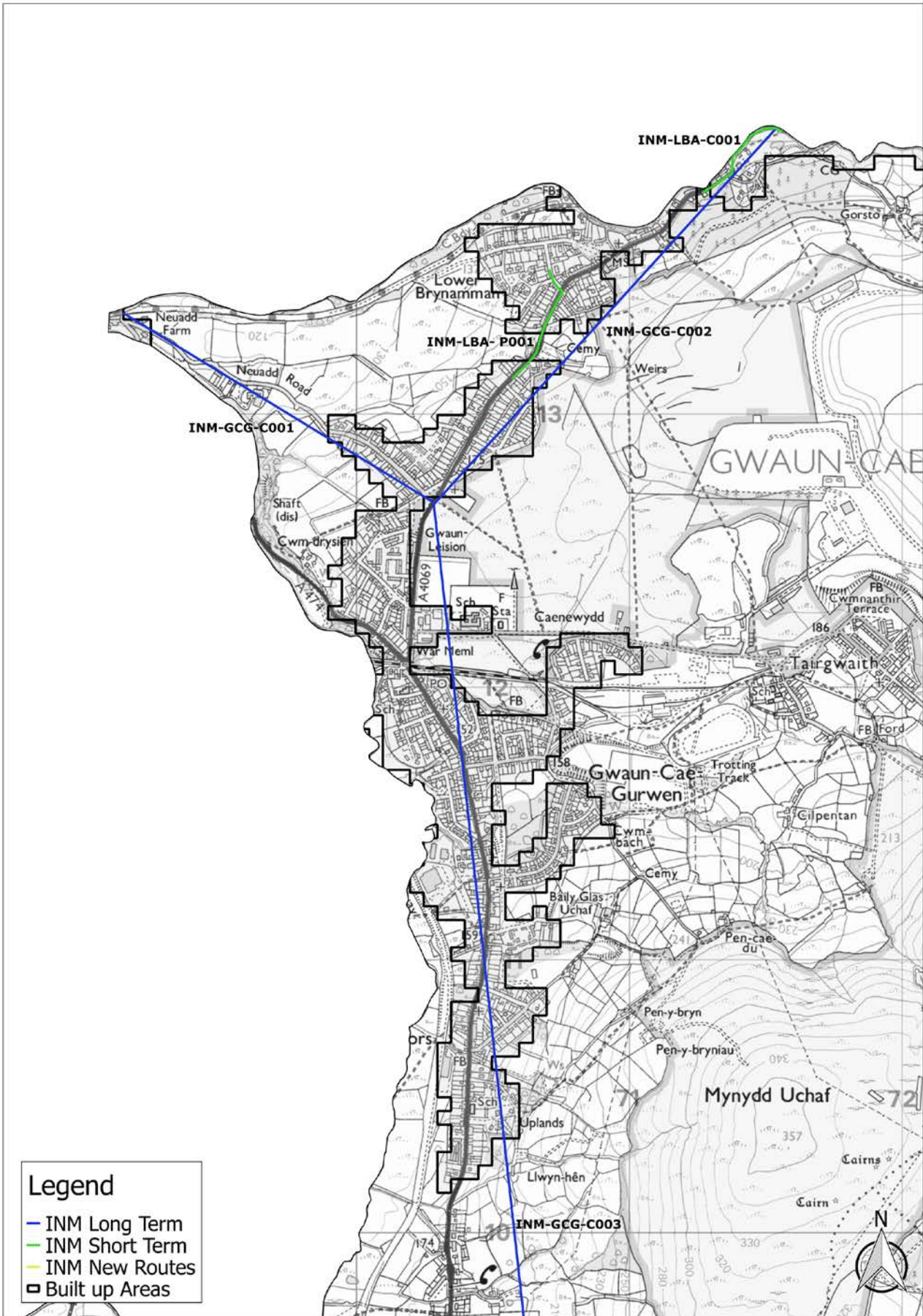
| | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|--|-------------|
| INM-NEA-P015 | Pedestrian | Neath | Residential area to Neath via Pen Y Wern Road | Short |
| INM-NEA-P016 | Pedestrian | Neath | Llangatwg Community School to Tonna via Aberdulais | Short |
| INM-NEA-P017 | Pedestrian | Neath | Access to Aberdulais | Long |
| | | | | |
| INM-PON-C001 | Cycling | Pontardawe | Crynant to Ystalyfera | Long |
| INM-PON-C002 | Cycling | Pontardawe | Ystalyfera to Cwmllynfell | Long |
| INM-PON-C003 | Cycling | Pontardawe | Glan yr Afon Road – no pavement | Long |
| INM-PON-C004 | Cycling | Pontardawe | Glais to Cwmtawe School | Long |
| INM-PON-C005 | Cycling | Pontardawe | Godre'r Graig to Cwmtawe School | Long |
| INM-PON-C006 | Cycling | Pontardawe | Rhydyfro Primary School to Pontardawe | Long |
| INM-PON-C007 | Cycling | Pontardawe | Clydach to Cwm Tawe School and Pontardawe Leisure Centre | Short |
| INM-PON-C008 | Cycling | Pontardawe | Pontardawe to Godre'r Graig via Route 43 | Short |
| INM-PON-C009 | Cycling | Pontardawe | Godre'r Graig to Ystalyfera via Route 43 | Short |
| INM-PON-C010 | Cycling | Pontardawe | NCN43 to Pontardawe Town Centre | Long |
| INM-PON-C011 | Cycling | Pontardawe | Rhos to Cwmtawe Comprehensive School | Long |
| INM-PON-P001 | Pedestrian | Pontardawe | Godre'r Graig to Supermarket | Short |
| INM-PON-P002 | Pedestrian | Pontardawe | Rhos to Gellinudd Hospital | Short |
| INM-PON-P003 | Pedestrian | Pontardawe | Swansea Road to Cwmtawe School and Pontardawe Leisure Centre | Short |
| INM-PON-P004 | Pedestrian | Pontardawe | Ystalyfera Village Route | Short |
| INM-PON-P005 | Pedestrian | Pontardawe | Pontardawe to Gellinudd | Short |
| | | | | |
| INM-PT-C001 | Cycling | Port Talbot | Old Road Baglan (bottom of Thorne Hill) – no pavement | Long |
| INM-PT-C002 | Cycling | Port Talbot | Sandfields – possibility of new route along Fairway | Long |
| INM-PT-C003 | Cycling | Port Talbot | Afan Way to Riverside Road | Long |
| INM-PT-C004 | Cycling | Port Talbot | The Quays to Western Avenue playing fields | Long |
| INM-PT-C005 | Cycling | Port Talbot | Port Talbot Steelworks – Alternative NCN4 | Long |
| INM-PT-C006 | Cycling | Port Talbot | Taibach to Goytre | Short |
| INM-PT-C007 | Cycling | Port Talbot | Bryn to Maesteg | Long |
| INM-PT-C008 | Cycling | Port Talbot | NCN4 and Port Talbot Steelworks | Short |
| INM-PT-C009 | Cycling | Port Talbot | Scarlett Avenue / Purcell Avenue – Youth Centre | Short |
| INM-PT-C010 | Cycling | Port Talbot | NCN887 River Afan to Port Talbot Parkway | Short |
| INM-PT-C011 | Cycling | Port Talbot | Baglan Way | Short |
| INM-PT-C012 | Cycling | Port Talbot | Neath Port Talbot Hospital Link | Short |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---|--------------|
| INM-PT-C013 | Cycling | Port Talbot | Goytre to Bryn | Long |
| INM-PT-C014 | Cycling | Port Talbot | Bus Station to Hospital | Long |
| INM-PT-C015 | Cycling | Port Talbot | Bae Baglan to Baglan | Long |
| INM-PT-C016 | Cycling | Port Talbot | Christchurch Road to Baglan Moors Retail Park | Short |
| INM-PT-P001 | Pedestrian | Port Talbot | Sandfields Comprehensive School – Southdown Road Subway | Short |
| INM-PT-P002 | Pedestrian | Port Talbot | Port Talbot Parkway | Short |
| INM-PT-P003 | Pedestrian | Port Talbot | Port Talbot Steelworks | Short |
| INM-PT-P004 | Pedestrian | Port Talbot | Bus Station to Port Talbot Parkway | Short |
| INM-PT-P005 | Pedestrian | Port Talbot | Retail Park – Junction of Fairway Road / Southdown Road | Short |
| INM-PT-P006 | Pedestrian | Port Talbot | Bus Station to Port Talbot Parkway | Short |
| INM-PT-P007 | Pedestrian | Port Talbot | Sports Centre to Port Talbot Bus Station | Short |
| INM-PT-P008 | Pedestrian | Port Talbot | Hospital – Leisure Centre | Short |
| INM-PT-P009 | Pedestrian | Port Talbot | Village Gardens to Seaway Parade Youth Centre | Short |
| INM-PT-P010 | Pedestrian | Port Talbot | Civic Centre to Baglan | Long |
| INM-PT-P011 | Pedestrian | Port Talbot | Christchurch Road to Morrisons | Long |
| INM-PT-P012 | Pedestrian | Port Talbot | St. Theresa's to Fairway | Short |
| INM-PT-P013 | Pedestrian | Port Talbot | Sandown Road (Moorland Road to Victoria Road), Sandfields | Short |
| | | | | |
| INM-RES-C001 | Cycling | Resolven | Blaengwrach to Resolven south of A465 | Long |
| | | | | |
| INM-SEV-C001 | Cycling | Seven Sisters | Dove Workshops to Seven Sisters | Long |
| INM-SEV-P001 | Pedestrian | Seven Sisters | Residential area to Blaendulais Primary School via Church Street | Short |
| INM-SEV-P002 | Pedestrian | Seven Sisters | Residential area to Blaendulais Primary School via Brynhyfryd Terrace | Short |

INM: County Borough Reference Map



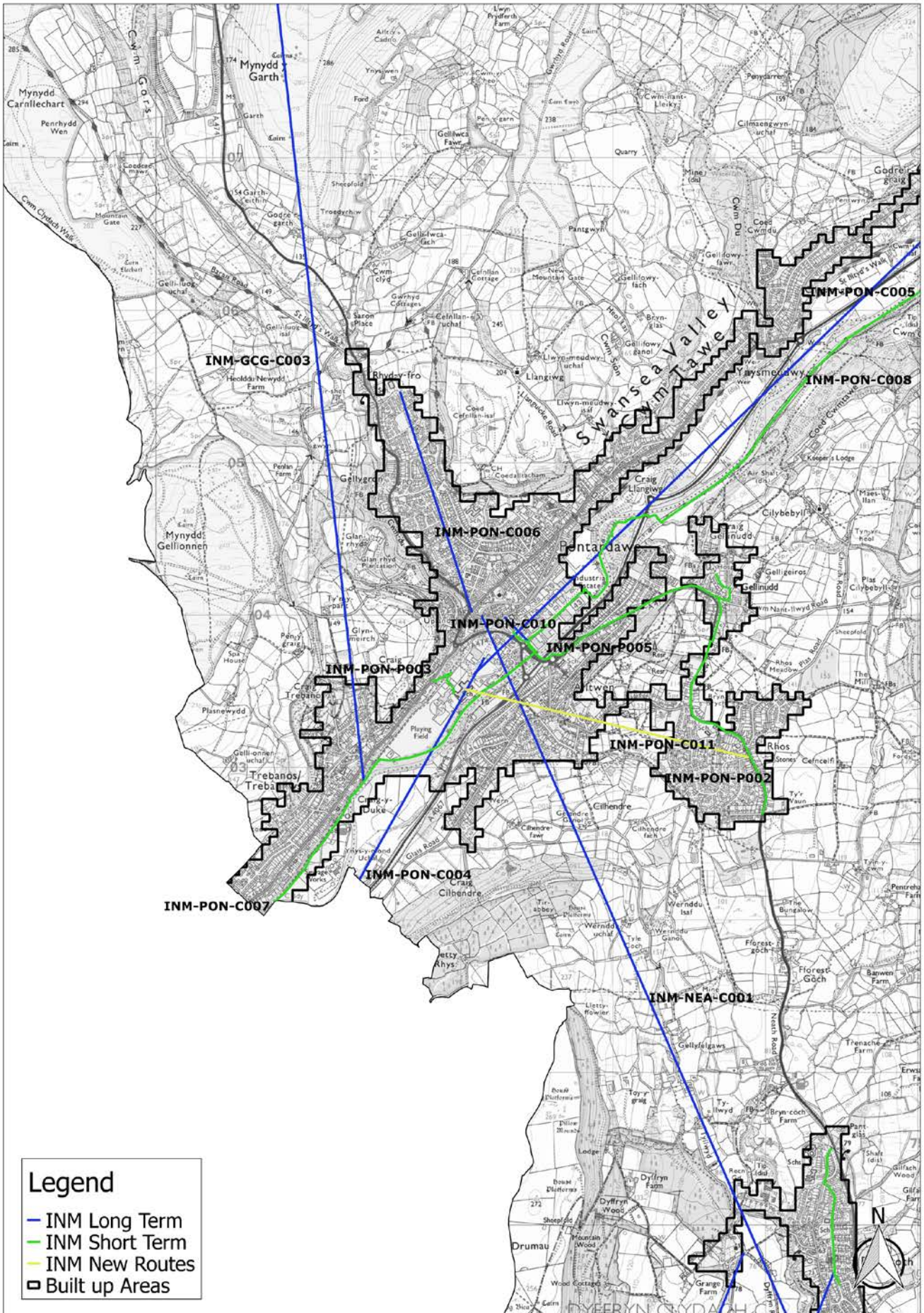
INM Map 1: Lower Brynamman & Gwaun Cae Gurwen



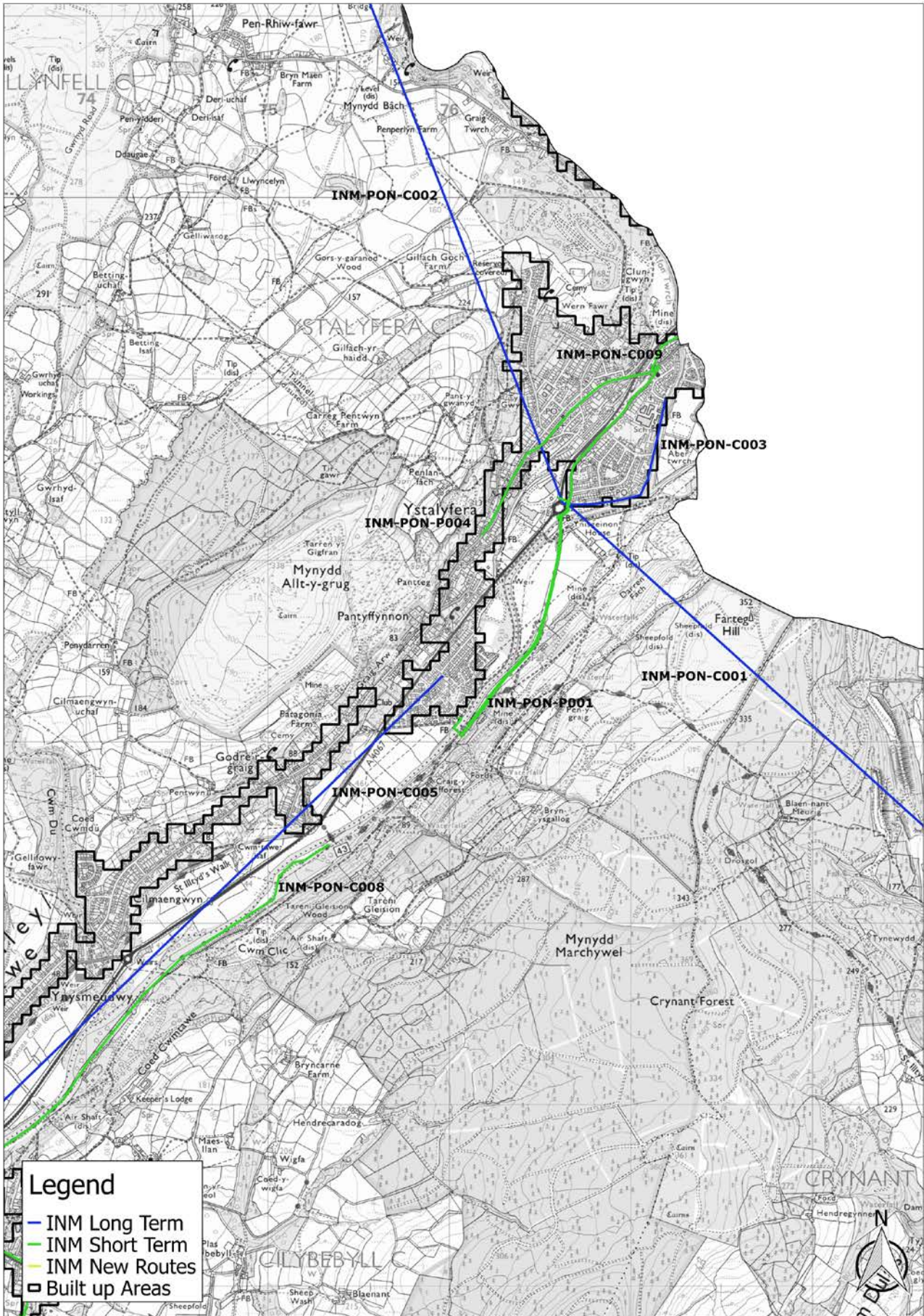
INM Map 2: Cwmllynfell



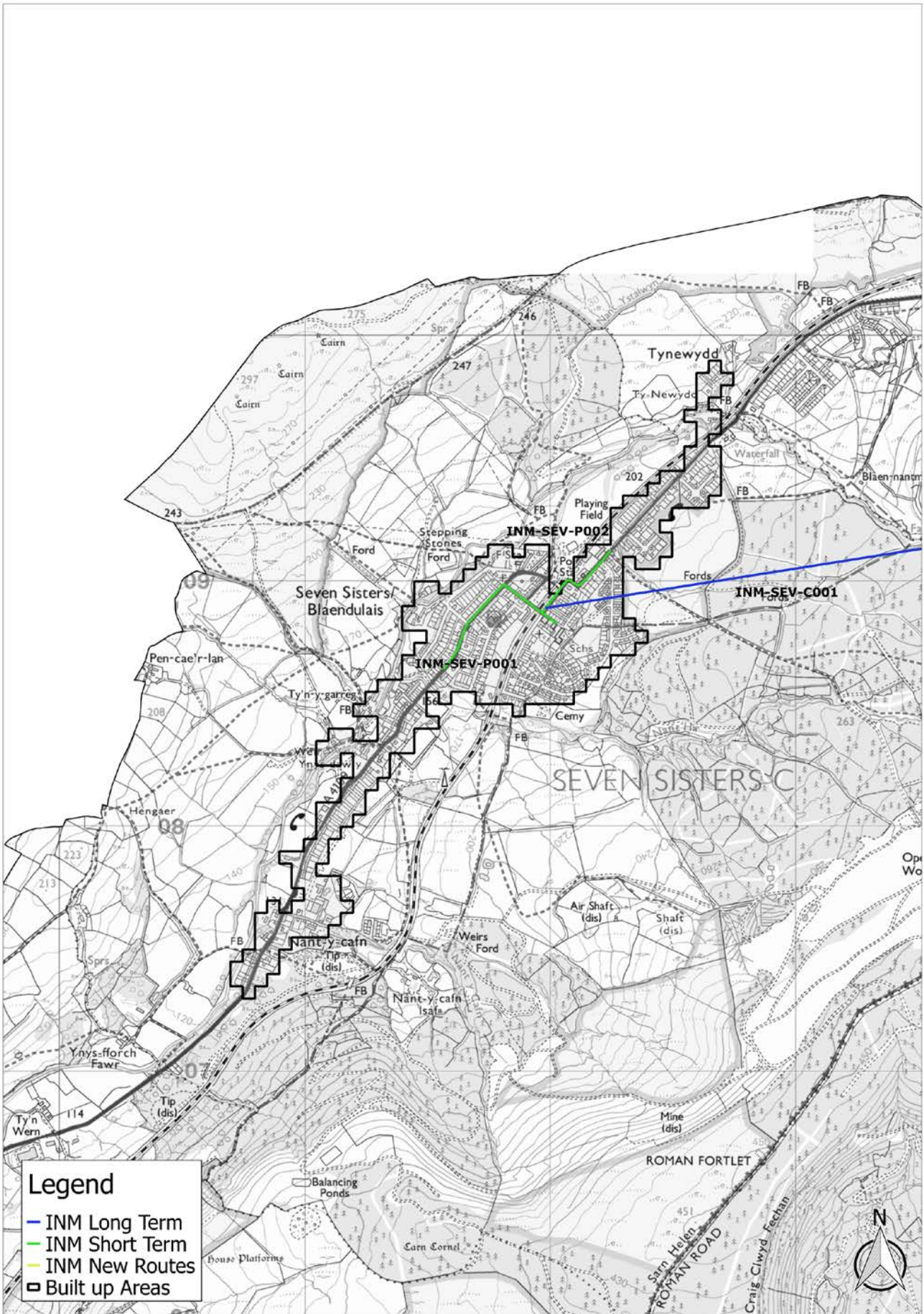
INM Map 3: Pontardawe



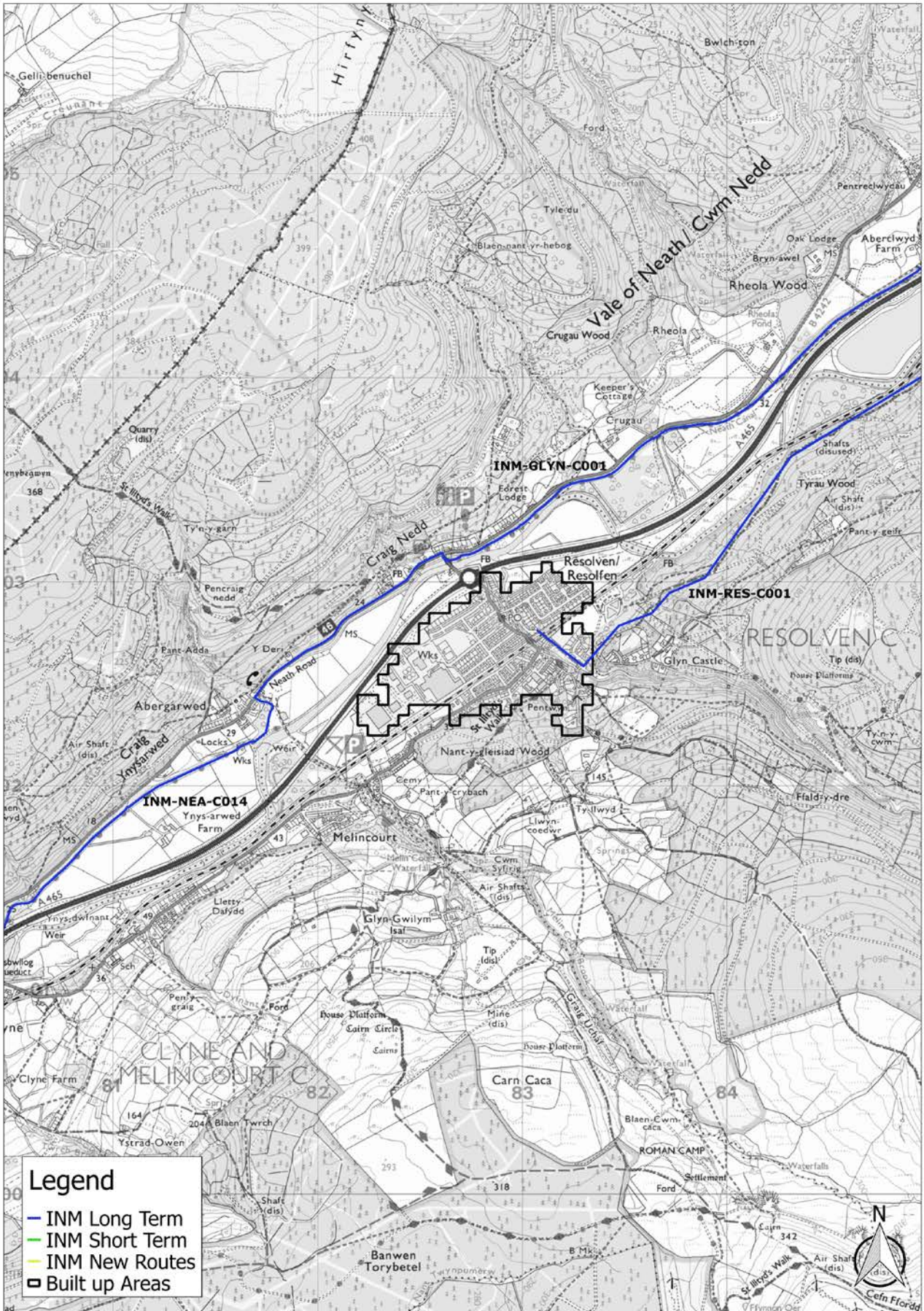
INM Map 4: Ystalyfera



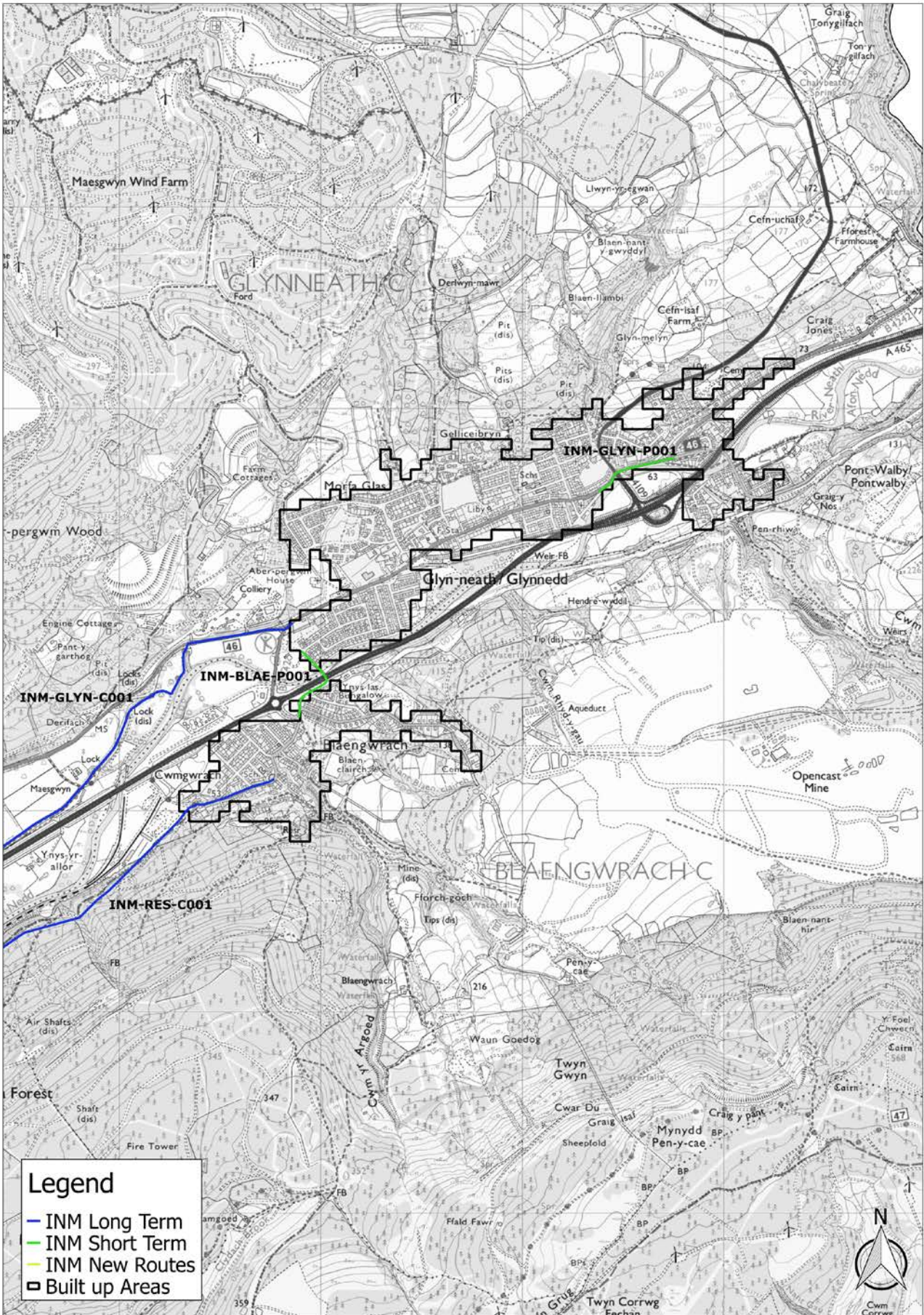
INM Map 5: Seven Sisters



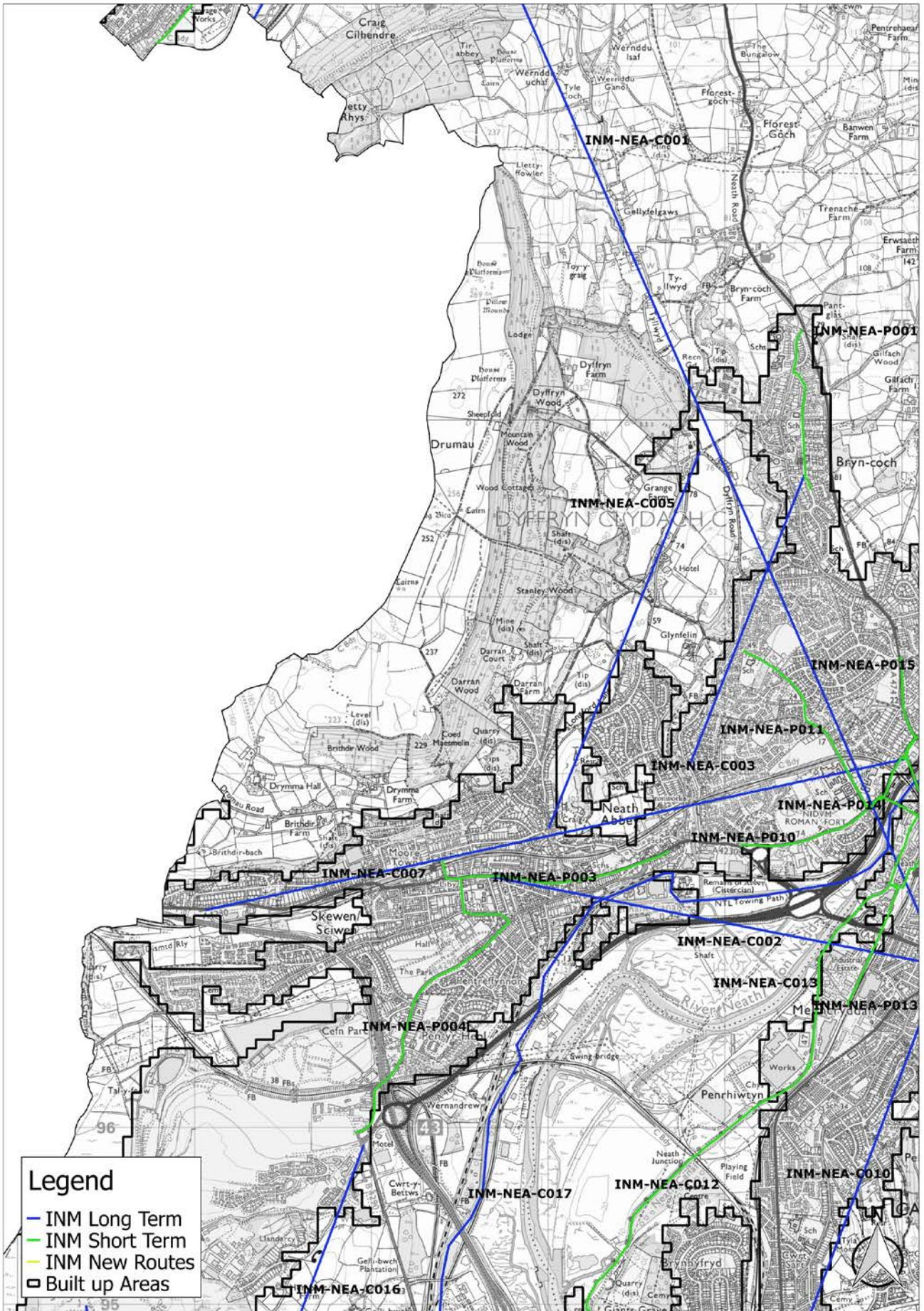
INM Map 6: Resolven



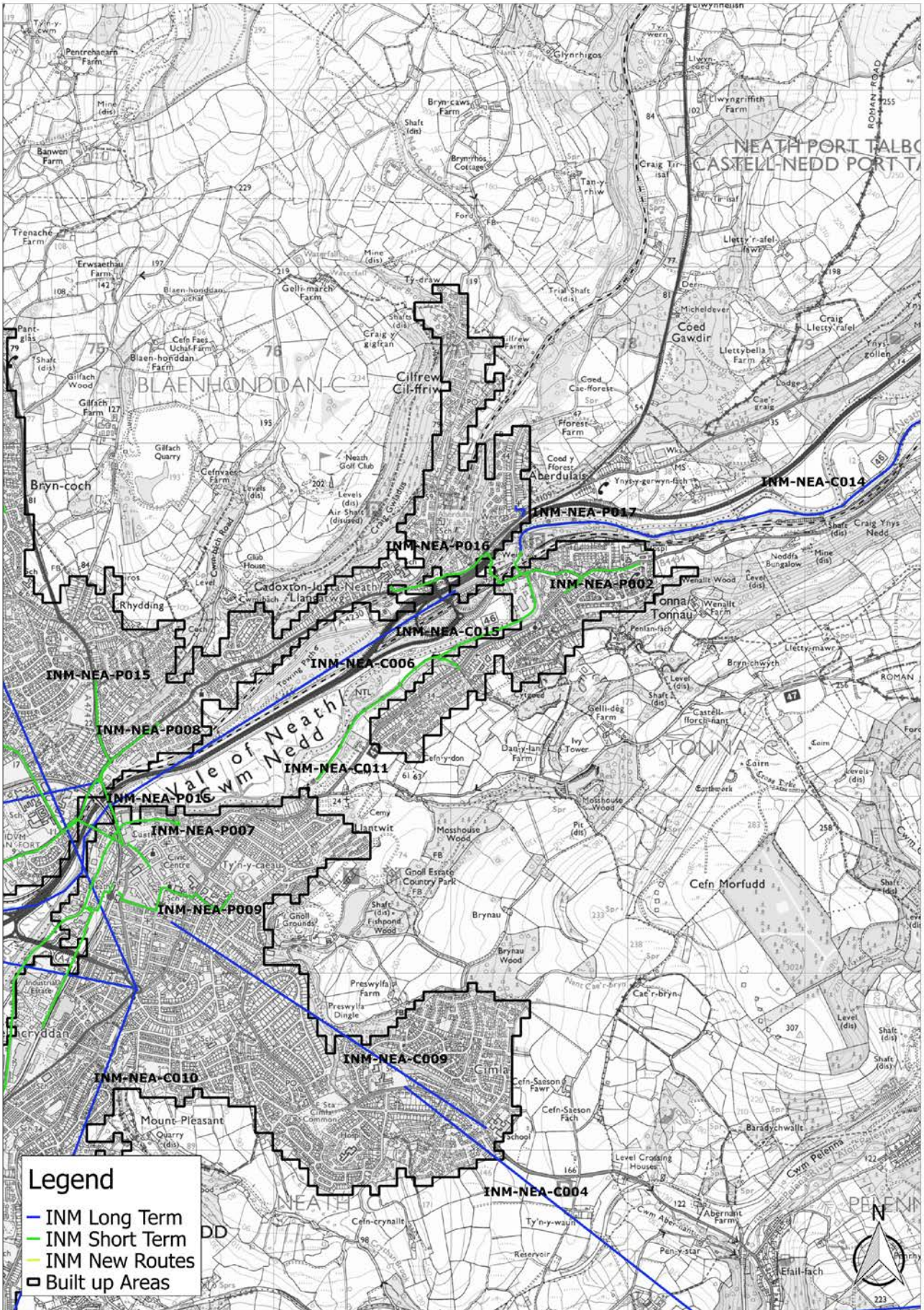
INM Map 7: Glynneath & Blaengwrach



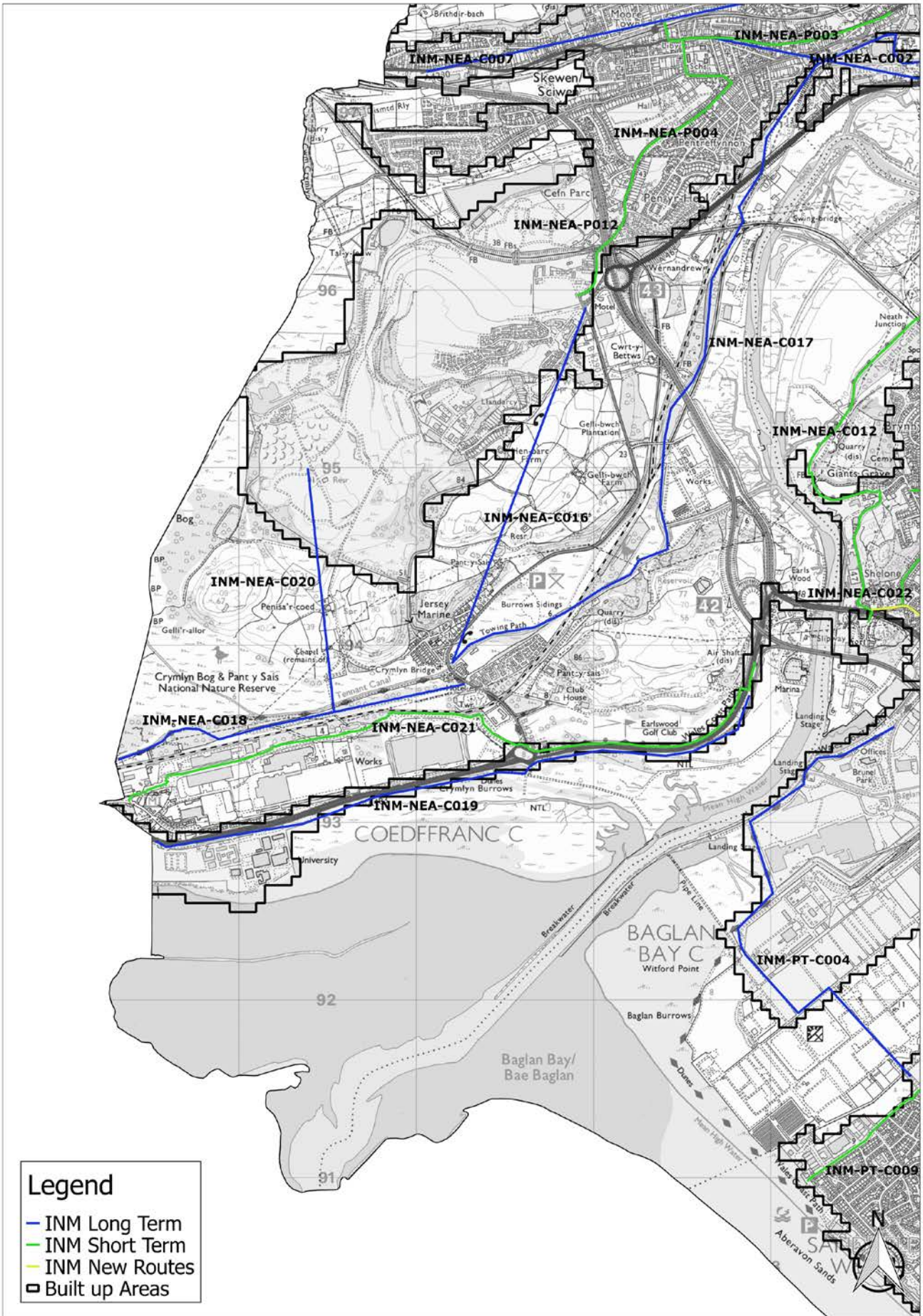
INM Map 8: Skewen



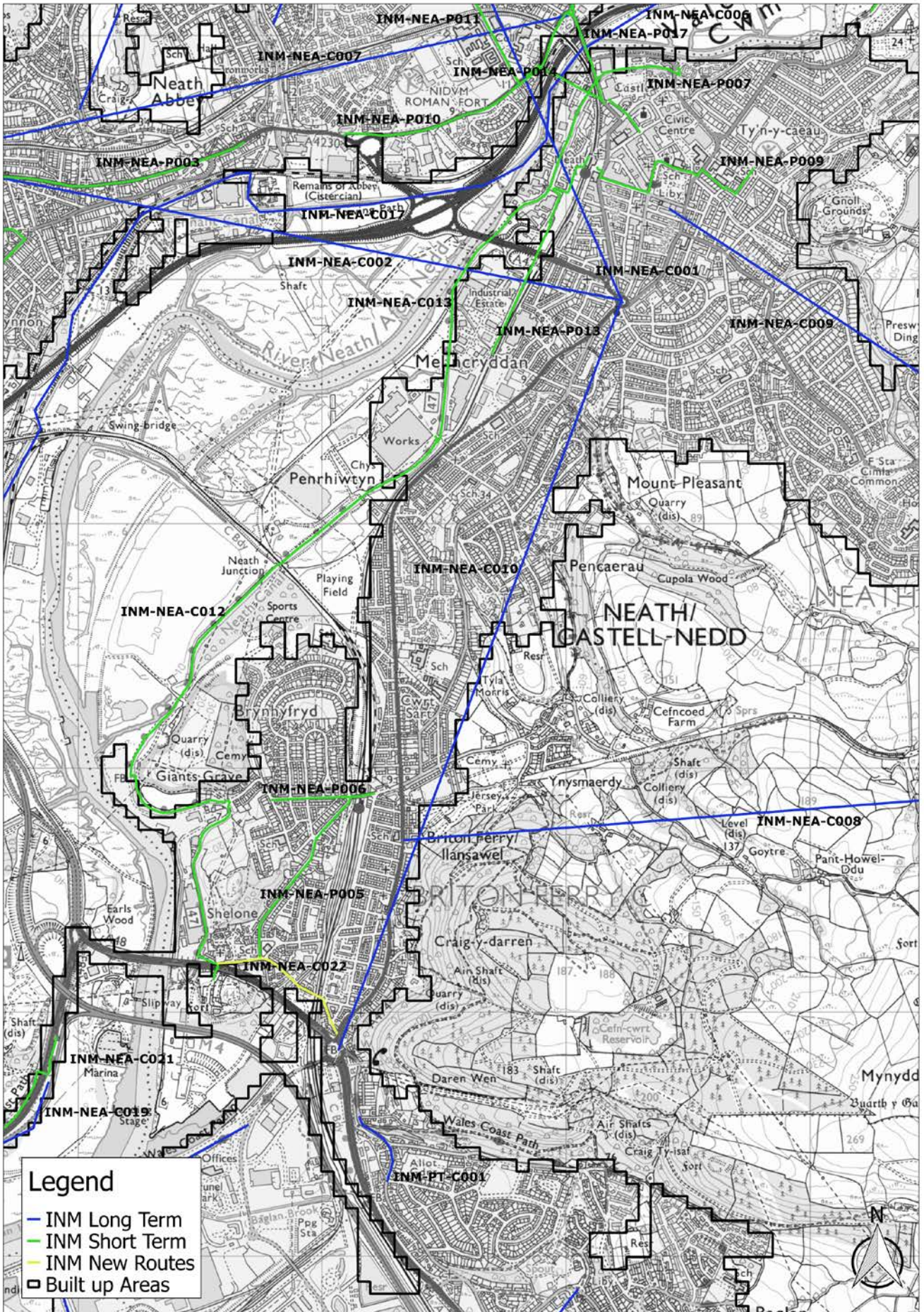
INM Map 9: Neath, Tonna & Cimla



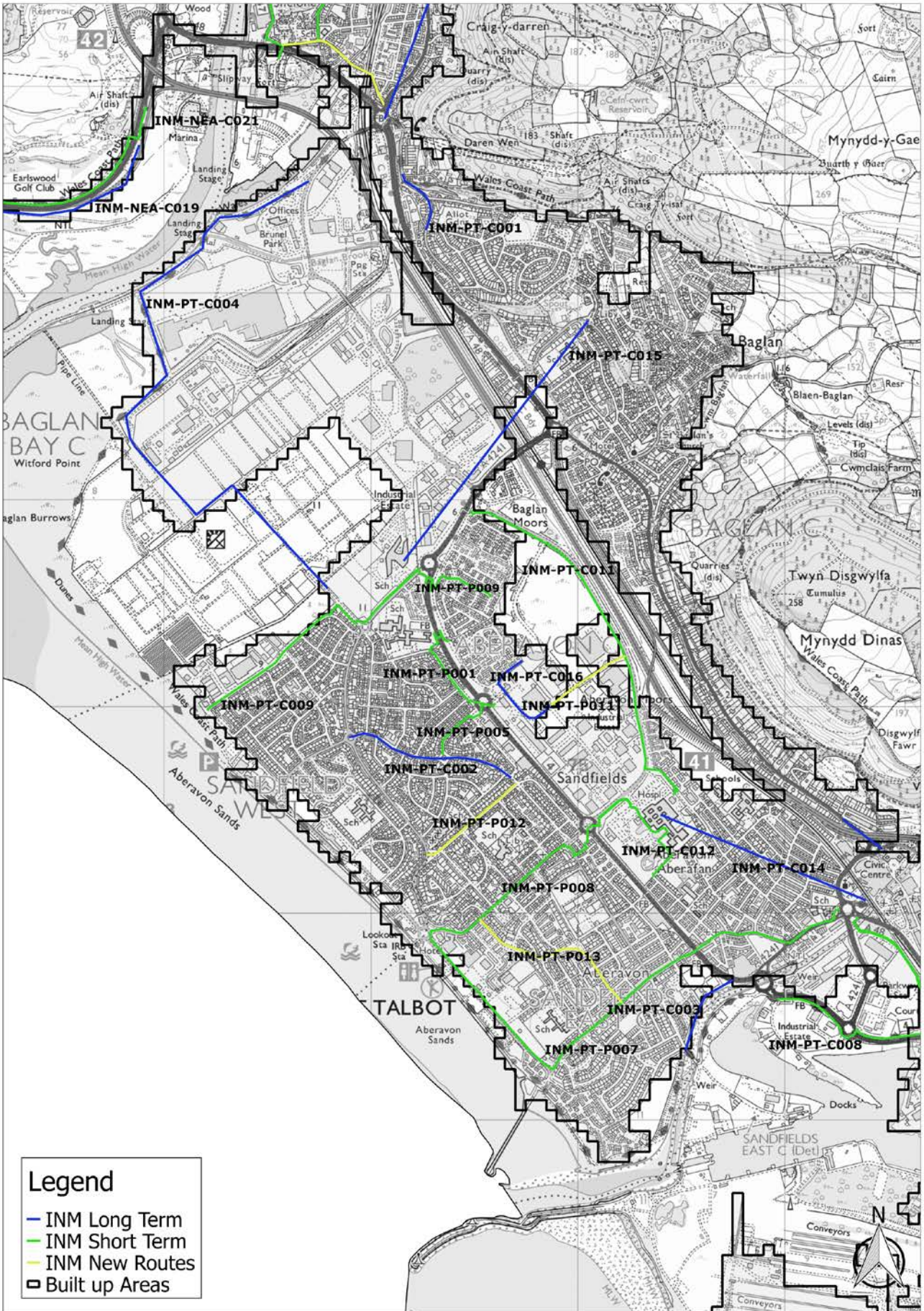
INM Map 10: Jersey Marine



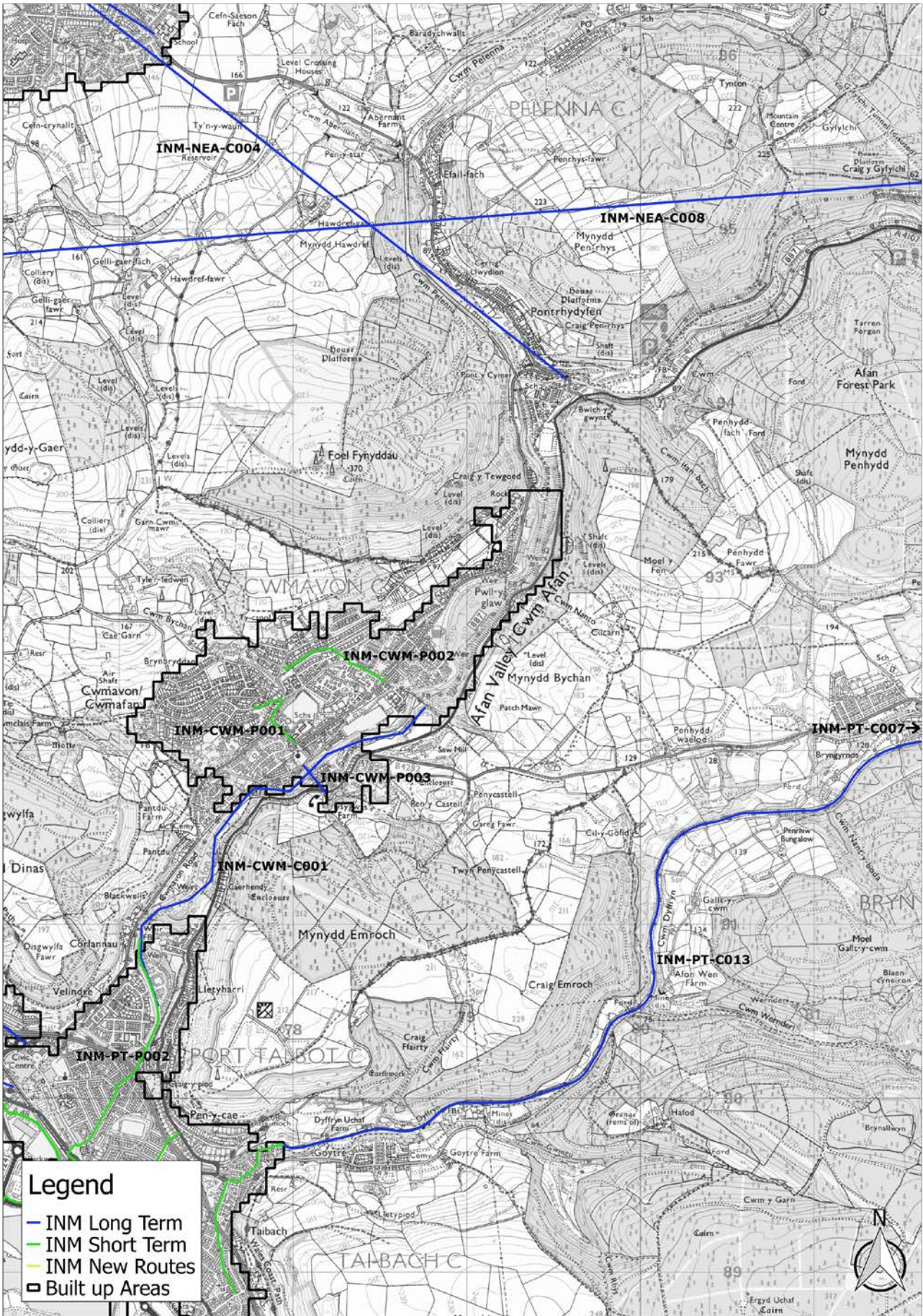
INM Map 11: Briton Ferry



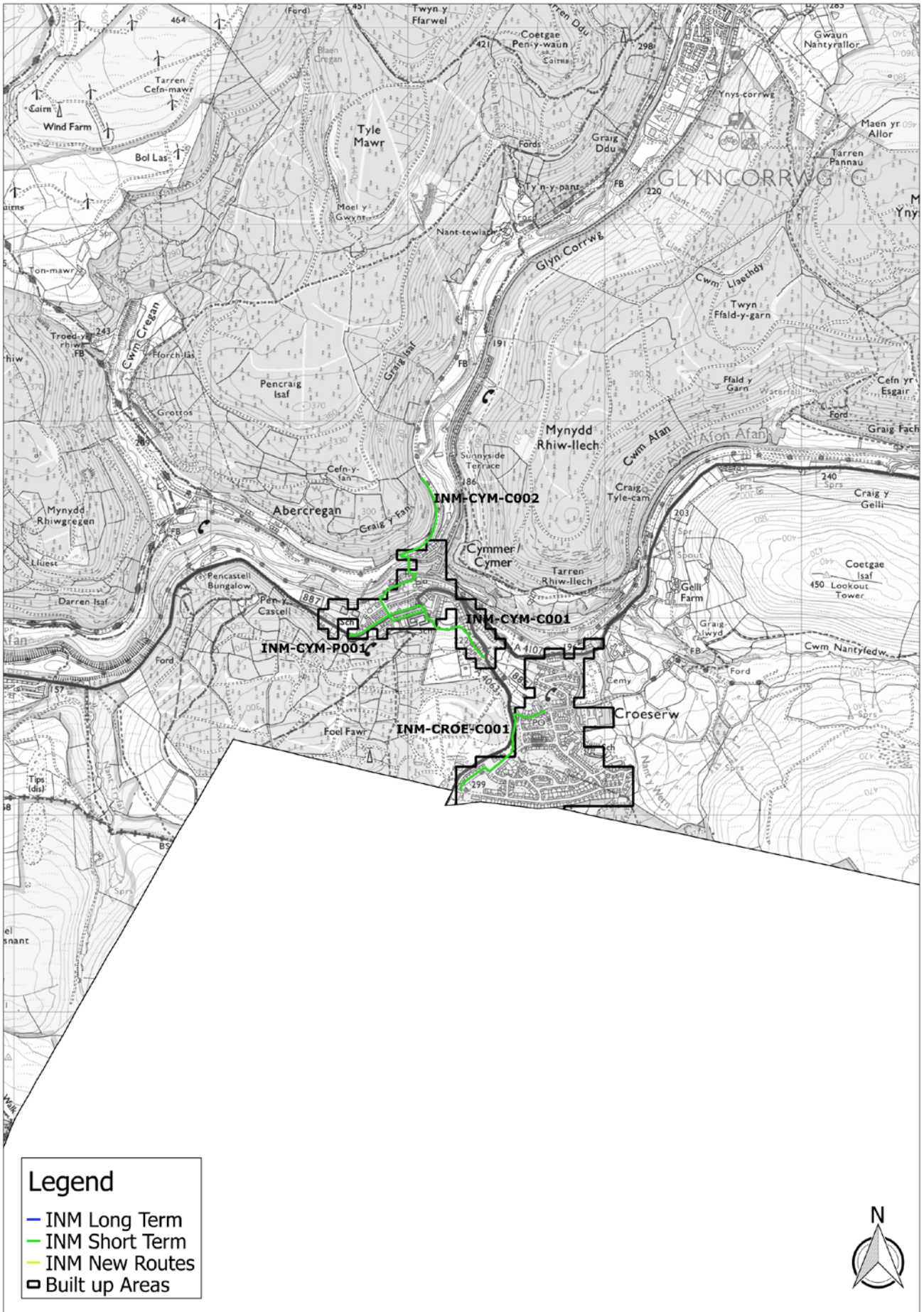
INM Map 12: Baglan, Aberavon & Sandfields



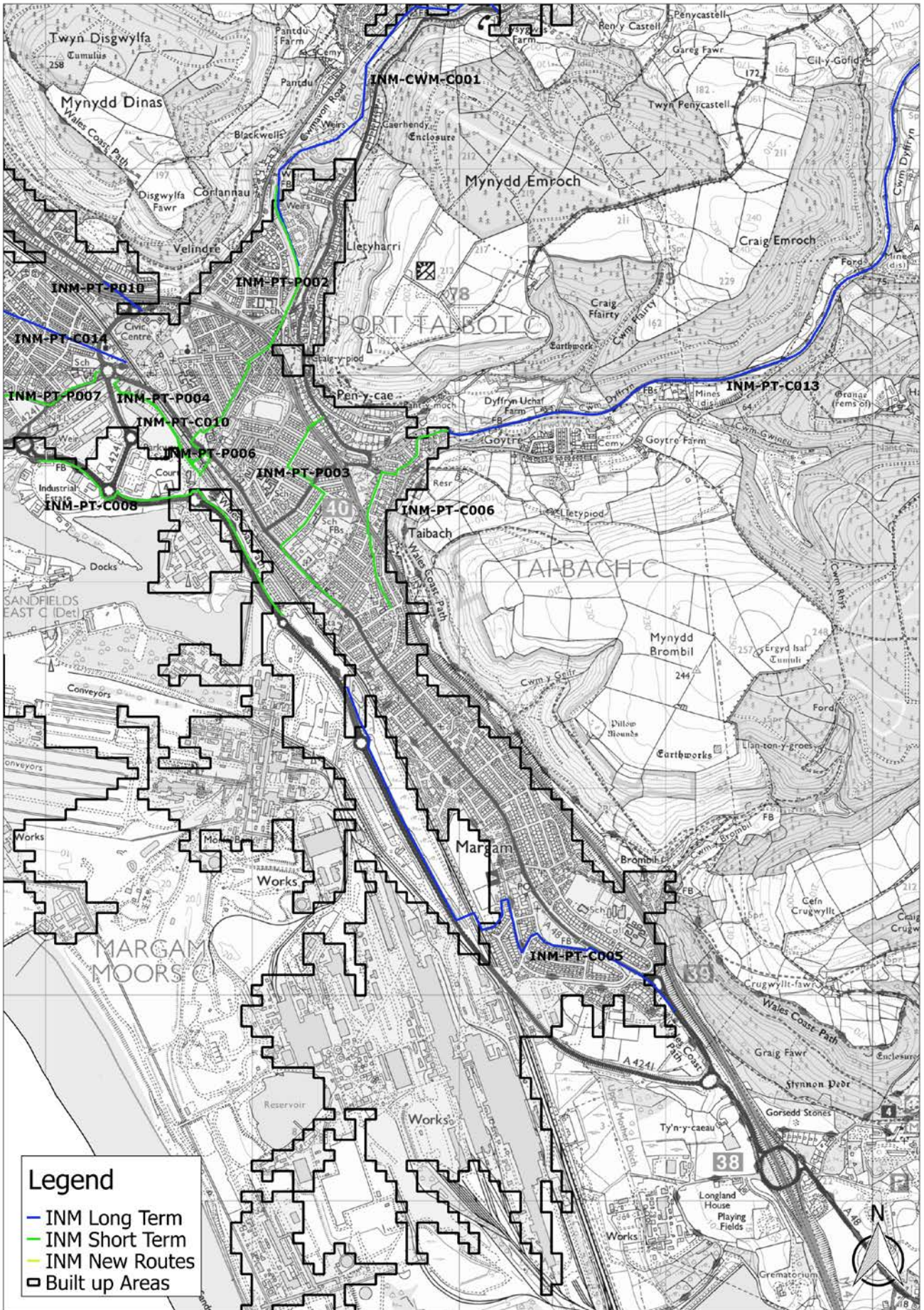
INM Map 13: Cwmafan



INM Map 14: Croeserw & Cymmer



INM Map 15: Port Talbot, Taibach & Margam



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NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board

27th October 2017

Report of the Head of Planning and Public Protection

Nicola Pearce

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All

Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan (LDP) – Consideration of the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the first LDP Annual Monitoring Report (AMR); and the submission and publication procedures to be implemented.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To consider the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the first Local Development Plan (LDP) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR); and the submission and publication procedures to be implemented.

Executive Summary

- 2 The Neath Port Talbot LDP (2011-2026) was formally adopted by the Council on 27th January 2016. As part of the statutory development plan process, the Council is required to prepare an AMR each year following adoption, with the report being submitted to the Welsh Government by the 31st October.
- 3 The AMR provides the basis for monitoring the effectiveness of the LDP and determines whether any revisions to the Plan are necessary. It examines whether the underlying LDP strategy remains sound, the impact the policies are having at the local and wider level and whether policies and related targets have been met or progress is being made towards meeting them.
- 4 This is the first AMR to be prepared since the adoption of the Plan and therefore covers the period 27th January 2016 to 31st March

2017. Future AMRs will be based on the financial year 1st April – 31st March.

- 5 This report summarises the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the AMR. As this is the first AMR, Members should note that the report essentially provides a short term position statement and baseline for future comparative analysis in successive AMRs. The monitoring of the policy framework over a longer period will enable trends to be identified.

Background

- 6 The Neath Port Talbot LDP (2011-2026) was formally adopted by the Council on 27th January 2016, and provides the basis for decisions on land use planning in the County Borough up to 2026.
- 7 Under Section 76 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Council has a statutory obligation to produce an AMR each year following adoption, with the report being submitted to the Welsh Government by the 31st October.

LDP Monitoring Framework

- 8 The LDP Monitoring Framework forms the basis of the AMR, assessing how the Plan's strategic policies and supporting detailed policies are performing against the identified targets and outcomes and whether the LDP strategy and objectives are being delivered.
- 9 The framework contains a total of 89 indicators, each of which requires monitoring with the nature of data collection varying between them. Each indicator has a specified target along with a 'trigger' which identifies the point at which the implementation of the policy may need further consideration and/or assessment.
- 10 The framework identifies a range of actions that can be undertaken which might address any missed targets or unanticipated outcome.
- 11 Members should note that subsequent AMRs will use the baseline information obtained within this report to establish any emerging trends, which will be assessed alongside any contextual changes at the national, regional or local level and the implementation of new initiatives such as the work of the Valleys Task Force.

Overview of Key Findings

12 The AMR is presented in full in **Appendix 1**. Out of the total of 89 indicators:

- 75 indicate the successful implementation of policy;
- 9 indicate that the policy in question is not being implemented in the intended manner. In these instances, further discussions with colleagues in Development Management will be undertaken to resolve the issues; and
- 5 indicate that further supplementary planning guidance is needed to assist policy implementation. In these cases, the preparation / adoption of SPG will be undertaken as soon as is practicable.

13 The following points offer a summary of the key findings in a little more detail:

- A 5 year housing land supply has been maintained.
- 1,679 new homes have been delivered since the LDP basedate (which equates to 74% of the cumulative annual target to date).
- Although currently below target, the rate of delivery of affordable housing is expected to increase.
- Workplace employment has increased from 49,400 jobs in 2011 to 50,800 jobs in 2015.
- The rate of economic activity has increased from 69.7% in 2011 to 74.9% in 2017, and is now marginally ahead of the Welsh average.
- The unemployment rate has reduced from 10.8% in 2012 to 5.5% in 2017.
- A number of major infrastructure schemes have been completed since the LDP basedate, including Harbour Way (PDR), road improvements to Junction 43 and the Baglan Energy Park Link Bridge.
- An extension to Cae Garw Gypsy and Traveller Site has been completed.
- The delivery of an integrated transport hub at Port Talbot remains on schedule.
- The Swansea University Science and Innovation Bay Campus has opened.

- Three renewable / low carbon energy schemes were approved, with a total generating capacity of 5.56 MW (this figure is in addition to the circa 398 MW already being delivered through renewable sources across Neath Port Talbot).
- The Council has adopted 5 key Supplementary Planning Guidance documents relating to Planning Obligations; Affordable Housing; Baglan Energy Park Development Framework; Pollution; and Parking Standards.

AMR Conclusions and Recommendations

- 14 This initial phase of monitoring has shown that the objectives of the LDP are being achieved and that the policies are largely delivering and meeting their targets, although progress in some areas is a little slower than anticipated.
- 15 Given that the LDP is currently delivering on its employment-led strategy, there are no factors at present to suggest that changes are required to the Plan, or that an early review (either partial or full) is necessary at this time.

Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

- 16 Part 3 (Chapter 11) of the AMR examines the performance of the LDP against the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Monitoring Objectives. The SA was structured around 8 topics and identified a total of 22 objectives within these topic areas.
- 17 For the majority of indicators, the SA monitoring indicates that the LDP is having an overall positive effect on the SA objectives, with some indicators recording a neutral impact. A few indicators however show mixed impacts and one a negative impact. The SA will continue to evaluate the broader impacts of the LDP as an iterative process.

Submission and Publication Procedures

- 18 In accordance with statutory procedures, the Council will submit the 2017 AMR to the Welsh Government by 31st October and publish the document on the Council's website.

- 19 In addition, and in accordance with the Council's Welsh Language Standards Policy, the AMR will be made available in Welsh and also be available for purchase at a reasonable charge. In common with previous practice, it is suggested that the price be based on the cost of printing together with post and package at the prevailing cost. Electronic copies will be made available at no cost.

Consultation

- 20 There is no requirement under the regulations for internal or external consultation on this item.

Financial Impact

- 21 The decisions will incur expenditure in relation to the publication procedures. These costs will be accommodated within existing budgets.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 22 In order to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010, an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Exercise has been carried out.
- 23 The LDP was subjected to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process which included an assessment of the LDP policies and proposals on equalities (including sex, age, race and disability issues). These aspects have therefore been assessed alongside all the other sustainability and environmental issues, enabling the effects of the Plan to be fully assessed.
- 24 Given that the SA of the LDP incorporated an EIA, and the fact that the AMR provides only a factual report on implementation of LDP policy, the Screening Exercise concluded that there is no requirement to carry out an additional separate exercise.

Workforce Impacts

- 25 There are no workforce impacts in respect of this report.

Legal Impacts

- 26 There are no legal impacts in respect of this report.

Risk Management

- 27 The Council will be in breach of its requirement to prepare and publish a LDP AMR should there be a failure to implement the proposed recommendations.

Recommendation

- 28 That having considered the report, it is resolved to make the following recommendations for approval:
1. The findings, conclusions and recommendations of the AMR as presented in **Appendix 1** are noted.
 2. The submission and publication procedures as set out in the report are implemented.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

- 29 The recommendations are needed to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2015.

Implementation of Decision

- 30 The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices

- 31 Appendix 1 – LDP Annual Monitoring Report (October 2017).

List of Background Papers

Legislation and Regulations:

- 32 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
33 The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2015.
34 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004.

Planning Policy / Guidance:

- 35 Neath Port Talbot LDP (2011-2026) (January 2016).
- 36 Planning Policy Wales Edition 9 (2016).
- 37 Local Development Plan Manual Edition 2 (2015).

Officer Contact

- 38 Ceri Morris – Planning Policy Manager [Tel: 01639 686320 / E-mail: c.morris1@npt.gov.uk]

APPENDIX 1

LDP Annual Monitoring Report (October 2017)



Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Local Development Plan 2011 - 2026

Annual Monitoring Report (October 2017)



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Executive Summary

- 1 The Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted on 27th January 2016. As part of the statutory development plan process, the Council is required to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR will provide the basis for monitoring the progress of the delivery of the LDP, the Plan's sustainability credentials and identify any significant contextual changes that might influence implementation.
- 2 This is the first AMR to be prepared since the adoption of the LDP and provides an opportunity for the Council to assess the impact the LDP is having on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the County Borough. This AMR therefore covers the period from the adoption date of the plan (27th January 2016) to 31st March 2017 and is required to be submitted to the Welsh Government by 31st October 2017.
- 3 The AMR contains a total of 89 indicators which are used to monitor the effectiveness of the Plan and its policies. A brief summary of the outcome is provided in the following table:

LDP Monitoring Framework

| Assessment | Action | Number of Indicators Within Category |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue | 75 |
| LDP Policies are not being implemented in the intended manner | Officer and/or Member training may be required | 9 |
| Indicators suggest the need for further guidance in addition to those identified in the Plan | Supplementary Planning Guidance may be required | 5 |
| The indicators are suggesting that the LDP strategic policy is not proving to be as effective as originally expected | Further research and investigation required | 0 |
| The indicators are suggesting that the strategic policy is not being implemented | Following confirmation, the policy will be subject to a review process | 0 |
| The indicators are suggesting that the LDP strategy is not being implemented | Following confirmation, the LDP will be subject to a review process | 0 |

- 4 Whilst the vast majority of indicators show a positive outcome over this first monitoring period, there are a small number of indicators which identify that certain policies are not being implemented in the intended manner. In these instances, further discussions with Development Management colleagues will be undertaken in an attempt to resolve the issues. It should be noted that in this regard, some of the policies are entirely new to the local policy framework and consequently this may partly explain why there are some inconsistencies in their implementation.

5 In addition, a small number of indicators relate to the emergence of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) highlighting that certain SPG have not been prepared by the target date. In each case however there are justifiable reasons for the delay in the preparation of the guidance documents, and the adoption of the outstanding SPG will be expedited as soon as is practicable.

Key Findings of the AMR

6 On the whole the Plan is delivering in most of its policy areas, and housing delivery is largely in accordance with expectations, with several of the large housing sites allocated in the LDP being commenced or receiving planning approval during this first monitoring period. Furthermore, there has also been a significant number of windfall and small sites which have been granted approval and help with the overall delivery of market and affordable housing in Neath Port Talbot. There has also been an increase in the number of economically active residents and a reduction in the unemployment rate.

7 An overview of the key findings is set out below:

- A 5 year land supply has been maintained.
- 1,679 new homes have been delivered since the LDP basedate (which equates to 74% of the cumulative annual target to date).
- Although currently below target, the rate of delivery of affordable housing is expected to increase.
- Workplace employment has increased from 49,400 jobs in 2011 to 50,800 jobs in 2015.
- The rate of economic activity has increased from 69.7% in 2011 to 74.9% in 2017, and is now marginally ahead of the Welsh average.
- The unemployment rate has reduced from 10.8% in 2012 to 5.5% in 2017.
- A number of major infrastructure schemes have been completed since the LDP basedate, including Harbour Way (PDR), road improvements to Junction 43 and the Baglan Energy Park Link Bridge.
- An extension to Cae Garw Gypsy and Traveller Site has been completed.
- The delivery of an integrated transport hub at Port Talbot remains on schedule.
- The Swansea University Science and Innovation Bay Campus has opened.
- Three renewable / low carbon energy schemes were approved, with a total generating capacity of 5.56 MW.
- There were no approvals permitted on nationally and internationally designated sites, regionally important biodiversity and other diversity sites contrary to the policy framework.

- The Council had adopted 5 key Supplementary Planning Guidance documents relating to Planning Obligations; Affordable Housing; Baglan Energy Park Development Framework; Pollution; and Parking Standards.
- Policies in respect of flooding, community facilities, open space, renewable energy and Welsh language are not currently being implemented as intended. SPG relating to some of these topics will be adopted in due course and these documents will provide more detailed guidance in respect of the implementation of the policies.

Conclusion

8 The LDP policies are largely delivering and meeting their targets, although progress in some areas is a little slower than anticipated. As this report relates to the first period of monitoring, no trends can be identified at this stage. This will however continue to be monitored in subsequent annual reports.

9 The AMR concludes that the LDP is delivering on its employment led growth strategy, which is key to the delivery of the Plan's vision and objectives. There are no factors at present to suggest that changes are required to the Plan and consequently, an early review of the Plan (either partial or full) is not necessary at this time.

PART 1 - Introduction & Background

1 . Introduction

1 Introduction

1.0.1 The adopted Local Development Plan (LDP)⁽¹⁾ provides a land use framework on which decisions about future development in the County Borough are based.

1.0.2 Section 76 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to produce an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) for submission to the Welsh Government. This first AMR covers the period from the adoption date of the plan (27th January 2016) to 31st March 2017 and is required to be submitted to the Welsh Government by 31st October 2017. Subsequent AMRs will cover the period between the 1st April and 31st March each year.

1.0.3 The AMR provides the opportunity to monitor the progress of the delivery of the LDP, the Plan's sustainability credentials and to identify any significant contextual changes that might influence its implementation. The results of this monitoring process will feed into the ongoing analysis of the LDP, with the Council required to undertake a formal review of the Plan every 4 years.

What is the AMR?

1.0.4 The main aim of the AMR is to establish whether the LDP Strategy is effective and achieving its aims and whether the strategic policies are working in practice. In evaluating these matters, the AMR (including the SA monitoring of the SA objectives) considers the effectiveness of the Plan as a whole in order to determine whether there is a need for the Plan to be reviewed in some way.

Indicators

1.0.5 Under Regulation 37 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) Wales (Amendment) Regulations 2015, the AMR is required to monitor the following core indicators:

Table 1.0.1 Indicators Prescribed in Regulation 37

| Core Indicators Prescribed in Regulation 37 | Monitoring Framework Reference |
|---|--------------------------------|
| The housing land supply taken from the current Housing Land Availability Study. This is measured in years' supply. ⁽²⁾ | 40 |
| The number of net additional affordable and general market dwellings built in the LPA's area (i.e. Through the planning system). This should indicate the level of new housing constructed, minus any demolitions, during the AMR period and since the LDP was adopted ⁽³⁾ . | 39 & 41 |

1 Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Local Development Plan (January 2016).

2 Regulation 37(4)(a) The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005.

3 Regulation 37(4)(b) The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005.

1.0.6 The LDP monitoring framework contains a total of 89 indicators, comprising the 2 core indicators along with a range of local and contextual indicators identified by the Council which relate to the Neath Port Talbot context and broader economic, social and cultural issues respectively.

1.0.7 Each of these indicators requires monitoring and the nature of data collection will vary between them. Some are factual (e.g. has a development or SPG been delivered in the anticipated timescale?), while others will require data collection and monitoring over a longer period of time period (e.g. housing completion figures).

Targets

1.0.8 Realistic and achievable targets have been identified for each strategic policy. These targets can be broadly grouped into three categories:

- **Numerical Targets** could relate to the scale of development being proposed (e.g. the level of anticipated housing development) and could be expressed as a number or as a percentage. Some policies (e.g. the provision of new housing), identify a series of interim targets over the Plan period ensuring that progress towards meeting the overall target at the end of the Plan period can be measured.
- **Outcome Targets** relate to a particular outcome that the policy or policies in question either aim to bring about or prevent from happening; and
- **Specific Targets** relate to specific development proposals (e.g. a proposed new highway scheme) where the target will be to deliver the proposal within a specified time period.

Triggers

1.0.9 Each of the indicators has a specific trigger which identifies the point at which the implementation of the policy may need further consideration and/or assessment. This could require a scheme to be delivered by a specified date, where progress falls below the cumulative requirement over a specified period, or where a development is permitted contrary to the policy framework. Once a trigger has been reached, consideration of the actions which are required to try and remedy the breach is required (refer below).

Actions

1.0.10 The successful implementation of the LDP could be compromised if targets are not met. The monitoring framework identifies a range of actions that can be undertaken which might address any numerical shortfall or an unanticipated outcome. It is not necessarily the case however, that a failure to achieve a specified target would be interpreted as a policy failure which would automatically result in that policy (or Plan as a whole) being subject to a review.

1 . Introduction

1.0.11 The table below identifies the possible actions which may result from monitoring, and there are several potential options to help address indicators which do not appear to be delivering as anticipated. To assist with the interpretation of the monitoring undertaken, a simplified colour scheme has been used to indicate how the indicator is performing.

Table 1.0.2 LDP Monitoring Framework

| Assessment | Action | Colour Code |
|--|--|-------------|
| The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue | |
| LDP Policies are not being implemented in the intended manner | Officer and/ or Member training may be required | |
| Indicators suggest the need for further guidance in addition to those identified in the Plan | Supplementary Planning Guidance may be required | |
| The indicators are suggesting that the LDP strategic policy is not proving to be as effective as originally expected | Further research and investigation required | |
| The indicators are suggesting that the strategic policy is not being implemented | Following confirmation, the policy will be subject to a review process | |
| The indicators are suggesting that the LDP strategy is not being implemented | Following confirmation, the LDP will be subject to a review process | |

Review of the Plan

1.0.12 The Council will take the following considerations into account when making a judgement as to whether a review (part or full) of the Plan, prior to the statutory 4 year period, is required:

- A significant change in national policy or legislation;
- A significant change in external conditions;
- A significant change in local context (e.g. closure of a significant employment site that undermines the local economy or the cumulative effect of a series of closures);
- A significant change in development pressures or needs and investment strategies of major public and private investors; and
- Significant concerns from the findings of the AMR in terms of policy effectiveness, site delivery, progress rates and any problems with implementation.

Structure and Content

1.0.13 The AMR is structured into the following four parts:

- **Part 1: Introduction and Background** - provides an introduction and an outline of the contextual change at a national, regional and local level since the LDP was adopted;
- **Part 2: LDP Monitoring** - provides detail of the findings of the monitoring of the LDP Indicators (in Plan order);
- **Part 3: Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring** - details the findings of the monitoring of the eight Sustainability Appraisal Objectives; and
- **Part 4: Conclusions and Recommendations** - offers conclusions and recommendations.

1 . Introduction

2 Contextual Change

2.1 National Context

2.1.1 Since the LDP was adopted on 27th January 2016, there have been a number of new / updated planning policy documents published and legislation introduced.

Planning (Wales) Act 2015⁽⁴⁾

2.1.2 The Act sets out a series of legislative changes to deliver reform of the planning system in Wales, to ensure that it is fair, resilient and enables development. The act addresses 5 key objectives:

1. A modernised framework for the delivery of planning services – the act introduces powers to allow planning applications to be made directly to Welsh Ministers in limited circumstances;
2. Strengthening the plan led approach – the act introduces a legal basis for the preparation of a National Development Framework and Strategic Development Plans;
3. Improved resilience – the act will allow the Welsh Ministers to direct local planning authorities to work together and for local planning authorities to be merged;
4. Front loading and improving the development management system – the act will introduce a statutory pre-application procedure for defined categories of planning application; and
5. Enabling effective enforcement and appeals – the act enables changes to enforcement procedures to secure prompt, meaningful action against breaches of planning control and increase the transparency and efficiency of the appeal system.

2.1.3 Taken together with proposed changes to secondary legislation, policy and guidance, the act will support delivery of the homes, jobs and infrastructure that Wales requires; provide opportunities to protect and enhance important built and natural environments; and support the use of the Welsh language.

2.1.4 A document which explains the links between the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Bill was produced during the drafting and scrutiny of the respective items of legislation.

Well-Being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015⁽⁵⁾

2.1.5 Whilst this Act is dated 2015, it came into force post LDP adoption in April 2016.

4 [Planning Wales Act 2015](#)

5 [Well-Being and Future Generations \(Wales\) Act](#) Page 245

2 . Contextual Change

2.1.6 This Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act will make the public bodies listed in the Act think more about the long term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach. This new law will mean that, for the first time, public bodies listed in the Act must do what they do in a sustainable way. Public bodies need to make sure that when making their decisions they take into account the impact they could have on people living their lives in Wales in the future. It will expect them to:

- Work together better;
- Involve people reflecting the diversity of our communities;
- Look to the long term as well as focusing on now; and
- Take action to try and stop problems getting worse - or even stop them happening in the first place.

2.1.7 The Act establishes a statutory Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, whose role is to act as a guardian for the interests of future generations in Wales, and to support the public bodies listed in the Act to work towards achieving the well-being goals. The Act also establishes Public Services Boards (PSBs) for each local authority area in Wales. Each PSB must improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of its area by working to achieve the well-being goals.

Our Valley, Our Future

2.1.8 The Welsh Government has published a document called 'Our Valley, Our Future' which is a proposal to reinvigorate the valley communities in Wales. It is a high-level action plan setting out the priorities of the Ministerial Taskforce based on the evidence heard and feedback received from the people living and working in the South Wales Valleys.

2.1.9 The next stage will be to focus on how these priorities can be developed further through a detailed delivery plan which will set out:

- How the priorities will be achieved;
- Who should be involved;
- The benefits expected;
- The timescale for completion; and
- How success will be measured.

2.1.10 Effective delivery will require an ongoing partnership with the public and close working with statutory bodies, particularly Local Authorities. The Delivery Plan will be published in Autumn 2017.

Planning Policy Wales Edition 9 (2016)⁽⁶⁾

2.1.11 A number of changes have been made, many of which relate principally to Development Management functions. In respect of LDPs, Chapter 2 has been revised to take account of legislation changes, including the provisions of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015.

2.1.12 The Historic Environment chapter has been completely revised following Royal Assent of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

2.1.13 The Retail chapter has been revised to take account of WG's national planning policy for retail and commercial development. Other chapters have been refreshed principally to reflect changes in legislation.

Technical Advice Note (TAN) 4 Retail and Commercial Development (November 2016)⁽⁷⁾

Provides guidance/advice on the role of land use planning in retail and commercial development, including:

- Retail strategies, master planning and place plans;
- The tests of retail need and sequential approach to development;
- Retail Impact Assessments;
- Primary and secondary retail and commercial frontages in centres;
- Retail planning conditions;
- Local Development Orders; and
- Indicators of vitality and viability in retail and commercial areas.

TAN 12 Design (March 2016)⁽⁸⁾

2.1.14 This TAN provides guidance on how good design should be achieved through the planning process. It provides advice and information on a number of related areas including the definition of design for planning purposes, design considerations such as access, local planning authority design policy and advice, the process for preparing design and access statements and information on how to achieve sustainable buildings.

6 [PPW 9](#)
7 [TAN 4 Retail](#)
8 [TAN12 TAN 12 D&A Statements](#)

2 . Contextual Change

Environment (Wales) Act (2016)⁽⁹⁾

2.1.15 The key parts of the act are:

- Part 1: Sustainable management of natural resources – enables Wales’ resources to be managed in a more proactive, sustainable and joined-up way. It also helps to tackle the challenges we face and is focused on the opportunities our resources provide.
- Part 2: Climate change – provides the Welsh Ministers with powers to put in place statutory emission reduction targets, including at least an 80% reduction in emissions by 2050 and carbon budgeting to support their delivery. This is vital within the context of our existing UK and EU obligations and sets a clear pathway for de-carbonisation. It also provides certainty and clarity for business and investment.
- Part 3: Charges for carrier bags – extends the Welsh Ministers’ powers so that they may set a charge for other types of carrier bags such as bags for life. It also places a duty on retailers to donate the net proceeds from the sale of carrier bags to good causes.
- Part 4: Collection and disposal of waste – improves waste management processes by helping us achieve higher levels of business waste recycling, better food waste treatment and increased energy recovery. This will help to decrease pressure on natural resources while also contributing towards positive results for both the economy and the environment.
- Parts 5 & 6: Fisheries for shellfish and marine licensing – clarifies the law in relation to shell fisheries management and marine licensing.
- Part 7: Flood & Coastal Erosion Committee and land drainage – clarifies the law for other environmental regulatory regimes including flood risk management and land drainage.

Historic Environment (Wales) Act (2016)⁽¹⁰⁾

2.1.16 The Act makes important changes to the two main UK laws that provide the legislative framework for the protection and management of the historic environment: the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. It also incorporates three stand-alone provisions. The Act will give more effective protection to listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments; improve the sustainable management of the historic environment; and introduce greater transparency and accountability into decisions taken on the historic environment.

9 [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016](#)

10 [Historic Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016](#) Page 248

Energy Efficiency in Wales – A Strategy for the Next Ten Years (2016 – 2026)⁽¹¹⁾

2.1.17 The strategy considers our role in driving this agenda as well as the role of other organisations, businesses and householders. It also highlights our vision to ensure that Wales can realise its full energy efficiency potential and become a major exporter of energy efficiency technology and know-how.

2.1.18 Action on energy efficiency: contributes strongly across our wellbeing goals, is a major factor in green growth, jobs, skills and supply chains, is the most cost-effective means of meeting our commitments to reduce carbon emissions, lowers energy charges to businesses and for the public sector, can directly address fuel poverty by reducing the cost of heating the homes of vulnerable people.

2.1.19 Power to take action on energy efficiency is not fully devolved to Wales. Our role is limited to the promotion of energy efficiency while the regulation of energy efficiency rests with the UK Government.

The Developments of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016⁽¹²⁾

Applications for Developments of National Significance (DNS) projects are dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of Welsh Government. A DNS is a type of planning application for a large infrastructure project of national importance – for example, a wind farm, power station or reservoir. A DNS differs from a normal planning application in the way that it is decided. Instead of a Local Planning Authority making the decision, an Inspector examines the application and makes a recommendation to the Welsh Minister based on planning merits and national priorities. The Minister then decides whether or not to grant permission. A full list of the types of DNS developments is defined in the Regulations.

Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs regarding the delivery of affordable homes through the planning system⁽¹³⁾

The letter addresses the need for local planning authorities to provide a genuinely available supply of land for housing based on meeting the housing requirements they have identified in their Local Development Plans.

Whilst some of these legislative changes are significant, it is considered that in respect of this AMR, they have little direct impact. However they will be fully considered when the LDP is formally reviewed.

Brexit

In June 2016 the UK electorate voted in favour of leaving the European Union (EU) and the UK Government has since invoked Article 50 in respect of its exit from the EU. This gives a 2 year period for negotiations around the terms of the exit to be agreed.

11 [Energy Efficiency in Wales](#)

12 [Development of National Significance Regs](#)

13 [Ministerial letter on affordable housing](#)

2 . Contextual Change

Whilst to date there has been little tangible progress, Brexit has the potential to impact on the economy over the coming years, whether this effect will be positive or not will depend on the terms which are agreed. In respect of this AMR, it has little impact, its effect will only become evident over time and this will continue to be considered in respect of the LDP and any subsequent review.

2.2 Regional Context

South West Wales Regional Planning Group

2.2.1 In light of the new emerging planning regime in Wales and the introduction of Strategic Development Plans (SDPs), work has continued in respect of supporting and contributing to the regional agenda.

2.2.2 Initial discussions have taken place in respect of the future role of authorities and the potential for future collaboration initiatives and studies. Neath Port Talbot has taken on the lead / secretariat role for the South West Wales region in 2017/18.

Swansea Bay City Deal

2.2.3 Since the adoption date of the LDP, the key change at the regional level was the signing of the City Deal on 20th March 2017, which covers Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, Carmarthen and Pembrokeshire Local Authorities together with Abertawe Bro Morgannwg and Hywel Dda University Health Boards, Swansea University and the University of Wales Trinity St David's and private sector companies. It includes a significant investment package involving the UK and Welsh Governments and the public and private sectors which will transform the economic landscape of the area and boost the local economy.

2.2.4 Eleven major projects have been identified within the South West Wales region which aim to deliver world class facilities in the fields of energy, smart manufacturing, innovation and life science, with major investment in the region's digital infrastructure.

2.2.5 Each Local Authority will lead on a number of projects within their administrative area. Three of the eleven projects are proposed within Neath Port Talbot:

1. **A new Centre of Excellence for Next Generation Digital Services (CENGs)**, based in Baglan will be at the heart of the regional digital hub. The project will increase the number of technology business ideas that can be commercialised, help the start up and growth of new technology businesses across the region and turn new ideas into commercial opportunities. This will be achieved as the Centre will offer a range of office space and laboratories to both industry and the scientific community, bringing together a range of commercial and technical experts bridging the gap between research and the application of ideas to industry. This will help turn innovations into new products and services.
2. **The Homes as Power Stations Project** led by Neath Port Talbot Council, on behalf of the region, will target both new build housing and the retrofit of existing supply and deliver innovative low carbon homes. A major aim will be the reduction of fuel poverty and its impact on health and well being. It will support carbon reduction targets,

reducing demand on electricity and gas and the security of housing supply in the region. A new pilot housing development will be constructed in Neath and the concept rolled across the region. The project will create a new industry in the region, developing and building innovative energy technologies, making homes more energy efficient and reducing energy costs. It will help generate sustainable and affordable homes and address fuel poverty and focus on smart technologies in relation to energy demand management.

3. Based in Neath Port Talbot, building on regional excellence, the **Steel Science Centre** would provide an open access innovation centre for the British Steel Industry and its supply chains, focusing on providing commercial R&D. The centre will enable steel technologists, academic and research staff to work together to find solutions to problems facing the steel sector, develop innovative ways where the steel industry can use local waste products to create carbon positive steel products, reducing carbon impact. It builds on regional strengths in steel production and strong partnerships between business and academia to develop research and supply chains. The project aims to ensure that there is a long term future for the steel sector by making the City Region the UK's natural centre for research and development in steel science.

Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon

2.2.6 Covering parts of Neath Port Talbot and Swansea's administrative area, this regional project would create the world's first tidal lagoon Energy Generating Station. This Nationally Significant Infrastructure project was granted Development Consent by the Secretary of State in 2015. A marine license from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) must now be secured together with the necessary consents from the Crown Estate, which owns the seabed.

2.2.7 The UK Government has considered the recommendations of the Hendry Review and is in the process of considering the level of financial subsidy deemed appropriate. The Boundary Commission are also in the process of considering an application to amend the Relevant Authority's jurisdictional boundaries, to give control over the aspects of the development located below the mean low water mark.

2.2.8 The scheme has the potential to have a positive impact on Neath Port Talbot. It will involve significant investment in the local Swansea Bay economy and offers the potential for significant employment during construction and provide a valuable recreational and tourism asset for residents and visitors once constructed.

2.2.9 Although currently, there are significant risks of the scheme not coming forward, the lagoon if developed, would be a pioneering project for the region that would offer a range of opportunities. Whilst not impacting on this AMR, any impacts will be fully considered as part of a review of the Plan.

2.3 Local Context

2.3.1 Since the adoption of the LDP, the Council has adopted five Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) and had approval to consult on four others (refer below).

2 . Contextual Change

2.3.2 The Council has also published a 'Well-Being Assessment' as required by the Well-Being of Future Generations Act and also the 'Biodiversity Duty Plan' in order to fulfil its biodiversity duties set out under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

2.3.3 Additionally, the Port Talbot Waterfront Enterprise Zone has been established; there has been some concerns in respect of potential job losses at TATA in Port Talbot and there is a possibility that the Ministry of Justice may site a new Category C prison within the County Borough.

Supplementary Planning Guidance

2.3.4 In October 2016, the Council adopted SPG relating to the following⁽¹⁴⁾:

- Planning Obligations;
- Affordable Housing;
- Baglan Energy Park Development Framework;
- Pollution; and
- Parking Standards.

2.3.5 Cabinet Board approval was also received on 13th March 2017 to consult in May / June 2017 on the following SPG⁽¹⁵⁾:

- Open Space and Greenspace;
- Renewable and Low Carbon Energy;
- Design; and
- Development and the Welsh Language.

Well-Being Assessment / Plan

2.3.6 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty upon public bodies to produce well-being objectives that contribute to achieving a set of overarching well-being goals. In addition, the Act also establishes Public Service Boards for each Local Authority area in Wales. Each Public Service Board must prepare and publish a local Well-Being Plan, this will set out objectives and how the board or it's individual members will achieve them. This plan is informed by a Well-Being Assessment of the local area.

14 [Link to adopted SPG](#)

15 Public consultation could not start prior to the end of this monitoring period due to purdah associated with the Local Government Election on May 4th 2017

2.3.7 Neath Port Talbot Public Service Board published its first Well-Being Assessment earlier this year. It captures the strengths and assets of people and communities across Neath Port Talbot and will inform the Neath Port Talbot local Well-Being Plan. The development and publication of the Well-Being Plan will take place over the next year and once approved, will replace the Single Integrated Plan (SIP).

Neath Port Talbot Biodiversity Duty Plan (2017)

2.3.8 The Neath Port Talbot Biodiversity Duty Plan demonstrates how the Council will fulfil the biodiversity duty set out under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and will act as a driver for conservation activities throughout Neath Port Talbot.

2.3.9 The plan also explains how, through meeting the Biodiversity Duty, the Council is delivering against well-being objectives and the ways of working under the Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015 and contributing towards the delivery of the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales.

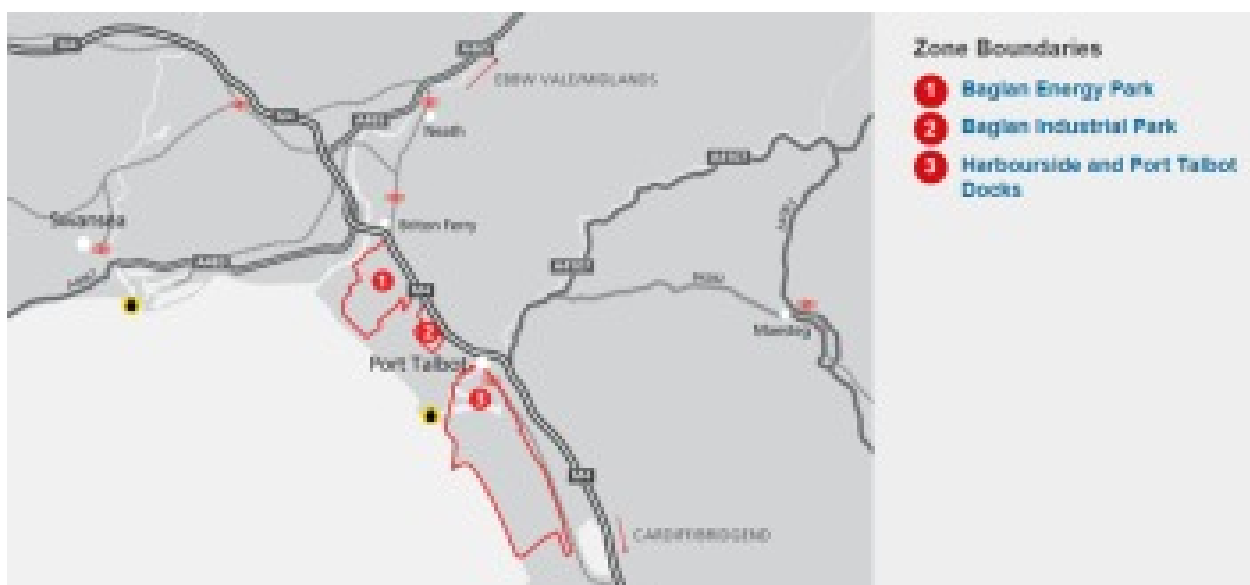
Port Talbot Waterfront Enterprise Zone

2.3.10 In March 2016, the Welsh Government confirmed that Port Talbot Waterfront would receive Enterprise Zone status. Its unique combination of factors, in terms of location, infrastructure and its connectivity to the knowledge economy has attracted some of the UK's top manufacturers.

2.3.11 Manufacturers in the area include TATA Steel, BOC, SPECIFIC, TWI and ThyssenKrupp who, along with a host of other highly technically competent companies, make a strong foundation for the creation of a dynamic and innovative cluster of businesses.

2.3.12 The area covered by the designation includes: Harbourside, Port Talbot Docks, Baglan Energy Park and Baglan Industrial Estate.

Map 2.1 Port Talbot Waterfront Enterprise Zone



2 . Contextual Change

2.3.13 Port Talbot has long established strengths in manufacturing and steel production. This is combined with a firm focus on continuing to develop cutting edge, world class industries in sectors such as Advanced Materials and Manufacturing, Construction and Green Energy.

2.3.14 Businesses moving to the area would profit from the inherent strengths and the existing growth potential of the region, and the momentum of the Economic Regeneration Strategy of Swansea Bay City Region which is a catalyst to improving the prospects of communities, businesses and the economy.

2.3.15 Business Wales' website states it can offer some of the highest levels of support to businesses locating within it, whether they are an inward investor, start-up or existing business.

TATA Steel

2.3.16 There was some concern in early 2016, when TATA, one of Neath Port Talbot's major employers, put up for sale the Port Talbot works (together with others in Wales). There was concern over the impact this would have on jobs and the local economy, as TATA's performance (as a major employer) strongly influences the prosperity of the region.

2.3.17 Earlier in 2017 however, in return for committing to maintaining production at Port Talbot for the next 10 years and a £100m investment, TATA made a deal with unions on the company's pensions fund.

2.3.18 TATA is currently in the process of finding a solution to the issues with its pension scheme to secure the future of its UK operations and before merging its European steel operations with German company ThyssenKrupp. A new pensions deal is expected to be agreed towards the end of 2017, which would allow the merger with ThyssenKrupp.

2.3.19 Furthermore, there is renewed optimism following the recent announcement that the Welsh Government are providing a financial contribution towards the construction of a new power station within the site which will reuse waste gas addressing the significant energy bills associated with the operations.

2.3.20 This situation will continue to be monitored so any impact on the LDP can be considered.

PART 2 - LDP Monitoring

3 . Strategy

3 Strategy

3.1 Strategy

3.1.1 The LDP is underpinned by an employment-led growth strategy that uses the projected increase in jobs and an increase in economic activity rates to identify the required working age population to support the projected number of jobs, which in turn projects the number of new homes needed. The approach ensures that the housing and employment strategies are aligned and there is a correlation between the number of jobs, houses, labour supply and employment space.

3.1.2 The Plan identifies a total of 25 objectives grouped under the following themes:

- Building healthy, sustainable communities;
- Promoting a sustainable economy;
- Valuing our environment;
- Achieving sustainable accessibility; and
- Respecting distinctiveness.

3.1.3 Considering these objectives the LDP Strategy aims to:

Facilitate growth within Neath Port Talbot, with a focus on the coastal corridor whilst reinvigorating the valley communities

3.1.4 In monitoring the LDP indicators it is possible to assess how well the plan's policies are delivering the strategy.

3.1.5 The chosen economic-led scenario is aspirational in its approach and aims to maximise job growth within the local economy. In order to address the key issues of the County Borough, wealth creation through job growth is fundamental to achieving the LDP vision. This method has enabled the Authority to forecast how economic changes over the plan period equate to the requirements for employment land and the number of new homes needed to accommodate the projected total population and required labour supply. The strategy seeks to increase economic activity rates and reduce unemployment levels in line with the Welsh average.

3.1.6 Neath Port Talbot's economic activity rate has increased at a higher rate than the Welsh and UK average. From the year ending 31st March 2011 to year ending 31st March 2017, the gap between Neath Port Talbot and the Welsh average has decreased from Neath Port Talbot being 3% behind the Welsh average in 2011, to now being ahead of

the Welsh average by 0.1% at the end of March 2017. Compared to the UK average, the gap between Neath Port Talbot and the UK has reduced from 6.8% in 2011 to 3.6% in 2017.

3.1.7 By year ending 31st March 2016, the unemployment rate had fallen to 6.9%, which is the rate the LDP aspires to achieve by 2026 (the long term Welsh average). The rate further reduced over the current monitoring period to 5.5%, indicating a positive economic picture for the area and showing that the aims of the LDP are being met.

3.1.8 In respect of implementation, some progress is being made with the delivery of housing allocations, although it is acknowledged that some sites are being delivered at a slower rate than anticipated. To date the LDP has delivered approximately 74% of the cumulative target. Whilst the housing completions are lower than anticipated, a number of sites within the Policy H1 portfolio have either had planning consent granted during the monitoring period (e.g. Neath Road / Fairyland Road, Tonna) or have made substantial progress on undetermined applications or pre-application discussions. It is therefore expected that the rate of housing delivery will increase significantly in Neath Port Talbot over the next 5 year period.

3.1.9 Within the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area, the University Campus has been delivered, work is progressing on developments at Glanafan School and Neath Town Centre Regeneration Scheme and the Integrated Transport Hub is being delivered in Port Talbot.

3.1.10 Harbour Way (PDR) has been completed in Port Talbot providing a key link road through the Harbourside regeneration area between Margam and Baglan and improving accessibility to many homes and businesses on the southern side of Port Talbot. Junction improvements have been undertaken at Junction 43 of the M4 to facilitate further development at Coed Darcy and Ffordd Amazon provides an important new route linking new and existing businesses to the north of Fabian Way. Development at the Cae Garw Gypsy and Traveller site has also been completed providing 11 additional pitches.

3.1.11 Within the Valleys Strategy Area, housing delivery is a little behind target, but this is considered to be a short term issue, with progress anticipated in accordance with the Plan targets, assisted further by the work of the Welsh Government's Valleys Task Force. In addition a number of windfall sites have been approved, which will supplement the allocated sites in this area. The Afan Valley, Cognation and Great Dragon Ride cycle trails have been completed and the Amman Valley Cycle route is almost complete.

3.1.12 A small hydropower installation at Maesgwyn Glynneath and a single wind turbine near Rhydyfro have been approved providing 0.6 MW of renewable energy. This figure in is addition to the already significant contribution that the County Borough is making towards renewable energy generation. Two tourism related applications were approved allowing holiday accommodation on farms in the area. It is important to note that many of the larger schemes in the valleys (e.g. Park Avenue, Glynneath and Rheola) are longer term aspirations which are not expected to be delivered in the short term.

3 . Strategy

3.1.13 On balance it is considered that the LDP is operating well and is delivering economic benefits in terms of increases in the economic activity rates and a reduction in the unemployment rate, satisfying the economic-led strategy of the Plan.

3.1.14 Whilst housing delivery is a little short of the target, and despite the efforts to provide large amounts of background information of the housing sites within Appendix A of the adopted Plan (including necessary mitigation / compensation measures and the potential S106 / infrastructure requirements), some applications are unfortunately slow to progress.

3.1.15 Site delivery will continue to be monitored through the AMR, and it should be noted that the 2017 Joint Housing Land Availability Study (JHLAS) identifies that as of 1st April 2017, the County Borough has a housing land supply of 5.3 years.

4 Overarching Policies

4.1 Strategic Policy 1 Climate Change

Table 4.1.1 Monitoring Summary by Indicator

| Ref | Indicator | Assessment | Action |
|-----|--|---|--|
| 1 | The number of applications permitted below 35 dwellings per hectare within the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area (CCSA) | LDP Policies are not being implemented in the intended manner | Officer and/or Member training may be required |
| 2 | The number of applications permitted below 30 dwellings per hectare within the Valleys Strategy Area (VSA) | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 3 | The amount of greenfield land lost not allocated in the LDP | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 4 | The number of applications permitted within safeguarded freight facility locations | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 5 | The number of applications permitted within C1 floodplain areas | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 6 | The number of applications permitted within C2 floodplain areas | LDP Policies are not being implemented in the intended manner | Officer and/or Member training may be required |

Indicator 1: The number of applications permitted below 35 dwellings per hectare within the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area.

Table 4.1.2 Strategic Policy SP1 - Climate Change

| Addressing the causes of climate change through more cohesive and efficient settlements and settlement patterns | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted below 35 dwellings per hectare within the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area (CCSA). |
| Policy Target | An average density of 35 dwellings per hectare on allocated sites within the CCSA should be achieved. |
| Trigger Point | The average density permitted on sites allocated within Policy H1 falls below 35 units per hectare, unless it aligns with the policy framework |
| Performance | |
| Action | Officer and/or Member training may be required. |

4 . Overarching Policies

Analysis of Results

4.1.1 The target and trigger points for this indicator relate to developments on allocated sites. In total, there have been six applications for residential developments on allocated sites within the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area (CCSA) during the monitoring period. Overall, the average development density achieved across all these sites is 30 dwellings per hectare (dph).

4.1.2 One of the relevant applications (P2016/0654) is for a mixed residential/retail use in Neath town centre which includes shop units on the ground floor within the site area which affects the density calculation. Excluding this development from the overall calculation for this indicator however does not alter the average density delivered of 30 dph. In terms of indicator 1 therefore, the permitted developments fail to meet the policy target of an average density of 35 dph.

4.1.3 Four of the individual applications do not meet the target density, while one site (Aberafan School, Port Talbot) exceeds the target density, achieving 61 dph. Density requirements are set out in Policy BE1 criterion 8 (a) and paragraph 5.5.14 of the LDP. This indicates that developments should be designed where possible to maximise the accommodation provided while remaining in keeping with the surrounding area. It further states that development below the specified residential density levels will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that there are significant constraints associated with a site that prevent development at the specified levels or where development at the density required would have an adverse impact on the character or appearance of the locality or result in the loss of an important site feature.

4.1.4 In some cases, the density issue has been identified in the officer report and justification provided in accordance with the LDP requirements set out above. These cases are therefore considered to be in accordance with the policy framework and would therefore not be 'trigger' applications. However, in two of the cases, the officer report does not give any specific justification for the lower density allowed.

4.1.5 One of these applications (P2016/1105) is for a single large detached house in spacious grounds within an established development of a character that is in keeping with other dwellings within the allocation. The second application (P2015/0011) is for a residential development on a site with particular constraints relating to topography and gradients, where design difficulties were experienced in achieving acceptable road and footway gradients while maintaining an appropriate development layout and appearance. In both these cases therefore, it is considered that a lower density could be justified in accordance with Policy BE1, although this was not specifically covered in the application report.

4.1.6 Overall, it is considered that the requirements of indicator 1 have effectively been achieved, although this is not specifically documented in all the application decisions. This can be addressed through further discussion with colleagues in the Development Management section.

4.1.7 Further guidance developed in the form of the Design SPG (adopted in July 2017), contains further specific advice on density matters and it is considered that this document will be important in ensuring that the density policy is applied more consistently in the future.

Indicator 2: The number of applications permitted below 30 dwellings per hectare within the Valleys Strategy Area.

Table 4.1.3 Strategic Policy SP1 - Climate Change

| Addressing the causes of climate change through more cohesive and efficient settlements and settlement patterns | |
|---|---|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted below 30 dwellings per hectare within the Valleys Strategy Area (VSA). |
| Policy Target | An average density of 30 dwellings per hectare on allocated sites within the VSA should be achieved. |
| Trigger Point | The average density permitted on sites allocated within Policy H1 falls below 30 units per hectare, unless it aligns with the Policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

4.1.8 As with Indicator 1, the target and trigger points for this indicator relate to developments on allocated sites. No applications on allocated housing sites in the Valleys Strategy Area have been determined during the period monitored, therefore there are no trigger applications for this indicator.

Indicator 3: Amount of greenfield land lost not allocated in the LDP.

Table 4.1.4 Strategic Policy SP1 - Climate Change

| Addressing the causes of climate change through more cohesive and efficient settlements and settlement patterns (See also Policy SP16 and BE1) | |
|---|---|
| Local Indicator | Amount of greenfield land lost not allocated in the LDP. |
| Policy Target | No greenfield land lost contrary to the policy framework. |
| Trigger Point | The loss of greenfield land contrary to the Policy framework. |
| Performance | |

4 . Overarching Policies

| Addressing the causes of climate change through more cohesive and efficient settlements and settlement patterns | |
|---|---|
| (See also Policy SP16 and BE1) | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

4.1.9 Greenfield sites are defined as sites that do not meet the definition of previously developed land given in PPW⁽¹⁶⁾. Policy BE1[8(c)] states that proposals will only be permitted where they use resources including land and energy as efficiently as possible through developing brownfield land in preference to greenfield land where possible.

4.1.10 A total of 9 applications have been approved for developments on unallocated greenfield sites across the County Borough. In order to be in accordance with the policy framework, it would need to be demonstrated that the developments could not be undertaken on an alternative brownfield site.

4.1.11 Four of the applications are for dwellings on small sites where no alternative brownfield option would have been available and three are for developments associated with sports or leisure activities in the vicinity of playing fields or equestrian facilities where the buildings could not readily be relocated to any brownfield area. The remaining two applications are for renewable energy developments, which due to their nature and special locational requirements could not have been located within any appropriate brownfield site.

4.1.12 It is therefore considered that the requirements of this indicator have been met.

Indicator 4: The number of applications permitted within safeguarded freight facility locations.

Table 4.1.5 Strategic Policy SP1 - Climate Change

| Addressing the causes of climate change by encouraging freight & commercial transport by alternatives to road | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted within safeguarded freight facility locations. |
| Policy Target | No applications permitted on sites safeguarded for the transportation of freight contrary to the policy framework. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

4.1.13 There has only been one application at a freight location covered by Policy TR4 (Safeguarding Freight Facilities) over the monitoring period. Located at the Unity Mine Complex, Cwmgwrach, the proposal was for a temporary change of use of part of the plant/machinery and buildings from coal processing to Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) facility for a period of 12 months. Due to the temporary nature and use however, the proposal would not inhibit or prevent the longer term use or development of the freight rail head.

Indicator 5: The number of applications permitted within C1 floodplain areas.

Table 4.1.6 Strategic Policy SP1 - Climate Change

| Addressing the consequences of climate change by guiding development away from land that is at risk from flooding. | |
|--|---|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted within C1 floodplain areas. |
| Policy Target | No applications permitted for highly vulnerable development within C1 floodplain areas that does not meet all the TAN 15 tests. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted for highly vulnerable development that does not meet all the TAN 15 requirements. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

4.1.14 A total of 13 applications were approved within the monitoring period for developments within or partly within DAM Zone C1. These all met the requirements set out for such developments in TAN15.

4.1.15 The target and trigger points for this indicator relate to highly vulnerable developments (as defined in TAN15) permitted which do not meet the tests set out in the TAN. No applications for such developments have been determined during the period monitored, therefore there are no trigger applications for this indicator.

Indicator 6: The number of applications permitted within C2 floodplain areas.

Table 4.1.7 Strategic Policy SP1 - Climate Change

| Addressing the consequences of climate change by guiding development away from land that is at risk from flooding. | |
|--|--|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted within C2 floodplain areas. |

4 . Overarching Policies

| Addressing the consequences of climate change by guiding development away from land that is at risk from flooding. | |
|--|---|
| Policy Target | No applications permitted for highly vulnerable development within C2 floodplain areas. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted for highly vulnerable development. |
| Performance | |
| Action | Officer and/or Member training may be required. |

Analysis of Results

4.1.16 The target and trigger points for this indicator relate to highly vulnerable developments (as defined in TAN15) permitted within DAM zone C2. Three applications have been approved for residential units within zone C2 during the monitoring period: one is for a new house between two existing dwellings, one for a barn conversion to a holiday cottage and one for an additional flat within an existing house. In all three cases, the officer report covers the flooding issues and a Flood Consequences Assessment (FCA) was submitted which was agreed by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). Notwithstanding this however, the proposals are contrary to the requirements of TAN15 in that they allow new residential units (i.e. 'highly vulnerable' development) within the identified undefended flood plain.

4.1.17 In addition, one development for a new school was approved within DAM zone C2 (also classified as 'highly vulnerable' development). However, this was accepted following additional detailed flood modelling work which was accepted by NRW as showing that the DAM zones are inaccurate in this location and that the site is not in fact at risk of flooding.

4.1.18 Whilst the majority of applications have been determined fully in accordance with LDP and national policy relating to flooding issues, in failing to comply with the requirements of TAN15, these [three] decisions raise concerns that LDP Policy SP1 is not being consistently implemented in all cases in respect of the need to address the consequences of climate change, both at present and in the future. It is considered that this matter can be addressed through further discussions with colleagues in the Development Management section to ensure that all relevant policy requirements are adhered to when applications are determined.

4.2 Strategic Policy 2 Health

Table 4.2.1 Monitoring Summary by Indicator

| Ref | Indicator | Assessment | Action |
|-----|--|---|--|
| 7 | The net change, type and spatial distribution of open space and community facilities | LDP Policies are not being implemented in the intended manner | Officer and/or Member training may be required |
| 8 | The number of applications refused on design grounds | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 9 | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to design | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |

Indicator 7: The net change, type and spatial distribution of open space and community facilities.

Table 4.2.2 Strategic Policy SP2 - Health

| Addressing health and sickness issues through the retention of accessible leisure, recreational, health, social and community facilities (See also Policies SP10, OS2, SC2) | |
|--|---|
| Local Indicator | The net change, type and spatial distribution of open space and community facilities. |
| Policy Target | No loss of facilities permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Trigger Point | One facility lost contrary to the Policy Framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | Officer and/or Member training may be required. |

Analysis of Results

Community Facilities

4.2.1 Since the adoption date of the Plan there have been 10 applications which have resulted in the 'loss' of a community facility⁽¹⁷⁾. Three vacant Churches have been converted to alternative uses; one vacant community centre has been converted to a residential use; one pub has been converted to retail / commercial use with residential on the upper floor; and five retail units (A1) have changed to residential or alternative commercial uses.

17 For clarity, in respect of community facilities monitoring, this does not examine the loss of retail units within defined Town and District Centres (Policy R2/1) as this would duplicate monitoring through the annual retail survey. It does however consider the loss of retail units within designated areas and outside designated areas.

4 . Overarching Policies

4.2.2 None of the proposals resulted in the loss of the last community facility in the local area, and related to developments in the urban area, within settlements, but outside defined town / district centres. Whilst most of the 10 proposals have not fully considered the impact of the loss of the community use, it is considered that this omission can be addressed through further discussion with colleagues in the Development Management section.

Open Space

4.2.3 Since the adoption date of the Plan there have been 2 applications approved which have resulted in a loss of open space provision identified in the Open Space Assessment. In both instances the loss of open space is detailed in the officer report and the reasons why the development is considered to be acceptable identified.

4.2.4 The first application related to the development of the Integrated Transport Hub, Port Talbot (Policy TR1/6), which resulted in the loss of a small area of grassed / planted informal open space with benches. The development does however have significant public realm works, opening up a large area which allows people to sit within a modern and fit for purpose principally hard open landscaped area outside the transport hub.

4.2.5 The second application involved the loss of a small area of hard surfaced play space on Aberafan Seafront for the development of an adventure golf facility. The existing provision was however of poor quality and limited play value, so whilst the nature of the provision has changed, the golf facility is considered to offer more recreational opportunities.

4.2.6 In respect of the monitoring trigger therefore, whilst two facilities have been lost, alternative facilities have been provided as part of the redevelopment.

4.2.7 Overall the policy appears to be operating relatively well, albeit there have been a few occasions in respect of the loss of community facilities where the policy requirements have not been fully addressed in the decision making process. It is considered however that this can be remedied through further discussion with colleagues in the Development Management section to raise awareness of the types of proposals which may trigger this policy and to ensure requirements are met when considering future applications. Whilst some facilities have been lost, many of the changes from retail have been to another use where services are still provided to the community.

Indicator 8: The number of planning applications refused on design grounds.

Table 4.2.3 Strategic Policy SP2 - Health

| Addressing health and sickness issues through the retention of accessible leisure, recreational, health, social and community facilities (See also Policy BE1) | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicator | The number of planning applications refused on design grounds. |

| Addressing health and sickness issues through the retention of accessible leisure, recreational, health, social and community facilities (See also Policy BE1) | |
|---|---|
| Policy Target | No application permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

4.2.8 This indicator relates to health and sickness issues and the need to retain facilities and amenities. LDP objectives 23 and 24 are also referred to which concern the need to protect, conserve and enhance the historic heritage, built environment and identity of the County Borough, and the main arterial gateways serving Neath Port Talbot.

4.2.9 The indicator is the number of applications refused on design grounds, while the target and trigger point refer to permissions contrary to the design policy framework. A total of 6 applications were refused on design grounds during the monitoring period, one contrary to officer recommendation and one subsequently allowed on appeal. It is considered that no applications were approved contrary to the design policy framework. There are therefore no trigger applications relating to this indicator.

Indicator 9: The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Design.

Table 4.2.4 Strategic Policy SP2 - Health

| Addressing health and sickness issues through the retention of accessible leisure, recreational, health, social and community facilities (Supplementary Planning Guidance on Design) | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicator | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Design. |
| Policy Target | To prepare SPG relating to Design by April 2017. |
| Trigger Point | The SPG is not prepared by April 2017. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. |

4 . Overarching Policies

Analysis of Results

4.2.10 The Design SPG was prepared by the end of April 2017 and subsequently endorsed by the Council and published for public consultation between 10th May and 21st June. This policy target has therefore been met. The SPG was subsequently adopted by the Council in July 2017.

4.3 Strategic Policy 3 Sustainable Communities

Table 4.3.1 Monitoring Summary by Indicator

| Ref | Indicator | Performance | Action |
|-----|--|---|--|
| 10 | Amount of major retail, office and leisure development permitted in town centre and in out of town centres | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 11 | The number of applications permitted outside settlement limits | LDP Policies are not being implemented in the intended manner | Officer and/or Member training may be required |

Indicator 10: The amount of major retail, office and leisure development permitted in town centre and in out-of-town centres.

Table 4.3.2 Strategic Policy SP3 - Sustainable Communities

| Promoting sustainable and cohesive communities by identifying a settlement hierarchy (See also Policy SC1) | |
|---|---|
| Core Indicator | The amount of major retail, office and leisure development permitted in town centre and in out-of-town centres. |
| Policy Target | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

4.3.1 Out of a total of 19 applications relating to retail, office and leisure developments in the monitoring period, only one relates to a major development. This is the proposal for a replacement Lidl store at Parc Ynysderw, Pontardawe (P2015/1090). Although this relates to a new larger store which is not located within any designated retail centre, the tests set out in Policy R3 were addressed by a retail assessment which concluded that the proposal would not be contrary to the policy. There are therefore no trigger applications for this indicator.

Indicator 11: The number of applications permitted outside settlement limits.

4 . Overarching Policies

Table 4.3.3 Strategic Policy SP3 - Sustainable Communities

| Promoting sustainable and cohesive communities by resisting inappropriate development outside settlement limits (See also Policy SC1) | |
|--|---|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted outside settlement limits. |
| Policy Target | No applications permitted outside settlement limits contrary to the policy framework. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted outside settlement limits contrary to the policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | Officer and/or Member training may be required. |

Analysis of Results

4.3.2 Three applications have been approved for proposals outside settlement limits contrary to Policy SC1, two due to the pre-existence of ‘live’ planning permissions for similar proposals on the sites which could be implemented and one due to the acceptance that material considerations should outweigh the LDP policy.

4.3.3 Whilst the majority of applications have been determined fully in accordance with Policy SC1, these three decisions raise concerns that LDP Policy SP3 is not being consistently implemented in all cases. It is considered that this matter can be addressed through further discussions with colleagues in the Development Management section to ensure that all relevant policy requirements are adhered to when applications are determined.

4.4 Strategic Policy 4 Infrastructure

Table 4.4.1 Monitoring Summary by Indicator

| Ref | Indicator | Assessment | Action |
|-----|--|---|--|
| 12 | The number of applications permitted where new or improved infrastructure has been secured through developer contributions | LDP Policies are not being implemented in the intended manner | Officer and/or Member training may be required |
| 13 | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Planning Obligations | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required |

Indicator 12: The number of applications permitted where new or improved infrastructure has been secured through developer contributions.

Table 4.4.2 Strategic Policy SP4 - Infrastructure

| Infrastructure provision and the impact of new development on existing communities (See also Policy 11) | |
|--|---|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted where new or improved infrastructure has been secured through developer contributions. |
| Policy Target | New development will address the impact on communities through the provision of new or improved infrastructure where appropriate. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | Officer and/or Member training may be required. |

Analysis of Results

4.4.1 A number of planning applications have been approved during the reporting period subject to the signing of a Section 106 (S106) legal agreement to secure new or improved infrastructure through developer contributions. The following table provides details of the relevant S106 legal agreements and the level of developer contributions secured:

| Application Ref | Site Location | Site Ref | Open Space | Highways | Welsh Language | Education | Biodiversity |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------|-------------|----------|----------------|------------|--------------|
| P2014/1122 | Samuels Road, Cwmllynfell | | £91,074.00 | | £20,500.00 | £69,741.00 | £16,600.00 |
| P2015/0011 | Neath Road/Fairyland Road, Tonna | H1/11 | £187,956.00 | £100,000 | | | |

4 . Overarching Policies

| Application Ref | Site Location | Site Ref | Open Space | Highways | Welsh Language | Education | Biodiversity |
|-----------------|--|----------|------------|----------|----------------|-----------|--------------|
| P2015/0778 | Waun Sterw, Rhydyfro, Pontardawe | | £18,512.00 | | | | |
| P2015/0905 | Former Baglan Stables, Baglan | | £2,700.00 | | | | |
| P2016/0135 | Heol Wenallt, Cwmgwrach | | £7,746.00 | | | | |
| P2016/0410 | Heol Nedd, Cwmgwrach | | £11,619.00 | | | | |
| P2016/0468 | Wembley, Neath | | £5,700.00 | | | | |
| P2016/0657 | Glanafan Comprehensive School, Port Talbot | H1/16 | £27,360.00 | | | | |
| P2016/0663 | Cartref, Skewen | | £23,156.00 | | | | |
| P2016/0601 | Morfa Afan Phase 2 | | £10,230.00 | | | | |

4.4.2 The S106 agreements relating to planning applications P2015/0011 and P2015/0778 also included provision for affordable housing. This matter is dealt with in more detail within Section 6.2 (Indicator 41).

4.4.3 A number of planning applications have been approved during the reporting period where developer contributions towards open space were not sought. This matter is dealt with in more detail within Section 6.4 (Indicator 46). The policy therefore is not being consistently implemented in all cases and it is considered that this matter can be addressed through further discussions with colleagues in the Development Management section.

4.4.4 In respect of all other categories of infrastructure, the impact of new development on communities has been addressed comprehensively during the planning application determination process in all cases during the reporting period. Where it has been considered an appropriate course of action, S106 agreements are now in place both to address specific impacts relating to the proposed developments and also to ensure the future needs of end users are met.

Indicator 13: The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Planning Obligations.

Table 4.4.3 Strategic Policy SP4 - Infrastructure

| Infrastructure provision and the impact of new development on existing communities | |
|--|--|
| Local Indicator | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Planning Obligations. |

| Infrastructure provision and the impact of new development on existing communities | |
|--|--|
| Policy Target | To prepare the Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Planning Obligations by October 2016. |
| Trigger Point | The SPG is not prepared by October 2016. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. |

Analysis of Results

4.4.5 The Planning Obligations SPG has been prepared following a public consultation exercise that was undertaken in the Summer of 2016 and in accordance with this monitoring target, the guidance was adopted by the Council in October 2016.

4 . Overarching Policies

5 Area Based Policies

5.1 Strategic Policy 5 Development in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area

Table 5.1.1 Monitoring Summary by Indicator

| Ref | Indicator | Assessment | Action |
|-----|--|--|--|
| 14 | The number of new housing units permitted and delivered within the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 15 | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Coed Darcy Strategic Regeneration Area | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 16 | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Coed Darcy Strategic Regeneration Area | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 17 | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Coed Darcy Strategic Regeneration Area | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 18 | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Coed Darcy Strategic Regeneration Area | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 19 | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Harbourside Strategic Regeneration Area | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 20 | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Harbourside Strategic Regeneration Area | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 21 | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Harbourside Strategic Regeneration Area | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 22 | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Harbourside Strategic Regeneration Area | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 23 | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Port Talbot Harbourside and Town Centre Development Framework | Indicators suggest the need for further guidance in addition to those identified in the Plan | Supplementary Planning Guidance may be required |
| 24 | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Neath Town Centre Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 25 | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Neath Town Centre Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 26 | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Glanafan Comprehensive School Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |

5 . Area Based Policies

| Ref | Indicator | Assessment | Action |
|-----|--|---|--|
| 27 | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Glanafan Comprehensive School Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 28 | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Afan Lido Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 29 | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Afan Lido Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 30 | The number of applications permitted at the Bay Campus for uses contrary to the policy framework | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |

Indicator 14: The number of new housing units permitted and delivered within the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area.

Table 5.1.2 Strategic Policy SP5 - Development in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area

| The make provision for the majority of new housing development within the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area (See also Policies SP7, H1) | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicator | The number of new housing units permitted and delivered within the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area. |
| Policy Target | <p>Sites have been allocated within Policy H1 for the provision of 5,690 new housing units within the coastal corridor strategy area over the Plan period.</p> <p>Annual Targets:</p> <p>2011/12 - 152</p> <p>2012/13 - 134</p> <p>2013/14 - 216</p> <p>2014/15 - 268</p> <p>2015/16 - 318</p> <p>2016/17 - 379</p> <p>2017/18 - 495</p> <p>2018/19 - 533</p> <p>2019/20 - 518</p> <p>2020/21 - 513</p> |

| The make provision for the majority of new housing development within the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area (See also Policies SP7, H1) | |
|---|--|
| | 2021/22 - 502 2022/23 - 468 2023/24 - 412 2024/25 - 387 2025/26 - 375 |
| Trigger Point | The number of new housing units provided within the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area falls below the cumulative requirement for 2 consecutive years. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

5.1.1 The following table illustrates the delivery of housing in the Coastal Corridor against the annual targets within the monitoring framework:

Table 5.1.3 Housing Delivery in the Coastal Corridor

| Year | Annual Target | Housing Completions | Cumulative Target | Cumulative Completions | Delivery Against Target |
|---------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2011/12 | 152 | 152 | 152 | 152 | 0 |
| 2012/13 | 134 | 134 | 286 (+134) | 286 | 0 |
| 2013/14 | 216 | 217 | 502 (+216) | 503 | +1 |
| 2014/15 | 268 | 235 | 770 (+268) | 738 | -32 |
| 2015/16 | 318 | 130 | 1088 (+318) | 868 | -220 |
| 2016/17 | 379 | 113 | 1467 (+379) | 981 | -486 |

5.1.2 The delivery of housing on allocated sites within the coastal corridor has fallen behind the targets contained within the monitoring framework. Within the current monitoring period, the cumulative delivery has fallen some 486 units behind the cumulative target.

5.1.3 Whilst delivery has been slower than expected, progress has been made on several sites within the H1 portfolio over the current monitoring period, with either planning permission granted, or detailed pre-application advice sought on a number of sites. In addition to allocations within the H1 portfolio, there have been a number of windfall sites permitted and developed since the LDP base date. It is therefore envisaged that the rate of housing delivery in the coastal corridor will increase over the next 5 year period, and a number of sites allocated within Policy H1 will be delivered.

5 . Area Based Policies

5.1.4 Given that this monitoring period covers the first year since LDP adoption, the Council has taken the position that this is the first year that delivery has fallen below the cumulative target. The sites, and development of the permitted applications will be closely monitored over the next year.

Indicator 15: The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Coed Darcy Strategic Regeneration Area.

Table 5.1.4 Strategic Policy SP5 - Development in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area

| The allocation of a Strategic Regeneration Area at Coed Darcy (See also Policy SP7, SRA1, H1) | |
|--|--|
| Local Indicator | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Coed Darcy Strategic Regeneration Area. |
| Policy Target | To provide for the development of 2,400 new housing units by 2026. Annual Targets: 2011/12 - 0 2012/13 - 3 2013/14 - 72 2014/15 - 100 2015/16 - 125 2016/17 - 140 2017/18 - 170 2018/19 - 190 2019/20 - 215 2020/21 - 215 2021/22 - 215 2022/23 - 225 2023/24 - 235 2024/25 - 245 2025/26 - 250 |
| Trigger Point | The number of new housing units provided within the Coed Darcy SRA falls below the cumulative requirement for 2 consecutive years. |

| The allocation of a Strategic Regeneration Area at Coed Darcy (See also Policy SP7, SRA1, H1) | |
|--|---|
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

5.1.5 The following table illustrates the delivery of housing at Coed Darcy against the annual targets within the monitoring framework:

Table 5.1.5 Housing Delivery at Coed Darcy

| Year | Annual Target | Housing Completions | Cumulative Target | Cumulative Completions | Delivery Against Target |
|---------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2011/12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2012/13 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| 2013/14 | 72 | 72 | 75 (+72) | 75 | 0 |
| 2014/15 | 100 | 76 | 175 (+100) | 151 | -24 |
| 2015/16 | 125 | 62 | 300 (+125) | 213 | -87 |
| 2016/17 | 140 | 53 | 440 (+140) | 266 | -214 |

5.1.6 The number of units delivered at Coed Darcy since adoption of the LDP has been lower than originally anticipated, with housing completions lower than the targets contained within the monitoring framework, particularly since the LDP adoption in January 2016.

5.1.7 The Council and St Modwen Developments Ltd (SMDL) are currently working together to revise the Section 106 agreement and to accelerate progress on site. Part of the ongoing discussions is focusing on an approach that would see development commence on the southern area of the site, in addition to continued development on the northern section. This approach will increase the delivery of housing on-site and see multiple developers developing various outlets across both the north and south over the next 12-18 months.

5.1.8 Based on the encouraging build rates of 1 development outlet, SMDL believe that substantial progress can be made over the next 5 years, with the site expected to deliver over 200 units per annum by 2019/20, which would be in line with the annual targets contained within the monitoring framework. On this basis, it is not considered that any action is required at this time, and the development will continue to be monitored over the next year.

5 . Area Based Policies

Table 5.1.6 Strategic Policy SP5 - Development in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area

| The allocation of a Strategic Regeneration Area at Coed Darcy (See also Policies SP11, SRA1, EC1/3) | |
|--|---|
| Local Indicator | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Coed Darcy Strategic Regeneration Area. |
| Policy Target | A minimum of 4ha of land will be developed during the Plan period for employment uses, with a minimum of 0.33ha developed per annum for the remaining years of the Plan Period with a cumulative target of 0.66ha to be developed over any 2 year period. |
| Trigger Point | The amount of land developed for employment uses within the Coed Darcy SRA falls below the cumulative requirement for 2 consecutive years. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

5.1.9 To date, there has been no land developed within the Coed Darcy Strategic Regeneration Area for employment uses. The development of housing at Coed Darcy has been slower than originally anticipated, albeit it is expected that the rate of delivery will increase substantially over the coming years and will reach the required targets within the monitoring framework. Slower housing and infrastructure delivery has resulted in a delay to the employment element of the mixed use regeneration, however it is expected that this will accelerate in line with other elements of the redevelopment and will continue to be monitored over the next monitoring period.

Indicator 17: The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Coed Darcy Strategic Regeneration Area.

Table 5.1.7 Strategic Policy SP5 - Development in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area

| The allocation of a Strategic Regeneration Area at Coed Darcy (See also Policy TR1/2) | |
|--|---|
| Local Indicator | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Coed Darcy Strategic Regeneration Area. |
| Policy Target | To deliver the Coed Darcy Southern Access road in accordance with the timeframe identified within the S106 agreement. |
| Trigger Point | The Coed Darcy Southern Access Road is not delivered in accordance with the timeframe identified in the S106 agreement. |
| Performance | |

| The allocation of a Strategic Regeneration Area at Coed Darcy | |
|---|---|
| (See also Policy TR1/2) | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

5.1.10 In respect of the Coed Darcy Southern Access Road (SAR), discussions are continuing between the Council and St Modwen Developments Ltd (SMDL) to assess the robustness of the S106 Legal Agreement in supporting further residential development in the north of the site, where the initial phase of residential development has commenced, and its ability to allow for the commencement of a second front of development in the southern area.

5.1.11 Although yet to be formalised, agreement in principle has been reached between the Council and SMDL to incorporate a revised trigger for the delivery of the SAR. The initial S106 required the SAR to be delivered before the occupation of more than 300 homes and the revision is to allow this figure to increase, and to amend the timing of the SAR and strategic highway link. The revision allows the development of Coed Darcy on two fronts enabling an increase in the delivery of residential units for occupation.

5.1.12 In due course, a revised trigger for the delivery of the SAR will be agreed and inserted to require completion of the SAR before a specified date or occupancy level (whichever is the sooner). On this basis, it is not considered that any action is required at this time, and the scheme will continue to be monitored over the next year.

Indicator 18: The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Coed Darcy Strategic Regeneration Area.

Table 5.1.8 Strategic Policy SP5 - Development in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area

| The allocation of a Strategic Regeneration Area at Coed Darcy | |
|---|--|
| (See also Policy TR1/4) | |
| Local Indicator | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Coed Darcy Strategic Regeneration Area. |
| Policy Target | To deliver the Junction 43 (M4) Improvements in a phased manner in accordance with the timeframe identified within the S106 agreement. |
| Trigger Point | The Junction 43 (M4) is not delivered in accordance with the timeframe identified within the S106 agreement. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

5 . Area Based Policies

Analysis of Results

5.1.13 Linked to the delivery of the SAR (refer to Indicator 17 above), the existing S106 Agreement also requires a series of improvements to Junction 43 of the M4, and the road connecting the scheme to the junction which is known as the Northern Access Road (NAR). Work has already been completed in regard to the initial phases of improvement works.

5.1.14 As part of the continuing discussions, agreement in principle has also been reached between the Council and SMDL to incorporate revised timescales for the phasing of works to Junction 43. In basic terms, the changes will re-phase the delivery of the works to increase potential capacity for additional traffic from the site onto J43 earlier, therefore allowing a greater number of residential dwellings to be constructed prior to the construction of the strategic highway link connecting J43 to the A483 (Fabian Way), via the SAR (refer above) - i.e. a larger proportion of traffic will be directed to enter and leave the site via the north in the shorter term with the phasing of the highway improvements re-profiled to accommodate this.

5.1.15 On this basis, it is not considered that any action is required at this time, and the scheme will continue to be monitored over the next year.

Indicator 19: The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Harbourside Strategic Regeneration Area.

Table 5.1.9 Strategic Policy SP5 - Development in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area

| The allocation of a Strategic Regeneration Area at Harbourside (See also Policies SP7, SRA2, H1) | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicator | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Harbourside Strategic Regeneration Area. |
| Policy Target | To provide 385 new housing units by 2026. Annual Targets: 2011/12 - 0 2012/13 - 0 2013/14 - 0 2014/15 - 0 2015/16 - 35 2016/17 - 0 2017/18 - 10 2018/19 - 30 |

| The allocation of a Strategic Regeneration Area at Harbourside (See also Policies SP7, SRA2, H1) | |
|---|--|
| | 2019/20 - 30 2020/21 - 50 2021/22 - 50 2022/23 - 50 2023/24 - 50 2024/25 - 50 2025/26 - 30 |
| Trigger Point | The number of new housing units provided within the Harbourside SRA falls below the cumulative requirement for 2 consecutive years. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

5.1.16 The redevelopment of 'Green Park' is the first residential element of the Harbourside Strategic Regeneration Area. The development was granted planning consent in 2014 for the development of 34 residential units and was completed in 2016/17.

5.1.17 The monitoring framework sets a target of 35 units to be completed in 2015/16 and 0 units in 2016/17, and whilst the development of 34 units was delivered a year later than the monitoring target, this will have no impact on the overall delivery of the site. The successful delivery of the initial phase of residential development, combined with the development of other non-residential uses at Harbourside, indicates the redevelopment of Harbourside is progressing. Progress will continue to be monitored over the next monitoring period.

Indicator 20: The amount and type of new development permitted within Harbourside Strategic Regeneration Area.

5 . Area Based Policies

Table 5.1.10 Strategic Policy SP5 - Development in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area

| The allocation of a Strategic Regeneration Area at Harbourside (See also Policies SP11, SRA2, EC1/4) | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicator | The amount and type of new development permitted within Harbourside Strategic Regeneration Area. |
| Policy Target | A minimum of 7 hectares of land will be developed during the plan period for employment uses with a minimum of 0.46ha developed per annum for the remaining years of the Plan period with a cumulative target of 0.92 hectares to be developed over any 2 year period. |
| Trigger Point | The amount of land developed for employment uses within the Harbourside SRA falls below the cumulative requirement for 2 consecutive years. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

5.1.18 Since the LDP base date, a total of 1.8 hectares (ha) of land for employment uses has been developed at Harbourside.

Table 5.1.11

| Year | Employment Land Developed | Cumulative Target | Cumulative Development | Development Against Target |
|-----------|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2011/2012 | 1.72ha | 1.7ha | 1.7ha | 0 |
| 2012/2013 | 0 | 2.16ha (+0.46ha) | 1.7ha | -0.46ha |
| 2013/2014 | 0 | 2.62ha (+0.46ha) | 1.7ha | -0.92ha |
| 2014/2015 | 0 | 3.08ha (+0.46ha) | 1.7ha | -1.38ha |
| 2015/2016 | 0.098ha | 3.54ha (+0.46ha) | 1.8ha | -1.74ha |
| 2016/2017 | 0 | 4ha (+0.46ha) | 1.8ha | -2.2ha |

5.1.19 The policy target is to develop a minimum of 0.46ha per annum over the plan period, with a cumulative target of 0.92ha to be developed over any 2 year period. Within the current monitoring period, 0.098ha of employment land has been developed, which is below the annual target of 0.46ha.

5.1.20 Cumulatively, delivery at Harbourside has fallen below the targets specified within the monitoring framework. Whilst actual delivery has fallen below the target, a number of applications for employment uses have been permitted. An application to construct 3

detached B1 business units on a site of 1.37ha and a two-storey extension to the existing TWI Research and Development facility equating to 0.33ha have both received planning consent.

5.1.21 Given that this monitoring period covers the first year since LDP adoption, the Council has taken the position that this is the first year that delivery has fallen below the cumulative target. The site, and development of the permitted applications will be closely monitored over the next year.

Indicator 21: The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Harbourside Strategic Regeneration Area.

Table 5.1.12 Strategic Policy SP5 - Development in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area

| The allocation of a Strategic Regeneration Area at Harbourside (See also Policy R1/3) | |
|--|--|
| Local Indicator | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Harbourside Strategic Regeneration Area. |
| Policy Target | To deliver the retail development at Harbourside SRA in accordance with the Port Talbot Harbourside and Town Centre Development Framework. |
| Trigger Point | The retail development at Harbourside SRA is not delivered in accordance with the Port Talbot Harbourside & Town Centre Development Framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

5.1.22 One application (relevant to this indicator) has been determined for a proposal within the Harbourside SRA during the monitoring period. This related to the change of use of an existing office / industrial unit to a gymnasium, which was granted for a temporary period to ensure that the development would not prejudice the overall development framework (P2016/0005). To date, developments within the Harbourside SRA are therefore considered to be in accordance with the development framework in relation to the retail allocation element of the scheme. However, the Harbourside SPG and development framework are currently due to be revised and updated (refer to Indicator 23 below).

Indicator 22: The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Harbourside Strategic Regeneration Area.

5 . Area Based Policies

Table 5.1.13 Strategic Policy SP5 - Development in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area

| The allocation of a Strategic Regeneration Area at Harbourside (See also Policy TR1/4) | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicator | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Harbourside Strategic Regeneration Area. |
| Policy Target | To deliver Harbour Way (PDR). |
| Trigger Point | COMPLETE. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. |

Analysis of Results

5.1.23 Harbour Way (PDR), which provides an important transport link for the Harbourside Strategic Regeneration Area to the M4, was completed in 2014.

Indicator 23: The preparation of SPG relating to Port Talbot Harbourside & Town Centre Development Framework.

Table 5.1.14 Strategic Policy SP5 - Development in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area

| The allocation of a Strategic Regeneration Area at Harbourside | |
|--|---|
| Local Indicator | The preparation of SPG relating to Port Talbot Harbourside & Town Centre Development Framework. |
| Policy Target | To prepare the SPG relating to Port Talbot Harbourside & Town Centre Development Framework by October 2016. |
| Trigger Point | The SPG is not prepared by October 2016. |
| Performance | |
| Action | Supplementary Planning Guidance may be required. |

Analysis of Results

5.1.24 To date, the Port Talbot Harbourside & Town Centre Development Framework SPG has not been prepared. At present, additional work is being undertaken by the Council in consultation with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to refine and improve the flood modelling for the area to give a more complete understanding of the flooding mechanisms and factors that will influence the pattern of future development at Harbourside.

5.1.25 Preparation of the SPG has therefore been postponed to allow the Harbourside development framework to be fully informed by the further work to be undertaken in respect of flood modelling. Any progress on site will be closely monitored and the need to prepare SPG to set out the overall vision, form and character for the site will be further considered over the next 12 month period.

Indicator 24: The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Neath Town Centre Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme.

Table 5.1.15 Strategic Policy SP5 - Development in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area

| To promote mixed use regeneration schemes - Neath Town Centre (See also Policies SP7, CCRS1/1, H1/7) | |
|---|---|
| Local Indicator | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Neath Town Centre Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme. |
| Policy Target | To deliver 50 new housing units with anticipated commencement from 2016/17. |
| Trigger Point | The housing development within Neath Town Centre Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme is not delivered from 2016/17. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

5.1.26 Outline permission for residential development was granted in 2013, with full planning consent for the first phase of residential development (6 commercial and 12 residential units) granted in January 2017.

5.1.27 The indicator for this target suggested that development should commence from 2016/17. Whilst the development did not commence within this timeframe, Coastal Housing Group are scheduled to start work on site Autumn 2017 and given development is due to start shortly, no further action is considered to be required at this time. Monitoring of site development will continue through the TAN1 process and will be reported in next year's monitoring report.

Indicator 25: The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Neath Town Centre Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme.

5 . Area Based Policies

Table 5.1.16 Strategic Policy SP5 - Development in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area

| To promote mixed use regeneration schemes - Neath Town Centre (See also Policies SP12, CCRS1/1, R1/1) | |
|--|--|
| Local Indicator | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Neath Town Centre Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme. |
| Policy Target | To deliver the retail element of the Neath Town Centre Regeneration Scheme: Phase1 by 2016; Phase 2 by 2020. |
| Trigger Point | The retail element of the Neath Town Centre Regeneration Scheme is not delivered in accordance with the identified timescales. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

5.1.28 Phase 1 of the Neath Town Centre Regeneration Scheme comprises a replacement multi-storey car park and a large shop unit. This first phase was completed and in use by mid 2016, complying with the first part of the policy target. The consent referred to above for 6 commercial units and 12 residential units relates to part of Phase 2 and as indicated, construction work is scheduled to start Autumn 2017. Monitoring of progress on delivery of phase 2 will continue.

Indicator 26: The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Glanafan Comprehensive School Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme.

Table 5.1.17 Strategic Policy SP5 - Development in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area

| To promote mixed use regeneration schemes Glanafan Comprehensive School (See also Policies SP7, CCRS1/2, H1/17) | |
|--|--|
| Local Indicator | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Glanafan Comprehensive School Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme. |
| Policy Target | To deliver 50 housing units with anticipated commencement from 2017/18. |
| Trigger Point | The housing development with in Glanafan Comprehensive School Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme is not delivered from 2017/18. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

5.1.29 Planning permission for the redevelopment of Glanafan School was granted in March 2017. Funding for the scheme has been secured through Social Housing Grant and Vibrant and Viable Places funding. Coastal Housing Group started work on site in Summer 2017, with completion of the development scheduled for September 2018. Permission was granted for 49 units, rather than the anticipated 50. The scheme is therefore expected to deliver housing development from 2017/18, in accordance with the monitoring framework.

Indicator 27: The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Glanafan Comprehensive School Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme.

Table 5.1.18 Strategic Policy SP5 - Development in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area

| To promote mixed use regeneration schemes - Glanafan Comprehensive School (See also Policies SP12, CCRS1/2, R1/2) | |
|--|--|
| Local Indicator | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within within Glanafan Comprehensive School Mixed use Regeneration Scheme. |
| Policy Target | To deliver the retail element of a mixed use development at Glanafan Comprehensive School, Port Talbot by 2020. |
| Trigger Point | The retail element of a mixed use development at Glanafan Comprehensive School, Port Talbot is not delivered by 2020. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

5.1.30 The proposed retail element of the Glanafan School site forms part of the same planning permission and overall development as the residential elements covered above. As indicated above, work started on site in the Summer 2017, with completion scheduled for September 2018. It is anticipated that the retail element will also be delivered from 2018, meeting the policy target.

Indicator 28: The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Afan Lido Mixed-Use Regeneration Scheme.

5 . Area Based Policies

Table 5.1.19 Strategic Policy SP5 - Development in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area

| To promote mixed use regeneration schemes - Afan Lido (See also Policy SP7, CCRS1/3, H1/19) | |
|--|---|
| Local Indicator | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Afan Lido Mixed-Use Regeneration Scheme. |
| Policy Target | To deliver 150 new housing units with anticipated commencement from 2016/2017. |
| Trigger Point | The housing development within Afan Lido Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme is not delivered from 2016/17. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

5.1.31 Whilst the indicator suggests that development will commence from 2016/17 onwards, to date there has been no development on site and no planning application submitted.

5.1.32 The Council owned site is cleared and ready to be developed. The site is flat, easily accessible and benefits from a beach front location. The Council has recently put the site out for a tender process to develop the site for 150 residential units with elements of commercial / tourism included. The prospective developer bids received are currently being assessed by the Council, with development expected to be completed within a 4 year period, in accordance with the tender brief.

5.1.33 Whilst the delayed progress on site means that the indicator has hit the trigger point, given the recent progress and developer interest, there is potential for considerable progress to be made over the next year, and it is envisaged that the site will start to deliver residential units by 2018/19. Therefore, it is not considered that any further action is required at this time and the site will be monitored closely over the next 12 month period.

Indicator 29: The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Afan Lido Mixed-Use Regeneration Scheme.

Table 5.1.20 Strategic Policy SP5 - Development in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area

| To promote mixed use regeneration schemes - Afan Lido (See also Policy CCRS1/3) | |
|--|---|
| Local Indicator | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Afan Lido Mixed-Use Regeneration Scheme. |
| Policy Target | To deliver a tourism / recreation development at Afan Lido by 2020. |
| Trigger Point | The tourism / recreation development at Afan Lido is not delivered by 2020. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

5.1.34 The development of the tourism / recreation element of the scheme is likely to be dependent on the development of the residential element, as the site is likely to be developed as a whole.

5.1.35 As stated above, the site has recently been put out to tender, with the developer bids currently being assessed by the Council. Given the site is flat, easily accessible, has a beach front location and ready to be developed, it is expected that the site will start to be delivered in 2018/19, and therefore the tourism element of the scheme is likely to be completed by 2020. Consequently, it is not considered that any further action is required at this time and the site will be monitored closely over the next 12 month period.

Indicator 30: The number of applications permitted at the Bay Campus for uses contrary to the policy framework.

Table 5.1.21 Strategic Policy SP5 - Development in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area

| To deliver a University Science & Innovation Campus at Fabian Way (Policy CCUC1) | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted at the Bay Campus for uses contrary to the policy framework. |
| Policy Target | The Swansea University Science and Innovation campus to be delivered by 2015: May 2013 - Work to commence. May 2014 - The first buildings completed. |

5 . Area Based Policies

| To deliver a University Science & Innovation Campus at Fabian Way (Policy CCUC1) | |
|---|--|
| | May 2015 - All non-residential buildings completed. September 2015 - Student accommodation completed. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

5.1.36 The development of the Swansea University Science and Innovation Campus is a significant development within the County Borough, with the potential to support the growth in the knowledge based economy within Neath Port Talbot and throughout the City Region.

5.1.37 Outline permission was granted for the campus in August 2012, with subsequent reserved matters for Phase 1 approved in December 2012. The LDP allocates land to accommodate both development within the existing outline application and additional areas of the site for further expansion. Land is also available to the west of the site, which is within the administrative boundary of the City and County of Swansea.

5.1.38 The targets contained within the monitoring framework refer to the development of Phase 1a of the Campus, which included many of the main buildings that were required for the campus to formally open in September 2015, such as the Great Hall, Innovation Hub, Manufacturing Facility, residential accommodation and academic buildings.

5.1.39 The Campus formally opened in September 2015, and by this time the academic buildings and residential accommodation contained within Phase 1a were completed in accordance with the monitoring framework. Since the completion of Phase 1a, the majority of Phases 1b and 1c have also either been completed or are currently under construction and close to completion, with some phases of this development completed 5 years ahead of the original schedule. This indicates the successful implementation of the policy and success of the University Campus.

5.1.40 Areas within Phase 2 of the development have also been brought forward within the work programme with buildings such as the ESRI and Navitas academic buildings now complete. There are additional areas of Phase 2 that are due to be developed, including a multi-storey car park and additional residential and academic buildings. All planning applications received to date have been in accordance with Policy CCUC1.

5.2 Strategic Policy 6 Development in the Valleys Strategy Area

Table 5.2.1 Monitoring Summary by Indicator

| Ref | Indicator | Assessment | Action |
|-----|---|--|--|
| 31 | The number of new housing units permitted and delivered within the Valleys Strategy Area | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 32 | The number of new housing units permitted and delivered within the Pontardawe Strategic Growth Area | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 33 | The number of new housing units permitted and delivered within the Upper Neath Valley Strategic Growth Area | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 34 | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within the Park Avenue, Glynneath Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 35 | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within the Park Avenue, Glynneath Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 36 | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Park Avenue Glynneath | Indicators suggest the need for further guidance in addition to those identified in the Plan | Supplementary Planning Guidance may be required |
| 37 | The number of live work proposals permitted | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 38 | The number of applications permitted at Rheola | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |

Indicator 31: The number of new housing units permitted and delivered within the Valleys Strategy Area.

Table 5.2.2 Strategic Policy SP6 - Development in the Valleys Strategy Area

| To deliver housing development within the Valleys Strategy Area (See also Policies SP7, VRS1, H1) | |
|--|--|
| Local Indicator | The number of new housing units permitted and delivered within the Valleys Strategy Area. |
| Policy Target | Sites have been allocated within Policy H1 for the provision of 1,435 new housing units over the plan period. |
| Annual Target | 2011/12 - 61 |

5 . Area Based Policies

| To deliver housing development within the Valleys Strategy Area (See also Policies SP7, VRS1, H1) | |
|--|---|
| | 2012/13 - 108 |
| | 2013/14 - 44 |
| | 2014/15 - 60 |
| | 2015/16 - 90 |
| | 2016/17 - 112 |
| | 2017/18 - 92 |
| | 2018/19 - 75 |
| | 2019/20 - 122 |
| | 2020/21 - 125 |
| | 2021/22 - 117 |
| | 2022/23 - 117 |
| | 2023/24 - 112 |
| | 2024/25 - 126 |
| | 2025/26 - 74 |
| Trigger Point | The number of new housing units provided within the Valleys Strategy Area falls below the cumulative requirement for 2 consecutive years. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

5.2.1 Within the Valleys Strategy area, there has been some significant development since the start of the Plan period as detailed in the following table:

Table 5.2.3 Housing Completions in the Valleys Strategy Area

| Year | Annual Target | Housing Completions | Cumulative Target | Cumulative Completions | Cumulative Delivery Against Target |
|---------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2011/12 | 61 | 64 | 61 | 64 | 3 |
| 2012/13 | 108 | 108 | 169 (+108) | 172 | 3 |
| 2013/14 | 44 | 44 | 213 (+44) | 216 | 3 |
| 2014/15 | 60 | 81 | 273 (+60) | 297 | 24 |

| Year | Annual Target | Housing Completions | Cumulative Target | Cumulative Completions | Cumulative Delivery Against Target |
|---------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2015/16 | 90 | 85 | 363 (+90) | 382 | 19 |
| 2016/17 | 112 | 18 | 475 (+112) | 400 | -75 |

5.2.2 The policy trigger for this indicator is where the number of new housing units provided on allocated housing sites (Policy H1) within the Valleys Strategy Area falls below the **cumulative** requirement for 2 consecutive years. Looking at the cumulative target year on year, the completions only fail to meet the trigger for the last year.

5.2.3 Whilst there has been a temporary shortfall in the delivery of housing based on the targets over the 2016/17 period, this will continue to be monitored over the next year. It is also worth noting that within the Valleys Strategy Area there have been a number of completions on windfall sites, and a number of consents granted on large sites over the monitoring period.

Indicator 32: The number of new housing units permitted and delivered within the Pontardawe Strategic Growth Area.

Table 5.2.4 Strategic Policy SP6 - Development in the Valleys Strategy Area

| Pontardawe Strategic Growth Area (see also Policies SP7, H1) | |
|---|---|
| Local Indicator | The number of new housing units permitted and delivered within the Pontardawe Strategic Growth Area. |
| Policy Target | Sites have been allocated within Policy H1 for the provision of 664 new housing units over the plan period. |
| Annual Targets | 2011/12 - 0 2012/13 - 46 2013/14 - 30 2014/15 - 38 2015/16 - 65 2016/17 - 92 2017/18 - 72 2018/19 - 50 2019/20 - 66 2020/21 - 50 |

5 . Area Based Policies

| Pontardawe Strategic Growth Area (see also Policies SP7, H1) | |
|---|---|
| | 2021/22 - 40 2022/23 - 40 2023/24 - 35 2024/25 - 40 2025/26 - 0 |
| Trigger Point | The number of of new housing units provided within the Pontardawe Strategic Growth Area falls below the cumulative requirement for 2 consecutive years. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

5.2.4 There has been some significant development in the Pontardawe Strategic Growth Area since the start of the Plan period. The annual build rates are as follows:

Table 5.2.5 Housing Completions in the Pontardawe Strategic Growth Area

| Year | Annual Target | Housing Completions | Cumulative Target | Cumulative Completions | Cumulative Delivery Against Target |
|---------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2011/12 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 2012/13 | 46 | 46 | 46 (+46) | 49 | 3 |
| 2013/14 | 30 | 30 | 76 (+30) | 79 | 3 |
| 2014/15 | 38 | 43 | 114 (+38) | 122 | 8 |
| 2015/16 | 65 | 66 | 179 (+65) | 188 | 9 |
| 2016/17 | 92 | 18 | 271 (+92) | 206 | -65 |

5.2.5 The policy trigger for this indicator is where the number of new housing units provided on allocated housing sites (Policy H1) within the Pontardawe Strategic Growth Area falls below the **cumulative** requirement for 2 consecutive years. Looking at the cumulative target year on year, the completions only fail to meet the trigger for the last year.

5.2.6 Whilst there has been a temporary shortfall in the delivery of housing based on the targets over the 2016/17 period, this will continue to be monitored over the next year. It is also worth noting that within the Pontardawe Strategic Growth Area there have been a number of completions on windfall sites, and a number of consents granted on large sites over the monitoring period.

Indicator 33: The number of new housing units permitted and delivered within the Upper Neath Valley Strategic Growth Area.

Table 5.2.6 Strategic Policy SP6 - Development in the Valleys Strategy Area

| Upper Neath Valley Strategic Growth Area (See also Policies SP7, VRS1, H1) | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicator | The number of new housing units permitted and delivered within the Upper Neath Valley Strategic Growth Area. |
| Policy Target | Sites have been allocated within Policy H1 for the provision of 264 new housing units over the plan period. |
| Annual Target | 2011/12 - 5 2012/13 - 0 2013/14 - 9 2014/15 - 2 2015/16 - 0 2016/17 - 0 2017/18 - 0 2018/19 - 0 2019/20 - 21 2020/21 - 45 2021/22 - 37 2022/23 - 37 2023/24 - 37 2024/25 - 36 2025/26 - 35 |

5 . Area Based Policies

| Upper Neath Valley Strategic Growth Area (See also Policies SP7, VRS1, H1) | |
|---|--|
| Trigger Point | The number of new housing units provided within the Upper Neath Valley Strategic Growth Area falls below the cumulative requirement for 2 consecutive years. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

5.2.7 There has been more limited development within the Upper Neath Valley Strategic Growth Area as detailed in the following table:

Table 5.2.7 Housing Completions in the Upper Neath Valley Strategic Growth Area

| Year | Annual Target | Housing Completions | Cumulative Target | Cumulative Completions | Cumulative Delivery Against Target |
|---------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2011/12 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| 2012/13 | 0 | 0 | 5 (+0) | 5 | 0 |
| 2013/14 | 9 | 9 | 14 (+9) | 14 | 0 |
| 2014/15 | 2 | 2 | 16 (+2) | 16 | 0 |
| 2015/16 | 0 | 0 | 16 (+0) | 16 | 0 |
| 2016/17 | 0 | 0 | 16 (+0) | 16 | 0 |

5.2.8 The figures show that the completions are in line with the annual targets set out above, indicating that development is proceeding in accordance with expectations. Whilst no large site completions are anticipated until 2019/20, housing completions will continue to be monitored over the period.

Indicator 34: The amount of new development permitted and delivered within the Park Avenue, Glynneath Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme.

Table 5.2.8 Strategic Policy SP6 - Development in the Valleys Strategy Area

| Park Avenue, Glynneath Mixed Use Regeneration (See also Policies SP7, VRS1/1, H1) | |
|--|---|
| Local Indicator | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within the Park Avenue , Glynneath Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme. |

| Park Avenue, Glynneath Mixed Use Regeneration (See also Policies SP7, VRS1/1, H1) | |
|--|---|
| Policy Target | To provide 150 new housing units with anticipated commencement from 2020/21. |
| Trigger Point | The housing development at Park Avenue Glynneath Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme is not delivered from 2020/21. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

5.2.9 To date there has been no progress on this site and the anticipated commencement of the development is still some years off as the delivery of the site is anticipated later in the plan period. On this basis, it is not considered that any action is required at this time, and progress will continue to be monitored.

Indicator 35: The amount of new development permitted and delivered within the Park Avenue, Glynneath Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme.

Table 5.2.9 Strategic Policy SP6 - Development in the Valleys Strategy Area

| Park Avenue, Glynneath Mixed Use Development (See also Policies SP12, VRS1/1, R1/4) | |
|--|---|
| Local Indicator | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within the Park Avenue Glynneath mixed-use regeneration scheme. |
| Policy Target | To deliver the retail element of a mixed use development at Park Avenue Glynneath in accordance with the Park Avenue Glynneath SPG. |
| Trigger Point | The retail element of a mixed use development at Park Avenue, Glynneath is not delivered in accordance with the Park Avenue, Glynneath SPG. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

5.2.10 As above, there has been no progress to date on the retail elements of the development of this site. This will continue to be monitored in conjunction with Indicator 34.

5 . Area Based Policies

Indicator 36: The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Park Avenue, Glynneath.

Table 5.2.10 Strategic Policy SP6 - Development in the Valleys Strategy Area

| Park Avenue, Glynneath Mixed Use Development SPG | |
|--|--|
| Local Indicator | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Park Avenue, Glynneath. |
| Policy Target | To prepare the SPG relating to Park Avenue Glynneath by April 2017. |
| Trigger Point | The SPG is not prepared by April 2017. |
| Performance | |
| Action | Supplementary Planning Guidance may be required. |

Analysis of Results

5.2.11 The SPG has not been produced by the trigger point date of April 2017. Given the site is not expected to be delivered until the later part of the Plan period (i.e. from 2020 onwards), the delay in producing the SPG is unlikely to have a detrimental impact on the overall site delivery. Any progress on site will be closely monitored and the need to prepare SPG to set out the overall vision, form and character for the site will be further considered over the next 12 month period.

Indicator 37: The number of live-work proposals permitted.

Table 5.2.11 Strategic Policy SP6 - Development in the Valleys Strategy Area

| Encouraging employment uses including "live-work" units (See also Policies SP11, EC5, EC6) | |
|---|---|
| Local Indicator | The number of live-work proposals permitted. |
| Policy Target | An increase in the number of live-work units permitted. |
| Trigger Point | No increase in the number of live-work units permitted for 2 consecutive years. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

5.2.12 Since LDP adoption, there have been no applications for live-work units within the County Borough. The live-work policy provides a framework to allow development outside of settlement limits within the Valley Strategy Area, providing a more innovative policy approach to encourage development in the Valleys to assist in the overall reinvigoration. As the policy approach is innovative and a relatively new approach, it may take time for applications to start to come through the planning system. The policy, and any application submitted, will be monitored over the next year.

Indicator 38: The number of applications permitted at Rheola.

Table 5.2.12 Strategic Policy SP6 - Development in the Valleys Strategy Area

| Tourism Development (See also Policies SP13, TO3/1) | |
|--|---|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted at Rheola. |
| Policy Target | The allocation at Rheola will be delivered by 2021. |
| Trigger Point | The allocation at Rheola is not delivered by 2021 |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

5.2.13 The site is subject to an outline planning application that has a resolution to grant planning consent, subject to the signing of a Section 106 agreement. The outline application is for mixed use, tourism led development comprising of up to 100 holiday accommodation units, leisure complex and also allows for an element of residential as enabling development.

5.2.14 Recently, there has been a change in ownership of part of the site and NRW are continuing to investigate the flood modelling affecting the site. Whilst the S106 agreement is yet to be signed, as the site is scheduled to be delivered in 2021, there is sufficient time for the issues to be addressed, the agreement completed and for development to commence.

5.2.15 On this basis, it is not considered that any action is required at this time, and progress will continue to be monitored.

6 Building Healthy & Sustainable Communities

6.1 Strategic Policy 7 Housing Requirement

Table 6.1.1 Monitoring Summary by Indicator

| Ref | Indicator | Assessment | Action |
|-----|--|---|--|
| 39 | The number of net additional affordable and general market dwellings built in the LPA area | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 40 | The housing land supply taken from the current Housing Land Availability Study (TAN 1) | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |

Indicator 39: The number of net additional affordable and general market dwellings built in the LPA area.

Table 6.1.2 Strategic Policy SP7 - Housing Requirement

| To deliver sufficient housing to meet the economic-led growth strategy (See also Policies SP2, H1) | |
|---|---|
| Core Indicator | The number of net additional affordable and general market dwellings built in the LPA area. |
| Policy Target | <p>A total provision of 8,760 new housing units will be made in order to ensure that a minimum of 7,800 new housing units will be delivered by 2026.</p> <p>Annual Targets:</p> <p>2011/12 - 262</p> <p>2012/13 - 287</p> <p>2013/14 - 301</p> <p>2014/15 - 386</p> <p>2015/16 - 486</p> <p>2016/17 - 549</p> <p>2017/18 - 625</p> <p>2018/19 - 686</p> <p>2019/20 - 698</p> <p>2020/21 - 676</p> <p>2021/22 - 647</p> |

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| To deliver sufficient housing to meet the economic-led growth strategy (See also Policies SP2, H1) | |
|---|--|
| | 2022/23 - 614 2023/24 - 553 2024/25 - 542 2025/26 - 488 |
| Trigger Point | The number of new housing units provided within the County Borough falls below the cumulative requirement for 2 consecutive years. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

6.1.1 The LDP makes provision for 8,760 housing units, in order to deliver the need of 7,800 new housing units by 2026. To date, the LDP has delivered 1,679 housing units, as illustrated within the table below.

Table 6.1.3 Total Housing Completions by Year

| Year | Annual Target | Actual Housing Completions | Cumulative Target | Cumulative Completions | Cumulative Completions Against Target |
|---------|---------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2011/12 | 262 | 262 | 262 | 262 | 0 |
| 2012/13 | 287 | 287 | 549 | 549 | 0 |
| 2013/14 | 301 | 301 | 850 | 850 | 0 |
| 2014/15 | 386 | 401 | 1,236 | 1,251 | 15 |
| 2015/16 | 486 | 250 | 1,722 | 1,501 | -221 |
| 2016/17 | 549 | 178 | 2,271 | 1,679 | -592 |

6.1.2 Within this monitoring period and first year of the LDP adoption, the actual housing completions are lower than the annual target within the monitoring framework. The cumulative completions, when compared with the cumulative target are 592 units below target in the current monitoring period. Whilst this is a considerable figure, when the total completions (1,679) are compared with the cumulative target (2,271), the LDP has delivered approximately 74% of the cumulative target to date.

6.1.3 Whilst the housing completions are lower than anticipated, a number of sites within the Policy H1 portfolio have either had planning consent granted during the monitoring period (e.g. Neath Road / Fairyland Road, Tonna) or have made substantial progress on undetermined applications or pre-application discussions. It is therefore expected that the

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rate of housing delivery will increase substantially in Neath Port Talbot over the next 5 year period. On this basis, and as this is the first monitoring period after adoption, the trigger point has not yet been reached and no action is required at this time. Housing completions will continue to be monitored over the next monitoring period.

Indicator 40: The housing land supply taken from the current Housing Land Availability Study.

Table 6.1.4 Strategic Policy SP7 - Housing Requirement

| To make provision for sufficient land for new housing to meet short, medium and long term needs (See also Policy H1) | |
|---|---|
| Core Indicator | The housing land supply taken from the current Housing Land Availability Study (TAN 1). |
| Policy Target | Housing land supply should not fall below 5 years as determined by the Housing Land Availability Study (TAN 1) in any given year. |
| Trigger Point | The housing land supply falls below 5 years as determined by the Housing Land Availability Study (TAN 1) in any given year. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

6.1.4 Two Joint Housing Land Availability Studies (JHLAS) have been completed within this monitoring period. The 2016 study (which covered the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016), demonstrated a land supply of 5.0 years and the latest 2017 study (which covered the period 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017), demonstrated a land supply figure of 5.3 years.

6.1.5 Accordingly, since the adoption of the LDP, the Council has demonstrated a 5 year land supply and the requirements of this indicator have been met.

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6.2 Strategic Policy 8 Affordable Housing

Table 6.2.1 Monitoring Summary by Indicator

| Ref | Indicator | Assessment | Action |
|-----|--|---|--|
| 41 | The number of net additional affordable and general market dwellings built in the LPA area | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 42 | Changes in residual values across the 6 sub market areas: 1) Port Talbot; 2) Neath; 3) Pontardawe; 4) Neath and Dulais Valley; 5) Swansea and Amman Valley; 6) Afan Valley | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 43 | The number of applications permitted on affordable housing exception sites | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 44 | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Affordable Housing | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required |

Indicator 41: The number of net additional affordable and general market dwellings built in the LPA area.

Table 6.2.2 Strategic Policy SP8 - Affordable Housing

| To make sufficient provision for affordable housing (see also Policies SP2, AH1) | |
|---|--|
| Core Indicator | The number of net additional affordable and general market dwellings built in the LPA area. |
| Policy Target | To deliver 1,200 affordable housing units by 2026. Annual Targets: 2011/12 - 7 2012/13 - 5 2013/14 - 22 2014/15 - 37 2015/16 - 72 2016/17 - 90 2017/18 - 115 2018/19 - 130 |

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| To make sufficient provision for affordable housing (see also Policies SP2, AH1) | |
|---|---|
| | 2019/20 - 124 2020/21 - 120 2021/22 - 111 2022/23 - 102 2023/24 - 90 2024/25 - 89 2025/26 - 86 |
| Trigger Point | The number of new affordable housing units provided within the County Borough falls below the cumulative requirement for 2 consecutive years. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

6.2.1 The monitoring framework provides annual targets for the delivery of affordable housing units through the planning system. To date, the number of affordable housing delivered has been considerably lower than the targets set within the framework, as illustrated within the following table:

Table 6.2.3 Affordable Housing Completions by Year

| Year | Annual Targets | Actual Affordable Housing Units Delivered | Cumulative Target | Cumulative Completions | Cumulative Delivery Against Target |
|---------|----------------|---|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2011/12 | 7 | 11 | 7 | 11 | 4 |
| 2012/13 | 5 | 0 | 12 | 11 | -1 |
| 2013/14 | 22 | 0 | 34 | 11 | -23 |
| 2014/15 | 37 | 23 | 71 | 34 | -37 |
| 2015/16 | 72 | 8 | 143 | 42 | -101 |
| 2016/17 | 90 | 0 | 233 | 42 | -191 |

6.2.2 Since the LDP base date, 42 affordable housing units have been delivered through the planning system. Whilst the delivery of any amount of affordable housing is positive and will have a positive impact on community cohesion and help meet the affordable

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housing need in Neath Port Talbot, the rate of delivery is below the targets set within the monitoring framework. Within the current monitoring period, the cumulative delivery against target is -191 affordable housing units.

6.2.3 The main reason why delivery is likely to have fallen behind target is that housing delivery has fallen below target, and some of the sites within the H1 portfolio have not come through the planning system as quickly as originally anticipated. That said, there have been a number of Section 106 agreements for the delivery of affordable housing signed to date, and it is therefore expected that the rate of delivery will increase. Furthermore, commuted sum funds have been received within the current monitoring period, equating to £276,120.

6.2.4 As this monitoring period is the first year since LDP adoption, the trigger point of 2 consecutive years has not yet been reached. The delivery of affordable housing, and the progress of the signed Section 106 agreements will be monitored closely over the next year.

Indicator 42: Changes in the residual values across the the 6 sub-market areas.

Table 6.2.4 Strategic Policy SP8 - Affordable Housing

| To make sufficient provision for affordable housing | |
|---|---|
| Local Indicator | Changes in the residual values across the the 6 sub-market areas: 1. Port Talbot 2. Neath 3. Pontardawe 4. Neath and Dulais Valleys 5. Swansea and Amman Valleys 6. Afan Valley |
| Policy Target | To deliver the maximum level of affordable housing considered viable. |
| Trigger Point | An increase or decrease of 5% of residual value in any sub-market housing area in one year |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

6.2.5 The Affordable Housing Viability Study (2012) assessed the economic viability of private residential development sites, in particular, the extent that private developers could contribute to the provision of affordable housing units within each sub-zone. The findings of this report informed the affordable housing targets contained within Policy AH1.

6.2.6 The purpose of this indicator is to monitor changes in residual values and to determine if these changes are significant enough to have an impact on the targets contained within Policy AH1. For example, if a change in the residual value is greater than

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5%, then this could provide an indication that schemes have become more viable and therefore, capable of supporting a greater number of affordable housing units. Alternatively, if the reduction is more than 5%, then this could be an indication that schemes have become less viable and the affordable housing targets within the LDP have been set too high.

6.2.7 The assessment uses the 31st March 2016 (LDP adoption year) as the benchmark date and assesses any changes to these benchmark residual values on the 31st March 2017. The Council as part of its assessment considered the Land Registry House Price Index, the Zoopla Area Guide and its own database of new build properties. Whilst the assessment of second hand house price data can provide a useful indicator of market performance in each sub-zone, the Council has attached most weight to new build house price data for this exercise.

6.2.8 The Council has used new build house price data (obtained from the Land Registry) together with further research into unit type, size and the number of bedrooms to obtain an accurate cost per square metre for new build development. Within Neath Port Talbot, it was found that whilst there had overall been a minor increase in overall sales values between 2016 and 2017, this has largely been offset by an increase in build costs over the same period. The results are as follows:

Table 6.2.5 Change in Residual Value by Sub-Market Area

| Area | Residual Change |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Neath | -1.97% |
| Port Talbot | -4.26% |
| Pontardawe | -3.51% |
| Neath and Dulais Valley | -4.03% |
| Swansea and Amman Valley | -7.73% |
| Afan Valley | -10.86% |

6.2.9 The results indicate a decrease in the residual value across each area over the testing period. The areas of Neath, Port Talbot and Pontardawe (i.e. the areas which have an affordable housing target in Policy AH1) all have a decrease of less than 5% and therefore no further action is required at this time.

6.2.10 The Valley areas (with the exception of Pontardawe) have an affordable housing target of 0% within Policy AH1. In the updated testing, it has been found that these areas are still unable to support affordable housing and whilst some zones show a greater than 5% negative change, this does not have any effect on the existing affordable housing target rate.

Indicator 43: The number of applications permitted on affordable housing exception sites.

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Table 6.2.6 Strategic Policy SP8 - Affordable Housing

| To make sufficient provision for affordable housing (Policies SP2, AH2) | |
|--|--|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted on affordable housing exception sites. |
| Policy Target | An increase in the number of affordable housing exception sites. |
| Trigger Point | No increase in the number of affordable housing exception sites permitted for 2 consecutive years. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

6.2.11 Since adoption of the LDP, there have been no applications submitted for affordable housing exception sites. It is suggested that one of the reasons for this could be that Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) operating within the area have been developing a number of sites under the Social Housing Grant and Vibrant and Viable Places funding. Once their current programme of development sees the conclusion of such developments, it is possible additional development land will be sought, and the possibility of the exceptions policy being utilised. This will continue to be monitored over the next year.

Indicator 44: The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Affordable Housing.

Table 6.2.7 Strategic Policy SP8 - Affordable Housing

| To make sufficient provision for affordable housing | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicator | The preparation of SPG relating to affordable housing. |
| Policy Target | To prepare the SPG relating to Affordable Housing by October 2016. |
| Trigger Point | The SPG is not prepared by October 2016. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. |

Analysis of Results

6.2.12 The Affordable Housing SPG has been prepared following a public consultation exercise that was undertaken in the Summer of 2016 and in accordance with this monitoring target, the guidance was adopted by the Council in October 2016.

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6.3 Strategic Policy 9 Gypsies and Travellers

Table 6.3.1 Monitoring Summary by Indicator

| Ref | Indicator | Assessment | Action |
|-----|---|---|--|
| 45 | The number of additional pitches provided at Cae Garw, the number of proposals for Gypsy and Traveller Sites permitted annually, the number of unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments reported annually and the need for additional Gypsy and Traveller provision as identified within a GTAA | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |

Indicator 45: The number of additional pitches provided at Cae Garw; the number of proposals for Gypsy and Traveller sites permitted annually; the number of unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments reported annually; and the need for additional Gypsy and Traveller provision as identified within a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA).

Table 6.3.2 Strategic Policy SP9 - Gypsies and Travellers

| To make sufficient Gypsy and Traveller provision (see also Policies SP2, GT1, GT2) | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicators | The number of additional pitches provided at Cae Garw. The number of proposals for Gypsy and Traveller sites permitted annually. The number of unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments reported annually. The need for additional Gypsy and Traveller provision as identified within a GTAA. |
| Policy Targets | 4 pitches will be provided at Cae Garw by 2017. 7 pitches will be provided at Cae Garw by 2022. 9 pitches will be provided (on an appropriate site/ or Cae Garw) by 2026. |
| Trigger Points | Failure to deliver the 4 pitches at Cae Garw by 2017. Failure to deliver the 7 pitches at Cae Garw by 2022. Failure to deliver 9 pitches (on an appropriate site / or Cae Garw) by 2026. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

6.3.1 The 2012 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)⁽¹⁸⁾ identified a need of 4 pitches by 2017, 7 pitches by 2022 and 9 pitches by 2026.

6.3.2 Initially, the Council intended to develop the Cae Garw, Margam site in 3 phases, to meet the short, medium and long term targets identified within the 2012 GTAA. Due to the amount of preparation works that were required for the site however, and in the interests of cost effectiveness and efficient delivery, the Council took the decision to implement 11 pitches in the short term, to meet the required need up to 2022.

6.3.3 Planning consent was granted for the 11 pitches in early 2015, at which time the Council applied for, and was successfully awarded funding from the Welsh Government Gypsy and Traveller Sites Capital Grant for the extension. The extension (11 pitches) was subsequently completed in Spring 2016, in line with the terms of the grant.

6.3.4 Within the monitoring period, the Council submitted and received Ministerial approval for the 2016 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment, the first assessment under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. This latest assessment concluded that the 11 pitches implemented by the Council was sufficient to meet the needs of the community up to 2021. For the remainder of the LDP period (i.e. up to 2026) the assessment identified a need of 4 additional pitches, lower than the 9 pitches originally projected within the 2012 GTAA. A further GTAA is required by 2021 and this will assess the longer term need more accurately.

6.3.5 There have been no new Gypsy and Traveller sites permitted within the monitoring period and no unauthorised encampments reported. On this basis, it is not considered that any action is required at this time, and monitoring will continue over the next year.

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6.4 Strategic Policy 10 Open Space

Table 6.4.1 Monitoring Summary by Indicator

| Ref | Indicator | Assessment | Action |
|-----|--|---|--|
| 46 | The number of applications permitted for housing development that do not address the open space needs of the occupants | LDP Policies are not being implemented in the intended manner | Officer and/or Member training may be required |
| 47 | The number of existing open spaces lost to development contrary to the policy framework | LDP Policies are not being implemented in the intended manner | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 48 | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Open Space and Greenspace | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required |

Indicator 46: The number of applications permitted for housing development that do not address the open space needs of the occupants.

Table 6.4.2 Policy SP10 - Open Space

| New development & Open Space Provision (See also Policies SP2, OS1) | |
|--|--|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted for housing development that do not address the open space needs of the occupants. |
| Policy Target | All new housing development of 3 or more units should make provision for open space where there is a quantitative deficiency in open space provision. |
| Trigger Point | One application for new housing development of 3 or more units permitted that does not make provision for open space where there is a quantitative deficiency in open space provision. |
| Performance | |
| Action | Officer and/or Member training may be required. |

Analysis of Results

6.4.1 A total of 14 applications were approved during the monitoring period without the need to provide open space requirements (or a commuted sum for off-site provision), even though the proposals reached the threshold set out in Policy OS1.

6.4.2 The majority of this total (9) cited viability as the reason why provision or a S106 financial contribution had not been possible. Whilst the lack of viability is regrettable, the Council acknowledges that there may be circumstances where not all of the identified obligations can be met without compromising the overall viability of a particular development

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scheme. Each of these individual cases were assessed and ultimately the Council was satisfied that the developer had been able to evidence that the requirement to provide open space was not viable.

6.4.3 Of the remaining 5 cases and in terms of the justification set out in the officer report, one application was considered to be too far from the nearest open space provision for S106 contributions to be reasonably spent there; one application related to the renewal of a consent where it was considered unreasonable to request provision as none had been requested when approval had been last sought in 2013; one application considered that public realm improvements should outweigh the requirement for open space provision; one application relating to a previous extant outline consent deemed it unreasonable to now request S106 contributions; and finally one application considered it unreasonable to seek provision where rising costs to develop the scheme and the provision of public realm improvements on nearby land (provided by another application) was cited.

6.4.4 Notwithstanding these justifications, the policy requirements were not met in these cases and as such, all 5 approved applications constitute trigger applications for this indicator. The policy therefore is not currently being implemented as intended and it is considered that this matter can be addressed through further discussion with colleagues in the Development Management section.

6.4.5 In addition, the Open Space and Greenspace SPG, adopted by the Council in July 2017 (refer to Indicator 48 below), provides more detailed guidance in respect of the implementation of the policy.

Indicator 47: The number of existing open spaces lost to development contrary to the policy framework.

Table 6.4.3 Strategic Policy SP10 - Open Space

| Protection of Existing Open Space (See also Policies SP2, OS2) | |
|---|---|
| Local Indicator | The number of existing open spaces lost to development contrary to the policy framework. |
| Policy Target | No loss of open space contrary to the Policy framework. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted resulting in the loss of open space contrary to the policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

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Analysis of Results

6.4.6 Since the adoption date of the Plan there have been 2 applications approved which have resulted in a loss of open space provision identified in the Open Space Assessment. In both instances the loss of open space is detailed in the officer report and the reasons why the development is considered to be acceptable identified.

6.4.7 The first application related to the development of the Integrated Transport Hub, Port Talbot (Policy TR1/6), which resulted in the loss of a small area of grassed / planted informal open space with benches. The development does however have significant public realm works, opening up a large area which allows people to sit within a modern and fit for purpose principally hard open landscaped area outside the transport hub.

6.4.8 The second application involved the loss of a small area of hard surfaced play space on Aberafan Seafront for the development of an adventure golf facility. The existing provision was however of poor quality and limited play value, so whilst the nature of the provision has changed, the golf facility is considered to offer more recreational opportunities.

6.4.9 In respect of the monitoring trigger therefore, whilst two facilities have been lost, alternative facilities have been provided as part of the development. Furthermore, the Open Space and Greenspace SPG, adopted by the Council in July 2017 (refer to Indicator 48 below), provides more detailed guidance in respect of the implementation of the policy.

6.4.10 On this basis, it is not considered that any action is required at this time and this will continue to be monitored over the next year.

Indicator 48: The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Open Space and Greenspace.

Table 6.4.4 Strategic Policy SP10 - Open Space

| Protection of Existing Open Space (See also Policy OS2) | |
|--|---|
| Local Indicator | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Open Space and Greenspace. |
| Policy Target | To prepare the SPG relating to Open Space and Greenspace by April 2017. |
| Trigger Point | The SPG is not prepared by April 2017. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. |

Analysis of Results

6.4.11 The Open Space and Greenspace SPG was prepared by the end of April 2017 and subsequently endorsed by the Council and published for public consultation between 10th May and 21st June. This policy target has therefore been met. The SPG was subsequently adopted by the Council in July 2017.

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7.1 Strategic Policy 11 Employment Growth

Table 7.1.1 Monitoring Summary by Indicator

| Ref | Indicator | Assessment | Action |
|-----|---|---|---|
| 49 | The level of workplace employment in NPT, the change of workplace employment for Wales and UK, The level and rate of employment in NPT, the level and rate of employment for Wales and UK | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 50 | Employment land permitted on allocated sites as a % of all employment allocations | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 51 | The number of applications permitted for employment purposes within Baglan Bay | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 52 | The net change in the amount of employment land and floorspace | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |
| 53 | The rate of economic activity for NPT, the rate of economic activity for Wales and UK | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 54 | The rate of unemployment for NPT, the rate of unemployment for Wales and UK | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 55 | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Baglan Bay Development Framework | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required |
| 56 | The number of applications permitted on safeguarded sites contrary to the policy framework | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |

Indicator 49: The level of workplace employment in Neath Port Talbot, the change of workplace employment for Wales and UK, the level and rate of employment in NPT and the level and rate of employment for Wales and UK.

Table 7.1.2 Strategic Policy SP11 - Employment Growth

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| <p>To make provision for new and expanding employment developments by allocating land for employment uses</p> <p>(See also Policy SP2)</p> | |
| Local Indicators | <u>Local Indicator:</u> |

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| To make provision for new and expanding employment developments by allocating land for employment uses (See also Policy SP2) | |
|---|---|
| | The level of Workplace employment in Neath Port Talbot. <u>Contextual Indicator:</u> The change of workplace employment for Wales and UK. The level and rate of employment in Neath Port Talbot. The level and rate of employment for Wales and UK. |
| Policy Targets | <u>Principle Target:</u> A net gain of 3,850 jobs up to 2026. <u>Interim Targets:</u> 2011/14: - 1458 2014/17: +1326 2017/20: +1326 2020/23: +1326 2023/26: +1326 <u>Annual Target:</u> An average gain of 442 jobs per annum from 2014 over the remainder of the Plan period with a cumulative target of 884 jobs over any 2 year period. |
| Trigger Point | The level of jobs growth deviates from the cumulative target of 884 jobs over any 2 year period for 2 consecutive years. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

7.1.1 The LDP is underpinned by an employment-led growth model that uses the projected increase in jobs and an increase in economic activity rates to identify the required working age population to support the projected number of jobs and number of new homes needed. The approach ensures that the housing and employment strategies are aligned creating a correlation between the number of jobs, houses, labour supply and employment space.

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7.1.2 The economic-growth model projects that 3,850 jobs will be created over the Plan period, with the population growth for the area derived from the ratio of working age population to total population. Given that prior to the LDP base date, economic growth in Neath Port Talbot had stagnated, the economic-led strategy presented an opportunity to address key economic issues within the County Borough, recognising the opportunities available for growth through key regeneration and infrastructure projects. Workplace employment, and the number of jobs created, is therefore one of the key indicators that will determine how the LDP is performing, and will influence other elements of the Plan.

7.1.3 The economic-growth model projects an increase of 3,850 jobs over the LDP period, increasing from 48,200 jobs in 2011 to 52,050 jobs in 2026. During the LDP Examination in Public, new data was released and showed that workplace employment had actually decreased from 48,200 in 2011 to 46,300 in 2013, which consequently meant that for the LDP to reach the target of 52,050 jobs at 2026, the annual target for job creation had increased from 256 jobs per annum to 442 jobs per annum, and therefore would require the plan to create jobs at a faster rate in the remaining years. The interim targets contained within the monitoring framework reflected the reduction in workplace employment between 2011-2013 and contain the revised requirement of 442 jobs per annum.

7.1.4 Following the adoption of the LDP, the next statistical release revised the figures for 2011 to 2013, indicating a higher base date position for 2011 and a more drastic reduction in 2013. The data release for 2014 showed a pronounced increase in jobs, which compensated for the sharp drop in 2013, and demonstrated that the area had potentially developed a more resilient economic base that has the ability to bounce back, as indicated below:

Table 7.1.3 Original and Revised Workplace Employment

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Original Position | 48,200 | 49,100 | 46,300 | - |
| Revised Position | 49,400 | 50,200 | 47,100 | 50,600 |

7.1.5 As a consequence of the more up to date data releases, the interim targets within the monitoring framework have now essentially become outdated; the interim target for 2011-2014 showed a reduction of -1,458 jobs relative to the baseline figure, when the reality is an increase of 1,200 jobs over this period. The updated figures, and the increase in jobs over the 2011-14 period, has now changed the annual jobs needed to meet the target of 3,850 jobs over the Plan period.

7.1.6 As this indicator and the number of jobs created is one of the crucial elements of the LDP strategy, when monitoring this indicator, it is considered important to look at the most up to date data and monitor the jobs created against the overall LDP target of 3,850 jobs. As 1,200 jobs were actually created over the 2011-2014 period, to reach the end target of 3,850 jobs, fewer jobs will be needed over the remainder of the LDP period to meet the aspirations of the LDP. The following table provides an illustration of the targets contained within the monitoring framework and the 'revised' targets (using the revised, higher base date figure of 49,400):

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Table 7.1.4 Monitoring Framework and Revised Targets

| | Monitoring Framework | Revised Position |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Jobs at 2011 | 49,400 | 49,400 |
| 2011-14 | 47,942 (-1458) | 50,600 (+1,200) |
| 2014-17 | 49,268 (+1326) | 51,262 (+662) |
| 2017-20 | 50594 (+1326) | 51,924 (+662) |
| 2020-23 | 51,920 (+1326) | 52,586 (+662) |
| 2023-26 | 53,246 (+1326) | 53,248 (+662) |
| Jobs at 2026 | 53,250 | 53,250 |
| Total Change Over Period | +3,848 | +3,846 |

7.1.7 The following table illustrates the increase in jobs since the base date of the LDP:

Table 7.1.5 Workplace Employment in Neath Port Talbot

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Neath Port Talbot | 49,400 | 50,200 | 47,100 | 50,500 | 50,800 |

7.1.8 Since the LDP base date, 1,400 jobs have been created within the County Borough. Within the current monitoring period, the interim target that covers this period (2014-17) is +1326 using the targets contained within the monitoring framework, or +662 using the revised position. Even though workplace employment fell in 2013 to 47,100, it increased to 50,800 in 2015 creating a total of 3,700 jobs, with approximately half of the required target (300) created within the first 2 years of the current interim period (2014-17). This indicates a positive economic environment for Neath Port Talbot and illustrates a more prosperous economic outlook for the area.

Contextual Indicators

7.1.9 This indicator also has a number of contextual indicators to be monitored. Firstly, the change in workplace employment for Wales and the UK, with the following table illustrating the changes since the LDP base date:

Table 7.1.6 Workplace Employment Wales and UK

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|-------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Wales | 1,346,700 | 1,337,200 | 1,365,200 | 1,394,400 | 1,405,600 |
| UK | 30,137,000 | 30,382,100 | 30,824,600 | 31,463,800 | 32,158,200 |

Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics.

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7.1.10 The data shows that since the LDP base date, there has been an increase of 58,900 jobs in Wales, which represents an increase of 4.37%. The UK increase was 2,021,200 equating to an increase of 6.71%. Percentage wise, whilst the rate of increase over the period was lower in Neath Port Talbot at 2.83%, it still shows a positive outlook and provides an initial indication that the LDP aspiration to create 3,850 jobs over the Plan period is realistic and achievable.

7.1.11 The remaining contextual indicators focus on the rate of employment for Wales and the UK. The following table illustrates the changes in employment rates between 2011 and 2017:

Table 7.1.7 Employment Rate 2011-2017

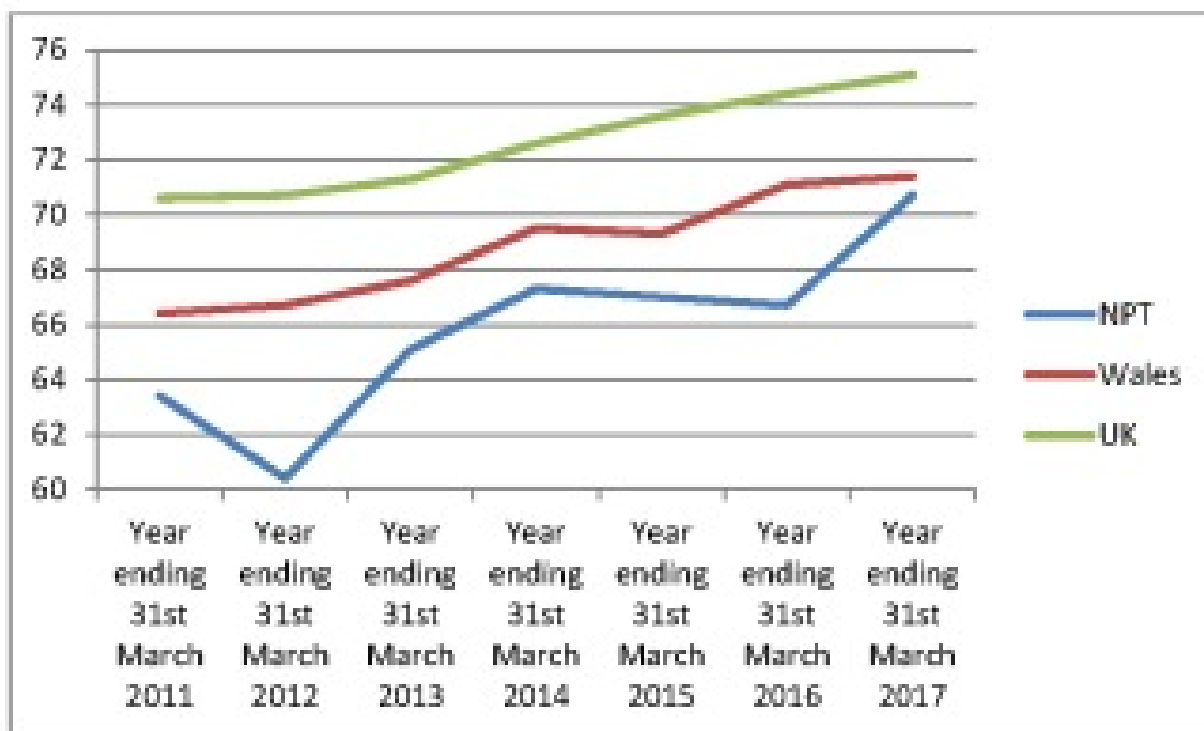
| Year Ending | Neath Port Talbot | Wales | UK |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------|-------|
| 31st March 2011 | 63.4% | 66.4% | 70.6% |
| 31st March 2012 | 60.4% | 66.7% | 70.7% |
| 31st March 2013 | 65.1% | 67.6% | 71.3% |
| 31st March 2014 | 67.3% | 69.5% | 72.6% |
| 31st March 2015 | 67% | 69.3% | 73.6% |
| 31st March 2016 | 66.7% | 71.1% | 74.4% |
| 31st March 2017 | 70.7% | 71.4% | 75.1% |

Source: Annual Population Survey / Local Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics.

7.1.12 The rate of employment has increased across each of the areas, with the greatest increase over the period being within Neath Port Talbot, which showed an increase of 7.3% over the period, when compared to +5% in Wales and +4.5% in the UK. The following graph illustrates the changes and the rate of increase in Neath Port Talbot, and how the gap between the rate of employment in Neath Port Talbot, Wales and the UK is reducing:

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Figure 7.1 Employment Rate 2011-2017



Indicator 50: Employment land permitted on allocated sites as a percentage of all employment allocations.

Table 7.1.8 Strategic Policy SP11 - Employment Growth

| To make provision for new and expanding employment developments by allocating land for employment uses (See also Policies SP2 EC1/1, EC1/2, EC1/3, EC1/4) | |
|--|---|
| Core Indicator | Employment land permitted on allocated sites as a % of all employment allocations. |
| Policy Targets | <p><u>Principle Target:</u></p> <p>To develop a minimum of 32 hectares of land on the following sites allocated for employment purposes up to 2026:</p> <p>Baglan Bay: 15ha</p> <p>Junction 38: 6ha</p> <p>Coed Darcy SRA: 4ha</p> <p>Harbourside SRA: 7ha</p> <p><u>Interim Targets:</u></p> |

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| To make provision for new and expanding employment developments by allocating land for employment uses (See also Policies SP2 EC1/1, EC1/2, EC1/3, EC1/4) | |
|--|---|
| | 2011/14: 1.7ha (actual) 2014/17: 7.6ha 2017/20: 7.6ha 2020/23: 7.6ha 2023/26: 7.6ha <u>Annual Targets:</u> To develop an average of 2.5ha of land for employment purposes per annum over the remainder of the Plan period with a cumulative target of 5ha to be developed over any 2 year period. |
| Trigger Point | The amount of land developed for employment purposes falls below the cumulative target of 5ha to be developed over any 2 year period for 2 consecutive years. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

7.1.13 The monitoring framework sets an annual target of 2.5 hectares (ha) per annum, with the interim targets looking to develop 7.6ha over each 3 year period. Within the first interim period of the LDP (2011-2014), 1.7ha was developed, with this representing the TWI Research and Development facility at Harbourside.

7.1.14 Within the current monitoring period, there has been no development for employment purposes on Coed Darcy, Junction 38 (M4) or Baglan Bay. There has been one application developed at Harbourside, equating to 0.098ha for retention of existing storage and distribution. Development has taken place at Baglan Bay, however this was for a non-B use class (refer to Indicator 51 below).

7.1.15 Whilst development for employment uses has been limited, there has been progress on the Harbourside and Baglan Bay sites. Planning consent has been granted at Harbourside for B1 office space (1.37ha) and an extension to the TWI development (0.33ha). The development of all allocated employment areas, including sites with planning consent will continue to be monitored over the next year.

Indicator 51: The number of applications permitted for employment purposes within Baglan Bay.

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Table 7.1.9 Strategic Policy SP11 - Employment Growth

| To make provision for new and expanding employment developments by allocating land for employment uses (See also Policy EC1/1) | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted for employment purposes within Baglan Bay. |
| Policy Targets | <p><u>Principle Target:</u></p> <p>To develop a minimum of 15ha of land at Baglan Bay for employment purposes</p> <p><u>Interim Targets:</u></p> <p>2011/14: 0</p> <p>2014/17: 2.7ha</p> <p>2017/20: 4.1ha</p> <p>2020/23: 4.1ha</p> <p>2023/26: 4.1ha</p> <p><u>Annual Targets:</u></p> <p>To develop an average of 1.35ha of land at Baglan Bay for employment purposes with a cumulative target of 2.7ha of land to be developed over any 2 year period.</p> |
| Trigger Point | The amount of land developed for employment purposes at Baglan Bay deviates from the cumulative target of 2.7ha to be developed over any 2 year period for 2 consecutive years. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

7.1.16 The target for the amount of development at Baglan Bay over the period 2014-2017 is 2.7 hectares (ha). Over the current monitoring period there has been no development for employment uses at Baglan Bay.

7.1.17 There has been development of 3.3ha for a Solar Photovoltaic Park, however this is a 'sui-generis' use, rather than an employment use. Within the EC1 allocation, additional land was allocated to support the needs of the growing energy sector, and in this respect this development is positive in the overall redevelopment of Baglan Bay. There is also an application (currently undetermined) for an additional solar park within the allocation.

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7.1.18 Whilst there has been no development for employment uses, the redevelopment of Baglan Bay is a long term redevelopment aspiration that may take several years to complete, with areas within the allocation potentially suitable to facilitate the growth in the knowledge based economy. The increase in research and development facilities in smaller units at the Swansea University Science and Innovation Campus and at Harbourside, will potentially need larger units as these sites continue to develop, and therefore Baglan Bay provides adequate space and infrastructure to allow for their expansion.

7.1.19 Within the monitoring period, the area has received enterprise zone status, which will encourage investment to the area. In addition, the Baglan Bay SPG has been adopted within the monitoring period and will provide further clarity and guidance on future developments (refer to Indicator 55 below).

Indicator 52: The net change in the amount of employment land and floorspace.

Table 7.1.10 Strategic Policy SP11 - Employment Growth

| To make provision for new and expanding employment developments by allocating land for employment uses (See also Policies SP2, EC1) | |
|--|---|
| Local Indicator | The net change in the amount of employment land and floorspace. |
| Policy Targets | <p><u>Principle Target:</u></p> <p>To make provision for a net gain of approximately 34,000 square metres of employment floorspace within the County Borough by 2026.</p> <p><u>Interim Targets:</u></p> <p>2011/14: 7,000sqm</p> <p>2014/17: 7,000sqm</p> <p>2017/20: 7,000sqm</p> <p>2020/23: 7,000sqm</p> <p>2023/26: 7,000sqm</p> <p><u>Annual Targets:</u></p> <p>To develop an average of 2,250sqm of employment floorspace per annum with a cumulative target of 4,500 sqm to be developed over any 2 year period.</p> |
| Trigger Point | The amount of floorspace developed for employment purposes falls below the cumulative target of 4,500sq m to be developed over any 2 year period for 2 consecutive years. |
| Performance | |

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To make provision for new and expanding employment developments by allocating land for employment uses

(See also Policies SP2, EC1)

| | |
|--------|---|
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |
|--------|---|

Analysis of Results

7.1.20 The monitoring framework sets a target of 2,250sqm of employment floorspace to be developed per annum, with an overall target of 7,000sqm per interim period.

7.1.21 The following table illustrates the losses and gains of employment floorspace since the LDP basedate, and provides the overall net increase of employment floorspace by interim period⁽¹⁹⁾:

Table 7.1.11 Changes in Employment Floorspace by Interim Period

| Interim Period | Increases in Employment Floorspace (SQM) | Losses of Employment Floorspace (SQM) | Net Increase of Employment Floorspace (SQM) |
|----------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| 2011/14 | 17,427.5 | 15,084 | 2,343.5 |
| 2014/17 | 13,884.16 | 10,023 | 3,861.16 |

7.1.22 The table illustrates that the net change in employment floorspace has been below the 7,000sqm target in both the 2011-2014 and 2014-2017 periods. There have been a number of demolitions of large scale, older industrial units over both interim periods which have increased the number of losses. Whilst these have been losses to the employment portfolio, a number were no longer fit for purpose and the losses have not, therefore, had a negative impact on the overall availability of employment premises.

7.1.23 Whilst the level of new employment floorspace has fallen below the target, other employment indicators within the AMR show that the economic profile of Neath Port Talbot has improved significantly since the LDP basedate, with the employment rate increasing from 63.4% in 2011 to 70.7% in 2017. This indicates that the amount of floorspace that was initially projected to be required to support new jobs has not been required, as the increase in employment has occurred with a lower than anticipated floorspace. The amount of floorspace is a subsidiary component of the overall economic performance of the area, and as illustrated in Indicators 53 and 54 below, the rate of economic activity has increased and the rate of unemployment decreased, reflecting a positive change.

Indicator 53: The rate of economic activity for Neath Port Talbot and the rate of economic activity for Wales and UK.

¹⁹ Only increases or losses of over 200sqm have been included within the calculations. It is assumed that smaller increases and losses of below 200sqm will naturally balance out over the period.

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Table 7.1.12 Strategic Policy SP11 - Employment Growth

| To make provision for new and expanding employment developments by allocating land for employment uses (See also Policy SP2) | |
|---|---|
| Indicators | <p><u>Local Indicator:</u></p> <p>The rate of economic activity for Neath Port Talbot.</p> <p><u>Contextual Indicator:</u></p> <p>The rate of economic activity for Wales and UK.</p> |
| Policy Target | To achieve an increase in the rate of economic activity to 76% by 2026. |
| Trigger Point | The rate of economic activity declines for 2 consecutive years. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

7.1.24 At the base date of the LDP, the economic activity rate in Neath Port Talbot was 69%, which was 4% lower than the Welsh average of 73%. One of the objectives of the LDP is to increase the economic activity rate to 76% by 2026 and align with the Welsh average.

7.1.25 In the first year after the LDP base date (end of March 2012), the rate of economic activity had declined to 67.9%. The rate then increased the following year and although has seen some fluctuation since, has remained above the initial base date figure of 69%. Since the base date, there has been an increase in the economic activity rate across Neath Port Talbot, Wales and the UK, as illustrated within the table below:

Table 7.1.13 Economy Activity 2011-2017

| Year Ending | Neath Port Talbot | Wales | UK |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|
| 31st March 2011 (Base Date) | 69.7% | 72.7% | 76.5% |
| 31st March 2012 | 67.9% | 73% | 76.9% |
| 31st March 2013 | 70.4% | 73.9% | 77.4% |
| 31st March 2014 | 74.3% | 75.3% | 77.9% |
| 31st March 2015 | 71.1% | 74.4% | 77.8% |
| 31st March 2016 | 71.8% | 75.3% | 78.2% |
| 31st March 2017 | 74.9% | 74.8% | 78.5% |

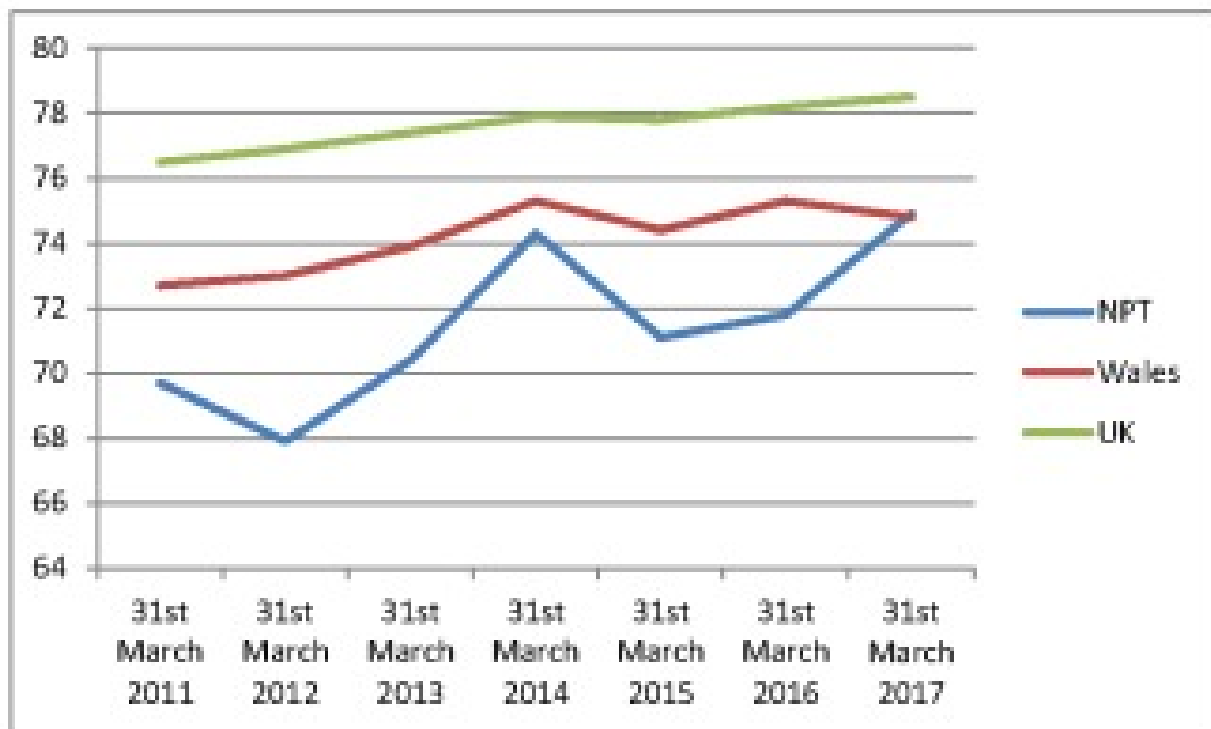
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Source: Annual Populations Survey / Local Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics.

7.1.26 Whilst the rate of activity has increased for Neath Port Talbot, Wales and the UK, the economic activity rate in Neath Port Talbot has increased at a higher rate than the Welsh and UK average. From the year ending 31st March 2011 to year ending 31st March 2017, the gap between Neath Port Talbot and the Welsh average has decreased from Neath Port Talbot being 3% behind the Welsh average in 2011 to now being ahead of the Welsh average by 0.1% at the end of March 2017. Compared to the UK average, the gap between Neath Port Talbot and the UK has reduced from 6.8% in 2011 to 3.6% in 2017. These trends provide an encouraging shift in the local economic context and indicate that the economic environment of the area is improving and the LDP is meeting the objectives set.

7.1.27 The following graph illustrates the economic activity rate for Neath Port Talbot over the period 2011-2017 and shows how the gap between Neath Port Talbot and the UK has reduced to a point where Neath Port Talbot now aligns with the Welsh average.

Figure 7.2 Economic Activity 2011-2017



7.1.28 More specifically, during this monitoring period, the rate of economic activity has continually increased at a steady pace, whilst the Welsh average has seen a slight decline. Given that the rate in Neath Port Talbot has continued to increase whilst the Welsh average has shown a slight decrease, provides a further indication that the economic profile of Neath Port Talbot has strengthened since the LDP base date and indicates that the LDP is performing well.

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Table 7.1.14 Rate of Economic Activity 2016-2017

| Period Ending | Neath Port Talbot | Welsh Average |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 31 March 2016 | 71.8% | 75.3% |
| 30 June 2016 | 71.3% | 75.2% |
| 30 September 2016 | 72% | 74.8% |
| 31 December 2016 | 72.9% | 74.8% |
| 31 March 2017 | 74.9% | 74.8% |

Source: Annual Population Survey / Local Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics.

Indicator 54: The rate of economic activity for Wales and UK and the rate of unemployment for Wales and UK.

Table 7.1.15 Strategic Policy SP11 - Employment Growth

| To make provision for new and expanding employment developments by allocating land for employment uses (See also Policy SP2) | |
|---|---|
| Indicators | <p><u>Local Indicator:</u></p> <p>The rate of unemployment for Neath Port Talbot</p> <p><u>Contextual Indicator:</u></p> <p>The rate of unemployment for Wales and UK</p> |
| Policy Target | To achieve a decrease in the unemployment rate to 6.9% by 2026 |
| Trigger Point | The rate of unemployment increases for 2 consecutive years. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

7.1.29 One of the objectives of the LDP is to reduce the unemployment rate, with the LDP economic model based on reducing the rate to the long term Welsh average of 6.9%.

7.1.30 The following table identifies the comparative rate of unemployment for Neath Port Talbot, Wales and the UK respectively since the LDP base date, with the figures illustrating a significant decrease in the unemployment rate since 2011.

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Table 7.1.16 Comparative Rates of Unemployment by Year

| Year Ending | Neath Port Talbot | Wales | UK |
|---------------|-------------------|-------|------|
| 31 March 2012 | 10.8% | 8.4% | 8.1% |
| 31 March 2013 | 7.4% | 8.3% | 7.8% |
| 31 March 2014 | 9.3% | 7.4% | 7.2% |
| 31 March 2015 | 5.6% | 6.7% | 5.9% |
| 31 March 2016 | 6.9% | 5.4% | 5.1% |
| 31 March 2017 | 5.5% | 4.4% | 4.7% |

Source: Annual Population Survey / Local Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

7.1.31 Within Neath Port Talbot, whilst the rate of unemployment has seen some fluctuation over the period as a whole, it has fallen considerably from 10.8% in 2011 to 5.5% in 2017. The averages for Wales and the UK have also seen reductions over the same period, although these reductions have been more gradual and have not fluctuated in the same way that rate has in Neath Port Talbot.

7.1.32 By year ending 31st March 2016, the unemployment rate had fallen to 6.9%, which is the rate the LDP aspires to achieve by 2026 (the long term Welsh average). The rate further reduced over the current monitoring period to 5.5%, indicating a positive economic picture for the area and that the aims of the LDP are being met. This will continue to be monitored over the next year.

Indicator 55: The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Baglan Bay Development Framework.

Table 7.1.17 Strategic Policy SP11 - Employment Growth

| To make provision for new and expanding employment developments by allocating land for employment uses | |
|--|--|
| Local Indicator | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Baglan Bay Development Framework. |
| Policy Target | To prepare SPG relating to Baglan Bay Development Framework by October 2016. |
| Trigger Point | The SPG is not prepared by October 2016. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. |

Analysis of Results

7.1.33 The SPG for Baglan Bay (entitled Baglan Energy Park Development Framework) has been prepared following a public consultation exercise that was undertaken in the Summer of 2016 and in accordance with this monitoring target, the guidance was adopted by the Council in October 2016.

Indicator 56: The number of applications permitted on safeguarded sites contrary to the policy framework.

Table 7.1.18 Strategic Policy SP11 - Employment Growth

| To support and safeguard existing employment uses (See also Policies SP2, EC2, EC3, EC4, EC5) | |
|--|---|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted on safeguarded sites contrary to the policy framework. |
| Policy Target | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

7.1.34 Policy EC3 (Employment Area Uses) restricts uses within allocated and existing employment areas to use classes B1, B2 and B8, ancillary facilities or services that would support employment uses and commercial services unrelated to class B. Commercial services would need to complement the wider economic function of the employment area and should not be uses that would be best located within town centres.

7.1.35 Over the monitoring period, there have been 3 applications approved within safeguarded employment areas that could be considered contrary to the policy framework, with all 3 applications being for the retention of gymnasiums (use class D2). Whilst these applications have potentially been contrary to the framework, the Council within the approvals, has placed restrictions that will help to control and monitor the use within the employment area.

7.1.36 The first application sought to retain a gymnasium use (use class D2) from a premise in B1 use, with the site located within an area allocated for bulky goods retail within the Harbourside Development Framework. The application was retrospective, with the use having operated at the location without consent for a period of 2 years, establishing a strong client base over this time period and had developed into a successful business. For this reason, the Council approved the application with a time limited condition that restricted the use to 2 years, which would allow the business sufficient time to relocate to an alternative premises where a D2 use is permitted and compliant with LDP policy.

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7.1.37 The second application was in relation to a site located within the Milland Road Industrial Estate and sought the retention of use of a gymnasium for a Gymnastic Sports Club. The sports club had a previous consent at another unit within the industrial estate, however their rental agreement on that unit was not renewed and the sports club therefore applied to move the use to another unit within the same estate. The sports club had operated within the area for 2 years and had become an established facility, employing 20 staff. For this reason, the Council granted planning consent with a restriction on the use to only allow the gymnastics sports club to occupy the premises, and when/if the property ceases to be occupied by the club, the property will revert back to its previous use as a warehouse (use class B8).

7.1.38 The third application sought to retain the use of a fitness gym at Lonlas Industrial Estate, a use that had operated within the location for a period of 2 years without consent and had become an established gym during the period. The applicant provided evidence as part of their submission to demonstrate that an employment use at the location was not viable within the short term, and the change of use would therefore be acceptable under Policy EC4 (Protection of Existing Employment Uses). Whilst the applicant attempted to demonstrate the employment use was no longer appropriate, the evidence provided was not considered sufficient to justify the change of use under Policy EC4, and the Council was not confident that there would not be a demand for a B use class in the future. Given the current vacancy rates on the site, and as the gym had become established, the Council took a pragmatic approach and allowed a temporary consent for a period of 3 years, which would allow the Council to assess whether market conditions had altered and whether demand had changed.

7.1.39 On the basis of the specifics of each case, it is not considered that any action is required at this time, and the position will continue to be monitored over the next year.

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7.2 Strategic Policy 12 Retail

Table 7.2.1 Monitoring Summary by Indicator

| Ref | Indicator | Assessment | Action |
|-----|--|---|--|
| 57 | The number of applications permitted for retail development contrary to the defined retail hierarchy | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 58 | The number of applications for small scale retail development permitted | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |

Indicator 57: The number of applications permitted for retail development contrary to the defined retail hierarchy.

Table 7.2.2 Strategic Policy SP12 - Retail

| The protection of appropriate retail and mixed uses in the retail hierarchy (See also Policies SP2, R2, R3) | |
|--|---|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted for retail development contrary to the defined retail hierarchy. |
| Policy Target | No applications permitted for retail development contrary to the policy framework. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted for retail development contrary to the policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

7.2.1 A total of 6 planning applications relating to the provision of new retail premises were approved during the monitoring period [two of these related to alternative schemes for one property (6 Station Rd Port Talbot)].

7.2.2 Three of the proposals were for the conversion of existing premises within retail centres from other existing uses to A1 retail use. These proposals are in line with the LDP retail hierarchy and do not therefore trigger this indicator.

7.2.3 Two of the proposals were for the conversion of public houses outside retail centres to retail uses, among other changes. Since planning permission is not required for the change of use from A3 to A1 in itself, these proposals do not trigger this indicator.

7.2.4 One application (for a replacement enlarged supermarket in Pontardawe) is relevant to this indicator, being for a retail development outside any designated retail centre and consequently not in accord with the retail hierarchy. However, it was demonstrated that

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this proposal was in compliance with the requirements of Policy R3 and is consequently not contrary to the policy framework. The proposal therefore does not constitute a trigger application for this indicator.

Indicator 58: The number of applications for small scale retail development permitted.

Table 7.2.3 Strategic Policy SP12 - Retail

| Small scale retail proposals (See also Policies SP2, R3) | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications for small scale retail development permitted. |
| Policy Target | An increase in the number of small scale retail proposals permitted. |
| Trigger Point | No increase in the number of small scale retail proposals permitted for 2 consecutive years. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

7.2.5 This indicator relates to 'small scale' retail proposals. This follows the wording of Strategic Policy 12 which is implemented through retail Policy R3, which sets thresholds of 100m² gross floorspace in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area and 200m² in the Valleys Strategy Area. These thresholds therefore define the size of 'small scale' premises for the two areas.

7.2.6 One application is relevant to this indicator, relating to the change of use of an existing premises in Port Talbot town centre, meaning that the indicator is currently meeting the policy target.

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7.3 Strategic Policy 13 Tourism

Table 7.3.1 Monitoring Summary by Indicator

| Ref | Indicator | Assessment | Action |
|-----|--|---|--|
| 59 | The number of applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 60 | The number of tourism facilities lost contrary to the policy framework | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 61 | The development of a range of improved walking and cycling routes | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |

Indicator 59: The number of applications permitted contrary to the policy framework.

Table 7.3.2 Strategic Policy SP13 - Tourism

| To provide a flexible approach to tourism proposals in the open countryside (See also Policy TO1) | |
|--|---|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Policy Target | No tourism proposals to be permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted for tourism proposals contrary to the policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

7.3.1 There have been several applications submitted and approved during the current monitoring period. All applications have been in accordance with the monitoring framework and will support tourism development within the County Borough.

Indicator 60: The number of tourism facilities lost contrary to the policy framework.

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Table 7.3.3 Strategic Policy SP13 - Tourism

| Resisting proposals which would result in the loss of existing tourism facilities (See also Policy TO2) | |
|--|---|
| Local Indicator | The number of tourism facilities lost contrary to the policy framework. |
| Policy Target | No loss of tourism facilities contrary to the policy framework. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted resulting in the loss of tourism facilities contrary to the policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

7.3.2 During the monitoring period, there has been one application made that would result in the loss of a tourism facility. The application sought to convert existing tourism accommodation into a supported living unit. The tourism accommodation had deteriorated and was considered no longer fit for purpose. As the deteriorating facility was being replaced with a use that would be employment generating, it was considered that the development was compliant with Policy TO2.

Indicator 61: The development of a range of improved walking and cycling routes.

Table 7.3.4 Strategic Policy SP13 - Tourism

| The provision of new and improved walking and cycling routes (See also Policies SP2, TO4/1, TO4/2, TO4/3) | |
|--|--|
| Local Indicator | The development of a range of improved walking and cycling routes. |
| Policy Targets | Completion of the Wales Coast Path by 2012. Completion of the Cognation Mountain Bike Trails by 2013. Completion of the Great Dragon Ride Route by 2012. |
| Trigger Point | Complete. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. |

Analysis of Results

7.3.3 The 'Wales Coast Path', 'Cognition Mountain Bike Trails' and 'Great Dragon Ride Route' have all been completed.

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8 Valuing Our Environment

8.1 Strategic Policy 14 The Countryside and Undeveloped Coast

Table 8.1.1 Monitoring Summary by Indicator

| Ref | Indicator | Assessment | Action |
|-----|--|--|--|
| 62 | The number of applications permitted within the undeveloped coast, special landscape areas and green wedges contrary to the policy framework | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 63 | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Landscape and Seascape | Indicators suggest the need for further guidance in addition to those identified in the Plan | Supplementary Planning Guidance may be required |

Indicator 62: The number of applications permitted within the undeveloped coast, special landscape areas and green wedges contrary to the policy framework.

Table 8.1.2 Strategic Policy SP14 - The Countryside and the Undeveloped Coast

| The Undeveloped Coast, Green Wedges & Special Landscape Areas (See also Policy EN1, EN2, EN3) | |
|--|---|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted within the undeveloped coast, special landscape areas and green wedges contrary to the policy framework. |
| Policy Target | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted contrary to the Policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

8.1.1 A total of seven applications for developments relevant to this indicator were approved during the monitoring period. Six of the proposals were sited within Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) (Policy EN2) and one within a Green Wedge (Policy EN1). No applications were received for developments within the designated undeveloped coast.

8.1.2 Three of the developments within SLAs were for replacement buildings or the change of use of an existing building, and consequently would not have significant impacts on the landscape and were acceptable in landscape terms. Two were for new buildings required for farm or equestrian purposes, all sited in close proximity to existing farm buildings and were consequently considered not to be detrimental in landscape terms.

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One application was for a single wind turbine where extensive consideration was given to landscape impacts leading to the conclusion that the proposal would not be detrimental in landscape terms and was in accordance with Policy EN2.

8.1.3 One application was for a solar farm within a Green Wedge. In accordance with the definitions in Planning Policy Wales, it was deemed that such a proposal was not inappropriate development in a Green Wedge and was therefore in accordance with Policy EN1.

8.1.4 None of the applications was therefore determined contrary to the policy framework and there were therefore no trigger applications for this indicator.

Indicator 63: The preparation of SPG relating to landscape and seascape.

Table 8.1.3 Strategic Policy SP14 - The Countryside and the Undeveloped Coast

| The Undeveloped Coast, Green Wedges & Special Landscape Areas | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicator | The preparation of SPG relating to landscape and seascape. |
| Policy Target | To prepare the SPG relating to Landscape and Seascape by April 2017. |
| Trigger Point | The SPG is not prepared by April 2017. |
| Performance | |
| Action | Supplementary Planning Guidance may be required. |

Analysis of Results

8.1.5 Preparation of the Landscape and Seascape SPG was delayed in order for the document to be informed by the '*Local Seascape Character Assessment*' prepared on behalf of four Local Planning Authorities (Bridgend, Carmarthenshire, City & County of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

8.1.6 This document was due to be finalised and published following public consultation by Autumn 2017 and as a consequence, it is now anticipated that the Landscape and Seascape SPG will be prepared by April 2018.

8.2 Strategic Policy 15 Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Table 8.2.1 Monitoring Summary by Indicator

| Ref | Indicator | Assessment | Action |
|-----|--|--|--|
| 64 | The number of applications permitted on nationally and internationally designated sites, regionally important biodiversity and geodiversity sites contrary to the policy framework | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 65 | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Biodiversity and Geodiversity | Indicators suggest the need for further guidance in addition to those identified in the Plan | Supplementary Planning Guidance may be required |

Indicator 64: The number of applications permitted on nationally and internationally designated sites, regionally important biodiversity and geodiversity sites contrary to the policy framework.

Table 8.2.2 Strategic Policy SP15 - Biodiversity and Geodiversity

| To protect Nationally & Internationally Designated Sites & sites of regional & local importance | |
|---|---|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted on nationally and internationally designated sites, regionally important biodiversity and geodiversity sites contrary to the policy framework. |
| Policy Target | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

8.2.1 There were no planning applications received / approved within any nationally or internationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites within the monitoring period. This policy target has therefore been met.

Indicator 65: The preparation of SPG relating to Biodiversity and Geodiversity.

Table 8.2.3 Strategic Policy SP15 - Biodiversity and Geodiversity

| To protect Nationally & Internationally Designated Sites & sites of regional and local importance | |
|---|---|
| Local Indicator | The preparation of SPG relating to Biodiversity and Geodiversity. |
| Policy Target | To prepare the SPG relating to Biodiversity and Geodiversity by April 2017. |

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| To protect Nationally & Internationally Designated Sites & sites of regional and local importance | |
|---|--|
| Trigger Point | The SPG is not prepared by April 2017. |
| Performance | |
| Action | Supplementary Planning Guidance may be required. |

Analysis of Results

8.2.2 Preparation of the Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPG was delayed in order for the document to be informed by the 'Biodiversity Compensation Scheme' study. This study was completed in the spring of 2017 and as a consequence, it is now anticipated that the Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPG will be prepared by April 2018.

8.3 Strategic Policy 16 Environmental Protection

Table 8.3.1 Monitoring Summary by Indicator

| Ref | Indicator | Assessment | Action |
|-----|--|---|--|
| 66 | The number of applications permitted within the AQMA contrary to the policy framework | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 67 | The number of applications permitted not accompanied by a Construction Management Plan | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 68 | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Pollution | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required |
| 69 | The number of applications permitted within designated quiet areas | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |

Indicator 66: The number of applications permitted within the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) contrary to the Policy framework.

Table 8.3.2 Strategic Policy SP16 - Environmental Protection

| Environmental Protection (See also Policy SP2, EN8) | |
|--|--|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted within the AQMA contrary to the Policy framework. |
| Policy Target | Development proposals should not lead to a significant increase in pollution levels and should not lead to an increase in the number of people exposed to significant levels of pollution. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

8.3.1 Only one application has been approved on a site within the Port Talbot Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), for a new school in Margam. The proposal was assessed by the Council's Air Quality Section and Natural Resources Wales and was found to be in accordance with Policy EN8, subject to conditions concerning the submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and concerning boiler plant emissions. The proposal is therefore considered to be in accordance with the policy framework.

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Indicator 67: The number of applications permitted not accompanied by a Construction Management Plan.

Table 8.3.3 Strategic Policy SP16 - Environmental Protection

| To protect the Central Port Talbot area from breaches in air quality objectives (See also Policies SP2, EN9) | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted not accompanied by a Construction Management Plan. |
| Policy Target | No breaches of air quality should occur during the construction phase contrary to the submitted and agreed Construction Management Plan. |
| Trigger Point | One or more breaches of air quality occurring during the construction phase contrary to the submitted and agreed Construction Management Plan. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

8.3.2 As covered under Indicator 66 above, one application has been permitted within the Port Talbot AQMA. This was approved subject to a condition requiring the submission and approval of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and therefore does not constitute an indicator application in this case. No applications have therefore been submitted or approved in relation to this Indicator. No work had started on this site within the monitoring period.

Indicator 68: The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Pollution.

Table 8.3.4 Strategic Policy SP16 - Environmental Protection

| To protect the Central Port Talbot area from breaches in air quality objectives | |
|---|---|
| Local Indicator | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to pollution. |
| Policy Target | To prepare SPG relating to Pollution by October 2016. |
| Trigger Point | The SPG is not prepared by October 2016. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. |

Analysis of Results

8.3.3 The Pollution SPG has been prepared following a public consultation exercise that was undertaken in the Summer of 2016 and in accordance with this monitoring target, the guidance was adopted by the Council in October 2016.

Indicator 69: The number of applications permitted within designated Quiet Areas.

Table 8.3.5 Strategic Policy SP16 - Environmental Protection

| Quiet Areas (See also Policies SP2 EN10) | |
|---|---|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted within designated Quiet Areas. |
| Policy Target | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

8.3.4 No applications were received within the monitoring period for proposals within any Quiet Area, therefore there were no applications relevant to this indicator.

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8.4 Strategic Policy 17 Minerals

Table 8.4.1 Monitoring Summary by Indicator

| Ref | Indicator | Assessment | Action |
|-----|--|---|--|
| 70 | The extent of primary land won aggregates permitted in accordance with the Regional Technical Statement for Aggregates expressed as a percentage of the total capacity required as identified in the Regional Technical Statement (MTAN) | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 71 | The number of applications permitted that would sterilise a mineral resource | LDP Policies are not being implemented in the intended manner | Officer and/or Member training may be required |
| 72 | The number of planning applications for extraction of mineral not in line with Policy M2 | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 73 | The number of applications permitted within Mineral Buffer Zones | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |

Indicator 70: The extent of primary land won aggregates permitted in accordance with the Regional Technical Statement for Aggregates permitted in accordance with the Regional Technical Statement for Aggregates expressed as a percentage of the total capacity required as identified in the Regional Technical Statement (MTAN).

Table 8.4.2 Strategic Policy SP17 - Minerals

| Maintaining a minimum supply of aggregate throughout the Plan period | |
|--|--|
| Core Indicator | The extent of primary land won aggregates permitted in accordance with the Regional Technical Statement for Aggregates permitted in accordance with the Regional Technical Statement for Aggregates expressed as a percentage of the total capacity required as identified in the Regional Technical Statement (MTAN). |
| Local Indicator | Aggregates land supply. |
| Policy Target | A 10 year landbank of crushed rock to be retained throughout the Plan period. |
| Trigger Point | A 10 year landbank of crushed rock is not retained throughout the Plan period. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

8.4.1 A landbank is defined as a stock of planning permissions for the winning and working of minerals. The most up to date information regarding the extent of the crushed rock landbank has recently been published in the South Wales Regional Aggregate Working Party (SWRAWP) Annual Report 2014 (published July 2017).

8.4.2 The landbank figures have been calculated according to the method set out in MTAN1 (Aggregates) and have been calculated using the average of the last 3 years sales (i.e. no allowance has been made for the demand trend). The report identifies that Neath Port Talbot has a landbank figure of 46 years based on 3 year average sales (2012-2014).

8.4.3 The Regional Technical Statement (RTS)^{1st} Review (published in August 2014) deemed it prudent to consider a 10 year average as providing a more reliable baseline than a 3 year average. The report therefore also identifies that Neath Port Talbot has a landbank figure of 33 years based on 10 year sales average (2005-2014).

8.4.4 The requirements of this indicator have therefore been met.

Indicator 71: The number of applications permitted that would sterilise a mineral resource.

Table 8.4.3 Strategic Policy SP17 - Minerals

| Safeguarding identified resources (See also Policy M1) | |
|---|---|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted that would sterilise a mineral resource. |
| Policy Target | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | Officer and/or Member training may be required. |

Analysis of Results

8.4.5 This indicator monitors the number of applications permitted that would sterilise a mineral resource. Neath Port Talbot contains extensive mineral resources with virtually the whole of the County Borough underlain by coal and aggregate resources. Notwithstanding this extensive coverage it is important that access to mineral deposits which may be needed in the future are safeguarded.

8.4.6 There were 19 applications permitted within mineral safeguarding areas (Policy M1) over the monitoring period, however the majority of these proposals were located within existing buildings or building complexes so the issue of sterilisation did not arise.

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8.4.7 Out of a total of 6 applications that were permitted within a mineral safeguarded area, 5 applications did not consider the requirements of Policy M1. Upon review however, all proposals were considered to be of a scale and location that would not have a significant impact on the future working of the mineral.

8.4.8 Whilst there are no trigger applications for this indicator, it is considered that further discussion is needed with colleagues in the Development Management section to ensure that the policy requirements are being consistently considered in all cases in the decision making process.

Indicator 72: The number of planning applications for extraction of mineral not in line with Policy M2.

Table 8.4.4 Strategic Policy SP17 - Minerals

| Safeguarding identified resources (See also Policy M2) | |
|---|---|
| Local Indicator | The number of planning applications for extraction of mineral not in line with Policy M2. |
| Policy Target | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

8.4.9 The target and trigger points for this indicator relate to applications for surface activities associated with the extraction of coal. No applications have been determined during the monitoring period, therefore there are no trigger applications for this indicator.

Indicator 73: The number of planning applications permitted within Mineral Buffer Zones.

Table 8.4.5 Strategic Policy SP17 - Minerals

| Development in Mineral Buffer Zones (See also Policy M3) | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicator | The number of planning applications permitted within Mineral Buffer Zones. |
| Policy Target | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework. |

| Development in Mineral Buffer Zones (See also Policy M3) | |
|---|---|
| Trigger Point | One application permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

8.4.10 The indicator relates to the number of applications permitted within mineral buffer zones (Policy M3). Identified around existing and proposed mineral sites, buffer zones aim to: i) protect the mineral working from new sensitive uses such as residential development by establishing a separation distance between the potentially conflicting uses, and ii) ensure that any new development would not prejudice the future extraction of permitted reserves or the operation of the site.

8.4.11 There have been 5 applications, (2 housing proposals, a Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) facility, a flood relief channel and a hydro power scheme), permitted within mineral buffer zones over the monitoring period.

8.4.12 One of the housing proposals lies within a defined and established settlement, the majority of the other housing proposal abuts the mineral buffer zones with a small, insignificant section falling within the zone. The WEEE facility has a temporary permission within an existing building at Unity Mine and the flood relief channel and hydro power scheme, due to the nature of the proposals, are unlikely to result in the sterilisation of the mineral reserve or be adversely affected by the mineral operation.

8.4.13 None of the proposals have therefore been deemed contrary to Policy M3.

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8.5 Strategic Policy 18 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

Table 8.5.1 Monitoring Summary by Indicator

| Ref | Indicator | Assessment | Action |
|-----|---|---|--|
| 74 | The number of applications permitted for renewable energy and low carbon technology development | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 75 | The number of applications permitted accompanied by an Renewable Energy Assessment | LDP Policies are not being implemented in the intended manner | Officer and/or Member training may be required |
| 76 | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Renewable and Low Carbon Energy | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required |

Indicator 74: The number of applications permitted for renewable energy and low carbon technology development.

Table 8.5.2 Strategic Policy SP18 - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

| To provide for an appropriate contribution to meeting national renewable energy targets (See also Policy RE1) | |
|--|---|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted for renewable energy and low carbon technology development. |
| Policy Target | To achieve TAN 8 SSA capacity targets and to encourage where appropriate all forms of renewable energy and low carbon technology development. |
| Trigger Point | No increase in the number of renewable energy schemes permitted is recorded. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

8.5.1 Three applications were approved for renewable / low carbon energy schemes within the monitoring period, the largest of which related to a solar farm in Margam. The other schemes were for a small hydropower installation at Maesgwyn Glynneath and a single wind turbine near Rhydyfro. The proposed wind turbine is not within any refined Strategic Search Area, but all three proposals contribute towards achieving this policy target.

Indicator 75: The number of applications permitted accompanied by a Renewable Energy Assessment.

Table 8.5.3 Strategic Policy SP18 - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

| Renewable and Low Carbon Technology in new development (See also Policy RE2) | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted accompanied by a Renewable Energy Assessment. |
| Policy Target | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | Officer and/or Member training may be required |

Analysis of Results

8.5.2 Four applications were approved during the monitoring period which reached the threshold in Policy RE2 for requiring the submission of a Renewable Energy Assessment. In one case justification was provided indicating that other buildings on the site already had solar panels installed (although this would not normally be a reason not to require provision on the new building). In three cases the policy was not addressed. All the approved applications therefore constitute trigger applications for this indicator.

8.5.3 The policy is therefore not currently being implemented as intended and it is considered that this should be addressed through further discussion with colleagues in the Development Management section. In addition, the Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPG was adopted by the Council in July 2017 (refer to Indicator 76 below) and this document will provide more detailed guidance in respect of the implementation of the policy.

Indicator 76: The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Renewable & Low Carbon Energy.

Table 8.5.4 Strategic Policy SP18 - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

| Renewable and Low Carbon Technology in new development SPG | |
|---|---|
| Local Indicator | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Renewable & Low Carbon Energy. |
| Policy Target | To prepare SPG relating to Renewable & Low Carbon Energy by April 2017. |
| Trigger Point | The SPG is not prepared by April 2017. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required |

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Analysis of Results

8.5.4 The Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPG was prepared by the end of April 2017 and subsequently endorsed by the Council and published for public consultation between 10th May and 21st June. This policy target has therefore been met. The SPG was subsequently adopted by the Council in July 2017.

8.6 Strategic Policy 19 Waste Management

Table 8.6.1 Monitoring Summary by Indicator

| Ref | Indicator | Assessment | Action |
|-----|---|---|--|
| 77 | The number of applications permitted accompanied by Site Waste Management Plans | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 78 | The number of waste facilities permitted and refused on employment sites | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 79 | The amount of land and facilities to cater for waste in Neath Port Talbot | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |

Indicator 77: The number of applications permitted accompanied by Site Waste Management Plans.

Table 8.6.2 Strategic Policy SP19 - Waste Management

| Waste Management in New Development (See also Policy W3) | |
|---|---|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted accompanied by Site Waste Management Plans. |
| Policy Target | All new development proposals falling within the terms of Policy W3 should produce Site Waste Management Plans. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

8.6.1 There were five development proposals that fell within the terms of Policy W3 over the monitoring period, these included 3 schools, 1 housing development and the student accommodation at the Bay Campus.

8.6.2 Three of the applications were accompanied by a Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP). The two applications that were permitted without a SWMP included the housing proposal, which had a condition placed on the permission that required a Construction Method Statement and a scheme for the recycling / disposal of construction works, and the student accommodation at the Bay Campus which is being built in accordance with the conditions placed on the original permission (P2010/0222).

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8.6.3 On this basis, it is not considered that any action is required at this time and monitoring will continue over the next year.

Indicator 78: The number of waste facilities permitted and refused on employment sites.

Table 8.6.3 Strategic Policy SP19 - Waste Management

| Waste Management in New Development | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Local Indicator | The number of waste facilities permitted and refused on employment sites. |
| Policy Target | To ensure appropriate supply of employment sites for waste. |
| Trigger Point | One application refused on an employment site considered suitable for waste. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

8.6.4 The target and trigger points for this indicator relate to waste management related applications on employment sites. No waste related applications were received / determined during the period monitored that related to allocated and/or safeguarded employment land, and therefore there are no trigger applications for this indicator.

Indicator 79: The amount of land and facilities to cater for waste in Neath Port Talbot.

Table 8.6.4 Strategic Policy SP19 - Waste Management

| Waste Management in New Development | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Local Indicator | The amount of land and facilities to cater for waste in Neath Port Talbot. |
| Policy Target | To maintain sufficient land and facilities to cater for waste in NPT (to be confirmed at a regional level in accordance with TAN21). |
| Trigger Point | Triggers to be established at a regional level in accordance with TAN21. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

8.6.5 The target for this indicator relates to the maintenance of sufficient land and facilities to cater for waste generated in Neath Port Talbot. Technical Advice Note (TAN) 21 necessitates the need for regional collaboration to establish an integrated and adequate network for the disposal and recovery of waste and for joint monitoring arrangements to be established across the region.

8.6.6 In accordance with TAN21 therefore, waste capacity and targets are to be set at the regional level. In this interim period of joint monitoring arrangements being established however, the specific policy target and trigger point for waste management facilities is yet to be determined.

8.6.7 In specific regard to waste management facilities in Neath Port Talbot, in addition to the existing network of operational facilities [e.g. the Materials Recovery and Energy Centre (MREC), Pwllfawatkin Landfill etc.] over the period monitored there has been one relevant waste related application which approved a temporary change of use of part of plant/machinery and buildings from coal processing to Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE). This facility is located in an existing redundant building on the site of the Unity Mine Complex, Cwmgwrach, and not on employment land allocated or safeguarded in the LDP.

8.6.8 The take-up of employment land is specifically monitored by Indicators 50, 51, 52 and 56 respectively. Based on the results of this monitoring to date, coupled with the existing network of facilities that are already operational, it is considered that there is sufficient land and facilities across the County Borough to deal with waste arisings.

8.6.9 On this basis, it is considered that the requirements of this indicator have been met. The economic indicators referenced above, along with waste related developments that come forward, will continue to be monitored over the next year. Particular account will also be given to the information and guidance that is published in the annual Waste Planning Monitoring Report (WPMR) for the South West Wales region.

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9 Achieving Sustainable Accessibility

9.1 Strategic Policy 20 Transport Network

Table 9.1.1 Monitoring Summary by Indicator

| Ref | Indicator | Assessment | Action |
|-----|--|---|--|
| 80 | The delivery of Baglan Energy Park Link Road; Coed Darcy Southern Access Road; Ffordd Amazon (Phase 2); Junction 43 (M4) Improvements; Harbour Way (PDR) | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 81 | To deliver the Integrated Transport Hub, Port Talbot | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 82 | The completion of the Amman Valley Cycle Way Project and the Afan Valley Trail (Port Talbot to Afan Valley) | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 83 | To deliver a Park and Share facility at Junction 38 (M4) Margam | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 84 | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Parking Standards | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required |

Indicator 80: The delivery of the Baglan Energy Park Link Road; Coed Darcy Southern Access Road; Ffordd Amazon (Phase 2); Junction 43 Improvements; and Harbour Way (PDR).

Table 9.1.2 Strategic Policy SP20 - Transport Network

| Highway Network Enhancements (See also Policy SP2, TR1/1, TR1/2, TR1/3, TR1/4 & TR1/5) | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicators | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The delivery of the Baglan Energy Park Link Road. 2. The delivery of the Coed Darcy Southern Access Road. 3. The delivery of the Ffordd Amazon (Phase 2). 4. The delivery of the Junction 43 (M4) Improvements. 5. The delivery of the Harbour Way (PDR). |
| Policy Targets | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Baglan Energy Park Link Road is delivered by early 2015. |

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| Highway Network Enhancements | |
|---|--|
| (See also Policy SP2, TR1/1, TR1/2, TR1/3, TR1/4 & TR1/5) | |
| | <p>2. The Coed Darcy Southern Access Road is delivered in accordance with the terms of the S106 Agreement.</p> <p>3. The Ffordd Amazon (Phase2) is delivered by 2014.</p> <p>4. The Junction 43 (M4) Improvements are delivered in accordance with terms of the S106 Agreement.</p> <p>5. The Harbour Way (PDR) is delivered by 2014.</p> |
| Trigger Points | <p>1. COMPLETE.</p> <p>2. The Coed Darcy Southern Access Road is not complete before the occupation of the 501st unit or by July 2017 whichever is sooner.</p> <p>3. COMPLETE.</p> <p>4. The Junction 43 (M4) Improvements are not delivered in accordance with the terms of the S106 Agreement (under-construction 2015).</p> <p>5. COMPLETE.</p> |
| Performance | <p>Performance is good</p> |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

9.1.1 The following three schemes are complete: *Baglan Energy Park Link Road* (completed in 2015); *Ffordd Amazon (Stage 2)* (completed in 2013); and *Harbour Way (PDR)* (completed in 2014).

9.1.2 In respect of the *Coed Darcy Southern Access Road (SAR)*, discussions are continuing between the Council and St Modwen Developments Ltd (SMDL) to assess the robustness of the S106 Legal Agreement in supporting further residential development in the north of the site, where the initial phase of residential development has commenced, and its ability to allow for the commencement of a second front of development in the southern area.

9.1.3 Although yet to be formalised, agreement in principle has been reached between the Council and SMDL to incorporate a revised trigger for the delivery of the SAR. The revision will allow the development of Coed Darcy on two fronts enabling an increase in the delivery of residential units for occupation.

9.1.4 The existing S106 Agreement also requires a series of *improvements to Junction 43 of the M4*, and the road connecting the scheme to the junction which is known as the Northern Access Road (NAR). Work has already been completed in regard to the initial phases of improvement works.

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9.1.5 Agreement in principle has also been reached between the Council and SMDL to incorporate revised timescales for the phasing of works to Junction 43. In basic terms, the changes will re-phase the delivery of the works to increase potential capacity for additional traffic from the site onto J43 earlier, therefore allowing a greater number of residential dwellings to be constructed prior to the construction of the strategic highway link connecting J43 to the A483 (Fabian Way), via the Southern Access Road (refer above) - i.e. a larger proportion of traffic will be directed to enter and leave the site via the north in the shorter term with the phasing of the highway improvements re-profiled to accommodate this.

9.1.6 On this basis, it is not considered that any action is required at this time, and the two schemes will continue to be monitored over the next year.

Indicator 81: To deliver the Integrated Transport Hub, Port Talbot.

Table 9.1.3 Strategic Policy SP20 - Transport Network

| Public Transport Station Improvements (See also Policy SP2 TR1/6) | |
|--|---|
| Local Indicator | To deliver the Integrated Transport Hub, Port Talbot. |
| Policy Target | To deliver the project by 2018. |
| Trigger Point | The Integrated Transport Hub scheme is not delivered by 2018. |
| Performance | |
| Action | Np further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

9.1.7 The delivery of the Integrated Transport Hub, Port Talbot remains on schedule and will be delivered by 2018.

9.1.8 Network Rail initially applied for the development of an integrated transportation hub at Port Talbot Parkway in December 2015 and planning permission was subsequently granted in August 2016 for a new station building (costing £11.3million) integrated with a new highway arrangement, bus canopy, taxi and pedestrian areas. The initial phase of work was completed in January 2017.

9.1.9 The complete modernisation of the railway station will complement the new £5.6million integrated hub which will centralise main transport links which include the Parkway, new bus hub, cycle facilities, taxi rank, drop-off and pick-up points and the creation of a pedestrian dominated concourse for easy access to employment and residential areas in Port Talbot. The development forms part of the Council's Vibrant and Viable Places Regeneration Programme funded by the Welsh Government and supported by the Local Transport Fund and Swansea Bay City Region Strategy. The final phase of work is scheduled to be completed by October 2019.

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Indicator 82: The completion of the Amman Valley Cycle Way project and the Afan Valley Trail (Port Talbot to Afan Valley).

Table 9.1.4 Strategic Policy SP20 - Transport Network

| Walking and Cycling Routes (See also Policy TR1/7 & TR1/8) | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicators | 1. The completion of the Amman Valley Cycle way project. 2. The completion of the Afan Valley Trail (Port Talbot to Afan Valley). |
| Policy Targets | 1. Amman Valley Cycle Way project to be delivered by 2014. 2. Afan Valley Trail (Port Talbot to Afan Valley) to be delivered by 2013. |
| Trigger Points | 1. PART COMPLETE. 2. COMPLETE. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

9.1.10 The Afan Valley Trail (Port Talbot to Afan Valley) was completed in 2013.

9.1.11 The design and construction of the Amman Valley Cycle Way has been carried out collaboratively by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and Carmarthenshire County Council in phases over a number of years. Currently, there are five phases complete with the remaining two phases either under construction or discussion underway with landowners.

9.1.12 The 'Forge Washery' section, close to the administrative boundary at Brynamman, was partially completed with the construction of a new river bridge. Completion of this section requires a short length of cycleway to be constructed from the bridge to the main A4069 Station Road and discussions are well advanced with the landowner. The 'Cwmllynfell to Cwmtwrch' section has also been progressed with preliminary design complete and initial discussions with landowners underway.

9.1.13 On this basis, it is not considered that any action is required at this time, and the project will continue to be monitored over the next year.

Indicator 83: To deliver a Park and Share facility at Junction 38 (M4) Margam.

Table 9.1.5 Strategic Policy SP20 - Transport Network

| Park and Share Sites (See also Policies SP2 & TR1/9) | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicator | To deliver a Park and Share facility at Junction 38 (M4) Margam. |
| Policy Target | To deliver the project by 2020. |
| Trigger Point | The Park & Share facility at Junction 38 (M4) Margam is not delivered by 2020. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

9.1.14 Whilst there is no progress on site at this time, it is anticipated that the Park and Share facility located along the A48 layby at Junction 38 (M4) Margam will be delivered by 2020. Progress will continue to be monitored over the next year.

Indicator 84: The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Parking Standards.

Table 9.1.6 Strategic Policy SP20 - Transport Network

| SPG | |
|-----------------|---|
| Local Indicator | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Parking. |
| Policy Target | To prepare SPG relating to parking by October 2016. |
| Trigger Point | The SPG is not prepared by October 2016. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. |

Analysis of Results

9.1.15 The Parking Standards SPG has been prepared following a public consultation exercise that was undertaken in the summer of 2016 and in accordance with the monitoring target, the guidance was adopted by the Council in October 2016.

10 Respecting Distinctiveness

10.1 Strategic Policy 21 Built Environment and Historic Heritage

Table 10.1.1 Monitoring Summary by Indicator

| Ref | Indicator | Assessment | Action |
|-----|---|--|--|
| 85 | The number of applications permitted impacting upon buildings and features of local, architectural or cultural importance | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |
| 86 | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to the Historic Environment | Indicators suggest the need for further guidance in addition to those identified in the Plan | Supplementary Planning Guidance may be required |
| 87 | The number of applications permitted within Conservation Areas and other designated sites | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue |

Indicator 85: The number of applications permitted impacting upon features of local, architectural or cultural importance.

Table 10.1.2 Strategic Policy SP21 - Built Environment and Historic Heritage

| Safeguarding Features of Local Importance (See also Policy BE2, BE3) | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted impacting upon features of local, architectural or cultural importance. |
| Policy Target | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted for development contrary to the policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

10.1.1 This indicator relates to Policies BE2 and BE3 which are concerned with Buildings of Local Importance (BE2) and the Canal Network (BE3). A list of Buildings of Local Importance (BLIs) has been prepared but is in draft form only at present pending the preparation of the Historic Environment SPG (refer to Indicator 86 below). A total of six significant proposals affecting candidate BLIs have been approved (two concerning alternative schemes for one building), with no significant applications affecting any of the canals.

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10.1.2 Four of the applications relate to changes of use / conversion of existing buildings and in each case retain the building without making significant changes to the external appearance. One application relates only to minor developments within the grounds of a BLI, which do not have any impact on the building itself.

10.1.3 The final application is for a larger scheme which includes the demolition of part of Glanafan School in Port Talbot and the construction of 2 commercial units and 29 residential units. However, the front facade of the original school buildings are to be retained and converted, preserving most of the fabric and overall appearance of the candidate BLI. All these proposals are therefore considered to be in accordance with the policy framework and there is consequently no trigger application for this indicator.

Indicator 86: The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to the Historic Environment.

Table 10.1.3 Strategic Policy SP21 - Built Environment and Historic Heritage

| Safeguarding Features of Local Importance | |
|---|--|
| SPG | |
| Local Indicator | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to the historic environment. |
| Policy Target | To prepare SPG relating to the Historic Environment by April 2017. |
| Trigger Point | The SPG is not prepared by April 2017. |
| Performance | |
| Action | Supplementary Planning Guidance may be required. |

Analysis of Results

10.1.4 Preparation of the Historic Environment SPG has been delayed in order for it to be informed by the 'Historic Environment' consultations being carried out by the Welsh Government. This is likely to result in the introduction of detailed requirements and guidance relating to historic assets of special local interest, and compiling lists of such assets. Whilst to date the SPG has not been prepared, pending the publication of new and updated national guidance, the preparation of the SPG will be further considered over the next 12 month period.

Indicator 87: The number of applications permitted within Conservation Areas and other designated sites.

Table 10.1.4 Strategic Policy SP21 - Built Environment and Historic Heritage

| Protecting Conservation Areas and other designated sites (See also Policy BE1) | |
|---|--|
| Local Indicator | The number of applications permitted within Conservation Areas and other designated sites. |
| Policy Target | No application permitted contrary to the policy framework. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted for development contrary to the policy framework. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. Monitoring to continue. |

Analysis of Results

10.1.5 Seven significant applications have been approved within Conservation Areas, all being proposals within Neath town centre conservation area.

10.1.6 Two involved demolition or partial demolition (in one case due to fire damage) with reconstruction works that were considered to be appropriate and in accordance with all requirements for conservation areas, while two were for new shopfronts and three were for change of use only.

10.1.7 All the proposals were considered to be appropriate in terms of the character and appearance of the conservation area and to be in compliance with the policy framework.

10 . Respecting Distinctiveness

10.2 Strategic Policy 22 Welsh Language

Table 10.2.1 Monitoring Summary by Indicator

| Ref | Indicator | Assessment | Action |
|-----|---|---|--|
| 88 | The number of applications permitted accompanied by a Language Action Plan | LDP Policies are not being implemented in the intended manner | Officer and/or Member training may be required |
| 89 | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Development and the Welsh Language | The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required |

Indicator 88: The number of planning applications permitted accompanied by a Language Action Plan.

Table 10.2.2 Policy SP22 - Development in Language Sensitive Areas

| Development in Language Sensitive Areas (See also Policy WL1) | |
|--|---|
| Local Indicator | The number of planning applications permitted accompanied by a Language Action Plan. |
| Policy Target | No applications permitted within the Language Sensitive Areas without addressing Welsh language issues. |
| Trigger Point | One application permitted within the Language Sensitive Areas without addressing Welsh language issues. |
| Performance | |
| Action | Officer and/or Member training may be required. |

Analysis of Results

10.2.1 Five applications (4 residential and 1 retail) were approved during the monitoring period which reached the threshold in Policy WL1 for requiring the submission of a Welsh Language Action Plan (WLAP).

10.2.2 Whilst one of the residential applications was supported by a WLAP and appropriately established mitigation through Section 106 contributions, in each of the other four cases the policy requirement was not met and as such, all four approved applications constitute trigger applications for this indicator.

10.2.3 Notably, all four applications were submitted to the Council prior to LDP adoption, and then subsequently approved post adoption. In respect of the 3 residential related applications, two had no associated mitigation measures and whilst the other included a

condition requiring specified measures to be undertaken, these measures were not consistent with the adopted Planning Obligations SPG and the application was not accompanied by a WLAP.

10.2.4 In respect of the retail related application, whilst the Council has continued to liaise with the developer which has resulted in a WLAP being voluntarily submitted, again the mitigation measures offered were not consistent with the adopted Planning Obligations SPG.

10.2.5 The policy is therefore not currently being implemented as intended and it is considered that this should be addressed through further discussion with colleagues in the Development Management section. In addition, the Development and the Welsh Language SPG was adopted by the Council in July 2017 (refer to Indicator 89 below) and this document will provide more detailed guidance in respect of the implementation of the policy.

Indicator 89: The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Development and the Welsh Language.

Table 10.2.3 Strategic Policy SP22 - Welsh Language

| Development in Language Sensitive Areas (See also Policy WL1) | |
|--|--|
| Local Indicator | The preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Development and the Welsh Language. |
| Policy Target | To prepare the SPG relating to Development and the Welsh Language by April 2017. |
| Trigger Point | The SPG is not prepared by April 2017. |
| Performance | |
| Action | No further action required. |

Analysis of Results

10.2.6 The Development and the Welsh Language SPG was prepared by the end of April 2017 and subsequently endorsed by the Council and published for public consultation between 10th May and 21st June. This policy target has therefore been met. The SPG was subsequently adopted by the Council in July 2017.

10 . Respecting Distinctiveness

PART 3 - Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

11 Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

11.0.1 The LDP was subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as an iterative process throughout the plan preparation process. Further details are given in the LDP SA documents⁽²⁰⁾. The SA incorporated the SEA requirements, and all references to SA in this document should be taken to include SEA. The SA appraised the likely social, environmental and economic effects of the plan and its likely impacts in terms of sustainable development.

11.0.2 The SA was structured around 8 topics and identified a total of 22 objectives within these topics. Monitoring indicators and targets were drafted, developed and refined throughout the evolution of the LDP and SA, and the published LDP Monitoring Framework⁽²¹⁾ incorporates monitoring indicators that relate to the objectives of both the LDP and SA documents including a number derived from the draft indicators set out in the SA documentation.

11.0.3 For the SA monitoring, some amendments have been made to the indicators to ensure that they give useful information about the SA objectives. In some cases, additional indicators have been incorporated specifically to address certain SA objectives.

11.0.4 Each SA objective is assessed against the relevant monitoring indicators, with the findings set out in the sections below. The following colour coding has been used to give an overall summary of the findings for each indicator:

| | |
|----------|----------------------------|
| | Generally Positive Impacts |
| | Mixed Impacts |
| | Generally Negative Impacts |
| 0 | Neutral Impact |

11.1 SA Topic 1: Climate Change

SA Objective 1A: Ensure that all development takes into account likely future changes resulting from climate change (Adaptation)

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|---|--|---|---------|
| 5 | The number of applications permitted within C1 floodplain areas | No applications permitted for highly vulnerable development within C1 floodplain areas that does meet all the TAN 15 tests | No applications were determined for developments within DAM flood zone C1 contrary to the requirements of TAN15 | |

20 <https://www.npt.gov.uk/1777>

21 Table 6.2 Neath Port Talbot CBC Local Development Plan (January 2016).

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|--|--|---------|
| 6 | The number of applications permitted within C2 floodplain areas | No applications permitted for highly vulnerable development within C2 floodplain areas | Three decisions allow highly vulnerable development within flood zone C2 contrary to the requirements of TAN15 | |
| 62 | The number of applications permitted within the undeveloped coast, special landscape areas and green wedges contrary to the policy framework | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | There were 7 approvals within the relevant designated areas, but none were contrary to LDP policy | |

Analysis

Indicators 5 and 6: Developments within flood risk areas

11.1.1 For the most part, developments within flood risk areas have only been allowed where they comply with national planning policy as set out in TAN15, ensuring that development in such locations is restricted to proposals that are not for 'highly vulnerable' uses or are in previously developed areas where there are adequate flood defences in place and full assessments of the likely consequences of flooding have been undertaken. Three applications have however been approved for highly vulnerable development within undefended flood risk areas.

11.1.2 An increasing risk of more extreme weather and greater and more severe flooding events are a predicted change that will result from climate change, consequently it is important that the planning process should prevent the introduction of further vulnerable uses into flood risk areas where this is not justified.

11.1.3 These three developments therefore do not address the need to ensure that likely future changes resulting from climate change are taken into account in accordance with Objective 1A. This issue has also been identified as part of the LDP monitoring where it is indicated that further discussion with Development Management officers will be undertaken to address the issue. The indicators will continue to be monitored to ensure that the policy is being applied.

Indicator 62: Developments in designated areas

11.1.4 This indicator relates to proposals within areas where development is more strictly controlled than elsewhere, for landscape and sustainability reasons, including the need to ensure resilience to the impacts of climate change. Although seven applications have been approved within such areas, all comply with the requirements of LDP policy and it is considered that the plan is having a generally positive impact in relation to this indicator.

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

SA Objective 1B: Achieve government targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (Mitigation)

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|---|--|---------|
| 1 | The number of applications permitted below 35 dwellings per hectare within the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area (CCSA) | An average density of 35 dwellings per hectare on allocated sites within the CCSA should be achieved | Of 44 approvals for residential development within the CCSA, 22 complied with the LDP density requirement (50% compliance) | |
| 2 | The number of applications permitted below 30 dwellings per hectare within the Valleys Strategy Area (VSA) | An average density of 30 dwellings per hectare on allocated sites within the VSA should be achieved | Of 33 approvals for residential development within the VSA, 9 complied with the LDP density requirements (27% compliance) | |
| 3 | Amount of greenfield land lost not allocated in the LDP | No greenfield land lost contrary to the policy framework | Of 28 approvals for development on greenfield land, 9 were on unallocated sites. These were all justifiable taking into account the specific circumstances of each case | |
| 4 | The number of applications permitted within safeguarded freight facility locations | No applications permitted on sites safeguarded for the transportation of freight contrary to the policy framework | 1 application was approved at a freight location. However the proposed use did not prejudice the future development of the freight rail head | |
| 75 | The number of applications permitted accompanied by a Renewable Energy Assessment | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | 4 applications met the requirements for submission of a REA. However, none were submitted. Some justification for this was provided in one case, with none given in the others | |
| SA1 | NPT Carbon Footprint (tCO ₂ e per capita) | Annual reduction | 10.85 tCO ₂ e per annum (2011) ⁽²²⁾ | 0 |
| SA2 | NPT Gas consumption (kWh per capita) | Annual reduction | 13,039 kWh per annum (2013) ⁽²³⁾ | 0 |
| SA3 | NPT Electricity consumption (kWh per capita) | Annual reduction | 3,368 kWh per annum (2013) ⁽²⁴⁾ | 0 |

Analysis

Indicators 1 and 2: Residential density

22 [Ecological and Carbon Footprints of Wales Update to 2011 \(Stockholm Environment Institute and GHD\) \(July 2015\)](#)

23 [Energy generation and consumption for Wales, 2013 \(SB/11/2015 Statistics for Wales\)](#)

24 [Energy generation and consumption for Wales, 2013 \(SB/11/2015 Statistics for Wales\)](#)

11.1.5 The LDP monitoring targets for these indicators relates to developments on allocated sites, and the outcomes in relation to these targets are analysed in Section 4.1. The overall density achievements on all sites are set out in the table above, with the density requirement achieved in 50% of cases in the CCSA and 27% of cases in the VSA.

11.1.6 Higher density development implies a more efficient use of a finite resource (land) and the evolution of more efficient and sustainable settlements in general terms, with the potential for greater provision of and access to local facilities. Consequently this should result in reduced greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the objective.

11.1.7 In terms of the implications for the SA objective, the figures achieved show a significant shortfall in residential densities compared to the policy requirement. As indicated in Section 4.1, Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) has now been issued to give further information to applicants and decision makers about the requirements of the LDP policy and these indicators will continue to be monitored to assess the application of the policy.

Indicator 3: Development on greenfield land

11.1.8 In general terms, the development of 'greenfield' land (i.e. land that has not been developed previously) is less sustainable than re-using brownfield sites, particularly in terms of the use of finite resources and the loss of more natural and diverse spaces that have an important role to play in mitigating the effects of climate change through temperature moderation and carbon absorption among other factors.

11.1.9 Where greenfield land has been developed, this has been in accordance either with the LDP's allocations or with the relevant policies in the plan and on balance it is considered that this indicator is meeting the target requirements and contributing towards minimising greenhouse gas emissions.

Indicator 4: Development on safeguarded freight facilities

11.1.10 Existing freight facilities are safeguarded by the LDP in order to ensure that they are retained for future use where appropriate. Existing facilities should therefore remain available rather than reducing the facilities available, often leading to the use of less sustainable alternatives (usually road transport). Consequently, overall the policy should contribute towards minimising greenhouse gas production in accordance with the objective. No proposals have been approved contrary to the LDP policy in relation to safeguarded freight facilities.

Indicator 75: Applications accompanied by a Renewable Energy Assessment

11.1.11 LDP Policy RE2 requires developments above given size thresholds to submit a Renewable Energy Assessment, and for the findings of the assessment to be implemented where viable. This provision makes the installation and/or use of sources of renewable or low carbon energy a requirement where appropriate, with consequent benefits in the reduction of greenhouse gas production in accordance with this objective.

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

11.1.12 As indicated in the table above and in Section 8.5, the policy has not been implemented as intended, and is therefore not having the positive effects that would be expected. This will be addressed through further discussion with Development Management officers and the issuing of the Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPG providing more detailed guidance in respect of the implementation of the policy.

Indicator SA1: NPT carbon footprint

11.1.13 The carbon footprint describes the physical quantity of greenhouse gases emitted to atmosphere and the quoted figure relates to per capita emissions for Neath Port Talbot in 2011. The figure includes all six greenhouse gases subject to the Kyoto Protocol⁽²⁵⁾ expressed as tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO₂e). The figure includes emissions made directly by sources located within Wales, as well as within international supply chains. The figure for Neath Port Talbot is lower than the Wales average of 11.11 tCO₂e.

11.1.14 The quoted carbon footprint figure is the most recent available and constitutes a baseline figure against which future figures can be compared.

Indicators SA2 and SA3: NPT gas and electricity consumption

11.1.15 Per capita gas and electricity consumption gives two further measures of the impacts of the population of Neath Port Talbot on greenhouse gas emissions. The Neath Port Talbot figure for gas consumption is very close to the Welsh average figure of 13,029 kWh while electricity is below the Welsh average figure of 13,736 kWh.

11.1.16 As with indicator SA1, the quoted figures are the most recent available and constitute a baseline figure against which future figures can be compared.

SA Objective 1C: Make the area's appropriate contribution to national energy production (Mitigation)

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|---|--|---|---------|
| 74 | The number of applications permitted for renewable energy and low carbon technology development | To achieve TAN 8 SSA capacity targets and to encourage where appropriate all forms of renewable energy and low carbon technology development | 3 renewable / low carbon energy schemes were approved, with a total generating capacity of 5.56 MW | |
| 75 | The number of applications permitted accompanied by a Renewable Energy Assessment | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | 4 applications met the requirements for submission of a REA. However, none were submitted. Some justification for | |

25 Carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFC), perfluorocarbons (PFC) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|----------------------|--------|--|---------|
| | | | this was provided in one case, with none given in the others | |

Analysis

Indicator 74: Number of applications for renewable and low carbon energy

11.1.17 A relatively small number of renewable / low carbon energy proposals have been approved in this monitoring period, having a total generating capacity of 5.56MW. However, these will all contribute positively towards the area's energy production contribution, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meeting the terms of this objective.

Indicator 75: Applications accompanied by a Renewable Energy Assessment

11.1.18 Refer to Objective 1B above.

11.2 SA Topic 2: Natural Resources and Waste

SA Objective 2A: Minimise loss or degradation of natural resources while ensuring that they are used only in a sustainable way

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|--|--|---------|
| 1 | The number of applications permitted below 35 dwellings per hectare within the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area (CCSA) | An average density of 35 dwellings per hectare on allocated sites within the CCSA should be achieved | Of 44 approvals for residential development within the CCSA, 22 complied with the LDP density requirement (50% compliance) | |
| 2 | The number of applications permitted below 30 dwellings per hectare within the Valleys Strategy Area (VSA) | An average density of 30 dwellings per hectare on allocated sites within the CCSA should be achieved | Of 33 approvals for residential development within the VSA, 9 complied with the LDP density requirements (27% compliance) | |
| 3 | Amount of greenfield land lost not allocated in the LDP | No greenfield land lost contrary to the policy framework | Of 28 approvals for development on greenfield land, 9 were on unallocated sites. These were all justifiable taking into account the specific circumstances of each case | |
| 11 | The number of applications permitted outside settlement limits | No applications permitted outside settlement limits contrary to the policy framework | Three applications have been approved for proposals outside settlement limits contrary to Policy SC1, two due to the pre-existence of 'live' planning permissions for similar proposals on the sites which | |

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|---|--|---------|
| | | | could be implemented and one due to the acceptance that material considerations should outweigh the LDP policy | |
| 12 | The number of applications permitted where new or improved infrastructure has been secured through developer contributions | New development will address the impact on communities through the provision of new or improved infrastructure where appropriate | Although a number of applications have led to the securing of new or improved infrastructure, none have specifically secured improvements to natural resources through developer contributions | 0 |
| 62 | The number of applications permitted within the undeveloped coast, special landscape areas and green wedges contrary to the policy framework | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | There were 7 approvals within the relevant designated areas, but none were contrary to policy | |
| 64 | The number of applications permitted on nationally and internationally designated sites, regionally important biodiversity and geodiversity sites contrary to the policy framework | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | There were no approvals within designated sites | |
| 66 | The number of applications permitted within the AQMA contrary to the policy framework | Development proposals should not lead to a significant increase in pollution levels and should not lead to an increase in the number of people exposed to significant levels of pollution | There was 1 approval within the AQMA, complying with the policy framework | |
| 70 | <p><i>Core Indicator:</i> The extent of primary land-won aggregates permitted in accordance with the Regional Technical Statement for Aggregates expressed as a percentage of the total capacity required as identified in the Regional Technical Statement (MTAN)</p> <p><i>Local Indicator:</i> Aggregates land supply</p> | A 10 year landbank of crushed rock to be retained throughout the plan period | | |
| 71 | The number of applications permitted that would sterilise a mineral resource | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | No applications were approved that would have a significant impact on the future working of any mineral resource | |

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|--|---|---------|
| 72 | The number of planning applications for extraction of aggregate mineral not in line with Policy M2 | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | There have been no applications for the extraction of coal during the monitoring period | |
| 73 | The number of applications permitted within Mineral Buffer Zones | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | There were no proposals approved contrary to Policy M3 | |
| SA4 | Amount of development on high quality agricultural land | No applications contrary to the policy framework | Two significant applications were approved on higher quality agricultural land (grade 1, 2 or 3), one within an LDP allocation and one for a solar farm (a temporary development that should not significantly affect the long term agricultural quality of the land) | |

Analysis

11.2.1 The majority of the indicators show that the plan is having a positive effect in relation to this objective. Mixed impacts are however identified in respect of three indicators.

Indicators 1 and 2: Density of new development

11.2.2 Indicators 1 and 2 are assessed to have had mixed impacts due to a significant number of cases not reaching the density target. These sites consequently use land in a less sustainable way, leading in effect to an unnecessary loss of a finite resource, contrary to SA Objective 2A.

11.2.3 This issue is identified within the LDP monitoring (refer to Section 4.1), and it is identified that SPG has been issued which should help to address the matter. The indicators will continue to be monitored to assess whether this approach is improving the implementation of the policy.

Indicator 11: Applications outside settlement limits

11.2.4 In general terms, the LDP strategy aims to control the location of new development and direct it where possible to locations within existing sustainable settlements in order to minimise the use or loss of natural resources. Approvals for developments outside settlement limits that are not fully justified are therefore likely to be contrary to SA Objective 2A. Although the majority of applications were dealt with in accordance with the policy, the approval of three applications contrary to the policy framework therefore raises concerns in relation to this objective.

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

11.2.5 As set out in Section 4.3, this issue has been identified in the LDP monitoring, and further discussion with Development Management officers is recommended in order to identify fully the relevant issues and to address the matter. The indicator will continue to be monitored to assess whether this approach is improving the implementation of the policy.

SA Objective 2B: Maintain and improve the chemical and biological / ecological quality of natural resources

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|--|---|---------|
| 11 | The number of applications permitted outside settlement limits | No applications permitted outside settlement limits contrary to the policy framework | Three applications have been approved for proposals outside settlement limits contrary to Policy SC1, two due to the pre-existence of 'live' planning permissions for similar proposals on the sites which could be implemented and one due to the acceptance that material considerations should outweigh the LDP policy | |
| 64 | The number of applications permitted on nationally and internationally designated sites, regionally important biodiversity and geodiversity sites contrary to the policy framework | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | There were no approvals within designated sites | |
| SA5 | % water bodies at 'good' NRW classification status or above | Annual improvement in classification status | Within the Tawe to Cadoxton Management Catchment, 43% of surface water bodies are at good overall classification status, 52% at moderate and 5% at poor overall status. There are no water bodies at high or bad overall status (2015 Classification) ⁽²⁶⁾ | 0 |

Analysis

Indicator 11: Applications outside settlement limits

11.2.6 Refer to 11.2.4 and 11.2.5 above.

Indicator SA5: NRW classification status of water bodies

11.2.7 NRW figures for 2015 indicate that within the Tawe to Cadoxton catchment (which includes parts of Bridgend as well as Neath Port Talbot) 43% of surface water bodies were at good classification status or above. The figures quoted are the most recent available and constitute a baseline figure against which future information can be compared.

SA Objective 2C: Minimise waste and reduce amounts of waste disposed of to landfill

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|--|--|---------|
| 77 | The number of applications permitted accompanied by Site Waste Management Plans (SWMP) | All new development proposals falling within the terms of Policy W3 should produce Site Waste Management Plans | There were five development proposals that fell within the terms of Policy W3 over the monitoring period. Two were permitted without a SWMP, but were in compliance with the policy framework | |
| 78 | The number of waste facilities permitted and refused on employment sites | To ensure appropriate supply of employment sites for waste | No waste related applications were received / determined during the period monitored that related to allocated and/or safeguarded employment land | 0 |
| 79 | The amount of land and facilities to cater for waste in NPT | To maintain sufficient land and facilities to cater for waste in NPT (to be confirmed at a regional level in accordance with TAN 21) | One facility for the disposal of electrical waste was granted during the monitoring period but this was in addition to the sites identified in the LDP therefore sufficient land and facilities were maintained. It is considered that there is sufficient land and facilities across the County Borough to deal with waste arisings | |
| SA6 | % LACW ⁽²⁷⁾ reused / recycled / composted | Annual increase | 58.1% of NPT LACW was reused, recycled or composted during 2014/15 ⁽²⁸⁾ | 0 |

Analysis

11.2.8 In relation to SA Objective 2C, although the LDP does not have a primary impact on waste issues, the above indicators generally suggest that the relevant plan policies are having an overall positive impact.

Indicator SA6: Percentage of Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW) reused / recycled / composted

11.2.9 The available LACW figures indicate that there has been a steady increase in waste reuse / recycling / composting since 2006, with the figure for 2014/15 indicating that this is now well over half of all LACW arisings. The figure quoted is the most recent available and constitutes a baseline figure against which future information can be compared.

27 Local Authority Collected Waste

28 [Waste Planning Monitoring Report \(South West Waste Region 2016\)](#)

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

11.3 SA Topic 3: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

SA Objective 3A: Prevent any further net loss of biodiversity

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|---|--|---|---------|
| 64 | The number of applications permitted on nationally and internationally designated biodiversity sites, regionally important biodiversity and geodiversity sites contrary to the policy framework | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | There were no planning applications received / approved within any nationally or internationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites within the monitoring period | |
| SA7 | The number of applications permitted on identified SINC's contrary to the policy framework | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | No monitored | 0 |
| SA8 | The number of applications permitted which would result in a residual ⁽¹⁾ loss of important habitat or residual impact on important species ⁽²⁾ | No residual losses of important habitats or species | Not monitored | 0 |

1. Taking into account mitigation/compensation measures.
2. S7 Habitats and species, BAP habitats and important natural features as set out in Policy EN7.

Analysis

11.3.1 In relation to SA Objective 3A, Indicator 64 suggests that the plan is having a generally positive impact. The indicator will continue to be monitored.

Indicator SA7: The number of applications permitted on identified SINC's contrary to the policy framework and Indicator SA8: Applications resulting in a residual loss of important habitat or residual impact on important species

11.3.2 Information in relation to these indicators is not currently available. However, it is anticipated that relevant information will become available in the future, following the publication and adoption of the Biodiversity and Geodiversity Supplementary Planning Guidance which will give further information and clarification about the designation of SINC's and identification of important biodiversity features.

SA Objective 3B: Exploit all reasonable opportunities to secure biodiversity improvements

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|--|---|---------|
| 12 | The number of applications permitted where new or improved infrastructure has been secured through developer contributions | One application permitted contrary to the policy framework | One application secured financing for biodiversity improvements to take into account the effects of the development | |
| SA9 | Area of S7/SINC habitat created and secured through planning decisions | Annual increase | Not monitored | 0 |

Analysis

Indicator 12: The number of applications permitted where new or improved infrastructure has been secured through developer contributions

11.3.3 The impacts of new development on biodiversity were addressed during the planning application determination process in all cases where this was relevant. In one case, funding was secured through a S106 agreement to address impacts on biodiversity. Overall, the LDP policies are considered to be having a positive impact in relation to this objective.

Indicator SA9: Area of S7/SINC habitat created and secured through planning decisions

11.3.4 Information is not currently available in relation to this indicator. It is anticipated that relevant information will become available in the future, following the publication and adoption of the Biodiversity and Geodiversity Supplementary Planning Guidance which will give further information and clarification about the designation of SINC sites and identification of important biodiversity features and the implementation of the biodiversity compensation procedure.

SA Objective 3C: Minimise adverse effects on designated geodiversity sites

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|--|---|---------|
| 64 | The number of applications permitted on nationally and internationally designated sites, regionally important biodiversity and geodiversity sites contrary to the policy framework | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | There were no approvals within designated sites | |

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

Analysis

11.3.5 In relation to SA Objective 3C, the relevant indicator shows that the plan is having a generally positive impact. The indicator will continue to be monitored.

11.4 SA Topic 4: Landscape, Townscape and Historic Character

SA Objective 4A: Protect and/or enhance the area's landscape and townscape

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|--|--|---------|
| 8 | The number of applications refused on design grounds | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | 6 significant proposals were refused for design reasons | |
| 62 | The number of applications permitted within the undeveloped coast, special landscape areas and green wedges contrary to the policy framework | No applications permitted contrary to the Policy framework | There were 7 approvals within the relevant designated areas, but none were contrary to policy | |
| 85 | The number of applications permitted impacting upon buildings and features of local, architectural or cultural importance | No applications permitted contrary to the Policy framework | 6 significant proposals were permitted which affected Buildings of Local Importance, all in accord with policy | |
| 87 | The number of applications permitted within Conservation Areas and other designated sites | No applications permitted contrary to the Policy framework | 7 significant proposals were permitted within Conservation Areas, all in accordance with the policy framework | |

Analysis

11.4.1 In relation to SA Objective 4A, the relevant indicators show that the LDP policies are being implemented and should be having a generally positive impact. The indicators will continue to be monitored.

SA Objective 4B: Protect and/or enhance the area's historic environment including architectural and archaeological resources

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|--|---|---------|
| 85 | The number of applications permitted impacting upon buildings and features of local, | No applications permitted contrary to the Policy framework | 6 significant proposals were permitted affecting Buildings of Local Importance, all in accord with policy | |

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|---|--|---|---------|
| | architectural or cultural importance | | | |
| 87 | The number of applications permitted within Conservation Areas and other designated sites | No applications permitted contrary to the Policy framework | 7 significant proposals were permitted within Conservation Areas, all in accordance with the policy framework | |

Analysis

11.4.2 In relation to SA Objective 4B, the relevant indicators show that the LDP policies are being implemented and should be having a generally positive impact. The indicators will continue to be monitored.

11.5 SA Topic 5: Pollution

SA Objective 5A: Achieve acceptable levels (meet national / European standards) of air quality throughout the County Borough

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|---|---|---|---------|
| 66 | The number of applications permitted within the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) contrary to the policy framework | Development proposals should not lead to a significant increase in pollution levels and should not lead to an increase in the number of people exposed to significant levels of pollution | There was 1 approval within the AQMA, complying with the policy framework | |
| 67 | The number of applications permitted not accompanied by a Construction Management Plan (CMP) | No breaches of air quality should occur during the construction phase contrary to the submitted and agreed CMP | 1 proposal was permitted within the AQMA, accompanied by CMP | |
| 81 | To deliver the Integrated Transport Hub, Port Talbot | To deliver the project by 2018 | The integrated transport hub at Port Talbot is not completed but remains on schedule | 0 |
| 83 | To deliver a Park and Share facility at Junction 38 (M4) Margam | To deliver the project by 2020 | It is anticipated that the Park and Share facility will be delivered by 2020 | 0 |
| SA10 | Breaches of Air Quality objectives | No breaches of Air Quality Objectives | Concentrations of polyaromatic hydrocarbons breach UK objective but comply with EU target. Nickel concentrations breach EU target in two locations | 0 |

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|---------|
| SA11 | Number and extent of AQMAs in NPT | No increase in number or extent of AQMAs | There is 1 AQMA in NPT, at Taibach / Margam | 0 |

Analysis

11.5.1 In relation to SA Objective 5A, the relevant indicators show that the LDP policies are being implemented and should be having a generally positive impact. The indicators will continue to be monitored.

Indicator SA10: LAQM air quality objectives

11.5.2 Monitoring information available for air quality⁽²⁹⁾ relates to figures for 2016. The information given will therefore provide a baseline situation to which future results can be compared. Across the majority of the County Borough, air quality objectives were met for all types of air pollution monitored, with exceptions as listed in the table above.

Indicator SA11: Number and extent of AQMAs in Neath Port Talbot

11.5.3 The Taibach / Margam AQMA was declared by the Council in 2000 in relation to concerns about PM₁₀ (fine particulates). As above, the quoted information relates to 2016 and therefore provides a baseline situation to which future results can be compared. There has been a general trend towards decreasing numbers of exceedences of the PM₁₀ standard of 50mg/m³ since 1999, although 2015 was a poor year. There were 8 exceedance days during 2016, well below the Air Quality Objective of 35 exceedences per annum. The AQMA currently remains in force.

SA Objective 5B: Achieve acceptable noise levels and protect quiet areas throughout the County Borough

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|--|---|---------|
| 69 | The number of applications permitted within designated Quiet Areas | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | There have been no applications approved within any Quiet Area. | |
| SA12 | Number and extent of Noise Action Planning Priority Area (NAPPA) designations in NPT | No increase in number or extent of NAPPAs | There are 11 NAPPAs for roads and 3 for railways within NPT | 0 |

Analysis

11.5.4 In relation to SA Objective 5B, the relevant indicators show that the LDP policies are being implemented and should be having a generally positive impact. The indicators will continue to be monitored.

Indicator SA12: Number and extent of NAPPA designations

11.5.5 NAPPAs are designated by the Welsh Government under the European Environmental Noise Directive, and are areas identified on the basis of the number of properties affected by significant levels of environmental noise⁽³⁰⁾. The information given above relates to the 2013-2018 Noise Action Plan and will provide a baseline against which to compare future results.

11.6 SA Topic 6: Community Cohesion

SA Objective 6A: Improve social cohesion and minimise the incidence of social exclusion by addressing the causes of social exclusion

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|--|---|---------|
| 7 | The net change, type and spatial distribution of open space and community facilities | No loss of facilities permitted contrary to the policy framework | 10 approvals resulted in the 'loss' of a community facility. None constitute the loss of the last such facility in the local area. 2 approvals resulted in a loss of open space, alternative provision has been made | |
| 10 | Amount of major retail, office and leisure development permitted in town centre and in out-of-town centres | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | 1 major proposal was approved in relation to this indicator. The out of town centre location could have a slight detrimental impact on community cohesion by reducing the vibrancy of existing centres | |
| 11 | The number of applications permitted outside settlement limits | No applications permitted outside settlement limits contrary to the policy framework | Three applications have been approved for proposals outside settlement limits contrary to Policy SC1, two due to the pre-existence of 'live' planning permissions for similar proposals on the sites which could be implemented and one due to the acceptance that material considerations should outweigh the LDP policy | |

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|--|--|---------|
| 14 | The number of new housing units permitted and delivered within the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area | <p>Sites have been allocated within Policy H1 for the provision of 5,690 new housing units within the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area over the Plan period</p> <p>Annual Targets: 2011/12: 152 2012/13: 134 2013/14: 216 2014/15: 268 2015/16: 318 2016/17: 379 2017/18: 495 2018/19: 553 2019/20: 518 2020/21: 513 2021/22: 502 2022/23: 468 2023/24: 412 2024/25: 387 2025/26: 375</p> | The delivery of H1 allocations within the coastal corridor has fallen behind the targets, but as this is the first year this does not constitute an LDP monitoring trigger point. Any significant prolonged reduction in new housing delivery could have negative impacts for social inclusion | |
| 29 | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Afan Lido Mixed-Use Regeneration Scheme | To deliver a tourism / recreation development at Afan Lido by 2020 | Tourism/recreation elements of the development are broadly on target. Additional local employment is likely to have likely positive impacts on the existing community in Sandfields | |
| 31 | The number of new housing units permitted and delivered within the Valleys Strategy Area | <p>Sites have been allocated within Policy H1 for the provision of 1,435 new housing units over the Plan period</p> <p>Annual Targets: 2011/12: 61 2012/13: 108 2013/14: 44 2014/15: 60 2015/16: 90 2016/17: 112 2017/18: 92 2018/19: 75 2019/20: 122 2020/21: 125 2021/22: 117 2022/23: 117 2023/24: 112 2024/25: 126 2025/26: 74</p> | Overall targets have been met with likely positive impacts through strengthening existing valleys communities | |
| 32 | The number of new housing units permitted and delivered within the | Sites have been allocated within Policy H1 for the provision of 664 new housing units over the Plan period | There has been a slight shortfall in housing delivery but overall impacts are likely to be positive through strengthening existing communities | |

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|---|--|---|---------|
| | Pontardawe Strategic Growth Area | Annual Targets: 2011/12: 0 2012/13: 46 2013/14: 30 2014/15: 38 2015/16: 65 2016/17: 92 2017/18: 72 2018/19: 50 2019/20: 66 2020/21: 50 2021/22: 40 2022/23: 40 2023/24: 35 2024/25: 40 2025/26: 0 | | |
| 33 | The number of new housing units permitted and delivered within the Upper Neath Valley Strategic Growth Area | Sites have been allocated within Policy H1 for the provision of 264 new housing units over the Plan period Annual Targets: 2011/12: 5 2012/13: 0 2013/14: 9 2014/15: 2 2015/16: 0 2016/17: 0 2017/18: 0 2018/19: 0 2019/20: 21 2020/21: 45 2021/22: 37 2022/23: 37 2023/24: 37 2024/25: 36 2025/26: 35 | Overall targets have been met with likely positive impacts through strengthening existing communities | |
| 34 | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within the Park Avenue, Glynneath Mixed-Use Regeneration Scheme | To provide 150 new housing units with anticipated commencement from 2020/21 | No development to date, but the proposal remains on target | 0 |
| 37 | The number of live-work proposals permitted | An increase in the number of live-work units permitted | To date, no live-work proposals have been permitted | 0 |
| 38 | The number of applications permitted at Rheola | The allocation at Rheola will be delivered by 2021 | Although no development has been approved to date, the proposal remains on target and new tourism jobs in the area are likely to enhance social inclusion | |

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|---|---|---|---------|
| 39 | The number of net additional affordable and general market dwellings built in the LPA area | A total provision of 8,760 new housing units will be made in order to ensure that a minimum of 7,800 new housing units will be delivered by 2026 Annual Targets: 2011/12: 262 2012/13: 287 2013/14: 301 2014/15: 386 2015/16: 486 2016/17: 549 2017/18: 625 2018/19: 686 2019/20: 698 2020/21: 676 2021/22: 647 2022/23: 614 2023/24: 553 2024/25: 542 2025/26: 488 | Although housing completions are lower than the annual target, it is expected that the rate of housing delivery will increase substantially with positive impacts on social inclusion generally across the LPA area | |
| 41 | The number of net additional affordable and general market dwellings built in the LPA area | To deliver 1,200 affordable housing units by 2026 Annual Targets: 2011/12: 7 2012/13: 5 2013/14: 22 2014/15: 37 2015/16: 72 2016/17: 90 2017/18: 115 2018/19: 130 2019/20: 124 2020/21: 120 2021/22: 111 2022/23: 102 2023/24: 90 2024/25: 89 2025/26: 86 | Currently below target, but rate of delivery of affordable housing expected to increase. As this is the first year this does not constitute an LDP monitoring trigger point. Any significant prolonged reduction in new housing delivery could have negative impacts for social inclusion | |
| 46 | The number of applications permitted for housing developments that do not address the open space needs of the occupants | All new housing development of 3 or more units should make provision for open space where there is a quantitative deficiency in open space provision | The target for open space provision has not been met in all cases. A lack of open space provision for new developments is likely to have negative implications for local social inclusion | |
| 47 | The number of existing open spaces lost to development contrary to the policy framework | No loss of open space contrary to the policy framework | There have been some limited losses of existing open spaces associated with 2 applications. However, in both cases alternative provision has been made, minimising any impacts on social inclusion | 0 |

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|---|--|---------|
| 52 | The net change in the amount of employment land and floorspace | Principal Target: To make provision for a net gain of approximately 34,000 square metres of employment floorspace within the County Borough by 2026 Interim Targets: 2011/14: 7,000 sq m 2014/17: 7,000 sq m 2017/20: 7,000 sq m 2020/23: 7,000 sq m 2023/26: 7,000 sq m Annual Target: To develop an average of 2,250 sq m of employment floorspace per annum with a cumulative target of 4,500 sq m to be developed over any 2 year period | See section 7.1 for details on this indicator. While the level of new employment floorspace has fallen below the target, other employment indicators within the AMR show that the economic profile of NPT has improved significantly, indicating that the amount of floorspace initially projected to be required has not been necessary to support the creation of new jobs | |
| 58 | The number of applications for small scale retail development permitted | An increase in the number of small scale retail proposals permitted | 1 application has been permitted for small scale retail development, with likely positive impacts on local community cohesion | |
| 88 | The number of applications permitted accompanied by a Language Action Plan | No applications permitted within the Language Sensitive Areas without addressing Welsh language issues | Only 1 out of a number of applications complies with Welsh language policy. Overall, non-compliance with this policy is likely to have a negative impact in terms of SA Objective 6A | |

Analysis

11.6.1 The majority of indicators show that the plan is having a generally positive impact. Indicators that show an uncertain, mixed or negative impact in relation to SA Objective 6A are considered in more detail below.

Indicator 7: Loss of open space and community facilities

11.6.2 The loss of open space or other community facilities is likely to have a negative impact on social inclusion through reducing the number and range of places within the community where people come together or meet up informally and undertake communal activities. As indicated above, there have been a number of cases where planning permission has been granted that would result in the loss of such facilities. However, in all cases alternatives should remain available within the community in question.

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

11.6.3 The loss of facilities raises concerns in relation to SA Objective 6A, but it must be recognised that the management of development through the planning system can only prevent changes that need planning permission and cannot ensure the continuation of a use that has ceased to be viable or popular. There are concerns that the importance of community facilities and the implications of their loss are not always fully taken into account when decisions are taken, and it is proposed to address this (refer to Section 4.2) through further awareness raising. This issue will continue to be monitored.

Indicator 10: Major retail, office and leisure development

11.6.4 Retail, office and leisure developments can constitute community facilities in themselves, or can contribute to the vibrancy of a community through the presence of greater numbers of people with greater numbers of interactions throughout the day. The location of such uses can have an influence on the impacts on local social inclusion and there is a preference in planning policy for such developments to be located within existing centres. This can help to support and improve town and village centres with consequent benefits for social inclusion.

11.6.5 As indicated, one major retail proposal was approved in an out of town centre location which could have a detrimental impact on social inclusion by reducing the vitality and vibrancy of existing centres. However, the retail study submitted with the application indicated that the proposal should not have a significantly detrimental impact.

Indicator 11: Applications outside settlement limits

11.6.6 In general terms, the LDP strategy aims to control the location of new development and direct it where possible to locations within existing sustainable settlements in order to build and strengthen communities and support community cohesion. Approvals for developments outside settlement limits that are not fully justified in accordance with the policy are unlikely to be positive in terms of SA Objective 6A. Although the majority of applications were dealt with in accordance with the policy, the approval of three applications contrary to the policy framework therefore raises concerns in relation to this objective.

11.6.7 As set out in section 4.3 above, this issue has been identified in the LDP monitoring, and further discussion with Development Management officers is recommended in order to identify fully the relevant issues and to address the matter. The indicator will continue to be monitored to assess whether this approach is improving the implementation of the policy.

Indicator 46: Delivery of open space for new developments

11.6.8 Overall, the target for open space provision in association with new development has not been met. The availability of open space locally plays an important part in fostering social inclusion through providing space within the community for recreation and interaction. A lack of open space provision for new developments is likely to have negative implications for local social inclusion. This indicator has been identified as a concern in the LDP monitoring (refer to Section 6.4), and it is proposed to address the issues through further discussion with Development Management officers and the adoption of the Open Space & Greenspace SPG. The indicator will continue to be monitored.

Indicator 88: Applications accompanied by a Language Action Plan

11.6.9 The preparation and implementation of Language Action Plans for new developments should help to strengthen social inclusion in Welsh speaking communities. The inconsistent application of the requirement for relevant applications to be accompanied by a Language Action Plan has been identified as a concern in the LDP monitoring (refer to Section 10.2) and it is proposed to address the issues through further discussion with Development Management officers and the adoption of the Development and the Welsh Language SPG. The indicator will continue to be monitored.

SA Objective 6B: Protect and enhance the culture and character of communities including cultural resources and Welsh language

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|---|--|---|---------|
| 85 | The number of applications permitted impacting upon buildings and features of local, architectural or cultural importance | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | 6 relevant applications have been approved, with none having any significant adverse impacts | |
| 87 | The number of applications permitted within Conservation Areas and other designated sites | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | 7 relevant applications have been approved, with none having any significant adverse impacts | |
| 88 | The number of applications permitted accompanied by a Language Action Plan | No applications permitted within the Language Sensitive Areas without addressing welsh language issues | Only 1 out of a number of relevant applications complies with Welsh language policy. Potential negative impacts on the culture and character of communities | |

Analysis

11.6.10 The targets set out for Indicators 86 and 87 are currently being met, suggesting a positive impact in relation to effects on the culture and character of communities. Indicator 88 is considered in more detail below.

Indicator 88: Applications accompanied by a Language Action Plan

11.6.11 Use of the Welsh language constitutes an important part of the culture and character of communities in some parts of the County Borough. Within the language sensitive areas identified in the LDP, proposals for larger scale developments should be accompanied by a Language Action Plan setting out measures to be taken to protect, promote and enhance the Welsh language in accordance with LDP Policy WL1. As indicated above, a number of applications have not addressed this requirement in accordance with LDP policy.

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

11.6.12 This issue has been identified as a concern in the LDP monitoring (refer to Section 10.2) and it is proposed to address the issues through further discussion with Development Management officers and the adoption of the Development and the Welsh Language SPG. The indicator will continue to be monitored.

11.7 SA Topic 7: Health and Well-Being

SA Objective 7A: Improve physical and mental health outcomes for all

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|---|--|---------|
| 7 | The net change, type and spatial distribution of open space and community facilities | No loss of facilities permitted contrary to the policy framework | 10 approvals resulted in the 'loss' of a community facility. None was the loss of the last such facility in the local area. 2 approvals resulted in a loss of open space, but alternative provision has been made | |
| 46 | The number of applications permitted for housing developments that do not address the open space needs of the occupants | All new housing development of 3 or more units should make provision for open space where there is a quantitative deficiency in open space provision | A significant number of housing proposals have been permitted without requirements for open space provision. This implies that this SA objective has not been fully addressed in these cases, with implications for physical and mental health locally | |
| 47 | The number of existing open spaces lost to development contrary to the policy framework | No loss of open space contrary to the policy framework | There have been some limited losses of existing open spaces associated with 2 applications. However, in both cases alternative provision has been made, minimising any impacts on health | 0 |
| 49 | <p><i>Local Indicator:</i> The level of Workplace Employment in NPT</p> <p><i>Contextual Indicators:</i> The change of Workplace Employment for Wales and UK;</p> <p>The level and rate of employment in NPT;</p> <p>The level and rate of employment for Wales and UK</p> | <p>Principal Target:</p> <p>A net gain of 3,850 jobs up to 2026</p> <p>Interim Targets:</p> <p>2011/14: - 1,458 2014/17: +1,326 2017/20: +1,326 2020/23: +1,326 2023/26: +1,326</p> <p>Annual Target:</p> <p>An average gain of 442 jobs per annum from 2014 over the remainder of the Plan</p> | <p>The target set in the LDP has become outdated due to newer statistical releases but overall the net gain in jobs in NPT exceeds the target (refer to Section 7.1)</p> <p>Overall, increasing employment levels should have a positive impact on health and well-being</p> | |

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|---|---|---------|
| | | period with a cumulative target of 884 jobs over any 2 year period | | |
| 53 | <i>Local Indicator:</i> The rate of economic activity for NPT <i>Contextual Indicator:</i> The rate of economic activity for Wales and UK | To achieve an increase in the rate of economic activity to 76% by 2026 | NPT rate of economic activity has increased, whilst the Welsh average has seen a slight decline. Improvements in economic activity should be generally positive for health and well-being | |
| 54 | <i>Local Indicator:</i> The rate of unemployment for NPT <i>Contextual Indicator:</i> The rate of unemployment for Wales and UK | To achieve a decrease in the unemployment rate to 6.9% by 2026 | NPT unemployment rate has fallen, exceeding target. Reductions in unemployment should be generally positive for health and well-being | |
| 61 | The development of a range of improved walking and cycling routes | Completion of the Wales Coast Path by 2012 Completion of the Cognation Mountain Bike Trails by 2013 Completion of the Great Dragon Ride Route by 2012 | The routes listed in the LDP have been constructed, with likely positive impacts on health and well-being | |
| 66 | The number of applications permitted within the AQMA contrary to the policy framework | Development proposals should not lead to a significant increase in pollution levels and should not lead to an increase in the number of people exposed to significant levels of pollution | There has been 1 significant development approved within the AQMA, determined in accord with policy | 0 |
| 67 | The number of applications permitted not accompanied by a Construction Management Plan | No breaches of air quality should occur during the construction phase contrary to the submitted and agreed Construction Management Plan | 1 application has been permitted within the AQMA, accompanied by CMP | 0 |
| 69 | The number of applications permitted within designated Quiet Areas | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | No applications have been permitted within designated Quiet Areas | 0 |
| 82 | Completion of listed cycle routes | The Amman Valley Cycle Way project to be delivered by 2014 The Afan Valley Trail (Port Talbot to Afan Valley) to be delivered by 2013 | The Afan Valley Trail is complete, and the Amman Valley Cycle Way is partly complete | |

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

Analysis

11.7.1 In general, the plan is assessed as having a positive impact in relation to most of the indicators. Some indicators however show a negative or mixed outcome and these are discussed below.

Indicator 7: Loss of open space and community facilities

11.7.2 Community facilities and places where people can meet are largely beneficial to people's physical and mental health, enabling opportunities to participate in social / recreational activities, visit the local shop, socialise etc, therefore their loss can impact negatively on physical and mental health. As indicated above, there have been a number of applications granted which have resulted in the loss of community facilities and open space although none of the cases resulted in the loss of the last such facility in the locality.

11.7.3 The loss of facilities raises concern in relation to SA Objective 7A, but the management of development through the planning system cannot address the loss of such facilities which do not require planning approval, and where facilities are not viable or popular. There are some concerns that the implications of the loss is not always fully considered and this is addressed in Section 4.2 above, where further discussion with Development Management officers is suggested. This situation will continue to be monitored.

Indicator 46: Delivery of open space for new developments

11.7.4 Overall, the target for open space provision in association with new development has not been met. Ensuring that there is an appropriate level of open space to meet the needs of the community can be beneficial in terms of physical and mental health, enabling people to be more physically active and to have space to within their local area to escape from everyday pressures. Where a new development does not make appropriate provision, this can impact on the community and put pressure on existing facilities. A lack of open space provision for new developments is therefore likely to have negative implications for physical and mental health.

11.7.5 The lack of provision raises concern in relation to SA Objective 7A. In most cases there was a reason why provision could not be made but this indicator has been identified as a concern in the LDP monitoring (refer to Section 6.4),and it is proposed to address the issues through further discussion with Development Management officers and the adoption of the Open Space & Greenspace SPG. The indicator will continue to be monitored.

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

SA Objective 7B: Reduce / minimise the incidence and impacts of ill health by addressing the causes and consequences of ill health, health inequalities and poor well-being

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|--|--|---------|
| 7 | The net change, type and spatial distribution of open space and community facilities | No loss of facilities permitted contrary to the policy framework | 10 approvals resulted in the 'loss' of a community facility. None constitute the loss of the last such facility in the local area. 2 approvals resulted in a loss of open space, but alternative provision has been made | |
| 46 | The number of applications permitted for housing developments that do not address the open space needs of the occupants | All new housing development of 3 or more units should make provision for open space where there is a quantitative deficiency in open space provision | A significant number of housing proposals have been permitted without requirements for open space provision. This implies that this SA objective has not been fully addressed in these cases, with implications for physical and mental health locally | |
| 47 | The number of existing open spaces lost to development contrary to the policy framework | No loss of open space contrary to the policy framework | There have been some limited losses of existing open spaces associated with 2 applications. However, in both cases alternative provision has been made, minimising any impacts on health | 0 |
| 49 | <p><i>Local Indicator:</i> The level of Workplace Employment in NPT</p> <p><i>Contextual Indicators:</i> The change of Workplace Employment for Wales and UK;</p> <p>The level and rate of employment in NPT;</p> <p>The level and rate of employment for Wales and UK</p> | <p>Principal Target:</p> <p>A net gain of 3,850 jobs up to 2026</p> <p>Interim Targets:</p> <p>2011/14: - 1,458 2014/17: +1,326 2017/20: +1,326 2020/23: +1,326 2023/26: +1,326</p> <p>Annual Target:</p> <p>An average gain of 442 jobs per annum from 2014 over the remainder of the Plan period with a cumulative target of 884 jobs over any 2 year period</p> | <p>The target set in the LDP has become outdated due to newer statistical releases but overall the net gain in jobs in NPT exceeds the target (refer to Section 7.1)</p> <p>Increasing employment levels should have a positive impact on health and well-being.</p> | |

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|---|---|---|---------|
| 53 | <p><i>Local Indicator:</i> The rate of economic activity for NPT</p> <p><i>Contextual Indicator:</i> The rate of economic activity for Wales and UK</p> | To achieve an increase in the rate of economic activity to 76% by 2026 | NPT rate of economic activity has increased, whilst the Welsh average has seen a slight decline. Improvements in economic activity should be generally positive for health and well-being | |
| 54 | <p><i>Local Indicator:</i> The rate of unemployment for NPT</p> <p><i>Contextual Indicator:</i> The rate of unemployment for Wales and UK</p> | To achieve a decrease in the unemployment rate to 6.9% by 2026 | NPT unemployment rate has fallen, exceeding target. Reductions in unemployment should be generally positive for health | |
| 61 | The development of a range of improved walking and cycling routes | <p>Completion of the Wales Coast Path by 2012</p> <p>Completion of the Cognation Mountain Bike Trails by 2013</p> <p>Completion of the Great Dragon Ride Route by 2012</p> | The routes listed in the LDP have been constructed, with likely positive impacts on health | |
| 66 | The number of applications permitted within the AQMA contrary to the policy framework | Development proposals should not lead to a significant increase in pollution levels and should not lead to an increase in the number of people exposed to significant levels of pollution | There has been 1 significant development approved within the AQMA, determined in accord with policy | 0 |
| 67 | The number of applications permitted not accompanied by a Construction Management Plan | No breaches of air quality should occur during the construction phase contrary to the submitted and agreed Construction Management Plan | 1 application has been permitted within the AQMA, accompanied by CMP | 0 |
| 69 | The number of applications permitted within designated Quiet Areas | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | No applications have been permitted within designated Quiet Areas | 0 |
| 82 | Completion of listed cycle routes | <p>The Amman Valley Cycle Way project to be delivered by 2014</p> <p>The Afan Valley Trail (Port Talbot to Afan Valley) to be delivered by 2013</p> | The Afan Valley Trail is complete, and the Amman Valley Cycle Way is partly complete | |

Analysis

11.7.6 In general, the plan is having a positive impact in relation to most of the indicators. Some indicators however show a negative or mixed outcome and these are discussed below.

Indicator 7: Loss of open space and community facilities

11.7.7 Community facilities and places where people can meet are largely beneficial to people's physical and mental health, enabling opportunities to participate in social / recreational activities, visit the local shop and access services and facilities, and socialise etc, therefore their loss can impact negatively on physical and mental health. Lack of, or poor accessibility to such facilities can lead to social isolation, an inability to access healthy food, and consequently can impact on people's well-being. As indicated above there have been a number of applications granted which have resulted in the loss of community facilities and open space, however such loss did not result in the loss of the last such facility in the locality.

11.7.8 The loss of facilities raises concern in relation to SA Objective 7B, but the management of development through the planning system cannot address the loss of such facilities which do not require planning approval, and where facilities are not viable or popular. There are some concerns that the implications of the loss is not always fully considered and this is addressed in Section 4.2 above, where further discussion with Development Management officers is suggested. This situation will continue to be monitored.

Indicator 46: Delivery of open space for new developments

11.7.9 Ensuring that there is an appropriate level of open space to meet the needs of the community can assist people's physical and mental health and general well-being, enabling people to be more physically active and be able to have somewhere to get away from things within their local area. Where a new development does not make appropriate provision, this can impact on the community and put pressure on existing facilities.

11.7.10 The lack of provision raises concern in relation to SA Objective 7A. In most cases there was a reason why provision could not be made but this indicator has been identified as a concern in the LDP monitoring (refer to Section 6.4), and it is proposed to address the issues through further discussion with Development Management officers and the adoption of the Open Space & Greenspace SPG. The indicator will continue to be monitored.

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

SA Objective 7C: Reduce / minimise the incidence and impacts of poverty by addressing the causes and consequences of poverty

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|--|--|---------|
| 49 | <p><i>Local Indicator:</i> The level of Workplace Employment in NPT</p> <p><i>Contextual Indicators:</i> The change of Workplace Employment for Wales and UK;</p> <p>The level and rate of employment in NPT;</p> <p>The level and rate of employment for Wales and UK</p> | <p>Principal Target:</p> <p>A net gain of 3,850 jobs up to 2026</p> <p>Interim Targets:</p> <p>2011/14: - 1,458 2014/17: +1,326 2017/20: +1,326 2020/23: +1,326 2023/26: +1,326</p> <p>Annual Target:</p> <p>An average gain of 442 jobs per annum from 2014 over the remainder of the Plan period with a cumulative target of 884 jobs over any 2 year period</p> | <p>The target set in the LDP has become outdated due to newer statistical releases but overall the net gain in jobs in NPT exceeds the target (refer to Section 7.1)</p> <p>Increasing employment levels should have a positive impact on poverty levels</p> | |
| 53 | <p><i>Local Indicator:</i> The rate of economic activity for NPT</p> <p><i>Contextual Indicator:</i> The rate of economic activity for Wales and UK</p> | <p>To achieve an increase in the rate of economic activity to 76% by 2026</p> | <p>NPT rate of economic activity has increased, whilst the Welsh average has seen a slight decline. Improvements in economic activity should be generally positive effect on poverty levels</p> | |
| 54 | <p><i>Local Indicator:</i> The rate of unemployment for NPT</p> <p><i>Contextual Indicator:</i> The rate of unemployment for Wales and UK</p> | <p>To achieve a decrease in the unemployment rate to 6.9% by 2026</p> | <p>NPT unemployment rate has fallen, exceeding target. This should have positive implications for poverty</p> | |

Analysis

11.7.11 The LDP uses an employment led growth model that takes the projected increase in jobs and economic activity rates and from this identifies the size of working age population that is required to support the projected number of jobs. This in turn is used to predict the number of new homes needed within the County Borough. The key means by which the LDP is able to contribute to any reduction in poverty is through its employment strategy and policies and the provision made for new employment generating development.

11.7.12 The indicators relating to economic activity generally show a positive picture, with those that relate to impacts on poverty performing reasonably well. In particular, employment rates are increasing, as is the rate of economic activity in Neath Port Talbot, while unemployment is reducing. This implies a positive impact on poverty issues. The indicators will continue to be monitored.

11.8 SA Topic 8: Economy

SA Objective 8A: Develop and support a local economic infrastructure that is attractive to business and meets the changing needs of the local and national community

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|---|---|---|---------|
| 12 | The number of applications permitted where new or improved infrastructure has been secured through developer contributions (SW) | New development will address the impact on communities through the provision of new or improved infrastructure where appropriate | In terms of economic infrastructure, the impact of new development has been addressed during the planning application determination process in all cases during the reporting period. Where it has been considered an appropriate course of action, S.106 agreements have been put in place both to address specific impacts relating to the proposed developments and also to ensure the future needs of end users are met | |
| 14 | Local indicator the number of new housing units permitted and delivered within the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area | Sites have been allocated within Policy H1 for the provision of 5,690 new housing units within the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area over the Plan period Annual Targets: 2011/12: 152 2012/13: 134 2013/14: 216 2014/15: 268 2015/16: 318 2016/17: 379 2017/18: 495 | Whilst delivery has been slower than expected, progress has been made on several sites within the H1 portfolio over the current monitoring period, with either planning permission granted, or detailed | |

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|---|--|--|----------|
| | | 2018/19: 553 2019/20: 518 2020/21: 513 2021/22: 502 2022/23: 468 2023/24: 412 2024/25: 387 2025/26: 375 | pre-application advice sought on a number of sites. The development of new residential development sites will generally support the local economy and infrastructure | |
| 22 | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Harbourside Strategic Regeneration Area [Harbour Way (PDR)] | To deliver Harbour Way (PDR) | Harbour Way has been completed, providing significant new infrastructure to support the future development of central Port Talbot | |
| 31 | The number of new housing units permitted and delivered within the Valleys Strategy Area | Sites have been allocated within Policy H1 for the provision of 1,435 new housing units over the Plan period Annual Targets: 2011/12: 61 2012/13: 108 2013/14: 44 2014/15: 60 2015/16: 90 2016/17: 112 2017/18: 92 2018/19: 75 2019/20: 122 2020/21: 125 2021/22: 117 2022/23: 117 2023/24: 112 2024/25: 126 2025/26: 74 | Overall targets have been met with likely positive impacts on local economic infrastructure in the valleys area | |
| 37 | The number of live-work proposals permitted | An increase in the number of live-work units permitted | To date no live/work proposals have been received or permitted | 0 |
| 39 | The number of net additional affordable and general market | A total provision of 8,760 new housing units will be made in order to ensure that a minimum of 7,800 new housing units will be delivered by 2026 Annual Targets: 2011/12: 262 2012/13: 287 2013/14: 301 2014/15: 386 2015/16: 486 2016/17: 549 2017/18: 625 2018/19: 686 | Although housing completions are lower than the annual target, the development undertaken is likely to have had positive | |

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|---|---|---------|
| | dwellings built in the LPA area | 2019/20: 698 2020/21: 676 2021/22: 647 2022/23: 614 2023/24: 553 2024/25: 542 2025/26: 488 | impacts on local economic infrastructure | |
| 41 | The number of net additional affordable and general market dwellings built in the LPA area | To deliver 1,200 affordable housing units by 2026 Annual Targets: 2011/12: 7 2012/13: 5 2013/14: 22 2014/15: 37 2015/16: 72 2016/17: 90 2017/18: 115 2018/19: 130 2019/20: 124 2020/21: 120 2021/22: 111 2022/23: 102 2023/24: 90 2024/25: 89 2025/26: 86 | To date the number of affordable housing units delivered has been considerably lower than the targets set within the framework. Although levels of affordable housing provision are below those anticipated, those delivered will have a positive effect on economic infrastructure | |
| 52 | The net change in the amount of employment land and floorspace | Principal Target: To make provision for a net gain of approximately 34,000 square metres of employment floorspace within the County Borough by 2026 Interim Targets: 2011/14: 7,000 sq m 2014/17: 7,000 sq m 2017/20: 7,000 sq m 2020/23: 7,000 sq m 2023/26: 7,000 sq m Annual Target: To develop an average of 2,250 sq m of employment floorspace per annum with a cumulative target of 4,500 sq m to be developed over any 2 year period | Refer to Section 7.1 for details on this indicator. While the level of new employment floorspace has fallen below the target, other employment indicators within the AMR show that the economic profile of NPT has improved significantly, indicating that the amount of floorspace initially projected to be required has not been necessary to support the creation of new jobs | |
| 56 | The number of applications permitted on safeguarded sites contrary to the policy framework | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | There have been 3 approvals for gyms on safeguarded employment sites, reducing the availability of existing employment premises | |

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|---|--|---------|
| 57 | The number of applications permitted for retail development contrary to the defined retail hierarchy | No applications permitted for retail development contrary to the policy framework | 3 applications have been permitted contrary to the hierarchy. However, 2 of these will provide new local shops enhancing the local economic infrastructure | |
| 58 | The number of applications for small scale retail development permitted | An increase in the number of small scale retail proposals permitted | 1 application has been permitted for small scale retail development, enhancing local economic infrastructure | |
| 59 | The number of tourism applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | No tourism proposals to be permitted contrary to the policy framework | Three applications permitted all of which complied with the policy framework and supporting local economic infrastructure | |
| 60 | The number of tourism facilities lost contrary to the policy framework | No loss of tourism facilities contrary to the policy framework | 1 application approved, but retaining employment function and in accord with policy framework | 0 |

Analysis

11.8.1 The LDP uses an employment led growth model that takes the projected increase in jobs and economic activity rates and from this identifies the size of working age population that is required to support the projected number of jobs. This in turn is used to predict the number of new homes needed within the County Borough. The extent to which LDP policies are contributing to the development and support for local economic infrastructure to deliver this is considered in this SA objective.

11.8.2 The Plan both allocates and seeks to protect a range of sites for employment uses. Although some developments are proceeding at a slower rate than originally envisaged, they are nonetheless helping to support the local economic infrastructure by providing employment at the construction stage and longer term, providing new homes and providing the roads and local infrastructure to service the new development. Some of the developments are long term commitments, which will take a number of years to develop and complete.

11.8.3 Overall, in terms of this SA objective, the indicators are showing generally positive results. Those that are not are considered below.

Indicator 56: Applications permitted on safeguarded sites

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

11.8.4 This indicator shows that over the monitoring period 3 applications for gyms were allowed on employment sites. Whilst these applications have potentially been contrary to the policy framework, the Council within the approvals, has placed restrictions that will help to control and monitor the use within the employment area.

11.8.5 In terms of the SA, whilst the traditional employment use has changed from a B class use to D2, it still provides employment opportunities. The effect is therefore mixed, with both positive and negative effects, the negative being the loss of a B use employment use, the positive being the retention of a use offering employment opportunities. Further detail on the consideration of this indicator is found in Section 7.1.

SA Objective 8B: Develop and support an economy that safeguards while complementing, promoting and enhancing investment in, and the use of, local resources and environmental assets

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|---|--|---|---------|
| 15 | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Coed Darcy Strategic Regeneration Area (residential) | To provide 2,400 new housing units by 2026 Annual Targets: 2011/12: 0 2012/13: 3 2013/14: 72 2014/15: 100 2015/16: 125 2016/17: 140 2017/18: 170 2018/19: 190 2019/20: 215 2020/21: 215 2021/22: 215 2022/23: 225 2023/24: 235 2024/25: 245 2025/26: 250 | Fewer housing units were delivered within Coed Darcy than anticipated but the overall the development contributes towards the investment in and use of local resources | |
| 16 | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Coed Darcy Strategic Regeneration Area (employment) | A minimum of 4 Ha of land will be developed during the Plan period for employment uses, with a minimum of 0.33 Ha developed per annum for the remaining years of the Plan period with a cumulative target of 0.66 Ha to be developed over any 2 year period | There have been no new employment developments at Coed Darcy within the monitoring period, but overall the development contributes towards the investment in and use of local resources | |
| 19 | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Harbourside Strategic Regeneration Area (residential) | To provide 385 new housing units by 2026 Annual Targets: | Housing delivery is currently on target. Overall the development contributes towards the investment in and use of local resources | |

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|--|--|----------|
| | | 2011/12: 0 2012/13: 0 2013/14: 0 2014/15: 0 2015/16: 35 2016/17: 0 2017/18: 10 2018/19: 30 2019/20: 30 2020/21: 50 2021/22: 50 2022/23: 50 2023/24: 50 2024/25: 50 2025/26: 30 | | |
| 20 | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Harbourside Strategic Regeneration Area (employment) | A minimum of 7 Ha of land will be developed during the Plan period for employment uses with a minimum of 0.46 Ha developed per annum for the remaining years of the Plan period with a cumulative target of 0.92 Ha to be developed over any 2 year period | Development of employment sites is broadly meeting targets. Overall the development contributes towards the investment in and use of local resources | |
| 21 | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Harbourside Strategic Regeneration Area (retail) | To deliver the retail development at Harbourside SRA in accordance with the Port Talbot Harbourside & Town Centre Development Framework | There have been no new retail developments approved at Harbourside within the monitoring period | 0 |
| 24 | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Neath Town Centre Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme (residential) | To deliver 50 new housing units with anticipated commencement from 2016/17 | Housing development is progressing. Overall the development should contribute towards the investment in and use of local resources | |
| 25 | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Neath Town Centre Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme (retail) | To deliver the retail element of the Neath Town Centre Regeneration Scheme: Phase 1 - By 2016 (Currently under construction) Phase 2 - By 2020 | Retail development is progressing. Overall the development should contribute towards the investment in and use of local resources | |
| 26 | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Glanafan Comprehensive School Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme (residential) | To deliver 50 new housing units with anticipated commencement from 2017/18 | Housing development is progressing on schedule. Overall the development should contribute towards the investment in and use of local resources | |

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|---|--|--|---------|
| 27 | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Glanafan Comprehensive School Mixed Use Regeneration Scheme (retail) | To deliver the retail element of a mixed use development at Glanafan Comprehensive School, Port Talbot by 2020 | Retail development is progressing on schedule. Overall the development should contribute towards the investment in and use of local resources | |
| 28 | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Afan Lido Mixed-Use Regeneration Scheme (residential) | To deliver 150 new housing units with anticipated commencement from 2016/17 | The proposed housing development at Afan Lido is broadly on target. Overall the development should contribute towards the investment in and use of local resources | |
| 29 | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Afan Lido Mixed-Use Regeneration Scheme (tourism/recreation) | To deliver a tourism / recreation development at Afan Lido by 2020 | The proposed tourism/recreation elements of the development at Afan Lido are broadly on target. Overall the development should contribute towards the investment in and use of local resources | |
| 30 | The number of applications permitted at the Bay Campus for uses contrary to the policy framework | The Swansea University Science and Innovation Campus to be delivered by 2015: Work to commence May 2013 First buildings completed May 2014 All non-residential buildings completed May 2015 Student accommodation completed September 2015 | The Bay Campus has opened and is in use, making a significant contribution to the investment in and use of local resources | |
| 38 | The number of applications permitted at Rheola | The allocation at Rheola will be delivered by 2021 | No development has been approved to date | 0 |
| 58 | The number of applications for small scale retail development permitted | An increase in the number of small scale retail proposals permitted | 1 application has been permitted for small scale retail development, contributing towards the investment in and use of local resources | |
| 59 | The number of tourism applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | No tourism proposals to be permitted contrary to the policy framework | There have been several approvals for tourism developments contributing towards the investment in and use of local resources | |
| 60 | The number of tourism facilities lost contrary to the policy framework | No loss of tourism facilities contrary to the policy framework | 1 application has been approved for the change of use of a building from tourism | 0 |

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|--|--|--|---------|
| | | | use, but this would retain an employment function | |
| 70 | <p><i>Core Indicator:</i> The extent of primary land-won aggregates permitted in accordance with the Regional Technical Statement for Aggregates expressed as a percentage of the total capacity required as identified in the Regional Technical Statement (MTAN)</p> <p><i>Local Indicator:</i> Aggregates land supply</p> | A 10 year landbank of crushed rock to be retained throughout the Plan period | Neath Port Talbot has a landbank figure of 33 years based on 10 year sales average (2005-2014) (refer to Section 8.4). This should help to ensure that these local resources can be extracted where necessary in a sustainable way | |
| 71 | The number of applications permitted that would sterilise a mineral resource | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | No applications were approved that would have a significant impact on the future working of any mineral resource | |
| 72 | The number of planning applications for extraction of aggregate mineral not in line with Policy M2 | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | There have been no applications for the extraction of coal during the monitoring period | |
| 73 | The number of applications permitted within Mineral Buffer Zones | No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | There were no proposals approved contrary to Policy M3 | |

Analysis

11.8.6 The LDP uses an employment led growth model that takes the projected increase in jobs and economic activity rates and from this identifies the size of working age population that is required to support the projected number of jobs. This in turn is used to predict the number of new homes needed within the County Borough. The extent to which local resources and environmental assets are used to deliver this is considered in this SA objective.

11.8.7 Within Neath Port Talbot, a significant amount of development is proposed on a number of large brownfield sites within the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area. These include mixed use developments at Coed Darcy, Harbourside, Neath Town Centre, Glanafan School and the Afan Lido. A large brownfield site at Baglan Bay is also allocated for employment uses.

11.8.8 These developments have the potential to bring positive impacts through the beneficial use of brownfield sites (some of which due to their industrial past have undergone significant remediation) and making appropriate use of the resources they offer, creating benefits for the wider community, and enhancing their positive contribution.

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

11.8.9 The indicators are generally showing a positive picture and will continue to be monitored.

SA Objective 8C: Develop and support an economy that complements, uses and enhances the skills and knowledge of the local community

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|---|--|---|---------|
| 16 | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Coed Darcy Strategic Regeneration Area (employment) | A minimum of 4 Ha of land will be developed during the Plan period for employment uses, with a minimum of 0.33 Ha developed per annum for the remaining years of the Plan period with a cumulative target of 0.66 Ha to be developed over any 2 year period | There have been no new employment developments at Coed Darcy within the monitoring period | 0 |
| 20 | The amount and type of new development permitted and delivered within Harbourside Strategic Regeneration Area (employment) | A minimum of 7 Ha of land will be developed during the Plan period for employment uses with a minimum of 0.46 Ha developed per annum for the remaining years of the Plan period with a cumulative target of 0.92 Ha to be developed over any 2 year period | Development of employment sites is broadly meeting targets with likely positive impacts on this indicator | |
| 29 | The amount of new development permitted and delivered within Afan Lido Mixed-Use Regeneration Scheme (tourism / recreation) | To deliver a tourism / recreation development at Afan Lido by 2020 | The proposed tourism / recreation elements of the development at Afan Lido are broadly on target with likely positive impacts on this indicator | |
| 30 | The number of applications permitted at the Bay Campus for uses contrary to the policy framework | The Swansea University Science and Innovation Campus to be delivered by 2015: Work to commence May 2013 First buildings completed May 2014 All non-residential buildings completed May 2015 Student accommodation completed September 2015 | The Campus formally opened in September 2015, and by this time the academic buildings and residential accommodation contained within Phase 1a were completed in accordance with the monitoring framework. Since the completion of Phase 1a, the majority of Phases 1b and 1c have also either been completed or are currently under construction and close to completion, with some phases of this development completed 5 years ahead of the original schedule. The development is likely to have positive impacts on this objective | |

11 . Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

| Indicator Ref | Monitoring Indicator | Target | Commentary | Outcome |
|---------------|---|---|--|---------|
| 37 | The number of live-work proposals permitted | An increase in the number of live-work units permitted | To date no live-work proposals have been received or permitted | 0 |
| 38 | The number of applications permitted at Rheola | The allocation at Rheola will be delivered by 2021 | To date no development has been approved | 0 |
| 58 | The number of applications for small scale retail development permitted | An increase in the number of small scale retail proposals permitted | 1 application has been permitted for small scale retail development, with the potential to have positive impacts on this indicator | |
| 59 | The number of tourism applications permitted contrary to the policy framework | No tourism proposals to be permitted contrary to the policy framework | There have been several approvals for tourism developments having positive impacts on this indicator | |
| 60 | The number of tourism facilities lost contrary to the policy framework | No loss of tourism facilities contrary to the policy framework | 1 application approved for the change of use of a building from tourism use, but this would retain an employment function and is in accord with policy framework | 0 |

Analysis

11.8.10 The LDP uses an employment led growth model that takes the projected increase in jobs and economic activity rates and from this identifies the size of working age population that is required to support the projected number of jobs. This in turn is used to predict the number of new homes needed within the County Borough. The extent to which the skills and knowledge of the local community are used to deliver this is considered in this SA objective.

11.8.11 The indicators are generally showing a positive picture, with local skills and knowledge playing a part in the delivery of the strategy. These indicators will continue to be monitored.

PART 4 - Conclusion & Recommendations

12 . Conclusion & Recommendations

12 Conclusion & Recommendations

'The AMR should provide information as to the extent to which the objectives set out in the LDP are being achieved, identify any policy that is not being implemented and give the reasons, together with any steps the authority intends to take to secure the implementation of the policy and any intention to revise or replace the LDP (section 76 of the 2004 Act; LDP Regulation 37). It should identify any changes to key parts of the plan which would need to be considered in a review and possible plan revision'⁽³¹⁾.

12.0.1 This is the first AMR to be prepared since the adoption of the LDP and provides an opportunity for the Council to assess the impact the LDP is having on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the County Borough.

12.0.2 This initial phase of monitoring has shown that the objectives of the LDP are being achieved and that the policies are largely delivering and meeting their targets, although progress in some areas is a little slower than anticipated. As this report relates to the first period of monitoring, no trends can be identified at this stage. This will however continue to be monitored in subsequent annual reports.

12.0.3 An overview of the results of the monitoring is provided in the following table:

Table 12.0.1 LDP Monitoring Framework

| Assessment | Action | Number of Indicators within Category |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| The indicators point to the successful implementation of the Policy | No further action required. Monitoring to continue | 75 |
| LDP Policies are not being implemented in the intended manner | Officer and/ or Member training may be required | 9 |
| Indicators suggest the need for further guidance in addition to those identified in the Plan | Supplementary Planning Guidance may be required | 5 |
| The indicators are suggesting that the LDP strategic policy is not proving to be as effective as originally expected | Further research and investigation required | 0 |
| The indicators are suggesting that the strategic policy is not being implemented | Following confirmation, the policy will be subject to a review process | 0 |
| The indicators are suggesting that the LDP strategy is not being implemented | Following confirmation, the LDP will be subject to a review process | 0 |

12 . Conclusion & Recommendations

12.0.4 The vast majority of indicators show a positive outcome over this first monitoring period. There are however a small number of indicators which identify that certain policies are not being implemented in the intended manner. In these instances, further discussions with Development Management colleagues will be undertaken in an attempt to resolve the issues.

12.0.5 It should be noted that in this regard, some of the policies are entirely new to the local policy framework and consequently this may partly explain why there are some inconsistencies in their implementation. Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) relating to some of these topic areas will also be adopted in due course and these documents will provide more detailed guidance in respect of policy implementation.

12.0.6 In addition, a small number of indicators relate to the emergence of other SPG highlighting that they have not been prepared by the target date. In each case however there are justifiable reasons for the delay in the preparation of the guidance documents, and the preparation / adoption of the outstanding SPG will be expedited as soon as is practicable.

Recommendation

12.0.7 As a result of the findings of the AMR for 2017, it is concluded that the LDP is delivering on its employment-led growth strategy, which is key to the delivery of the Plan's vision and objectives. There are no factors at present to suggest that changes are required to the Plan and consequently, an early review of the Plan (either partial or full) is not necessary at this time.

12.0.8 This AMR provides the baseline data for future comparative analysis and preliminary conclusions from which future successive AMRs will be able to evidence the emergence of trends.

12.0.9 In accord with the statutory requirements the Council will submit the 2017 AMR to the Welsh Government by 31st October 2017 and publish the AMR on the Council's website.

12 . Conclusion & Recommendations



Neath Port Talbot
Castell-nedd Port Talbot
County Borough Council Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol



Local Development Plan
Cynllun Datblygu Lleol

REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CABINET BOARD

2017/2018 FORWARD WORK PLAN (DRAFT)

REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CABINET BOARD

| DATE | Agenda Items | Type (Decision, Monitoring or Information) | Rotation (Topical, Annual, Biannual, Quarterly, Monthly) | Community Safety & Public Protection Scrutiny Sub Committee | Contact Officer/ Head of Service |
|------------|--|---|---|---|---|
| 8 Dec 2017 | Minutes of Community Safety & Public Protection Scrutiny Sub Committee from 19 Oct 2017 | Monitor | Quarterly | - | Scrutiny Officer/ Scrutiny Chair |
| | Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring (17/18) (Community Safety & Public Protection Data to Sub) | Monitor | Quarterly | 17 Jan 2018 | Shaun Davies |
| | Neath Town Centre Regeneration Report | Decision/Info | Topical | - | Simon Brennan |
| | SPG (x2) (Pre Consultation): Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Landscape and Seascape | Decision | Topical | - | Nicola Pearce |
| | Biodiversity Duty Plan | Decision | Topical | - | Nicola Pearce |
| | Sky Lantern / Balloon Policy | Decision | Topical | - | Nicola Pearce |
| | Housing Renewal and Adaptation Service (HRAS) Financial Allocations 17/18 | Decision | Annual | - | Angela Thomas/ Rob Davies |
| | Business Plans | Decision | Annual | - | All |
| | Surplus Land | Decision | Topical | - | Angela Thomas/ Leighton Jones |

REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CABINET BOARD

| DATE | Agenda Items | Type (Decision, Monitoring or Information) | Rotation (Topical, Annual, Biannual, Quarterly, Monthly) | Community Safety & Public Protection Scrutiny Sub Committee | Contact Officer/Head of Service |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| 26 Jan 2017 | Energy Performance Report | Info | Annual | - | Simon Brennan/Chris Jones |
| | Property Performance Report | Info | Annual | - | Simon Brennan |
| | Aberavon Seafront | Info | Topical | - | Simon Brennan |
| | Rights of Way Improvement Plan | Decision | Topical | - | Nicola Pearce |
| | | | | | |

REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CABINET BOARD

| DATE | Agenda Items | Type (Decision, Monitoring or Information) | Rotation (Topical, Annual, Biannual, Quarterly, Monthly) | Community Safety & Public Protection Scrutiny Sub Committee | Contact Officer/Head of Service |
|-------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|
| 9 March 2018 | Minutes of Community Safety & Public Protection Scrutiny Sub Committee from 17 Jan 2018 | Monitor | Quarterly | - | Scrutiny Officer/ Scrutiny Chair |
| | Quarter 3 Performance Monitoring (17/18) (Community Safety & Public Protection Data to Sub) | Monitor | Quarterly | 19 April 2018 | Shaun Davies |
| | Valleys Regeneration Report | Info | Topical | - | Simon Brennan |
| | Rural Development Plan | Info | Topical | - | Angeline Spooner Cleverly/ Ben Riseborough |
| | NPT Homes Progress Report | Monitor | Biannual | - | Linda Whittaker/Caroline Davies |

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