

Neath Port Talbot Culture Strategy

Public Consultation Results and
Analysis

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1. Public Consultation - Approach

Following an extended period of stakeholder consultation the Counterculture team produced a document outlining some initial findings and draft themes. They also designed a public questionnaire, with input from NPT officers, and drawing on the insights gained from the stakeholder consultation process, which enabled members of the public to respond to the initial findings, but which would also be accessible to people who had not read (or who had only skimmed) the initial findings document.

The questionnaire was designed to be able to be completed either online or in person. In person consultations were conducted in public spaces including Gnoll and Margan parks, Aberover the period 6-9 February 2023 (with a small number completed at other events in February 2023).

The questionnaire was available online through the NPT website from 10th February 2023 to 5th March 2023.

The consultation was promoted via:

- The council's website on the consultation pages www.npt.gov.uk/consultations.
- Posters on TV screens in Neath and Port Talbot Bus Stations and Neath Train Station.
- The council's corporate social media accounts, and shared by relevant service accounts.
- A press release.
- An email to all NPT Council Elected Members.
- An email to the NPT Citizens' Panel informing them of the consultation and asking them to complete the questionnaire.
- The NPT Community of Practice (CoP) on Involvement and Engagement meeting of 15th February 23 with a request that CoP members help promote it to their stakeholder groups.
- Internal channels for NPT Council employees, including the weekly staff bulletin, Yammer and the intranet.

2. Respondent Numbers and Profile

A total of 288 responses were received, plus six that were so minimally completed as not to be able to be usefully included in the data.

The questionnaire commenced with several questions designed to clarify the nature of the respondent's work and some information about their relationship to the culture sector and the local authority.

Responses were as follows:

Response	Number selecting	%age selecting
I live in Neath Port Talbot	237	82.3%
I work for Neath Port Talbot Council	42	14.6%
I am a member of the Armed Forces	1	0.3%
I am an Armed Forces veteran	4	1.4%
I work in Neath Port Talbot	59	20.5%
I am unemployed	6	2.1%
I own/run a business in Neath Port Talbot	31	10.8%
I am retired	78	27.1%
I am a volunteer in Neath Port Talbot	57	19.8%
I am in school	1	0.3%
I am an unpaid carer	13	4.5%
I am a college/university student	2	0.7%
I use services provided by NPT Council	88	30.6%
I am a NPTCBC elected member/AS/MP/community councillor	15	5.2%
I work for a third sector or voluntary organisation in NPT	12	4.2%
Other	18	6.3%

2.1 Analysis

As expected, most respondents live in NPT. We believe that most of those who do not will be visitors whose responses were captured via in-person questionnaires at locations such as Margam Park and Gnoll.

The proportion of members and employees of NPT council is very much higher than their proportions in the population, showing (understandably) greater awareness of and

interest in the culture strategy amongst these groups. We do not consider that the proportions are high enough to unhelpfully skew the responses and were gratified to see that fifteen elected members (from Neath Port Talbot Council, Senedd and Community Councils) completed the survey, representing a large number of constituents.

We were pleased by the number of retired people, business owners and volunteers responding. Serving members of the armed forces are proportionately represented. However, veterans and unemployed people (slightly), unpaid carers, people working in NPT and (particularly) students and school pupils are underrepresented (a fact borne out by the age profile of respondents – see Section 11). We will undertake additional work to engage young people and ensure that our stakeholder engagement is used to represent the views of other groups underrepresented in the public consultation.

3. Cultural Engagement

3.1 Cultural Activity Data

The next section of the questionnaire asked respondents whether they had taken part in a range of cultural activities over the last 12 months.

For each activity the response options were:

- Never
- Once or twice
- Occasionally (3-5 times)
- Regularly (6+ times)

The table below sets out the responses for each of fifteen activities asked about:

	% never	% once or twice	% occasionally	% regularly	% total
Take part in a creative class or workshop	53%	23%	8%	16%	100%
Take part in a creative community project	54%	21%	10%	16%	100%
Watch a concert or gig	28%	33%	21%	17%	100%
Watch a dance performance	74%	19%	4%	3%	100%
Watch a play, musical or other theatrical performance	34%	31%	22%	13%	100%
Visit a cinema	26%	32%	23%	19%	100%
Visit an art gallery or exhibition	44%	31%	18%	7%	100%
Visit a library	34%	23%	16%	27%	100%
Visit a museum	39%	32%	22%	7%	100%
Attend an event or festival	23%	45%	26%	6%	100%
Watch a local sporting fixture or event	37%	28%	11%	24%	100%
Take part in a local sporting fixture or event	78%	11%	4%	7%	100%
Participate in an activity at a local sports club	64%	13%	6%	17%	100%
Undertake an activity within a local leisure centre	51%	18%	11%	20%	100%
Volunteer (e.g., coach) within a local sports club	82%	4%	3%	10%	100%

The table below shows the activities ranked by the percentage of respondents who participated in them “occasionally” or “regularly” in the last 12 months:

Activity	<i>Percentage of respondents doing this occasionally or regularly in last 12 months</i>
Visit a cinema	42%
Visit a library	42%
Watch a concert or gig	38%
Watch a play, musical or other theatrical performance	35%
Watch a local sporting fixture or event	35%
Attend an event or festival	32%
Undertake an activity within a local leisure centre	31%
Visit a museum	29%
Take part in a creative community project	26%
Visit an art gallery or exhibition	25%
Take part in a creative class or workshop	24%
Participate in an activity at a local sports club	22%
Volunteer (e.g., coach) within a local sports club	13%
Take part in a local sporting fixture or event	11%
Watch a dance performance	7%

3.2 Cultural Activity Analysis

The order of activities that were most frequently engaged in is unsurprising and broadly reflects wider national trends. Some activities (e.g., volunteering in a local sports club) are represented more highly than one might expect to see across the population and others (e.g., museum visits) seem underrepresented. This may reflect the demographics of the

cohort or the cultural emphases and facilities of the area (e.g., strong sporting history, no accredited museum collection).

It is encouraging to see that participatory activities are well represented. This suggests that a culture strategy with significant elements of participation and volunteering will be successful for Neath Port Talbot.

4. Local Assets

4.1 Information Presented

Respondents were presented with the following information about local assets, drawn from the initial findings document:

Your Assets

- Neath Port Talbot boasts some of the most outstanding open spaces in the region including parks (Margam, Gnoll), forests and moorlands.
- You have outstanding buildings, many of them connected to your history as a pioneering part of the industrial revolution (Brunel's dock, Margam Castle, Neath Abbey Ironworks, the canal system) but also stretching back much further (Aberdulais, Neath Abbey) with 44 Grade I and II* listed buildings and over 400 Grade II.
- Our consultations show how proud local people are of your area and there are many groups of passionate, hard-working volunteers who help preserve and explain your arts, culture and heritage.
- The council, creative businesses, regional and national partners, educational institutions, and other stakeholders are keen to see a thriving culture in Neath Port Talbot and are committed to supporting the cultural strategy.
- You have a long history of producing outstanding talent in the performing arts and sport and your three main theatres and many pitches and other community venues provide opportunities to nurture future talent.
- Neath Town Centre has a growing creative quarter with independent galleries and studios.
- Neath Port Talbot is blessed with great natural assets for residents and visitors – you can walk the hills, mountain bike in the forests and swim in the sea.
- You are well connected with motorway and mainline rail links and Cardiff airport serving over 30 destinations directly.

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed with this assessment and if they thought there is "anything that you feel is missing from this section and/or should be highlighted in the final strategy as an issue or challenge that needs addressing?"

4.2 Responses

Not at all	6	2.8%
To some extent	106	49.8%
Very much so	101	47.4%
	213	100.0%

The table above shows that 47.4% of the 213 respondents who had read the assets statement very much agreed with it and 49.8% somewhat did (total 97.2%).

Comments on the assets statement were made by over 120 people (reproduced in full – Appendix A). Key or recurring themes of the comments included:

- Lots of comments on individual assets that people felt should feature (or feature more prominently) in the final strategy. Most frequently mentioned were libraries, canals, volunteers, artists and craftspeople, Cefn Coed Colliery Museum, Aberafan Beach, Pontardawe, the tunnels, Afan Forest Park, Port Talbot Artwalk, Jersey Park, Sarn Helen
- Issues with Neath Town Centre, which several respondents said was neglected, and some felt was dangerous.
- Related to this there were lots of comments about retail assets in Neath and Port Talbot
- There was some (but not huge) demand for additional assets – the addition of a new museum and reopening/ reuse of Cefn Coed Colliery Museum were the most frequent requests.
- Several people felt that the Culture Strategy ambition was not reflective of how the Council treats some aspects of heritage currently and, particularly, were critical of planning decisions that allowed demolition of older buildings.
- Lots of comments discussed signposting, maps, and marketing – an indication that respondents feel that the assets are good and that attention needs to be given principally to raising awareness of them.
- Respondents would like to see the older history of the area (neolithic, Roman and pre industrial) considered more fully.
- Poor public transport was mentioned as a problem in accessing cultural assets.
- There were a small number of comments directly disagreeing with the analysis and/or critical of the Council for its performance on cultural and heritage issues.

4.3 Analysis

It seems that there is broad agreement amongst those surveyed about the assets of the area. Although people wanted to suggest additions (most of which didn't feature in the initial findings document simply because of constraints of space) there were very few

respondents who felt that the assets were overstated or that things initially identified should not be on the list.

There is little demand for new or additional built assets and a strong emphasis on the management, maintenance, and publicising of existing assets. Given the obvious strengths of Neath Port Talbot in volunteer groups empowering these and helping them to grow and remain resilient is vital.

The challenge of NPT not being a naturally cohesive single community is always near the surface and there is a definite undercurrent of people from different parts of the Council's area feeling that other parts are receiving all the attention/funding. Our view is that this feeling is not supported by any evidence. Clearly the whole of NPT needs to be served as well as possible by the Culture strategy, but Counterculture's view is that focussed investment in those assets which are most significant and will most cost effectively tell your story and engage local and visitor audiences is vital, despite the disappointment it can lead to in other communities.

5. Issues and Challenges

5.1 Information Presented

Respondents were presented with the following information about issues and challenges, drawn from the initial findings document:

Issues and Challenges

Infrastructure

- Although transport to the borough is good, transport (especially public transport) around the borough is difficult, particularly in more rural areas.
- There is little dedicated gallery space in the borough.
- The collections from Cefn Coed and Neath Museum are not currently accredited or on public display.
- Cefn Coed is an underutilized asset that requires a financially sustainable solution.
- Some heritage sites have a poor interpretation and wayfinding.
- There is a need for continued investment in green technology to reduce carbon emissions in arts, heritage, and leisure facilities.

Communities

- Significant areas of deprivation across the borough and some communities face barriers to accessing arts, sport and heritage.
- In a geographically large borough, the different assets and facilities are not evenly spread between communities so there's a need to ensure everyone benefits.

- Much of your industrial heritage was built making profits from the working class and with impact on the Welsh language and culture and care need to be taken in telling those stories.

Creativity

- There is a need to grow skills in several areas such as conservation and heritage and collections care and management.
- Many of the people with memories of heavy industries in the borough are older and this industrial heritage is moving away from “living memory”.

Policy

- Need to develop more effective structures for cross-sector collaborative working, both within and beyond the Council.
- Develop a clear decision-making framework for prioritization of projects to deliver a strategy with external partners.
- Work out how to cultural activities can contribute to the growth of the Welsh language in a predominantly English-speaking borough.

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed with this assessment and if they thought there is “anything that you feel is missing from this section and/or should be highlighted in the final strategy as an issue or challenge that needs addressing?”

5.2 Responses

Not at all	4	1.9%
To some extent	77	36.7%
Very much so	129	61.4%
	210	100.0%

The table above shows that 61.4% of the 210 respondents who had read the assets statement very much agreed with it and 36.7% somewhat did (total 98.1%).

Comments on the Issues and Challenges were made by over 100 people (reproduced in full – Appendix B). Key or recurring themes of the comments included:

- By far the most commonly cited problem was poor public transport provision.
- A feeling in both Welsh and English language submissions that there is a need to promote the Welsh language more. Contrasts were drawn between extensive St David’s Day events in Swansea with a lack of the same in NPT. Some respondents

felt that there were insufficient opportunities for adult learners to develop skills in Welsh.

- Recognition that disability inclusion is poor – a problem of physical access at some sites and events but also strongly correlated to poor public transport provision.
- A significant number of comments about the challenges of Cefn Coed Colliery Museum. Although the majority would like to see it reopened there were also multiple comments calling for its permanent closure.
- A desire for the Council to set clear priorities and fully fund operation of projects that secure capital funding to avoid white elephants.
- Challenge of linking the “many places to visit” effectively – both practically in terms of transport but also through trails, information, and signage.
- The need to link cultural activities to the health and well-being agenda.
- There was a perception amongst some respondents that the Council do not want to work with the voluntary sector. It seems that this is not universal but that “some departments” are seen to be obstructive.
- Numerous respondents want to see progress on reopening Aberdulais Falls.
- There was some desire to record memories of particular industries while they are still within living memory, but a stronger theme was a need to avoid overreliance on industrial heritage and develop a diverse heritage offer reflecting a longer view.
- A series of comments against wind turbines (which were not mentioned in the initial finding document) – but an approximately equal number suggesting greater investment in green technology.

5.3 Analysis

The single most cited problematic issue (public transport) lies outside the direct remit of the Culture Strategy. However, organisations with a passion for culture – whether in arts, heritage or sport – clearly have an important role to play in lobbying and other activities to drive public transport improvements. This aligns with Welsh Government’s policy priorities and their recent approach of avoiding major road schemes and focussing on public transport investment. Since rail currently serves the borough only along the coastal strip and no new routes are planned in the medium term, it is clear that improved bus services will be absolutely critical to the public transport needs of NPT and ensuring reliable services connecting key cultural facilities will be vital.

Having created significant local expectations for Cefn Coed Colliery Museum in the past which have not been fulfilled this remains a major problem. A recent report to the council looks at many of the issues raised by the public and makes some proposals for a way forward but it is clear that use as a major visitor attraction connected to its heritage will be an extremely expensive undertaking and we suspect that, if presented with the other

things that could be achieved with the same sum of money spent elsewhere, support for reopening would be less vociferous.

In keeping with the feedback on assets it is heartening that there is a widespread understanding that major new developments are probably not viable and that resources should be focussed on effective running and attracting visitors (local and tourist) to the excellent things NPT already has. Clearly the closure of Aberdulais Falls for such a long period has caused some friction and the Council needs to work with National Trust to ensure that their plans for reopening are robust, keep to time and are well communicated locally.

Counterculture's experience of working with NPT Council has been that members and officers are keen to work with the voluntary sector and have a great deal of respect for the work undertaken with voluntary groups. We understand, however, that the resource pressures faced by the Council mean that these groups receive less support than might have been the case some years ago, and would encourage the Council to communicate clearly to groups what support they can and cannot offer. Improvements to inter-departmental communication would also be helpful in ensuring that the volunteer groups that do so much to maintain and extend the area's arts and heritage receive the most effective support available within your resources.

A key aspect of the Culture Strategy will be linkage to Health and Wellbeing and, particularly to the provisions of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. It will be important for all stakeholders to ensure that the connections between cultural development and other benefits (health, wellbeing, education, skills and more) are clearly drawn without descending into a merely instrumentalist view of culture.

6. Strengths and Opportunities

6.1 Information Presented

Respondents were presented with the following information about strengths and opportunities, drawn from the initial findings document:

Strengths and Opportunities

Infrastructure

- Excellent transport to the region by road and rail. Proximity and connectivity to Swansea, Cardiff, Newport and Bristol.
- Wonderful range of natural assets – forests, beaches, moorland, rivers.
- Three main theatres (Princess Royal, Gwyn Hall, Pontardawe) of varying sizes.

- Major new library and leisure centre in Neath.
- Significant investment has been made in community leisure centres to ensure they meet the future needs of residents in NPT.
- Extensive range of heritage assets, many with opportunities for enhancement/expansion (e.g., Neath Abbey, Margam, Gnoll, Aberdulais, Brunel Dock, WAFERS museum).
- Major new visitor development planned in the Afan Valley (Wildfox).
- Aligned to the UNESCO Geopark who are keen to develop and grow a partnership.

Communities

- Long history of inventive communities with pride and passion for their area.
- Understanding of the importance of arts, culture, sport and heritage for health and wellbeing across the public and voluntary sectors.
- Collective desire to succeed and a collaborative spirit.
- Priority area for National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Creativity

- Many significant artists have come from Neath Port Talbot and inspire younger generations.
- Swansea University's £450m bay campus in the borough provides both a great venue for creative endeavours and courses in several relevant specialisms.
- Opportunities to build on the Swansea Bay City of Culture bid 2017.

Policy

- A bold new vision for culture will be developed through this cultural strategy with commitment from NPT Council to use the strategy to drive investment, growth and wellbeing.
- Enthusiasm from a range of national partners and funders for a more joined up approach flowing from a new cultural strategy.
- New Curriculum for Wales with greater emphasis on local history and culture and developmental pathways focussed on belonging, communication, exploration, physical development and well-being.
- New Welsh Government Cultural Strategy due 2023.
- New NPT Destination Management Plan being developed.
- “Dramatic Heart of Wales” brand a great opportunity for the visitor economy.
- Planned improvements at Neath Abbey and an ‘in-development’ National Lottery Heritage Fund bid for Margam Castle.

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed with this assessment and if they thought there is “anything that you feel is missing from this section and/or should be highlighted in the final strategy as a strength or opportunity that needs addressing?”

6.2 Responses

Not at all	4	2.0%
To some extent	121	59.3%
Very much so	79	38.7%
<i>Total Responses</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>100.0%</i>

This question had a significantly lower rate of agreement than the challenges and weaknesses section, suggesting that the more negative aspects resonated more strongly with respondent.

Comments on the Strengths and Opportunities statement were made by nearly 100 people (reproduced in full – Appendix C). Key or recurring themes of the comments included:

- The need to emphasise community and small scale work, largely led by volunteers, with was seen as a particular strength by many.
- The effectiveness of the voluntary sector in working together to deliver cultural and other benefits was mentioned.

- The range of outdoor activities – the mountain biking trails and various activities at Margam were both cited – as good examples of future orientated opportunities with possibility for growth.
- Related to this the proposals for the Wildfox resort received a number of comments, with significant support but also a range of concerns, including about how much value would really flow to the local economy and environmental implications.
- The Dramatic Heart of Wales brand received positive comment – although some respondents felt that it needed wider publicising.
- There was recognition of the challenges facing leisure facilities (and some comments on the recent short notice closure of Pontardawe pool) and some positive comment on the return of the facilities to direct running by the Council.
- The inclusion of the plans for Neath Abbey Ironworks on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register should be recognised as a strength.
- Again this section had many comments on poor transport links.

6.3 Analysis

It is striking how much more positive comments on the assets aspects were than the opportunities. Some of this likely reflects the age profile of the respondents and the wider national mood, but we believe it also illustrates a need for key heritage and culture stakeholders – including but by no means limited to the Local Authority, to continually articulate a positive story about the considerable achievements in the area. There is clearly much goodwill towards the voluntary sector and clear recognition of the excellent work done by small, volunteer led organisations by larger bodies (e.g., an annual awards event) would generate a lot of goodwill.

We remain of the view that the Wildfox development is a great opportunity, but it obviously needs careful handling in order for benefits to be perceived as flowing to the community.

7. Vision

7.1 Information Presented

Respondents were presented with the following draft vision for Neath Port Talbot in 2040 drawn from the initial findings document:

2040... Neath Port Talbot has become a nationally recognised destination with a reputation for a high-quality and varied offer of arts, heritage and culture for visitors and residents.

The value of its two great historic parks – Gnoll and Margam – is internationally recognised and they host a wide range of high-quality major events as well as attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. Major restorations or development have taken place at Margam Castle, Neath Abbey, Briton Ferry Brunel Dock, Aberdulais and Cefn Coed. These venues, as well as Port Talbot and Neath town centres, have also been reanimated with ambitious programmes of events, significant public art commissions, new and growing creative businesses, and inclusive community projects.

New ways of working collaboratively have been invented and embraced by the public, private and voluntary sectors and there are passionate, committed groups ensuring arts, heritage and sport are accessed across the borough. Cultural activities are significantly improving people’s health and wellbeing.

Not only have tourist numbers grown, but the number of overnight stays is hugely increased, and local people enjoy towns and villages with a growing range of café, bars, restaurants, galleries, sports clubs and creative businesses providing high-quality jobs.

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed with this assessment and if they thought there is “anything that you feel is missing from this section and/or should be highlighted in the final strategy?”

7.2 Responses

Not at all	11	5.4%
To some extent	120	59.4%
Very much so	71	35.1%
<i>Total Responses</i>	<i>202</i>	<i>100.0%</i>

This question had a significantly higher rate of total disagreement (5.4%) than any of the previous questions. Analysis of the responses suggests that this is more because these people felt the vision was unachievable than because they felt it was the wrong vision – though elements of both are clearly present.

It was clear that a number of respondents did not understand that the text as set out was a vision for how people will feel about/experience NPT in 2040 and the final strategy needs to set out the vision more clearly in the future tense.

Comments on the Vision were made by nearly 100 people (reproduced in full – Appendix D). Few of these comments really related to the question asked – things that ought to be included in the vision, but those which did are noted below:

- The vision needs to refer to natural heritage more explicitly.
- Strong vision and leadership is needed to regain the area's (Welsh) identity.
- Be clear about the necessity of cross sector (public/private/third sector) partnership.
- Public transport needs to be included to achieve any meaningful vision.
- Greater emphasis on wellbeing in the vision.
- Emphasis on new ways of working and collaboration being pioneered.

7.3 Analysis

It is not surprising that it is in response to the vision aspects of the Culture Strategy that there is the most striking prevalence of "parochial" comments in the responses. This is, perhaps, the less positive "flip side" to having a large number of residents who clearly care passionately about their village or town. There is clearly a need for political and other stakeholder leadership to foster, as far as possible, a sense of unity across Neath Port Talbot. Whilst recognising the challenges of fostering a sense of togetherness in a council area that is, in essence, a political construct, we believe that it is vital to your future success that more residents come to understand the success of the area as a whole as their success and develop a less "zero sum game" mentality about the allocation of investment.

That noted there were also a number of exceptionally helpful observations which will improve the iteration of the vision in the Culture Strategy.

8. Strategic Themes

8.1 Information Presented

Respondents were presented with five initial strategic themes for the Culture Strategy:

Innovation

Neath Port Talbot is a place of great innovation. From Ulrich Frosse building ultramodern copper smelting in the 17th century to Brunel's remarkable docks, to Richard Burton's development of the actor's craft. Our cultural strategy will celebrate past innovators, interrogate the more difficult parts of their stories, and inspire future, socially just, innovators.

Power

From black to green. The Afan, Neath and Tawe rivers used the power of water long before the world's highest quality coal transformed the world. Today, wind and solar power can again transforming Neath Port Talbot's future, and your industrial buildings, canals and docks provide new opportunities for arts, culture and leisure.

Nature and Wellbeing

Few other places have Neath Port Talbot's remarkable range of natural assets, from Aberavon beach, to Afan Forest Park. With canal towpaths, mountain bike trails and long distance walks Neath Port Talbot is perfectly placed to benefit from our increased understanding of the positive impact of nature on our health and wellbeing and the benefits of getting outdoors all year in all weathers!

Active and Unhurried Travel

We know we're not the fastest place to get around. But that can be a virtue! Walking, cycling and local buses are sustainable and help you see so much more of our beautiful area. We will focus transport improvements on being green, reliable and inclusive for everyone, more than on getting everywhere at super speed.

Welsh to our bones

For 1,000 years the people of Neath Port Talbot communicated in Welsh. We want to bring the beauty and richness of our place names, songs, poetry and more to both Welsh and English speakers through brilliant interpretation and signage and nation leading use of incidental Welsh.

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed with the chosen themes and if they thought there is "anything that you feel is missing from this section and/or should be highlighted in the final strategy?"

8.2 Responses

Not at all	10	5.2%
To some extent	97	50.8%
Very much so	84	44.0%
<i>Total Responses</i>	<i>191</i>	<i>100.0%</i>

This question had a lower response rate (probably related to drop off as the survey progressed).

Comments on the assets statement were made by over 70 people (reproduced in full – Appendix E).

Common comments, or ones that we felt could really inform improvement of the key themes included:

- Some concerns about “Welsh to our bones”. Although the respondent was enthusiastic about the concept they felt it might lead to an overly hereditary view of Welshness rather than an open and inclusive one. This is insightful and we will amend the theme – possibly to “Welsh at heart” or similar.
- The nature themes should include clearer and more explicit links to the climate emergency.
- There was lots of positive comment about active travel. It was noted that capital provision of cycle ways (etc) is better than the maintenance of the same and leads to underuse and ineffective investment of resources.
- Similar comments were made on roads/transport the clearing of litter
- Need for clearer linguistic/thematic connections between the Vision and the themes.
- Ulrich Fosse dates need correcting.
- There seems to be real anger about local bus services and the “unhurried travel” theme is not welcome.
- Need for consideration of wider environmental issues in wind and solar.
- Various specific additions to particular themes (e.g., specific actors, sporting stars, factories and inventors to the *Innovation* theme) were made.

8.3 Analysis

This felt overall like a more positive set of responses than the Vision section. Again people’s biggest concerns were about areas related to but not directly part of the Culture Strategy – wind farms, public transport and litter for example – showing the vital importance of alignment across policy areas. There is a very clear sense that residents want to see basic maintenance prioritised over major new works in all areas and the Culture Strategy will need to reflect this.

It was encouraging to see comments which clearly flowed from the vision to the themes and a number of specific ideas will be incorporated in the final documents.

9. Culture Strategy Priorities

9.1 Information Presented

Respondents were presented with eight possible outcomes of a Culture Strategy and asked to rank them (1-8, with one being the most important) according to which they felt should be prioritised.

The eight outcomes were:

Job creation – creating employment for local people
Social impact – improving the education, health & wellbeing of local people
Cultural impact – improving the quality & reputation of local arts and culture
Equality, diversity & inclusion – widening access to & participation in culture
Sustainability – protecting/promoting the environment & natural assets
Heritage Preservation – protecting/promoting local heritage & historic assets
New Audiences and Tourism – attracting more people and money to the area
Volunteering – building the volunteer network to support cultural activity

Respondents were also asked to identify anything they felt was missing from the list or should be prioritised in the final strategy as an outcome.

9.2 Responses

The survey format (especially when completed on paper) meant that not everybody used all eight options in their responses.

To provide a comparable assessment of each outcome we have taken the average score given to each outcome by those respondents who assigned a number to the outcome.

Outcome	<i>No. Respondents ranking this outcome</i>	<i>Average Score</i>	<i>Rank</i>
Job Creation	218	2.97	1
Social Impact	215	3.01	2
Cultural Impact	217	4.18	5

EDI	215	4.59	7
Sustainability	214	3.74	3
Heritage Preservation	223	3.79	4
New Audiences and Tourism	219	4.43	6
Volunteering	230	5.24	8

By rank order the priorities expressed were:

Outcome	Rank
Job Creation	1
Social Impact	2
Sustainability	3
Heritage Preservation	4
Cultural Impact	5
New Audiences and Tourism	6
EDI	7
Volunteering	8

Comments were added by over 50 people (reproduced in full – Appendix F). Common or notable comments included:

- Many respondents, rightly, noted the interconnectedness of the items, and some felt the ranking exercise was unhelpful (comments such as “I would have rated them all 1”).
- A number of respondents felt that support for cultural and creative businesses is lacking and that this would be a good way of ensuring a number of the outcomes, especially the economic ones.
- Once again there was a general preference for spending money in ways which does basics well and maintains what already exists rather than creating new things.

9.3 Analysis

We recognise that the outcomes are not discrete and that, for example, greater tourism will also have an impact on jobs. However, if all the outputs are equally important they are also equally unimportant – and in a world of constrained resources some sense of prioritisation and what residents and others want remains valuable.

The Culture Strategy needs to reflect the priorities of job creation and social impact, which also align well with the wider priorities of the Council and Welsh Government, particularly around the wellbeing of future generations.

10. Culture Strategy Priorities

10.1 Information Presented

Respondents were presented with fifteen aspects of cultural life and asked to rank them (1-15, with one being the most important) according to the extent to which respondents felt they should be prioritised for support and development within the new culture strategy. “What matters most / least to you?”

The fifteen areas were:

Archives and collections
Community arts activities
Creative and cultural education
Creative and cultural workspace
Events and festivals
Heritage and historic environment
Community leisure facilities
Libraries
Music and musicians
Museums and galleries
Parks and public spaces
Sports clubs
Theatres and performing arts
Venues (for live arts, music, events)
Visual arts and artists

Respondents were also asked to identify anything they felt was missing from the list or should be prioritised in the final strategy as an outcome.

Responses

The survey format (especially when completed on paper) meant that not everybody used all fifteen options in their responses.

To provide a comparable assessment of each outcome we have taken the average score given to each outcome by those respondents who assigned a number to the outcome.

Outcome	No. Respondents ranking this outcome	Average Score	Rank
Archives and collections	195	8.09	14
Community arts activities	192	7.62	12
Creative and cultural education	198	6.81	9
Creative and cultural workspace	198	7.51	11
Events and festivals	199	6.76	8
Heritage and historic environment	201	5.59	2
Community leisure facilities	196	5.77	3
Libraries	204	5.86	4
Music and musicians	193	7.47	10
Museums and galleries	199	6.59	6
Parks and public spaces	214	4.67	1
Sports clubs	201	7.75	13
Theatres and performing arts	209	6.26	5
Venues (for live arts, music, events)	210	6.68	7
Visual arts and artists	202	8.64	15

By rank order the priorities expressed were:

Outcome	Rank
Parks and public spaces	1
Heritage and historic environment	2
Community leisure facilities	3
Libraries	4
Theatres and performing arts	5
Museums and galleries	6
Venues (for live arts, music, events)	7
Events and festivals	8
Creative and cultural education	9
Music and musicians	10
Creative and cultural workspace	11
Community arts activities	12
Sports clubs	13
Archives and collections	14
Visual Art and artists	15

Comments were added by over 55 people (reproduced in full – Appendix F).

Common or notable comments included:

- Many respondents, rightly, noted the interconnectedness of the items, and some felt the ranking exercise was unhelpful (comments such as “I would have rated them all 1”).
- The overall balance of the list, however, was felt to be about right with few people suggesting areas they felt were missing.

- There was some mention of wider creative industries, broadcasting etc and, although these are out of scope for the Culture Strategy it is important that clear links are created and an environment fostered that allows creative industries to grow.

Analysis

There was a ranking of priorities, with cultural activities that are most widely used largely dominating the top rankings (parks, leisure facilities, libraries) and spread of average scores was reasonable (from 4.67 for the top ranked item to 8.64 for the lowest). However, there was a strong “cluster” effect with only 2.03 points separating 2nd and 12th places. This suggests that respondents on the whole want to see the Culture Strategy offer support for all the aspects of cultural life mentioned and that all of them are significant to large sections of the resident and visitor population.

Although wider creative industries, broadcasting etc are out of scope for the Culture Strategy it is important that clear links are created and an environment fostered that allows creative industries to grow.

11. Personal and Demographic Data

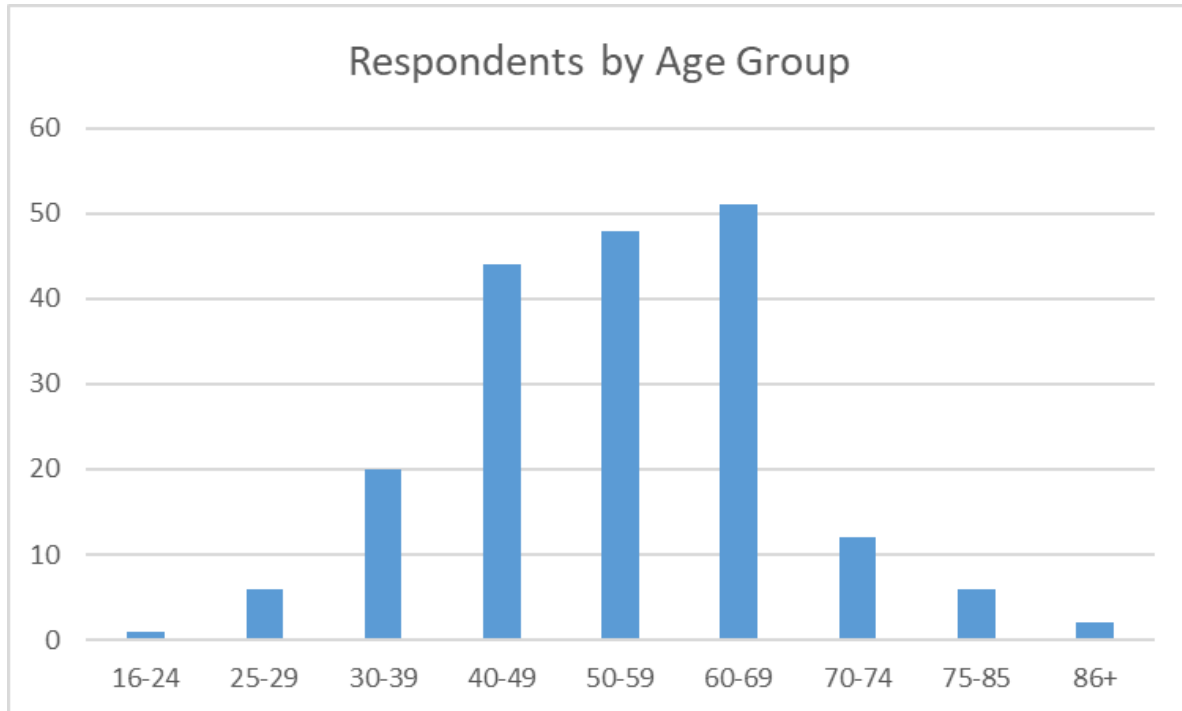
11.1 Personal Details

The majority of respondents provided name and contact details and we recommend sending them a copy of the Culture Strategy once adopted.

11.2 Age

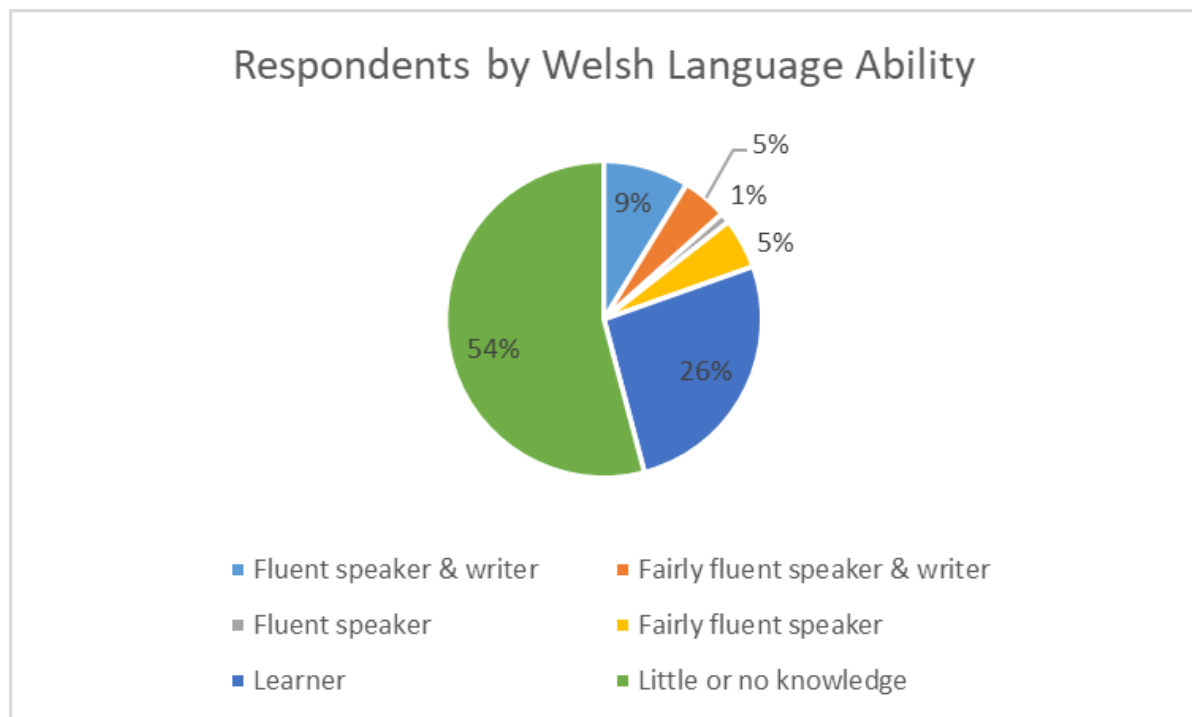
190 respondents gave their age (in ranges). The average age is higher than the NPT population average (median age at 2021 census – 43) and we particularly struggled to get young people to respond. Separate additional consultation will be undertaken with young people to address this gap.

The age ranges of respondents are set out in the graph below:



11.3 Welsh Language

Of 194 respondents who answered the majority (54%) have little or no Welsh. A further 26% classifying themselves as learners. The 2021 Census showed 13.5% of people in Neath Port Talbot reporting as being Welsh speakers.



11.4 Pregnancy

Of those responding to this question 1.1% (2) were pregnant or on maternity leave. This is probably an underrepresentation, but the sample size is too small to say whether it is statistically significant.

11.5 Disability

Of those responding to this question 15.3% (30) considered themselves to have a disability. 7.1% (14) preferred not to say. This compares to 12.9% in the 2021 census.

11.6 Ethnic Origin

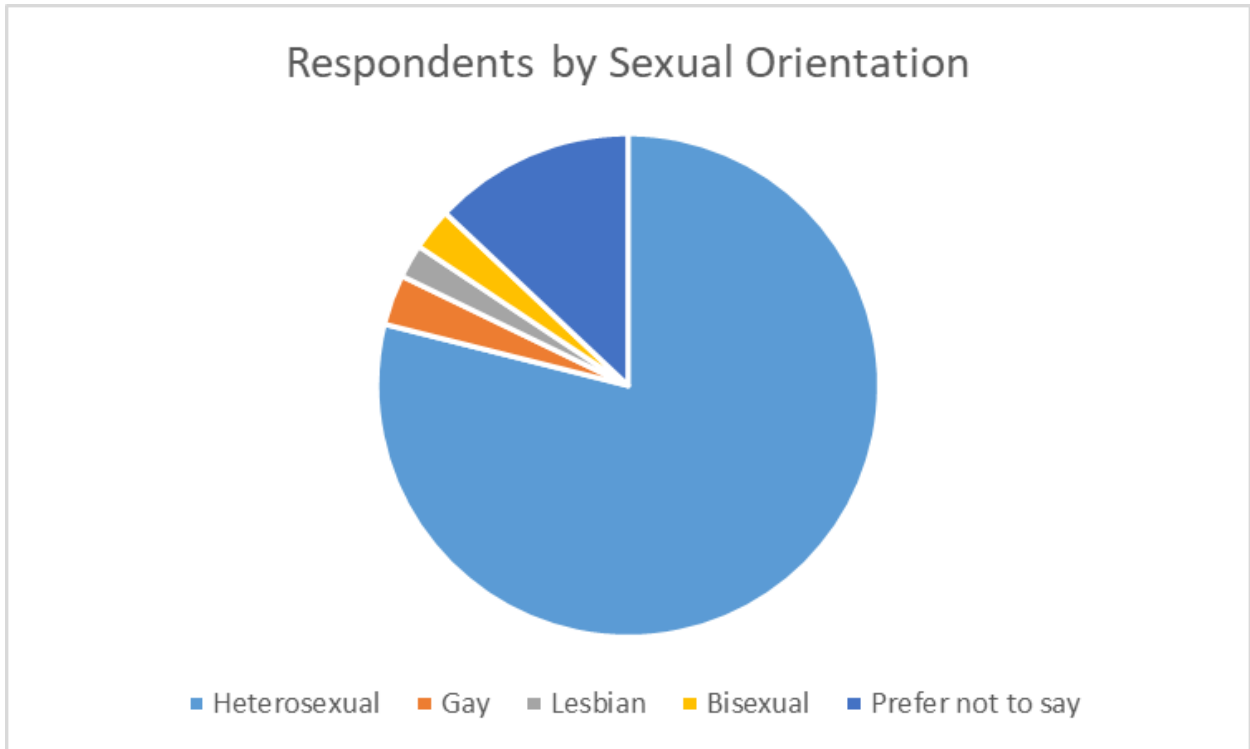
Of 188 respondents who answered this question (excluding 8 "prefer not to say") 186 (98.9%) selected one of the "white" categories, slightly higher than the census figure of 96.6%, but within the expected range for a sample of this size.

11.7 Sex

There were more female (63.7%) than male (35.7%) or non-binary (0.5%) respondents.

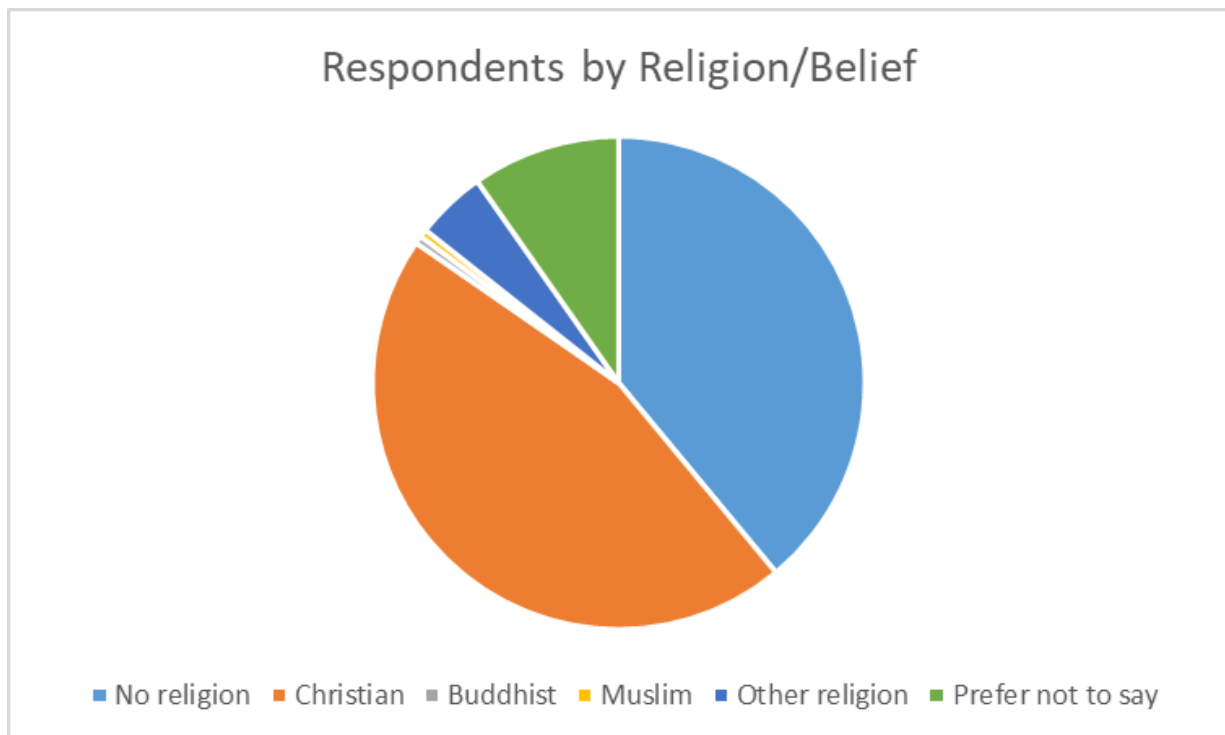
11.8 Sexual Orientation

161 respondents expressed a sexual orientation (24 "prefer not to say"). Of these 90.6% identified as heterosexual, 3.7% as gay, 2.5% as lesbian and 3.1% as bisexual.



11.9 Religion/Belief

A plurality (45.6%) of respondents identified as Christian, followed by 39.0% of those identifying as having no religion. This compares to 49.9% “no religion” in the 2021 census (and 42.1% Christian). The results for other religions and beliefs are consistent with the census data with less than 1% identifying as any other specific religious belief.



11.10 Nationality

Most (69.1%) of respondents identify as having Welsh nationality, with 8.2% English and 16% British. This is generally consistent with the census data (68.3% Welsh and 12.7% British), though with the caveat that the Census allowed people to select multiple options.

11.11 Comment

The respondents broadly reflect the demographics of the area but with a skew towards female and older people.

Appendix A – Comments on Assets

Notes:

- These have been edited only to remove comments that might lead to individuals being identified.
- They have not been changed for grammar, spelling or other accuracy issues.
- All comments made have been included apart from those which said things similar to “nothing to add”.

Is there anything that you feel is missing from this section and/or should be highlighted in the final strategy as an asset?
No mention of Cwmtawe & the industrial heritage
Resolven miners welfare. Local assets need to be preserved reserved
The bullet on outstanding buildings should be expanded to include Scheduled Ancient monuments, and draw out where there are historic landscapes or landforms which point to our heritage. The bullet on natural assets is overly focussed on active travel opportunities afforded by natural assets. Natural assets also provide opportunity to connect with the unique species and habitats in Neath and help people understand the importance of caring for the natural environment, which is essential if we are to address the nature crisis. Information should be added to give statistics about the number of protected sites, local nature reserves etc.
Not enough Cymraeg events
I would have agreed entirely but for the comment about being well-connected. It may well apply to the town centres but beyond that connections are poor and opportunities to engage very limited due to the limited public transport network.
Keep maintaining the cycle track in Afan Argoed. We should have a rugby museum in Neath. We should promote the beautiful beach not build houses there. The Theatre should be renamed to Dic Penderyn and promoted more. We should have a tourist team to promote the area in general. We should have kept the Banksy Mural and opened a gallery in the Bethany Chapel to bring visitors to the town centre and station road.
Libraries and family history
Canal network (e.g. Friends of the Tenant Canal - who as volunteers, work hard to clean and maintain the area. Sadly many of their functions have ceased due to a lack of money, and volunteers). Churches in the Borough are also of historical significance. Working with churches, we could promote history, but also working in partnership to promote church services such as food banks, warm spaces, etc. St Thomas Church in Neath has linked to the Norman Castle. St Marys in Port Talbot - Dick Penderyn's grave. Agree we have some nice galleries popping up in Neath Town Centre - but to what extent are residents aware of these? We would benefit from having a museum to house the antiquities previously displayed at the Gwyn Hall, Gnoll Centre, etc
More should be said to highlight the role of volunteers. Unpaid workers support the services in NPT more than is ever credited.
We need to do more activities within community centres . Advertising also isn't great - Social media is a big outlet for advertising , but not ALL people (including me) do not use Social Media - we need to think of another way of sending a message of what events are taking place. O always feel disappointed when i miss an event because i didnt know about it.

I think Aberafan Beach should be mentioned more prominently in this. The cinemas havent been mentioned and the new Plaza should definitely have a mention too.
Our Beaches, and clubs that utilise the local coastal region, improving the skills of local residents such as Life saving, Sub Aqua, surfing, paddle boarding schools.
Natural assets go beyond being able to walk, cycle or swim within them. It is about living in a county borough which houses numerous species of plants, animals and fungi some of which are nationally scarce. It is also how well connected people are to it and this is where not everyone is equal in that sense. Many people live in the Afan or Neath Valley and see the hillsides but many of these sites are on private land and not accessible by the public. Equally, many children living in the Port Talbot and Briton Ferry areas do not have access to a grass verge, let alone access to a green space.
You state you support local talent and provide opportunities yet you make it more difficult for theatre companies to put on shows through your rising hire fees and ticket levy's
i don think we communicate this very well. i think that the community venues mention above doesnt give me enough information on what goes on and where. lots or most communities dont have anything.
The town needs more visitors a market maybe would bring them and that would help the businesses that end of town station rd
Too many historical buildings are still being demolished, houses are being built in inappropriate places instead of services to complement natural attractions
Lack of Drama activity-isn't really mentioned.
Richard burton 10k
We need to see Pontardawe mentioned.
No mention of libraries~ they are the aspect of culture that I have the most use from.
Our canals should be protected and would be an amazing asset to encourage tourism.
Better combined marketing. Get more visitors, people outside the area have no idea what we have
The People, surely the most important asset NPT has.
Neath town centre has died over last 20 years and it is now a dangerous place to go because of drug abuse
More should be made of the historic buildings and landscape. Not enough interpretation and information at these sites. No museum or visitor centres.
Afan forest park is not sign posted from the motorway. Huge opportunity to develop the history of the area, but it is very hard to find out about the history of the area.Huge potential for development in Neath.
Heritage outside centres of neath and port Talbot. Pontardawe and the Neath Valleys have rich industrial history that needs to be celebrated. Including encouraging local heritage museum s
A map to these independent galleries and studios you've referred to
Don't forget the many artists and crafts people who've made the Swansea valley a cultural hub for decades
An overall identity. Wales isnt good at selling itself and i go to Ireland every year. Irish people sell everything.....fresh air and ruins are the famine story. One thing they do is tell the story through the Irish identify. The points above are great but they didn't suddenly appear , they have been hear all along. Look at Dic Penderyns grave in Aberavon, the cellars beneath the church and the ancient stones in St Marys St. The Council needs to sell NPT and South Wales (look at the wild atlantic coast line in Ireland.....basic signage and an identity made millions

There is a good cycle link from Port Talbot to Swansea and Neath but not to Cardiff. We also need to make use of our natural assets and see more renewable energy projects that benefit our environment and communities.
The libraries need mentioning too
We are between 2 major cities - Swansea & Cardiff
Would love to see a museum in neath, with interaction like waterfront in swansea
Further support for environmental and historical tourism needed as well as further investment in sustainable transport.
Neath Town Centre has a growing creative quarter with (one?) independent galleries and studios. Pontardawe Arts Centre has an excellent reputation in the UK including the Class Act Theatre School nurturing talent to a high level for over 20years.
There is a huge number of archaeological sites in the borough which go back well before Roman times to the Bronze Age. Need to highlight these also. Nothing either about our spiritual heritage which also goes back a very long way. Also nothing about our environmental assets, the range of habitats in the area from dunes to uplands, which are also being supported by the council and by volunteer groups. And we have produced outstanding talent in music also.
committed to supporting the cultural strategy and investing to make it a reality. Pontardawe Arts Centre has an excellent reputation in the UK including Class Act Theatre School nurturing local talent to a high level for over 20 years.
Pontardawe Arts Centre has an excellent reputation of cultural activities and nurturing talent for over 20years.
What about the Romans, Normans- Neath Castle, Churches in Neath??
There is no mention of the Romas fort, Nidum, or the Normans with their churches and castle. Talent was not just produced in the artistic sector; Neath has produced many great engineers; such as David Thomas and Benjamin Baker.
There is a necessity to invest in centres like the Pontardawe Arts Centre so that they can continue to thrive and develop.
I don't believe that NPTCBC invest appropriately in maintaining and promoting cultural assets in Neath
Serious canal regeneration
You have grossly exaggerated the assets.
NPT CBC has been actively ashamed of our heritage and history, across the board - with efforts required from other organisations (mostly unwillingly forced upon said council to achieve changes), where they've actively ignored the organic scenes that were prevalent here but a decade or two ago. No museum - burnt down for tax purposes (Gwyn hall restored but long gone for what it was - having performed there). As a musician: sincerely they've closed more pubs that hosted live music than they've ever reached out to help retain or produce talent here. Our castle: Castell Nedd < the reason for the name of our town, the tunnels underneath... Neath!? There is so much that this council has moved away from to attain an aesthetic that nobody asked for but has been imposed. Where the same can be said for the state of sports - as there's not a joint attitude for the development of creative culture, but what culture they will allow/want to convey.
Museum -? Utilise old library building
The canan; system is blocked once you go past the basin

I think the above description is overselling. It is not that good and certainly doesn't support an outdoor lifestyle.
Neath has easy access to the sea and mountains as well as mainline train link
No car parking on pavements
Your questionnaire is too broad to allow for a accurate response, eg 'Neath Town Centre having a creative quarter ...' is an exaggeration.
No mention of Pontardawe arts centre. Very Neath centric.
No reference to locations and facilities in the Upper Afan Valley -- Afan Forest Park, SW Miners Museum, Mountain Biking Centre @ Glynccorrwg, tunnels @ Gyfylchi, Gelli and Gwynfi etc.
They need to encourage more stores to open in the town centre and Station road to build our shopping area once more, it has been totally run down and it is not attractive, nor attracting new visitors to the area
Although a great place to walk, the beach at Aberavon needs to be kept on the radar for children's activities.
Natural asserts parks, forests, hills, waterfalls
Rail links with ample parking and on the main bus route
Businesses working in the creativity industries such as television production company Joio are located in NPT but often aren't recognised in surveys of Culture in the authority. There are a number of creative professionals living and working in NPT and their work should be acknowledged and encouraged in order to stimulate Culture for economic growth and employment. Neath Port Talbot is a destination for many film and television companies. This infrastructure should be fostered by the authority and local suppliers developed to serve the industry.
Define 'region'; little reflection on growing inequality within borough and in particular of the growing development of Neath as opposed to Port Talbot; loss of previous facilities; lack of consideration given to the views of the residents etc.
This summary is very centred on Neath and Port Talbot centres with little reference to the assets outside of these areas of which there are many.
I believe that any cultural strategy should be an asset-based strategy, one that focuses on identifying and utilising our existing assets. Making the most of what we already have in the county borough is the right approach to take, and I'm glad to see if reflected here. However; - There is no reference to ArtWalk in Port Talbot, which is something that is not only popular within the county borough but also further afield - Though there is many volunteer groups preserving and showcasing our heritage sites, there could be scope to support them in sharing best practice, collaborating where appropriate, and dealing with larger organisations. - No mention of the wide variety of events - from large festivals to community-organised fun days. These can play a part in identifying and nurturing talent, providing opportunities and can, if marketed, be an attraction in their own right.
Not that there is anything wrong with the statement that "Neath Town Centre has a growing creative quarter with independent galleries and studios", because it does, but this is something that could, potentially, also be trues of Port Talbot town centre if given the proper attention and investment from the local authority and other external sources of funding.
Pontardawe Arts Centre is a fantastic facility contributing to the cultural life and wellbeing of the locality. Accessible to people of all abilities, ages.

The area has a distinguished literary tradition in both Welsh and English, including writers` groups, and performances. See the Literary Tradition of the Neath and Afan Valleys. (Thesis, Swansea University)
Cefn Coed Colliery
Mention of Dulais valley as a community and area of interest
Cefn Coed Museum
Not enough Promoting modern science and inovation
The asset of Culture is the People
Cefn coed colliery museum
Public transport is non existent after 7pm !
Chapels and religious history, Woodlands, waterfalls, and wildlife
Reopen cefn coed colliery museum
More focus on rural communities with historic value. Eg. Dulais Valley, Cefn Coed etc
Would like to see the Roman history arrefacts and displays tgat used to be exhibited in the Gwyn Hall placed somewhere in the town. Would like to see the beautiful Registry building (next door to Boots) renovated and used as an exhibition centre/gallery. Wondering why the great gallery next door to the Masonic Hall has closed down. It really enhanced the street and indeed the town. Was the rent too high?
Maintaining local historical sites it`s our heritage
NPTH has failed in the pass of promoting many projects ...move forward step in when heritage assets are at risk.
Isambard Kingdom Brunel constructed the first rope-operated railway in Britain to solve the problem of bringing coal from the Afan valley to the docks in Briton Ferry. The line ran through the incline (Rhoddfa Clarke) and down through what is now Jersey Park. it was a tortuous route as the line was so steep that steam locomotives could not operate. IKB came up with the idea of working the railway as a rope-operated route, with coal wagons shunting up and down on a Swiss-style funicular system. ISK also built an accommodation bridge so that farmers could take their livestock across the line. The line was owned and operated by the South Wales Mineral Railway. In 1925 the land on the lower part of the line was given to the people of Briton Ferry for the creation of a park, by the Earl of Jersey. Jersey Park is a grade 11 listed landscape and is a very popular and beautiful park.
neath town centre is a tip to many empty shops drugs parking cost
better parking for theatre visits in neath
There are areas like the Cefn coed colliery that could be a great asset if made into a tourist attraction to link NPT with Powys a
Maintain the natural beauty of our valley and heritage
In terms of physical assets I would mention Neath Castle. The survival of the Castle in what was an industrial town is one of the things which makes Neath a bit distinctive and in recent decades its exterior is more visible and it was. The all NPT area has a good number of prehistoric remains which are an asset particularly if one of the objectives of the strategy is to get people out into the countryside to visit these things, if access issues can be resolved. The cultures of the various communities which make up NPT are a valuable asset in themselves as is the as is the cultural and literary history of the area. The work of authors such as Menna Gallie and Bert Coombes stands on its own merit leave alone its relevance the area. The area has a rich history in the visual arts, from visiting artists in the 18th century seeking romantic landscape to modern Welsh artists and

<p>photographers. This is a huge asset sometimes held in public hands (including NPT CBC) and private hands which should be made available to the public. We are fortunate in that there are substantial collections of archival material telling the story of the locality in the West Glamorgan Archives collection in Swansea, the Neath Mechanics Institute and in other national collections. These again are major assets.</p>
<p>Sarn Helen The Roman Road that hasn't once been mentioned</p>
<p>Greater inclusion of leisure/cultural/historical facilities in the valleys as well ad towns.</p>
<p>Not just the performing arts - talks, poetry readings, murals, painting etc - the arts in general. (Music too)</p>
<p>The destruction of our land and heritage to onshore wind and energy parks</p>
<p>More Funds Cefn Coed Museum</p>
<p>The valley communities/rural areas in Neath Port Talbot need more recognition.</p>
<p>Biodiversity in our woodlands</p>
<p>I agree wholeheartedly with the above summary, but I am disappointed not to see Briton Ferry's Jersey Park mentioned, or Briton Ferry's ancient forest. Within Jersey Park there are the remains of Brunel's funicular railway track, which transported coal from Glynccorwg to Brunel's Floating Dock in Briton Ferry. We have recently have visits from the Brunel Institute, based at the SSGB in Bristol, by its Head of Research, Dr James Boyd and the Institute's Director, Tim Bryan. Mr Bryan is to have a book published next year which includes considerable research on Brunel's activities in Briton Ferry. As a consequence of our relationship with Tim Bryan and Dr James Boyd, our group is now part of the National Brunel Network, alongside the SS Great Britain and the Clifton Suspension Bridge, to name but two.... I do feel that Briton Ferry is often overlooked when resources are being allocated, especially considering its serious deprivation figures.</p>
<p>Our wildlife is an important part of our open spaces and part of our heritage. We must take care to see our open spaces as more than just for people. I feel also that Aberdulais Falls has been closed for far too long. This site is an important part of the industrial history of NPT.</p>
<p>The council, creative businesses, regional and national partners, educational institutions, and other stakeholders are keen to see a thriving culture in Neath Port Talbot and are committed to supporting the cultural strategy and investing to make it a reality. Neath Town Centre has a growing creative quarter with (one?) independent galleries and studios. · Pontardawe Arts Centre has an excellent reputation in the UK including the Class Act Theatre School nurturing talent to a high level for over 20years.</p>
<p>We have a lot of assets that can contribute to our culture, but they aren't really boasted about enough if at all, and I'm not sure investment is there for the assets, and the borough in general.</p>
<p>There is no comment about the local people as an asset</p>
<p>Town Centre needs a re-vamp. Aberdulais needs to be opened and used. Dulais Rock pub needs to be pulled down/sold/renovated. Public transport needs to improve access to sites</p>
<p>Public parks</p>
<p>Afan Forrest park</p>
<p>No emphasis given to legacy of coal in the upper valleys, particularly the Afan. Not just the mines but the relics of infrastructure which could be integrated with a holistic approach to the whole tourism and cultural package - implicit to this would be sufficient funding, and just recognition of the world importance of coal production to the development of South Wales and Britain.</p>

<p>The council, creative businesses, regional and national partners, educational institutions, and other stakeholders are keen to see a thriving culture in Neath Port Talbot and are committed supporting the cultural strategy and investing to make it a reality.</p>
<p>Neath Abbey Ironworks produced great engineers such as David Thomas, the Father of the American Iron Industry, and Sir Benjamin Baker, the designer of the Forth Bridge and the First Aswan Dam. The ironworks is well connected by bus and train for active travel.</p>
<p>Not just the performing arts - literature and art are also important - painting, wall art, poetry readings etc.</p>
<p>Much of the canal system is blocked once you go past Ynysarward</p>
<p>Art Walk graffiti art</p>
<p>Old buildings of character (such as Eagle House) should be protected from demolition. We have sadly lost too many to the bulldozers, eg parts of the old town and the Craddock pub.</p>
<p>Need more emphasis on the history of Neath Port Talbot including Iron Age settlements and the Roman legacy of the area.</p>
<p>Dathlu enwogion y fro</p>
<p>Ydyn nhw'n cael eu marchnata ddigon? Beth am y ffyrdd o'u cyrraedd ar gyfer rhai nad ydynt yn gyrru?</p>
<p>Does dim son o gwbl yn y testun uchod am dreftadaeth iaith Gymraeg sir CNPT, ac yn benodol Cwm Tawe. Dyma ardal Gymraeg ei hiaith sy'n gyforiog o hanes, diwylliant a threftadaeth Gymraeg o bwys cenedlaethol. Mae'n siom fawr nad oes cyfeirio at hyn yn ein rhestr o 'asedau' fel sir a byddai'n wendid sylweddol yn y strategaeth pe na byddai cyfeiriad at yr iaith, ei diwylliant a'i threftadaeth a'i heffaith ar ein cymunedau hyd heddiw. Rhaid cofio hefyd fod cymaint o weithgaredd diwylliannol yn digwydd heddiw yn y sir trwy gyfrwng yr iaith Gymraeg gan gyfrannu at weithgaredd cenedlaethol megis Eisteddfodau a gwyliau cenedlaethol eraill. Mae gormod o sylw, wedi ei roi dros y blynyddoedd gan y Cyngor Sir i'r parciau mawr oedd yn gysylltiedig â diwydiannwyr a'u cyfoeth e.e. Margam, yn hytrach na mannau agored naturiol oedd yn allweddol i fywydau pobl gyffredin y sir e.e. Mynydd Gellionnen a'i dir comin. Mae angen mwy o ystyriaeth o dreftadaeth 'bottom up' yn hytrach na cyfleu hanes diwydiant a'i sgil-ffeithiau.</p>

Appendix B – Comments on Issues and Challenges

Notes:

- These have been edited only to remove comments that might lead to individuals being identified.
- They have not been changed for grammar, spelling or other accuracy issues.
- All comments made have been included apart from those which said things similar to “nothing to add”.

Is there anything that you feel is missing from this section and/or should be highlighted in the final strategy as an asset?
We are almost devoid of Museums in Neath.
Policy section needs to draw out the importance of working with the volunteers, organisations and independent businesses highlighted in the assets.
Use of Welsh language music and street theatre will add to the tourism and the confidence to use our language. Elected Councillors need to reflect the bilingual nature of their constituents
Sounds like Ricky Gervais wrote this questionnaire
1. Transport needs highlighting. 2. Cefn Coed should be closed permanently and the collections from Neath Museum do not warrant public display. 3. Long term funding solutions must be addressed. It's all very well securing external funding for a project but unless there is a commitment to fully fund the operation then it will not succeed. There is a danger that Council bounces from project to project without building any solid foundation. These projects may end up little more than vanity projects.
Libraries and Family History. Oral History
Under creativity there should be more of a focus on the use of creativity to support wellbeing as well as bringing communities together for skill sharing, friendship and knowledge expansion.
Some of these sights have been used for filming - Margam Park , Neath Abbey Ruins - why cant there be meet the cast events or see the costumes special events this would bring more people to these historical buildings. Also have historical days or audio sets available at these historical buildings this will teach people about who use to live there etc. All interesting information. Put special events on at these historical buildings- Picnic in the Gardens - Neath Ruins make use of the canals- - Canal Boat rides (like they have in Brecon) to the ruins as there is limited parking
Particularly agree with these 2 There is a need for continued investment in green technology to reduce carbon emissions in arts, heritage and leisure facilities. There is a need to grow skills in areas such as conservation, heritage and collections care and management.
We live in a rural, area with large open spaces, coastal region yet we have little green energy being produced. The coastal path region behind the quays is a perfect area to use to create clena green energy for the borough

Developing conservation skills is really important not just for the historical heritage but for the natural heritage too. There are many sites where, at present, we are making choices between history and nature. Margam and the Gnoll are typical examples of that. We want to develop these sites for people but more often than not, it comes at a price and that price is sacrificing habitats for wildlife or plants. We should be emphasizing that conservation work does not always mean one or the other but that both can be done side and side and complement one another but it does require some thought off the onset.

The Art Centre in Pontardawe could be used more to create a hub for creative activities

Again with reference to accessing the arts, you do not assist my hiking up fees to put on performances wind hiking up fees to view the same

Spend money on Cefn Coed Colliery, Neath needs a museum, spend more in the Neath area, not port talbot

Transport, or lack of. Virtually nothing in evenings

Woolly, sounds wonderful rhetorical language that doesn't point to how the arts can be supported and encouraged to grow. How do you ensure arts subjects are set in our schools when tight budgets often cause arts subjects to be squeezed in secondary schools

A museum space is definitely needed in Neath , perhaps using the former library building.

Yes, no acknowledgement of the great community resource that is our libraries. Re-open the ones that have been closed, take back the ones that have been handed over to the communities

Public transport needs improving.

Low carbon transport options, modal shift, the topography of the borough makes accessing services/facilities via active travel routes quite challenging. Behaviour change and attitudes are also key to this strategy being a success.

There are many places to visit but they are not linked - need to develop a heritage trail and similar for other types of culture

There is a large BAME community in Neath Port Talbot. There needs to be more intergration and celebration of the broad ethnicities and cultures too.

There are a lot of areas that need to be cleaned up, lots of rubbish lack of care.

We need to celebrate the industrial heritage of the area. There needs to be more information provided to residents and visitors, through the use of signage and heritage walks.

You haven't money to run a county museum - so why bother trying to train people in heritage skills?

I agree completely. The recent leisure centre is boarded up - what will happen to this?? Why can't the college art department creat murals for boarded up buildings. up

To some extent transport is a separate issue to culture e.g. people in NPT require subsidised transport. If you want to make money in culture you need to attract visitors. Transport within the borough is an issue, but this is within and between communities. Yes there are areas of deprivation. Please dont recite the old 'post industrial area story'.....we are more than that.....we are untlimatley a Celtic race who love belonging, major contributors to the the industrial age and looking forward to creating a sustainable Wales and magnifying the story/use of our raw resources..../people/wind//waves.

Sounds a bit woolly. The first point under communities could be extended to say....contributing to the poor health in the county borough.

Turn around negative attitudes towards trauma responses such as addictions to intergenerational deprivation and deep inequality.

- There is little dedicated gallery space in the borough with the need to improve access to what already exists.
- The fabric of some existing places, such as the Pontardawe Arts Centre, is tired and needs investment to ensure they meet the future needs of residents of NPT.
- Arts and cultural activities needs to be made accessible to a wider range of people, especially encouraging younger people.
- More can be done to link Arts and Well-being with the health agenda and Swansea Bay University Health Board.
- Need to move away from a mindset of subsidy in cultural services to one of investment to realise the wider benefits.
- Work out how cultural activities can contribute to the growth of the Welsh language in a predominantly English-speaking borough, building on the work of theatres such as the Pontardawe Arts Centre and with the Arts Council Wales.

Infrastructure - public transport is an area of great concern at the moment with the threats to local bus services and the lack of progress with the S W Wales Metro. Museum space is very sketchy and could be greatly expanded - we need better messages about our early history, about how people have lived through the ages, about our most famous people - why is there no Burton museum in Port Talbot for example? There is also a long history of disregard for our built heritage which is still ongoing (eg the decision to redevelop Eagle House), we need to be protecting and repurposing old buildings rather than knocking or burning them down. Communities - agree that our people should be depicted as active in making their own lives and not as passive responders to industrialisation or to the making of wealth by gentry and industrialists. What are the traditional customs and how were they practised by people locally? What did they sing and what music did they play? In what languages?

There is little dedicated gallery space in the borough with the need to improve access to what already exists. The fabric of some existing places, such as the Pontardawe Arts Centre, is tired and needs investment to ensure they meet the future needs of residents of NPT. Arts and cultural activities needs to be made accessible to a wider range of people, especially encouraging younger people. Work out how cultural activities can contribute to the growth of the Welsh language in a predominantly English-speaking borough, building on the work of theatres such as the Pontardawe Arts Centre and with the Arts Council Wales.

Public Transport is dreadful in the evening.

Pontardawe Arts Centre needs investment to ensure that it meets the needs of residents. Arts and cultural activities needs to be made accessible to a wider range of people, especially encouraging younger people. More can be done to link the arts with health and well-being. The council needs to move away from a mindset of subsidy in cultural services to one of investment to realise the wider benefits. Cultural activities can contribute to the growth of the Welsh language.

There is most definitely a need to develop more effective structures for cross-sector collaborative working, both within and beyond the Council. The Council do not like working with the Voluntary sector and at times can be obstructive to the needs of the Volunteers and the Community. The Council find it difficult to comprehend that the majority of volunteers are working for nothing and on Council property the Council have a duty of care to them. It is most important to develop a clear decision-making framework for prioritization of projects to deliver a strategy with external partners. I feel that

<p>the selection of delivery of projects is not fair. Some areas have far more money poured into them continually than others irrespective of their historic and or cultural background.</p>
<p>There is most definitely a need to develop more effective structures for cross-sector collaborative working, both within and beyond the Council. The Council do not seem to want to work with the voluntary sector, and have a paternalistic and condescending attitude. Decision making seems to come from the top down with no attention paid to the grassroots. Certain areas have far greater funding given to them, irrespective of their heritage value or culture. The Council do not seem to care about their volunteers who are not paid, they are just there to be taken advantage of.</p>
<p>The large number of buildings that are being left in disrepair. The continual building of new houses on green spaces, destroying our beautiful area.</p>
<p>buildings need to be adequately maintained so that they meet the varied needs to the population. It is important to ensure that physical access is developed and that centres address the various needs of all sections of the community.</p>
<p>Investment is needed in the gnoll park. Neath town needs to be made safer and more welcoming like it used to be.</p>
<p>I think the rail links are awful, not a positive as you say.</p>
<p>“Do this work to make a strategy” < which will be put on the fridge so eeeeeeeveryone can see, and the CBC will continue to do what it does... this sounds all to familiar for no matter the evidence one submits, unless it suits the agenda and ticks enough boxes for them before election time it’s all ears! Sorry, but a lot of that I agree with as we need so much investment and development in infrastructure, however making a strategy is but one part - intent on carrying out that strategy is what is the cyclical problem of NPTCBC for they never follow through. 30 years no skatepark.</p>
<p>Neath Town centre needs investment. Also anti social behaviour is discouraging visitors. State of the railway station, lift etc regularly not working and scary to use.</p>
<p>Aberdualis Falls hasn't yet reopened after covid</p>
<p>There is no 'theme' to life here. There is no 'lifestyle' associated with living in NPT apart from negative ones.</p>
<p>I don't know what is to follow but I was hoping for more opportunity to spell out my thoughts on various issues, eg are you aware of the situation currently at Aberdulais Falls which the National Trust appears to be virtually abandoning?</p>
<p>Transport, especially public transport, is NOT good in NPT and quality of road e.g. A4107 is poor.</p>
<p>The cost of transport is a big issue for some families to travel and visit these area's and to be totally honest our current bus service is not fit for purpose.</p>
<p>More development needed. Residents in Aberavon are cut off from all culture. It is not evn safe to walk back from the Princess Royal Theatre. The state of the bus station (that welcomes visitors to Port Talbot) is shocking!!!! The new Plaza development is much welcomed BUT it has to be accessed via Station Road which is a hangout for 'undesirables' and is unsafe after about 3 pm. Much more thought could be given to the shopping mall entrance/exit area and walkway to Aberavon, it makes the area look MUCH worse that it actually is.</p>
<p>Public transport outside the town's is almost non-existent</p>
<p>Art Centres in the authority are woefully under used. They should be bustling and busy places with lots of activity. Centres are often dark of an evening and are run in a corporate way sadly managed by staff</p>

who aren't necessarily creative people. NPT should reconsider the identity of these centres so they become exhibitors of culture but also hubs for the creation of work and centres for artists and makers.

Reference to one sided access to certain facilities - how can someone at the top of the Afan Valley get to Neath leisure facilities whereas it was easier to get to Port Talbot until the facilities were lost. Also, where are the cultural/ arts for the inhabitants of Port Talbot. Without transport, costs prohibit visiting the facilities in Neath. With own transport, it is a nightmare to park in Neath. There is a great need to make the existence of those limited facilities more obvious with better advertisements.

Infrastructure I agree that places like Cefn Coed have been neglected for many years, which has exacerbated the challenging position it now finds itself in. Public transport is currently under threat of additional cuts in funding, but it does play an important part of improving accessibility of many sites across the county borough. The cultural strategy should involve bus companies and users in order to ensure alignment in bus times, appropriate bus stops and sufficient signage is in place. Done correctly, not only will public transport support access to sites, but will also encourage more people to use the bus. For example, accessing Margam Park by bus requires stopping at a bus stop with no physical structure or signage, walking a considerable distance into the park, and to leave to go towards Port Talbot - crossing a busy road. Likewise, Cefn Coed has a bus stop just outside it but has no accessible bus stop going back towards Neath. Many of these sites have built in car biases which need to be addressed. Communities While there is no even spread of assets and facilities, there is scope to build unique offers across community areas. Providing a diverse and community-focused cultural offering, rather than focusing on a small number of attractions or events, can allow more people to access something - overcoming barriers to access and embedding wide benefit to communities. This approach would also cater for areas where the language is more prominent. Creativity Creating a partnership between schools, Sixth Form, Neath Port Talbot College, Swansea University and the wide variety of volunteer groups could allow for more people to either become fully trained in conservation, heritage and collection care/management, or at least develop a foundational level of skills. There is an urgent need to record memories of our industrial heritage right now, while we still can - and maybe that should be an early "win" for the strategy - working with people to record their memories and share their experiences. For example, visiting Cefn Coed when it was open was a great experience at times because of the first hand knowledge of the volunteers. They won't be around forever - so some of what they experienced has to be retained, in their words and utilising their voices. Policy There has been a lack of political will to support this in the past, so there needs to be clear commitments from the Council and buy in from officers. There also needs to be clear links with broad Council policy on matters of wellbeing, language policy, equalities, education and economic development.

Only that the above section seems to focus a lot on what needs to be maintained and preserved, focusing on the past and what has gone before, when perhaps the focus should be on what can be created and developed and made innovative and original to the area.

Investment in Pontardawe arts Centre will continue and improve the contribution of gallery space which exists there, and the growth of Welsh language.

There needs to be a cross over of both old and new, budget cuts are key and must not lose focus on the fact of spending to preserve facilities or open facilities that may not be of interest and waste resources.

We feel that the local authority has a place to support better some of the cultural events that we would like to see take place, particularly around our Welsh language heritage and culture. For example, we work closely with a number of schools / the town council / the Welfare Hall in Ystradgynlais to arrange a St David's Day parade through the town, hundreds of school children marching and singing in Welsh, a small performance in the town square and then a jambori for the children in the Welfare to follow. We coordinate a window decorating competition with the local shops so the whole town really get involved at celebrating Welsh culture. We've in the past tried to work on similar events in NPT but we don't really get any support from the local authority. Our counterparts in Swansea are part of a massive 'Gwyl Croeso' for St David's Day during which the city centre have marquees and a stage erected in Castel Gardens, with Welsh events and food on offer for the people of Swansea for two days. Again, nothing similar is organised by NPT Council. As an organisation we are more than happy to collaborate on events of this kind, but we really need the support of the council when it comes to things like closing roads / performances on the street etc. Ideally, the council needs to take ownership of at least some cultural events, and the community organisations can then get involves / showcase what we do and it would certainly enrich the cultural offering. This years celebrations in Aberafan Shopping centre were fantastic, and that was a collaboration between us and the local authority education department, but to build on this next year and for the life of the new strategy would be fantastic.

We need centres, like the original Afan Arts Centre where groups can gather and projects on things like oral history can be developed.

A plan for Cefn Coed Colliery

It is not a bad thing to move away from a past. Glorifying coal mining white washed the disease and death caused by an unforgiving industry.

heading - Infrastructure - identified issues and challenges of the heritage assets in NPT, this can go into the Heritage Strategy and not relevant to the Culture strategy.

A severe shortage of musical instrument/singing/dance lessons, choirs, orchestras & bands in schools

Municipal buildings, the industrial heritage is weighted too largely, the roman history is overlooked

Cefn coed colliery museum is a great place that I loved visiting as a child & is in my doorstep. It is a shame to see it closed & I would love for my daughter to have the opportunity to go there! Please reopen it! We should be proud of our mining heritage and show it off not leave such a great place waste away!

We must ensure we do not lose our heritage

Reopen Cefn Coed pit to be reopened asap as a local / national museum and also Aberdulais falls still closed WHY ????????

More focus on rural communities with historic value. Eg. Dulais Valley, Cefn Coed etc

The Alfred Russell Wallace building is a superb example of historical importance. Little is made of this building in terms of awareness of the work of this man and his connection with Neath. Also his former home in Llantwit. Much more should be done to celebrate this man here. He was as, if not more important than Charles Darwin!

Local sites not being utilised to full potential E.g central coed

It must be remembered Culture is one of the key element of community development .

<p>Oral histories are such an important part of our heritage they need to be captured. for example, there is a very elderly gentleman living in Briton Ferry who, during WW2 worked on the long term trial of the Pluto line which ran from Llandarcy in Skewen via the Bristol channel and English channel carrying oil under the ocean to supply allied troops in France. it would be wonderful to capture his memories before they are lost to us. Access to recording equipment etc and knowledge about how to preserve the data is not that easy to navigate.</p>
<p>Renewable energy shouldn't be used at the expense of the countryside and nature</p>
<p>Improved public transport services in the valleys of the borough e.b. The X8 used to be direct to Swansea, now it only goes to Neath. In addition, the last bus back up the valley leaves Neath at 6pm which can affect those who work later. Cefn Coed has been closed for some time due to building issues however after spending a lot of money renovating the pit wheels, the site is still closed with no sign of repairs being undertaken. The expanse of the site could also be used for other events there generating revenue.</p>
<p>I agree with green technology but disagree with onshore wind farms. Let us develop off shore wind and tidal energy</p>
<p>I think that an improvement in the facilities for public access to the countryside would pay dividends in terms of well-being and health. Public footpaths need to be maintained and signposted for the public to have confidence to go into the countryside. Existing services could be better integrated to achieve these results e.g., for example, there is a bus service into the Pelenna Valley from Neath which is not very well used. If walking routes back into Neath or to Gnoll Country Park, which already exist, could be promoted in conjunction with that service, usage might be improved. The biggest "infrastructure" problem that we have is the lack of local media. The local weekly newspapers have closed down except for one that incidentally covers the Swansea Valley. The Evening Post mainly covers Swansea and the NPT coverage is poor. The Evening Post previously had its own website but this closed as part of consolidation in Reach and the coverage in Wales online is more or less non-existent. How do people in NPT speak to each other and learn about heritage activities is the question. Some people don't do social media, some of it is good and some of it is negative and hostile. One of the popular local phrases is "I would have gone to that if I'd known it was on".</p>
<p>Cefn Coed museum needs reopening. Has great potential as only rivalled by Big Pit.8</p>
<p>The destruction of the transportation of hirfynnydd will.affect our tourism</p>
<p>To some extent. now is a store room for the council</p>
<p>No to wind turbines!</p>
<p>Heritage and conservation in valley/rural areas need to be protected.</p>
<p>The creation of heritage trails to link places of work such as Cefn Coed with housing, worship, shops of the time.</p>
<p>Cefan Coed Museum needs to be re-opened and developed.</p>
<p>Cefn Coed is definitely an underused asset. As I noted in the previous section, Aberdulais Falls is too important to remain closed</p>
<p>There is little dedicated gallery space in the borough with the need to improve access to what already exists. · The fabric of some existing places, such as the Pontardawe Arts Centre, is tired and needs investment to ensure they meet the future needs of residents of NPT.· Arts and cultural activities needs</p>

to be made accessible to a wider range of people, especially encouraging younger people.· More can be done to link Arts and Well-being with the health agenda and Swansea Bay University Health Board.
Absolutely agree of the need for continued investment in green technology
Cefn Coed museum must be opened
Financial investment is a significant challenge
Think you have coered most of it Transport isa problem without a car=public transport is awful
We need to preserve the natural beauty of the area that has not been destroyed by industry, and not allow projects such as energy parks to further destroy the natural beauty.
Infrastructure: The fabric of some existing places, such as the Pontardawe Arts Centre, is tired and needs investment to ensure they meet the future needs of residents of NPT. Creativity: Arts and cultural activities needs to be made accessible to a wider range of people, especially encouraging younger people. More can be done to link Arts and Well being with health opportunities. Policy: Need to move away from a mindset of subsidy in cultural services to one of investment to realise the wider benefits.
+++++ Museum(s), Educational aspects, Public Transport Brunel Engine House and other aspects Maritime and River aspects. ...for which we are looking to acquire river conservancy and conserv
You recognise its a mostly English speaking area. Put on free Welsh lessons as part of the heritage. Learn Welsh at Margam Park etc leanr elah at the gnoll. People would honestly jump at the chance instead of feeling sour about having a language pushed on them where there isn't and opertunity in their local area to learn it face to face
There is definitely a need to develop more effective structures for cross-sector collaborative working, both within and beyond the Council. Some departments are obstructive, to the detriment of our heritage, and our quality of life. The council seems to have a paternalistic attitude, are aloof, and do not want to be involved with the voluntary sector. - Develop a clear decision-making framework for prioritization of projects to deliver a strategy with external partners.
EG - Aberdulis falls hasn't reopened after covid
Diabled access and inclusion is very very poor. Private businesses make an effort (cinemas and theatres) but events, heritage sites, Afan Argoed cycle track, festivals etc are no go areas for a lot of disabled people
The Welsh language needs to be promoted more.
Improve public transport especially in the evenings.
Does dim ystyriaeth i hanes a threftadaeth amaethyddol y sir. Mae'n allweddol cofio am natur y sir cyn dyfodiad y diwydiannau trwm. Mewn rhai ardaloedd, e.e Cwm Tawe, mae'r diwylliant a'r ffordd yna o fyw yn parhau a dylid ei warchod a'i amlygu gan fod 'cof byw' yr elfen honno o'n treftadaeth hefyd yn cael ei gollu. Mae angen cofio am y diwydiannau bwthyn, bychain e.e. cwmniau crochenwaith yn Ynysmeudwy. Mae angen amlygu'r diwylliant iaith Gymraeg ac nid ei ystyried fel rhywbeth sensitif a effeithiwyd gan ddiwydiannu. Mae'r Gymraeg yn fyw mewn pocedi o'r sir, ac nid dim ond ymhlith y to hÿn. Mae'n fyw ar wefusau plant a phobl ifanc ac mae angen hyrwyddo ac ehangu'r cyfleoedd iddyn nhw ddefnyddio'u Cymraeg o fewn cyd-destunau diwylliannol, gwaith, hamdden a thwristiaeth. Mae'r Gymraeg yn ased i'r sir. Does dim cyfeiriad at dreftadaeth grefyddol y sir. Er fy mod yn anffyddiwr, rwy'n gweld effaith pwysigrwydd ein traddodiad crefyddol - yn enwedig trwy'r iaith Gymraeg - ar ein cymunedau hyd heddiw. Mae'r adeiladau wedi eu gwasgaru trwy'r sir, yn dystiolaeth amlwg o'r hyn

oedd yn bwysig i'n cyn-deidiau ac yn sylfaenol i'w bywydau ochr yn ochr â gwaith. Fedrwn ni ddim deall ein hanes lleol o fewn y sir heb ystyried effaith Anghydfurfiaeth ar y cymunedau - roedd yn mynd law yn llaw â'r diwydiannu a ddigwyddodd yma.

Appendix C – Comments on Strengths and Opportunities

Notes:

- These have been edited only to remove comments that might lead to individuals being identified.
- They have not been changed for grammar, spelling or other accuracy issues.
- All comments made have been included apart from those which said things similar to “nothing to add”.

Is there anything that you feel is missing from this section and/or should be highlighted in the final strategy as an asset?
Little progress has been made in terms of leisure investment or promotion in Cwmtawe
The Welsh traditional arts are a growing opportunity not only for NPT but for Wales as a whole. These traditional art forms already being grasped by other areas of Wales as tools to develop local culture, engagement with the Welsh language and understand of local and national heritage, these foster a sense of belonging to your local and larger community which in turn helps towards social cohesion. NPT is already home to a community of passionate and committed people who work with these arts. It would be great to see NPT helping to lead the way to begin to employ these tools as others across Wales are already doing so.
Creative arts and galleries were listed as assets, but are missing from the list of opportunities and strengths. The list is overly focussed on physical buildings and regional scale resources. Much of the momentum is in activities and voluntary contributions which are not at the major infrastructure scale. More information is needed around how the strategy will support smaller scale, local organisations to continue grass roots work.
There should be a museum in Neath. Turn the old Neath library into a museum.
I disagree that transport links are sufficient. Local bus services are poor beyond 5pm, which in turn could affect attendance at our theatres/cinemas
What has Swansea university campus got to do with creativity in NPT? There is creativity throughout this area which has not been tapped into due to a lack of support and funding. The collaborative spirit needs to be built upon by getting creative people together to explore their strengths and ideas to richen the area.
Again the new Plaza development hasnt been mentioned. Margam Park's various new activities should be highlighted e.g. canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, archery etc as well as the Go Ape Tree Top Adventure.
This all sounds excellent, but have you actually walked through Neath town Centre. The peripheral arears of Neath such as Margam park, the Gnoll park and the Beach are utilised as visitor attractions, but the town centre is like a ghost town. The closed shops and smell that comes from the drains is enough for people to stay on that train and get off in Swansea. You mention excellent transport links, but the drop off points for visitors is not exactly inviting.
Again, mentioning nature as an asset and yet it is all too often being sacrificed or reduced under the premise it is good for us but, as climate change demonstrates daily, this is not the case. Equally, the beautiful historical buildings in the borough are often left to go derelict or maintained by community

groups who not only struggle to maintain them due to the cost but also due to the lack of knowledge of what should or should not be done.
Leisure centre already has significant issues with pool needing to be closed
I have visited many local places Abbey, Gnoll etc and the issue I have is not with the venues it's the rubbish you have to get through walking to these areas. Walk through Fairyland it's filthy not a great first impression
As above, better local transport and better facilities near these natural assets
Woolly ideas. No practical suggestion for implementing.
Can't see anything about the growing public/graffiti art in Port Talbot and the growing Arts scene there
Improve local transport.
There needs to be a team put in place to promote the area to tourists, both local (swansea etc) and further afield like London. Nobody has heard of 'dramatic heart of Wales'
Affordability and accessibility of some of the new initiatives - Wildfox looks great but will local people be able to afford to use the facilities there? It's a good list but needs to be made real for people, be clear what the success in securing Levelling Up monies will actually mean to the people who live here.
Potential for tourism has been neglected for too long eg superb beach at Aberafon linked with Margam needs promoting. The proximity of Neath Abbey to the Ironworks & Aberdulais needs needs enhancement & joint promotion. Access to the waterfall area lies within the Borough.
Small projects are continually overlooked in favour of the Gnoll and Margam, this is so the council can charge more to visit. Small projects have to fight hard to get funding and are not supported by the council
More information is needed about the history of the area. Lots of opportunities to do this. As a newcomer I have found it hard to find out the area and activities.
A need to celebrate the industrial heritage of the area, e.g. provision of signage in the Afan valley to provide information to locals and visitors
MRgam and neTh abbey aren't a draw for pontardawe and the valleys . Small investment needed in these areas to encourage visitors to Pontardawe and the valleys
Without additional funding I can't see how the 'bold new vision' will be anything but words
There is also Neath Little Theatre which is amazing
Details from locals.....looks like you joined all the aims of welsh government and the buzz words and put them all on one page
We need more wind farms, solar farms and renewable energy projects.
Leisure facilities coming back under NPTCBC which can further support and encourage the wellbeing of residents.
Museum in neath. Keep affordable opportunities for all, ie free swim for kids.
There have been much less opportunities for younger generations to get involved in arts and culture due to cuts to funding for music provision for example. Not enough is being done to support those in poverty, or with high level social needs. I live in Neath, not far from the town centre. Although lots of people are proud of our natural areas of beauty, and parks, they are not so proud of our town centre. From what I can see, we have not really seen any benefit from the Swansea Bay uni campus, because although in the boundaries of NPT, it is very much seen as a Swansea asset. Some residents are concerned about how the Wild Fox development will support the local economy, and ensure that the

<p>natural landscape is not damaged too much. Although it sounds like an exciting development, how will it support the local economy if everyone stays on camp like center parcs? Apart from providing jobs.</p>
<p>Neath port Talbot council like Swansea have invested in new build with little thought to environmental Sustainability, care must be taken to reduce the carbon cost of infrastructure improvements and to make sure that such infrastructure is necessary and does not negatively impact local heritage and environment.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three main theatres (Princess Royal, Gwyn Hall, Pontardawe) of varying sizes: the planned investment in a new Cinema in Pontardawe is a key opportunity. • Build on assets such as the Pontardawe Arts Centre which are more than “arts”: blending heritage, culture and leisure. • Swansea University’s £450m Bay Campus provides both a great venue for creative endeavours and courses in several relevant specialisms, developing links with existing venues. • A bold new vision for culture will be developed through this cultural strategy with commitment from NPT Council to use the strategy to drive investment, growth and improve wellbeing
<p>Infrastructure - natural assets are not all in good condition and some of them need much work to restore environment and biodiversity. Heritage assets - once again not all are in good nick, eg the Brunel Dock and the nearby canal. Wildfox - benefits are contested - also creates a threat to archaeological sites, wildlife. Not a project that is in any way linked in with environment or local heritage, it's just a fun park plonked down in the Afan Valley. Creativity - 2017 is now 6 years ago and we've got b*gger all out of it. The challenge is to do our <u>own</u> bid for City of Culture not just going cap in hand to Swansea Policy - feel that redevelopment at Margam Castle should be holistic, easy to concentrate on the gentry and their lives and to forget the common people who worked for them or were their tenants. But the estate has a much older history, there are Celtic sites there which also deserve investigation and their story to be told.</p>
<p>Three main theatres (Princess Royal, Gwyn Hall, Pontardawe) of varying sizes: the planned investment in a new Cinema in Pontardawe is a key opportunity. Build on assets such as the Pontardawe Arts Centre which are more than “arts”: blending heritage, culture and leisure. Swansea University’s £450m Bay Campus provides both a great venue for creative endeavours and courses in several relevant specialisms, developing links with existing venues. A bold new vision for culture will be developed through this cultural strategy with commitment from NPT Council to use the strategy to drive investment, growth and improve wellbeing.</p>
<p>You saying transport is excellent I certainly do not agree with that. All libraries should be given the same opportunities as the larger ones.</p>
<p>I fail to understand why Neath Abbey Ironworks' plans which are listed in the UNESCO Memory of the World register are not mentioned in this Strategy? There are three scheduled ancient monuments on the site. The Ironworks' history is being taught in school with future generations as part of the new curriculum. What more is needed to justify conservation of the site? Examples of the UNESCO Memory of the World register include Magna Carter and the 1689 Bill of Rights.</p>
<p>Why isn't Neath Abbey Ironworks listed as a place with opportunity for enhancement/expansion? Its plans are listed on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register along with Magna Carta and the 1689 Bill of Rights; it possesses three scheduled ancient monuments. Cwmfelin's heritage, where the Ironworks is, goes back to before the Norman Conquest. It is being studied as part of the new Cynefin syllabus. What more is needed to justify conservation?</p>
<p>Transport links are poor. Particularly public transportation , That is not correct in the statement. This is a huge opportunity to be addressed to re instate a strong public transport system in the area.</p>

Centres like the Pontardawe Arts Centre are at the centre of their community and provide a wide range of activities for the community as well as attracting people from nearby areas, who then spend their money locally. It would be good to liaise with the university and other local venues to work together on projects which involve different communities in a common endeavour.
The above statements over-state quite a lot of benefits, for example Neath leisure centre doesn't even have a slide like the one it replaced so doesn't meet the needs for all as it's not very fun
Serious commitment to canal regeneration
Support local groups
Who is writing this? 'Wonderful range of natural assets – forests, beaches, moorland, rivers' - I'm not sure that I'm living in the same place.
I think one needs to engage with the nitty gritty as well as wide ranging and regional strategies, eg why haven't we a blue plaque scheme to commemorate significant individuals on a par with those in surrounding places like Swansea, Bridgend and Carmarthen
Again very Neath valley centric. What about enhancements to pontardawe art centre cinema?
Poor transport from peripheral communities to Swansea, Cardiff etc. Considering the NPT CBC have closed virtually all public facilities in our most disadvantaged communities, it is totally incorrect to speak of "significant investment" in community services
Again with the cost of living people haven't got the spare money to travel and visit these area's maybe as an incentive offer free transport so many times a year so the struggling working families are able to afford to attend
Just an emphasise is kept to make sure accessibility and affordable to all ages to all sites and events.
All this sounds good on paper but, bearing in mind residents in Aberavon who are not car owners, it takes longer to access any facilities in Neath than to travel to Swansea since the direct bus service has been cancelled. Arriving back from Cardiff to the PT train station in the evenings is always difficult. Surely with the new Wildfox project the transport facilities and the general feel of PT could/should be enhanced and made to feel SAFER???
Investment in new developments is going ahead - Neath Town centre upgrade, wildfoxbpark etc
There is a community of professional people working in the cultural industries in NPT. How do you harness their abilities and industries in a positive way to generate further activity? There is a risk that the assets and sites mentioned in the consultation document are places where the arts and culture happen. There is an opportunity to develop the idea that these places and sites are also places where culture is created. Enabling these individuals and cultural companies should be paramount. Often these people and businesses and invisible to the community and local authority.
Transport links are unreliable and expensive. Better infrastructure for active travel necessary
Reference made to facilities that are dated and need restoration or replacement. Little reference to build on and improve the limited facilities or the need for more diversification
Better promotion and communications required to sell our services
is the statement on investment in community leisure centres correct? there will be many residents that don't agree with this statement.
There are many strengths and opportunities here in the country borough - which takes me back to a point I made earlier about an asset based approach. However, I don't think the Dramatic Heart of Wales brand has been particularly successful, it is vague, generic and quite empty. The previous Destination Management Plan was a jumbled mess of optimistic statements and aims, rather than a realistic but bold vision. The Council previously ruled out its own City of Culture bid due to having a

<p>complete lack of understanding or appreciation for its own cultural offer and history, so significant barriers exist there and it would be difficult to build on a bid from 2017. These strengths don't highlight some of the big names who were born or lived in the area, some of whom are still alive and whose popularity could be utilised to highlight the area.</p>
<p>Again, there seems to be a lot of focus on what we already have, but no real mention of new things that could be created or introduced from the ground up - especially in terms of creative endeavours, exhibitions, art venues and events, film festivals and creative community projects. Also, the focus continues to be on local history and culture, and while these are important and should be considered, I feel there you should be more emphasis on developing new artistic and creative endeavours, with a strong focus on developing and nurturing new talent within the local communities and providing them the space and opportunities to create new history and new culture.</p>
<p>Developments in Pontardawe such as new cinema facilities in Arts Centre.</p>
<p>The culture strategy should be promoted in a good positive way as this will affect many, including staff.</p>
<p>I think it's important to note how many cultural / third sector organisations already work closely together. For example, we work very closely with Pontardawe Arts Centre on a number of projects, we actually help them to create their annual programme of events to ensure that there are Welsh language and cultural events happening on a regular basis. This strength, and the new Forum for Culture and Heritage by NPTCVS is a definite opportunity for development. The mapping activities undertaken will be very interesting as I'm sure there are opportunities for collaboration that we've not even thought of.</p>
<p>It might be worth looking at the range and success of the 1995 Year of Literature in Swansea, a predecessor of the Year of Culture. (I have details of the 1995 Year. programmes etc., having been on the Board.) It involved a very wide range of events and activities.</p>
<p>The strengths and opportunities of the culture of NPT -Collective desire to succeed and a collaborative spirit. All the rest makes no sense in relation to the strengths and opportunities of culture of NPT</p>
<p>Cefn coed colliery museum</p>
<p>If its an attraction/ location that is more noticed by the general public and further afield then money will be spent on it. Otherwise, outskirts areas get lesser priority</p>
<p>Dramatic Heart of Wales is a great brand, and think it should be built upon as much as possible.</p>
<p>I think large towns and cities have been all funded, should spread the funds wider to fairly "level up"</p>
<p>The Neath and Tennant canals!!! The area at the back of Morrisons should be cleared and developed, as it had started to be, a lovely tourist attraction. If only the canals could be cleaned and mautaided. Look at Brecon. The town has a hidden gem with these canals.</p>
<p>Develop ceanothus coed it is on gateway to Brecon Beacons lost potential ,it could be developed to embrace local crafts, produce and history</p>
<p>The council, functioning as one in and for the best interests of the citizens of the community.</p>
<p>Smaller areas of attraction must not lose out. I appreciate that Margam Castle etc are big attraction areas but as said previously, culture has to be promoted across the borough</p>
<p>briton ferry is not mentioned and yet the brunel docks are there are we a forgotten area once again</p>
<p>Green energy when we have enough for our need will not benefit the countryside and wild life</p>
<p>There is a contradiction in the infrastructure section where you mention the forestry because the development of onshore wind in our valleys destroys the beauty of our natural features.</p>
<p>Transport is very poor from the valleys.Whole transport ie roads, rail and buses are a disgrace</p>

<p>The "Cynefin" curriculum changes in Wales do of course provide an opportunity to promote knowledge of local heritage. The library service heritage group was recently visited by the Cynefin lead and I hope that that will improve relationships between heritage groups and formal education. The worry is that the curriculum changes will create a lot of work for teachers who are stressed as it is and that there will be a lot of duplication between schools. Cooperation between heritage groups and education should facilitate the development. I share the view expressed by a number of people that the Gwyn Hall is an asset which is not fulfilling its potential. The art centre in Pontardawe demonstrates how a mixed and lively programme can foster a ready audience. People need to develop the regular habit of going to live events. Car parking in the town centre to attend the Gwyn Hall has been problematic right from the start. People need to feel safe when attending events, particularly the more elderly. The fact that the multi-storey car park is now open until late to accommodate the new leisure centre may now help the situation provided that this is publicised and people feel safe walking between the two. For some reason NPT events in Port Talbot are advertised by banners in Neath but going all events and not advertised in Port Talbot. The Gwyn Hall and the later opening of the multi-storey car park is an opportunity which needs to be grasped</p>
<p>Remember the valleys ...</p>
<p>Neath is better provided than Port Talbot with spaces for the practice of the arts. We need an even fuller summary of assets and possibilities and more contacts between groups, to share knowledge and expertise.</p>
<p>Protect our heritage from foreign companies</p>
<p>Again focus and preservation of heritage should not be forgotten in valley communities.</p>
<p>Our group believes that the restoration of Brunel's Dock in Briton Ferry is not only a hugely important asset in itself, as a deeply significant historical site and cultural legacy with exciting educational potential, but also it is crucial for the economic recovery of Briton Ferry. Briton Ferry is one of the most deprived areas in Wales. The Dock can be sensitively repurposed into a major wealth-generating leisure facility. It is a five-minute drive off the M4; the main Paddington to Swansea railway line is a couple of hundred yards away from it; it even has its own level crossing, which has survived due to an Act of Parliament, protecting it in case of war; and if the route of Brunel's funicular railway was revived, as a cycling path, it links Briton Ferry with the Afan Valley, through beautiful countryside.</p>
<p>Again, nothing about the natural world and biodiversity. These are as important as the places which are described as natural assets. These are diminished if the wildlife, native plants etc are ignored.</p>
<p>Three main theatres (Princess Royal, Gwyn Hall, Pontardawe) of varying sizes: the planned investment in a new Cinema in Pontardawe is a key opportunity.· Build on assets such as the Pontardawe Arts Centre which are more than "arts": blending heritage, culture and leisure.· Swansea University's £450m Bay Campus provides both a great venue for creative endeavours and courses in several relevant specialisms, developing links with existing venues.· A bold new vision for culture will be developed through this cultural strategy with commitment from NPT Council to use the strategy to drive investment, growth and improve wellbeing.</p>
<p>Glynneath - is one of the four towns. It is difficult to think of any investment in the town for culture or heritage, why is that? What could be done that is creative and original to include the town going forward?</p>
<p>Actions, Actions-not more words and consultations please!</p>
<p>NPT is under sold on a national level. you go through Neath to get to Swansea, Gower and West Wales</p>
<p>Very Neath/PortTalbot town orientated. For example, why £17.5 million leveling up fund restricted to the Neath Valley ? and why Pont Nedd Fechan ?an area within a central Govt funded National Park.</p>

Many valleys in NPT are bereft of funding and dying on their feet. Coal mines in the Afan valley have been closed for over 50 years and no sustainable projects have been established. The Wildfox proposed development (if successful) is nothing more than a centre parks clone and benefits only low paid workers and of no gain to communities there. It seem that strategies are everything and just boxes to be ticked. More needs to be done in the communities of the valleys, and focus should be on the plight of the people and lack of fundamental amenities for all.

Policy: A bold new vision for culture will be developed through this cultural strategy with commitment from NPT Council to use the strategy to drive investment, growth and improve wellbeing.

Give it to the national Trust. Who ever directs these funds will push their own agenda and ideas. At least the national trust will work to preserve only and make things accessible to the public. The national trust also maintains its sights to an exceptionally high standard and always attracts visitors

The Welsh traditional arts including music and dance would be a great opportunity for NPT to develop engagement with local history, national culture and the Welsh Language. These arts have been successfully used employed in other areas of Wales to help develop social cohesion as well as hitting the targets already mentioned.

Drop wildfox, it'll never happen and is an embarrassing scam.

One of our forest areas (between Goytre and Bryn) may soon be covered in wind turbines. In our industrial area we value our green spaces. This should be a major consideration before any plans are approved. I realize that our council decisions may be overridden by the Welsh Assembly, as they were for the turbines we now have on Mynydd Brombil.

Yn anghytuno'n fawr â'r drafnidiaeth. Mae gorsaf drenau CastellNeddyn ased gwerthfawr ond mae rhaid gyrru i'w chyrraedd

Unwaith eto mae'r Gymraeg ar goll. Mae Strategaeth 2050 gan Lywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau miliwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050 ac ni chyfeirir at hyn yn y testun uchod. Mae gan Gastell-nedd Port Talbot Ganolfan Gymraeg ym Mhontardawe sy'n brosiect ar y cyd rhwng y Cyngor Sir a Phrifysgol Abertawe. Enw'r ganolfan yw Ty'r Gwrhyd (Gwrhyd yw un o fynyddoedd Cwm Tawe) <https://www-2018.swansea.ac.uk/press-office/news-archive/2016/nameofnewswanseavalleywelshcentreannounced.php> Mae'r Ganolfan yn gweithio gyda nifer o bartneriaid lleol a chenedlaethol i hyrwyddo'r Gymraeg a hefyd trefadaeth a diwylliant Gymraeg sir CNPT. Nid yw'r buddsoddiad mewn canolfannau hamdden wedi bod yn ddigonol nad yn deg ar draws y sir - mae adnoddau Pontardawe yng Nghwm Tawe yn ddiffygiol iawn, er enghraifft, yn enwedig y pwll nofio. Rhaid cofio am y cymunedau i ogledd y sir nad sydd yn elwa ar isadeiledd gryf o ran trafndiaeth rheilffordd neu briffyrdd. Mae angen cofio bod nifer o'r artistiaid rhyngwladol o'r sir yn siaradwyr Cymraeg e.e. Richard Burton a'u bod yn falch o'u dwyieithrwydd. Rhaid cofio hefyd bod llenorion, cerddorion ac artistiaid o safon cenedlaethol yn hanu o'r sir ac wedi gwneud cyfraniadau aruthrol yn yr iaith Gymraeg e.e. Cleif Harpwood ac aelodau eraill band Edward H. Dafis; Gwenallt y bardd a heddychwyr o Bontardawe; Rachel Thomas yr actores o'r Alltwen, Huw Chiswell o Ystalyfera. Mae angen cydnabod y doniau Cymraeg hyn rhag i ddiwylliant y sir gael ei gam-ddehongli fel un uniaith Saesneg. Mae hyn yn allweddol i gynorthwyo pobl ifanc i gydnabod a deall eu 'cynefin' fel sydd yn ofynnol yn y Cwricwlwm newydd i Gymru.

Appendix D – Comments on Vision

Notes:

- These have been edited only to remove comments that might lead to individuals being identified.
- They have not been changed for grammar, spelling or other accuracy issues.
- All comments made have been included apart from those which said things similar to “nothing to add”.
- One comment couched in offensive language has been removed.

Is there anything that you feel is missing from this section and/or should be highlighted in the final strategy as part of the vision for Neath Port Talbot?
Again, emphasis is concentrated on Port Talbot & Neath with no evidence that Cwmtawe is considered
That Cymer be recognised as the heart of the upper Afan, and the council put some investment into the existing strategic amenities. Swimming pool, gym, library and also invest in derelict buildings. With the investment from Wildfox resort there is an opportunity for the council to expand what visitors want. The valley is not just a mountain biking area it is popular as a triathlon venue and the pool is used regularly by many swimming groups and a diving group. There is also opportunity for the the council to take advantage of local industrial heritage like a short tunnel and a seven arched bridge , along with a metal framed viaduct which has been used for bungee jumping.
I personally, and I know many others who have refused to use the Gnoll Park facilities because of the ridiculous parking charges being levied, previously I was happy to make a donation for the upkeep but having it imposed is a step too far. As a result, use of the facility has dropped to the point where facilities are being reduced. The issue as I see it across the borough is one of mindset and limited experience of business where the only way the local authority see's raising cash is by imposition of costs rather than opportunities to earn. The local authority and various community councils go out of their way to make collaboration to raise funds more difficult. Sadly there is a petty minded and superior attitude which is institutional within both elected and employees of the council. Their M.O. is to be seen to collaborate and help rather than actually do so, and it is this which needs to be addressed because slowly it is strangling businesses to death.
The vision is the first time that cultural events are mentioned. Cultural events should be referenced in assets and opportunities. Long standing events, such as Neath September Fair and the town's relationship with the fairground communities as a stakeholder should be specifically mentioned in the previous sections. The vision should make reference to the Natural heritage theme. There should be a vision aligned with the climate and nature emergency, for example "residents and visitors have an increased awareness of - benefit from -and contribute to enhanced natural environment."
The canals need clearing up. They could be a huge tourist attraction if boats could use tjem
Cymraeg is the main thing that makes us different from other Countries in the UK. We need strong leadership to regain our identity
All sounds very nice, but rather like an artist's impression of any new development, it bears little resemblance to the reality of what will be.
We should have camp sites and caravan parks to capture the increase staycation people

Development needs to be done throughout our towns to make them more appealing. Traders should be supported in order to make small unique shops available for visitors and to create diversity within our streets.
We need to do more and advertise better - Charging for parking is putting people off visiting Margam park, the Gnoll - its way to expensive. I get the need to charge for parking - but charge less and more people will visit. Or offer a Neath Port Talbot annual Parking charge for residence at a discounted rate - to have free parking at the Gnoll- ,Margam etc.
Feel that Margam Park isn't only important for heritage - its natural landscape as a conservation resource should be recognised and managed and its peaceful 'green space' as a benefit for mental health space be included. Have to have space for nature.
To meet this vision, you need to acknowledge that to many people, some of these places are pricing people out. Attending concerts and events or going out can be difficult for many people financially. In order to achieve this vision, you will need to ensure job creation and preservation so people can then be in a position where they can enjoy what NPT has to offer
Again don't agree when you state the council promotes the art when the council make it so difficult for non profit organisations to actually put on productions with the fees of theatres and ticket levy prices
there could be more of a focus on what we are doing with children and young people
Nothing on welsh language. Nothing about the cultural importance of or protection of the environment and how that links to heritage. Nothing about the private sector's involvement. Or the future of green energy and how it can help support and shape communities and culture
Not enough provision of facilities, cafes etc in many places. Nowhere to get a coffee after 3pm in town - suspect it's worse in outlying areas. Not enough choice along seafront, nothing at eastern end and virtually no parking facilities that end (just more and more houses).
Money to develop arts in schools and communities. NPT theatre Hire costs are prohibitive for smaller groups who simply can't afford them and have stopped using them eg Port Talbot Little Theatre and PT Cymric Choir. The venues are of litttuse if they are unaffordable.
Again - where is Pontardawe and it's cultural heritage and Art Centre mentioned?
Not enough public transport. Some people do not have cars so they cannot visit places of interest.
It could be great to host large comic con type events like Margam park once did
It's ambitious which is good but I'm not sure how well received it will be during a Cost of Living crisis. Also, with many town centres clearly struggling it doesn't really seem feasible (ambitious but not realistic)
No mention of Pontardawe town centre 😞
There is far more to NPT than Margam and the Gnoll but the small sites are not supported by the council
I do feel that all the money and resources are always spent on Gnoll Park and Margam. We have fantastic volunteers who manage and maintain all the heritage sites, nature reserves etc but they need the overarching support from the local authority to join it all together
More development for the Valley areas
A general improvement of the environment tidy clean
Don't just focus on the Gnoll and Margam, what about the Afan valley?

I think you mean heritage more than culture. But the major block to this is having a massive steel works blighting the view!
A well connected infrastructure to access villages and communities across the borough.
There needs to be more sustainable funding and support to make this a reality. I also think there should be more investment in community gardens. Or initiatives that tackle poverty. They need to be focusing on lived experiences of poverty, as well as poverty of hope.
Numbers are not the only story, though revenue will always be promoted as positive, integrating the appearance of wilderness with an understanding that the landscape is the result of human exploitation, which has also negatively impacted local communities, is an opportunity for heritage professionals in NPT.
These venues, as well as Port Talbot and Neath and Pontardawe town centres, have also been reanimated with ambitious programmes of events, significant public art commissions, new and growing creative businesses, and inclusive community projects. The benefits of sustained investment in Arts and Culture have been realised with an improvement in Well-being.
Town centres need to reanimated in terms of retail also. And can't we have more music? We need more venues and encouragement for performers. NPT could be made a unique centre for our own but also Wales's story, from Celtic and Roman times, through the Wars of Independence, then the industrial revolution. It's more than big sites. And we should be emphasising non-traditional tourism - nature tourism, heritage tourism, ancestry, and sport. And the strategy should stress that the Welsh language and culture are front and centre in the offering.
Pontardawe town centre The benefits of sustained investment in Arts and Culture have been realised with an improvement in Well-being.
The council say these things constantly but nothing changes.
The benefits of sustained investment in arts and culture will be an improvement in health and well-being
Neath Town Centre appears to be dying and run-down. Entering through Briton Ferry is depressing with the number of empty shops. There is poverty in Neath Port Talbot with the number of food banks. There is violence and crime rates are high. Drugs and Organised Crime Gangs are prevalent in the streets. One of the disadvantages of this strategy is that it completely excludes large areas of the borough- Swansea Valley, Upper Amman and Clydach Valley, Skewen.
The impression that Briton Ferry, Neath and Neath Abbey gives is of decline and neglect. Neath town centre and Briton Ferry have numerous empty shops. As a resident of Neath for all my life, this is the worst I have ever known. Drug taking and organised crime gangs are common on the streets. Many shops are charity shops. Large areas of the borough have been ignored. The Swansea valley is hardly mentioned, the upper Amman and Clydach valleys are not mentioned at all, as is Skewen.
It's important to make sure all centres are included - so mention should be specifically made of Pontardawe in this section.
The vision should say that these things will happen, not that they have happened - it's quite misleading and confusing the way it is phrases
Inclusion of canal infrastructure regeneration in the development of tourism strategy
The vision won't happen as Neath town is dying. You need massive investment now as we are sinking fast.

<p>So you expect charities - funded by the EU or not at all now - to take up the slack from the lack of investment from Council basis? You think what you've listed above constitutes as change or enough to facilitate this idea? You're making jobs for the boys, and it disgusts me that this is being pushed as the vision - for you set the goalposts as to "what history" - no mention of the castle, actual heritage, but more so seek to uphold that of unionism as a failed project which I think speaks to the sheer lack of spine and effort of repeated CBC's. NPT should be focusing on promoting heritage yes, give tours in the steelworks, arrange and *preserve* areas like the Gnoll yourselves without offloading that financial responsibility onto well meaning pensioners in the Gnoll. Sincerely, this is just too accepting of austerity to be a real vision, if so: I want no part in the bastardisation of Neath and "what it is through this very British lense".</p>
<p>Hotels in the town centre. Area around the Parade in Neath is like a no go area .</p>
<p>Some areas of Neath are an eyesore, and embarrassing for visitors to be presented with. Parts of The Parade and Windsor Road in particulates. The entrance into Neath is very unappealing</p>
<p>Both Gnoll and Margam are good. Although the trails at the Gnoll have become unpassable for running in some cases. Neath Abbey could be excellent. Aberdulais - Do something about the pub! Cefn Coed has potential. Both town centers are appalling from a business point of view. Although I do like a couple of eating places that have cropped up in Neath. The seafront at Aberavon needs a look at. It full of dog c@*p.</p>
<p>You seem unaware that initiatives like Brunel's Dock, the state of the two canals, Aberdulais Falls, and, up until recently, Cefn Coed, as well as the rapidly disappearing Ivy Tower are shameful.</p>
<p>Neath centric</p>
<p>Again total failure to highlight opportunities in the Upper Afan Valley --- very disappointing. How is this possible considering SW Miners Museum, Glyncorrwg Mountain Biking etc.</p>
<p>It would be nice to see these area's develop and maybe introduce camping facilities so the local public could stay closer to home and spend thier money within their own communities instead of going to other area's that offer such opportunities</p>
<p>Just keep doing as well as you are currently.</p>
<p>Again, I agree to some extent BUT Port Talbot centre is hardly bustling and safe. Why isn't there a bus that goes into Margam Park instead of having to walk along a road? Why can't Porthcawl be accessed without going into Bridgend? Have you calculated the time it takes to get to Gnoll Park on public transport from PT bus station? Plenty of culture d and beauty to be enjoyed in the environs BUT only for car owners!! Is that the way ahead?</p>
<p>The area has to be made into a tourist destination.The obvious highlights are the parks, open spaces and coastline,but there is a wealth of history for visitors to explore</p>
<p>Port Talbot town and the Aberavon centre are a disgrace and new business needs to be encouraged</p>
<p>Some of the assets mentioned above have been neglected over the years. Local people take it for granted that Briton Ferry Brunel Dock is an important site locally, but not many engage with that place. If these places are to be truly important to us they need to be vibrant and used by the community. It is very disappointing that the authority's museum and art collection has not been on display for many years. I understand the authority owns some excellent art in its collection and there must be ways of displaying it to the community despite there not being an official gallery space.</p>
<p>Advertisement of free events in beautiful spaces is poor. Use social media/ads/influencers to promote</p>

<p>The views of visitors to this area remain 'bleak' in terms of the location and low numbers of quality hotels and restaurants as well as points of interest when staying for more than one night. Little in the way of Port Talbot being reanimated. More and more is being lost.</p>
<p>No mention of the Afan valley and what it has to offer - similarly the Swansea and Amman Valleys. No mention of the canals or growing street art</p>
<p>This doesn't mention Pontardawe or anywhere in the Swansea or Amman Valleys, nor does it mention Afan Forest Park - which is a fantastic asset for the county borough.</p>
<p>It is worrying that is what this consultation perceives Neath Port Talbot to be - "a nationally recognised destination with a reputation for high-quality and varied offer of arts, heritage and culture for visitors and residents." As someone who is a proud resident of Port Talbot, and who brings visitors from all over the UK and other countries here, I can assure it is not perceived as such. While Port Talbot has its fair share of local talent, particularly when it comes to acting and performance, the efforts by the local authority to provide high-quality and varied art is, sadly, lacking. Local efforts such as the numerous street art projects are not to a high standard and could be considered a lack of ambition, and even a degree of laziness, by the local authority to make this a destination for high-quality art. A better and more considered approach would be to invest in new and modern exhibition and display venues such as a local gallery, or even, perhaps a local, modernised arts centre - one that could serve as both an gallery and exhibition space, a local and independent cinema, creative hub and communal centre where artists can not only display their work but can also perform. A good, and successful example of such a venue would be the Chapter Arts centre in Cardiff. Port Talbot currently has a number of unused, and central properties that could be used in such a way.</p>
<p>No mention of Pontardawe.</p>
<p>The vision is directed as a community, which is an ideal for a vision.</p>
<p>One of the ideas put forward in an early meeting of the Culture and Heritage Forum was to make use of empty spaces within the town centres, and to turn them into popups / temporary venues for cultural groups to be able to showcase their work / temporary galleries would also be a great idea for use. This idea needs to be looked at further.</p>
<p>It seems many local businesses are struggling or closing.</p>
<p>Must showcase activity lead attractions. Cycle paths walks etc, not looking to the past</p>
<p>The 2040 Vision is missing! 2040 is in the future, and the first line for example mentioned NPT HAS BECOME.....not a vision for the year 2040, as it is still year 2023 at the moment.</p>
<p>Opportunities for all pupils of all ages to learn an instrument/sing/dance at school</p>
<p>This doesn't sound like a vision statement but about the past and where we are now.</p>
<p>Lowering the rents in the town centre would attract more visitors. Share the town's history and tourist attractions with University students at Swansea. Especially those in the Bay campus. It's a short bus ride to Neath and Port Talbot but it's not advertised or promoted to the students.</p>
<p>More community gardens/ allotments for local produce</p>
<p>Heritage assets need to be brought together to work strategically on promotion and investment</p>
<p>No restoration of the Brunel dock apart from the pump house which was done years ago. The dock area has not been a valued area and has seen no developments, apart for siting the recycling centre!! It is important to share information so that communities are aware of developments.</p>
<p>again develop Briton ferry</p>
<p>More attractions to the Upper Dulais valley is needed</p>

How can the destruction of our valleys attract tourism? Cefn Coed will possibly be an important gateway to the Dulais Valley and GCRE but if EDF's proposal goes ahead then who would want to visit the valley?
I agree that promoting visits from outside the area should be an important part of the vision. However, I went through a previous cycle of activity in promoting tourism in the 1980s and 1990s prior to local government reorganisation in 1996. There was a lot of activity the fruits of which are still visible on the ground, e.g. Gnoll Country Park but the economic impact in terms of employment was modest. Part of the longer term vision must surely centre around NPT inhabitants themselves. Children should grow up with knowledge of their surroundings, why things are as they are and an appreciation of the lived experience of previous generations. Adults should be prepared to engage with their communities, get out into the countryside and get more out of life by doing so. People often say locally "we don't know/appreciate what we've got". Our objective should be communities that do know and do appreciate what they've got.
With the exception of Cefn Coed the NPT valleys seem to be overlooked apart from a solar/wind/battery park that will benefit no one directly in the borough
Don't forget the valleys.
NPT is rich in people of achievement - they can be used, as Richard Burton is to some extent, or Dylan Thomas in Swansea.
Stop destroying our environment
When Neath /Port Talbot Council were deciding what to do with the Neath Model Railway Club at Cefn Coed there was no consultation with the members about its future
Why not have one membership pass for The Gnoll and Morgan Park?
Aberavon Beach
Motorhome stopovers utilising existing car parks would tap into the current uk holiday trend. CAMBRA is an organisation that would give all the advice needed.
You mention "two great historic parks - Gnoll and Margam" but Neath Port Talbot has THREE great historic parks! The third one, Jersey Park, is located in Briton Ferry! Jersey Park will be celebrating its centenary in 2025 and has a very important history. A stretch of the pathway in the park is a repurposed section of Brunel's funicular railway, going through a railway cutting and under a bridge built by Brunel. It is an extremely popular, well-used park within the community and it facilitates access to the wonderful walks in Briton Ferry's ancient woodlands. The park is underfunded and relies largely on a volunteer group of retired individuals to help maintain it. It requires a major injection of sustainable resources.
The emphasis again is on people only and not biodiversity, without which these parks etc become meaningless.
Major restorations or development have taken place at Margam Castle, Neath Abbey, Briton Ferry Brunel Dock, Aberdulais and Cefn Coed. These venues, as well as Port Talbot and Neath and Pontardawe town centres, have also been reanimated with ambitious programmes of events, significant public art commissions, new and growing creative businesses, and inclusive community projects. The benefits of sustained investment in Arts and Culture have been realised with an improvement in Well-being. New ways of working collaboratively Cultural activities are significantly improving people's health and wellbeing.
Find the money to enable Cefn Coed Museum to reopen
I think we need investment in places to stay in too to further boost tourism.

Disagree with pleasure boating at the Gnoll-what about the wildlife on the ponds?
Public parks
Once again Towncentric and Authority owned attractions. This misses the opportunity to rejuvenate the dying valleys. Very much more needs to be done "on the ground" in the community.
Pontardawe and the Swansea Valley is missing. Suggested text: "These venues, as well as Port Talbot and Neath and Pontardawe town centres, have also been reanimated with ambitious programmes of events, significant public art commissions, new and growing creative businesses, and inclusive community projects. Add a sentence: The benefits of sustained investment in Arts and Culture have been realised with an improvement in Well-being. New ways of working collaboratively have been invented and embraced by the public, private and voluntary sectors and there are passionate, committed groups
The numbers from when and two of tourists increasing.
Development of beach front, recognising industrial heritage and supporting/maintaining current world leading steel industry. age
Gellir gwneud llawer mwy i hyrwyddo hanes y Gnoll
Yn gyntaf oll, nid gweledigaeth sydd wedi ei rannu uchod ond datganiad a disgrifiad. Mae'n trafod beth sydd wedi digwydd yn hytrach na beth yw'r nod. Yn ail, mae'r ffocws ar gyfer hyrwyddo treftadaeth y sir i gyd ar ochr ddeheuol y sir, does dim cyfeirio at atyniadau neu gryfderau y wardiau gogleddol a chymoedd Tawe a Nedd o gwbl. Mae mwy i'r sir na Margam a threfi Port Talbot a Chastell-nedd! Nid yw'r 'weledigaeth' hon yn ysbrydoli o gwbl nac yn meithrin hyder y bydd diwylliant a threftadaeth y sir yn cael ei warchod, ei hyrwyddo a'i ddatblygu'n llwyddiannus.

Appendix E – Comments on Key Themes

Notes:

- These have been edited only to remove comments that might lead to individuals being identified.
- They have not been changed for grammar, spelling or other accuracy issues.
- All comments made have been included apart from those which said things similar to “nothing to add”.

Is there anything that you feel is missing from this section and/or which should be highlighted in the final strategy?
The Welsh traditional arts would be a perfect tool to celebrate our local assets alongside celebrating our language. Welsh traditional music is rooted in the landscape and it deeply tied to place. NPT is no exception - our songs celebrate events and places which are still relevant today.
NPTC until recently hardly made a bid in sustainable transport facilities opting to simply accept the core grants on offer. A reduction in the maintenance of pathways etc has seen many nice walks become unusable. Again we see lip service and box ticking but not a lot else. certainly no collaboration
The power of community and local scale action should be drawn out as a distinct theme. Not clear if this is support to be covered in the innovate section. Nature and wellbeing and active travel are blurred together. Nature and wellbeing only references the ability to get out and about to walk and cycle. This should be added to the active travel theme, which currently does not include the health and wellbeing benefits of non-motor travel. The nature theme should include clearer links to the nature and climate change emergency, and the importance of changing peoples relationship with access to nature, and encouraging responsible, positive behaviours around maintaining and enhancing nature. The strategy should capitalise on the strong relationship people have to their local place (natural and built), to encourage behaviours which will make communities more climate resilient.
The Roman and Norman contribution
Free Welsh lessons provided
The whole area needs to be cleared of rubbish and knot weed. Natural diversity can only do so much.
A lot of time and effort is being spent on developing active travel routes for people to walk, run, cycle but once these infrastructures are in place, they are not very well looked after. They are also often constructed with materials which are not sustainable and despite the routes being 'shared', they cause more conflict than anything else. Perhaps a way to reverse that would be to review how these routes are developed and start looking at how users want to use the space. Tarmac cycling routes are great when the weather is dry but they can be lethal when the leaves and twigs and broken glass that litter them are left in situ. There is no programme to make sure these are swept and kept from debris. Additionally, the culture of pedestrian vs cyclists also hasn't changed. Lack of courtesy from both sides causes tension and animosity. More needs to be done there. Finally, once again, these active travel routes also often come at the price of sacrificing nature for us to be able to navigate around. Who are we to say what is more important? Our immediate wellbeing or that of nature and future generations?

Don't understand why these are not in the vision? Green / sustainable is the future; it should be integral
Save our canals
The rich history of the area isn't common knowledge, it's not celebrated nearly enough.
Need to develop on road cycle paths linking all sites and make it safer to cycle around the borough
More of a focus on socially responsible and just development of the natural and cultural capital. Focus development on contemporary residents of NPT rather than just attracting tourists.
Pavements need to be for everyone, so we don't have to use cars.
Without radical improvement in public transport between the valleys all the areas that aren't on the coastal strip (Neath and Port Talbot) will remain isolated and neglected.
Increased cycling opportunities are important
More allotments, how to grow edibles at home. More waste verges turned into wild flower displays for bees, to involve residents, old and young.
Investment in sustainable transport will require changes in bus contracting, as large buses often run empty, bus companies do not have electric buses or smaller buses. A massive amount of work needs to be done to create a safe cycle network. The planning department need to be forced to only approve new build on brownfield, never on Greenfield sites, unless such developments can be shown to positively benefit the local environment.
Our cultural strategy will celebrate past innovators, interrogate and tell the more difficult parts of their stories, and inspire future, socially just, innovators. For 1,000s of years the people of Neath Port Talbot communicated in Welsh. We want to bring the beauty and richness of our place names, songs, poetry and more to both Welsh and English speakers through brilliant interpretation and signage and nation leading use of incidental Welsh. We want to continue to welcome and integrate new people, including of different faiths: our communities have been built through immigration for centuries.
Innovation - is something in itself but where there is innovation, there is also a response to it and consequences from it - that is also part of the story. Some of it is about great individuals, especially in the arts and sport, but some things would have been done anyway and it's the movement rather than the individual that are important. Nature and wellbeing - I would expand this to show a commitment to biodiversity and restoration of habitats (including microhabitats)
We want to continue to welcome and integrate new people, including of different faiths: our communities have been built through immigration for centuries.
Transport is poor we need to get that sorted asap.
There is an enormous potential for expansion of renewable energy generation in the county, and to improve energy efficiency in all the council's buildings and activities.
Neath Abbey Ironworks was the centre of innovation. There is no mention of Joseph Tregelles Price and his role in the Peace Movement. There is no mention of the Quakers, their Meeting House and their influence on the Industrial Heritage of this area.

Ulrich Fosse's ultramodern copper smelting was in the 16th century, not the 17th as you say. The most innovative place in Neath Port Talbot was Neath Abbey Ironworks: It was a cradle of iron shipbuilding, and built the first 1,000 ton iron sailing ship in the world, it built the first adhesion/rack drive steam locomotive. It was the first place in Wales to be lit by gas, and one of the first in the world. It made the rails for the Stockton to Darlington Railway. It introduced steam navigation into the Bristol Channel. It powered the Industrial Revolution and helped to make Wales the first Industrial nation.

As well as the emphasis on the Welsh ness of the area, there should be consideration given to welcoming new people who want to mnake their lives here.

Sometimes being able to get places quickly is necessary

How can you propose this to happen when you finger point to NRW, and they point wherever they can as to avoid culpability of the quality of our nature and waterways!? Offloading the problem and not taking responsibility for it - or not demanding the devolved powers to act to be able to uphold these ideological fantasies. More Cymraeg the better, where a shit excuse is better than none, but I still expect better and more for those in charge of public tax payers money.

Safer cycle and walking route from Neath to the Afan Valley is required. We cycle from Cimla. It's far too dangerous on the main road, and the old route past the Trecking centre is not too bad until Pontrhydyfen. Much of the path has eroded and it here are obstacles in place, preventing those less able to access the path up to the viaduct.

Why aren't we using the river as a power generator?

Afan forest is not natural. It's an industrial area. First the forest was cut down for sheep farming and coal mines, rail then it was replanted to produce wood. Now it's being cut down to be burned in a power plant. The problem with the language is how it is taught. My daughter is about to leave school with a hatred of the language because of her teacher. It needs to be a 'natural' aspect of life, not a curriculum subject. There is also some strange kind of 'superiority' to some welsh speakers in south Wales. We tend to get this in a professional capacity.

A wonderful natural asset in Drumau mountain, which overlooks so many local communities, is now threatened with being covered by a solar farm.

Neath centric

No reference to mining industry and it legacy !!!

Bus services to many residential areas are horrendous!

Again it comes down to transport to these area's and our local bus services truly need to be updated and reduced fares for the struggling community to visit and use these area's of beauty.

Since the removal of thousands of trees on the Dinas mountain the accessibility to some paths which were past walks are now not there. A regeneration of the mountain was promised and hopefully some strategy will be followed.

I think it's quite ridiculous to create a slogan for 'Unhurried Travel' trying to make something positive out of poor transport links!

While making the language visible in signage is important, there should be efforts made for the language to be heard and spoken. As part of Welsh Government's policy of reaching 1 Million Welsh speakers by 2050 the authority could actively support arts groups working in community settings through the medium of Welsh. There could be a theatre group for young people using Welsh, or a youth choir singing in Welsh. The authority should also commit to hosting the National Eisteddfod of Wales and use this commitment as a focus for promoting the language.

<p>Need for Government Departments to refocus on the assets of the area and return them to their former levels e.g. Natural Resources focussing on regeneration of the woodlands and repairing footpaths, drainage systems and promoting the assets of the area by not closing large areas for months on end.</p>
<p>I am not against the welsh language, but I don't speak welsh and don't want to - most people in the Borough are like this and this should not be overlooked.</p>
<p>Innovation There could be a mention of Alfred Russel Wallace who was one of those who developed the theory of evolution, not only was he a revolutionary mind in that field - he also wrote on social justice issues. Welsh to our bones There is enormous scope for use of Welsh to highlight a unique character and create a warm, welcoming sense of place. This could also assist in wider language promotion policies.</p>
<p>Again, these statements all tend to focus on what has gone before, and maintain that, rather than looking ahead and developing new, more modern and innovative culture - something that really could make Neath Port Talbot a real cultural and arts destination, and not sure another stop on a history tour of Wales (which is what these statements seem to be implying).</p>
<p>The power and wellbeing should be the future points highlighted as future planning is key to vision and culture change as previous pages mentioned.</p>
<p>Agree very strongly, especially regarding Welsh to our Bones. There are a number of areas within the borough with such interesting and diverse Welsh language histories, including dialects only spoken in those areas.</p>
<p>The people of NPT are also important - they are obviously part of this vision - but The borough and the world is their theme - for instance, a lad from Cwmafan fpunded Beijing University and helped to pacify the Boxer Rebellion. Brunel and Co. came in - but we also went out. This could bring in people from elsewhere to see their own roots.</p>
<p>Let's not be another Welsh valley looking back to the past, there is more to be celebrated than the heritage of coal. We have great scenery walks beaches, biggest sand dune area red kites wildlife and more. So we don't need to spend money on another coal museum.</p>
<p>Please refer to the Wellbeing for Future Generation Act 2015</p>
<p>'Wind and solar can transform npt future ' but also destroy the beauty and heritage of the countryside if npt continue to approve solar and windfarm developments</p>
<p>Council Members must share the same overall vision for the community as well as a commitment to a common mission - working together to build a better city for future generations.</p>
<p>There are other areas of beauty other than margan and afan Valley let's focus on those too</p>
<p>There is no need to destroy the countryside with more and more wind farms. There are several proposals for wind farms and solar farms however these will destroy habitats for wildlife and increased heavy traffic will destroy parts of the valley. There must be some alternative to solar and wind farms.</p>
<p>On shore wind is destroying NPT as revenues go back to the companies' country of origin!!! I am aware of Wales' 2040 policy but NPT is becoming a dumping ground for foreign onshore wind power. If the free port application is successful then the way forward is with off shore / tidal and hydro power.</p>

<p>I have got a serious reservation about the use of the words "Welsh to our bones". I appreciate that it is not the intention to say that Welshness is about ancestry but "to our bones" can, in my view, give that impression. In reality our current "Welshness" is partly constructed out of waves of immigration and adaptation; the Celts themselves were immigrants in their time. Welsh identity and, in this instance, local identity should be open to all who are interested and prepared to give their commitment.</p>
<p>The natural beauty of the Sarn Helen Roman Road and the historic St Illtyd's walk</p>
<p>We could do with better internal transport links - to join up sites like Margam. Neath Abbey, Aberdulais for instance, to provide a tour experience for visitors.</p>
<p>Stop foreign companies destroying our beautiful land and making profits</p>
<p>No to wind turbines/farms. The energy produced will not benefit the people of Crynant and will ruin our village.</p>
<p>The residents of Tonmawr are trying to protect access to their country walks in Pelenna and the preservation of Cwm Pelenna Colliery Ventilation Furnace and Cwm Pelenna Ventilation Stack (Cadw Grade II listed) from the proposed DNS Mynyff Fforch Dwm windfarm application .</p>
<p>Before money is spent on encouraging visitors, our town and surrounding road system needs to be cleared of rubbish and kept clear. It is an absolute disgrace and an embarrassment to the citizens of Neath. Travelling all over the country I have not encountered any town as bad as ours.</p>
<p>Regarding signage, our group have put forward the suggestion of signs celebrating Isengard Kingdom Brunel at each entrance to Briton Ferry, promoting our culture and heritage with words such as, "Welcome to Briton Ferry, a Brunel Town". The Director of the Brunel Institute at the SS Great Britain, Tim Bryan, on a recent visit to Briton Ferry, made the point that the name "Brunel" is a significant brand in itself, attracting the many admirers of a man who was voted the second greatest Briton after Winston Churchill. Presently, there is no celebration at all of Brunel's pivotal influence in the town.</p>
<p>The area is in danger of becoming surrounded by wind farms to the detriment of the environment and the beauty of our hills. Regarding solar power, I do not see the need to have solar farms in our countryside when these could be put on factory and warehouse roofs and also on new build housing etc. It is a great pity that the atrium of the Council offices in Baglan does not generate electricity for the building through the use of solar.</p>
<p>For 1,000s of years the people of Neath Port Talbot communicated in Welsh. We want to bring the beauty and richness of our place names, songs, poetry and more to both Welsh and English speakers through brilliant interpretation and signage and nation leading use of incidental Welsh. We want to continue to welcome and integrate new people, including of different faiths: our communities have been built through immigration for centuries.</p>
<p>wind and solar power can absolutely transform Neath Port Talbot's future in a positive way. The harm of burning dirty fuel here should be highlighted and discouraged.</p>
<p>Stop the Hirfynedd Energy park</p>
<p>Under the heading of culture I would have expected to see something more about the arts than just a recognition of Richard Burton - culture is also dynamic, the artistic activity and expression of ideas. The focus above is on the environment with no recognition of the cultures of choirs, silver bands, festivals etc.</p>
<p>How to get to Afan and Margam+ the Gnoll with out a car?????????????????????Or any where else in the area?</p>

<p>Baglan Bay Power station operation until green alternatives take over.</p>
<p>SIGNPOSTING !! Today there are no signs for afan forest park on the "A" or "M" roads. In France, in every department, they are proud of the distinctive uniqueness which is evident by road signs heralding you entering their area. Nothing on the M4 for AFAN.</p>
<p>Wind and Solar power farms will destroy the natural environment so it is in direct conflict with the vision of preserving natural beauty for tourism.</p>
<p>Benefits of Arts to Nature and Wellbeing.</p>
<p>The number of wind turbines planned for the Bryn windfarm will have a negative impact on our area. They are very noisy.</p>
<p>Unhurried travel is great unless you are in a hurry! Public transport needs to be improved and upgraded.</p>
<p>Cytuno'n gryf iawn â hyrwyddo treftadaeth ieithyddol. Ar bwynt arall, mae angen gwella iechyd er mwyn i bobl allu manteisio ar deithio gwyrdd. Nid pawb all gerdded a seiclo.</p>
<p>Arloesedd - mae digon o ffigurau a phrosiectau heddiw y dylid rhoi sylw iddyn nhw yn hytrach nac ystyried arloesedd yn rywbeth hanesyddol. Dylid cael cyd-bwysedd rhwng y ddoe a'r heddiw a sut mae datblygiadau cyfredol yn y sir am newid y byd yfory. Mae digon o brosiectau gwyrdd yn digwydd yn yr ardal trwy fentrau cymunedol, arloesol, a hefyd trwy brosiectau arian mawr Prifysgol Abertawe. Natur a llesiant - Unwaith eto mae'r ffocws ar ochr ddeheuol y sir - mae gan Gwm Tawe ei llwybrau seiclo, ei choedwigoedd a'i rhaedrau hefyd y dylid eu hamlygu! Mae angen mwy na defnydd o arwyddion neu 'Gymraeg achlysurol' i gyfleu ein traddodad Cymraeg! Mae angen sicrhau dwyieithrwydd ym mhopeth diwylliannol mae'r sir yn ei hyrwyddo. Hefyd, nid darparu cyfieithiadau Cymraeg a Saesneg ochr yn ochr yn slafaid ond darparu Cymraeg sy'n siarad yn awthentig â'r gynulleidfa iaith Gymraeg. Mae angen cofio hefyd fod y cynnwys i drafod y Gymraeg a'i hanes o fewn yr atyniad dan sylw e.e. sut y cyfrannod y Gymraeg at ddatblygiad Mynachlog Nedd, neu beth oedd ei rhan o fewn y byd diwydiannol. Mae angen adlewyrchu hanes y Gymraeg yn y sir.</p>

Appendix F – Comments on Outcomes Priorities

Notes:

- These have been edited only to remove comments that might lead to individuals being identified.
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- All comments made have been included apart from those which said things similar to "nothing to add".

<p>Is there anything that you feel is missing from this list and/or which should be highlighted as a priority outcome in the final strategy?</p>
<p>It seems rather simplified to rate these individually. These outcomes all support each other and should be portrayed as such.</p>
<p>I personally have approached the local authority on multiple occasions with ideas that would and should have been used, but on every occasion have been met with indifference or lip service/timewasting. The local authority have absolutely no interest in working with local businesses, they prefer to use businesses outside of Wales or the borough. Many of my ideas have sadly been implemented in areas outside of Wales within the UK, and including the USA. The level of arrogance and self worth shown by council employees and elected members is astonishing.</p>
<p>This is the first time that "sustainability" is mentioned. Why isn't this drawn out more clearly in the previous sections? Volunteering- why is this only referring to volunteer networks? Other networks are also important, such as local business networks. All these are important priorities and all are interlinked. Too simplistic to rank 1 to 8.</p>
<p>Maybe developing a Welsh language/cultural centre like Canolfan Soar in Merthyr Tydfil</p>
<p>All are Priority - Jobs in particular. We buy in products, food from out of country with no understanding of where they are from. There are amazing good quality local products that can be used to support the community. For example - a café/ Restaurant in the area should use - local Art, Local food produce , Local Artist to sing and perform etc</p>
<p>Affordable hire costs for small groups.</p>
<p>Culture = wellbeing !</p>
<p>Why not make all the unemployed wasters volunteer at the parks and heritage sites etc</p>
<p>If the culture, heritage etc is supported then the jobs and tourism will follow automatically</p>
<p>Volunteering is grossly undersupported (as a heritage professional who has spent years volunteering in the museums of NPT). It should be a higher priority to invest in sustainable job creation, investing in developing talents and expertise within the community</p>
<p>Encouraging local people to feel proud of their heritage and where they live. To take a pride in the area.</p>
<p>Supporting businesses to grow and maximise opportunities linked to these potential growth areas.</p>

Transitioning to an environmentally sustainable society
Job Creation - creating high quality employment Sustainability to include investment in the arts infrastructure, including Pontardawe Arts Centre. Volunteering is low to minimise risk of displacing paid roles. All in Q13 overlap, mutually dependent - vs competing priorities.
Job Creation - creating high quality employment Sustainability to include investment in the arts infrastructure, including Pontardawe Arts Centre. Volunteering is low to minimise risk of displacing paid roles. All in Q13 overlap, mutually dependent - vs competing priorities.
Education about the importance of maintaining our local heritage for future generations.
Many of the above, such as social impact, lead to job creation. Preserving for future generations is vital.
While it is good to get people involved with opportunities for volunteering, it is also essential that there are well-paid and high quality jobs. It is also important that there is investment in the buildings so that there are good facilities throughout the area.
Safety - my children don't feel safe going to Neath town and this is not acceptable, due to the anti social behaviour there
You should be investing in local venues for live music, you should invest in access to learn these given arts or for artists/performers to be able to hand down this knowledge, and investing in culture and heritage - whilst digitising experiences to maintain and make more accessible to those who can't physically do or attend these events.
Would have liked to have rated all of the above as 1
The image needs to be focused on something clearer. It's a bit bland at the moment.
Visit our town centre and Station road to see how run down and depressing the area has become, it is putting people off going there where we should be trying to build the area and encourage growth.
I would say that these are all high priority. ALL areas of improvement to enhance the local culture/heritage/ wellbeing are necessary and would be very welcome so we could appreciate what we have around us. Not forgetting of course the local council's involvement with street cleaning which is INCREDIBLY poor.
I think the parking fee is way too expensive. Should allow a modest fee for 1-2 hours. Older people need transport and just want a stroll around the pond. Thank you.
improving transport links
quite challenging to prioritise as they can be mutually dependant and...? (can't read note)
places to stay - good hotels wales future is in tourism, we need tourist info hubs back. more car parking (glynn neath/waterfalls. better transport - buses/trains - not just for students in swansea welcoming town centre in neath, not empty shops. give people help to start up businesses in middle of town.
protection of free services like the library
make sure there is proper infrastructure to ensure it doesn't become out of balance with what community can cope with need volunteer coordinators - can't rely on volunteers without education or financial aid innovative new stories to be told, develop sustainable action plan drawing on lessons of the past climbing centres/horse riding needed.

Introduce a better charging system at Margam Park to increase revenues. The £5 charge per car is not enough and many visitors avoid paying by walking in an parking elsewhere. This needs to be looked at so that Margam Park is able to raise more money.
All of these are essential priority areas, and should not be in competition.
As stated in previous comments, I feel there should be a much stronger focus on developing and nurturing local artists and Welsh talent - notably in art, photography, film, music and performance; and that there should be a much stronger focus on providing central, easily accessible venues for such artists and creative talent to showcase their work and share a creative, communal space where art and creativity is encouraged, celebrated and shared. Such venues could be, as mentioned, local art galleries and studios, an independent cinema (there are funding opportunities and help available for this from the National Lottery and British Film Institute), or a central creative arts hub that combines all of these aspects, while also acting a bar and restaurant that all walks of the community can enjoy and benefit from. Similarly, I feel there should be a stronger focus on local events - such as art and photography exhibitions, film festivals and literary festivals, and spoken word and live music events.
culture changes that are to happen for the local environment
I am sorry not to have ranked these in order, but I see them as interdependent - for instance, more tourism means more jobs, more opportunities for volunteering ...
Involve younger people in decision making.
collaborative working and long-term thinking and decision making instead of quick fixes, preventative measures etc (please refer to wellbeing for Future generation Act 2015)
Environmental imp for future projects
A better way to establish priorities is to put rank ordering aside and return to first principles of objectives, resources, and timing.
pay people do not rely on elderly volunteers to do some jobs
I feel the various possibilities are too intertwined to abk sensibly.
Stop welsh government with onshore wind
The preservation of heritage assets before they are lost for future generations. They tell the story of our heritage and industrial past and should be protected.
Containing two of the most deprived wards in Wales, Briton Ferry has been totally neglected. We believe that the restoration of Brunel's Floating Dock in Briton Ferry would tick all eight of the above points, preserving the past and driving the economy and jobs of the future.
The priority must be protecting our open spaces, particularly the uplands from industrial scale wind and solar farms.
Job Creation - creating high quality employmentSustainability to include investment in the arts infrastructure, including Pontardawe Arts Centre. Volunteering is low to minimise risk of displacing paid roles.
What is the purpose of ranking these? I think that listing these in order of importance is quite unhelpful! They are all obviously important; in some cases you to put investment in place before other activities can can be achieved. Inherent in a strategy is an understanding of how one of these impacts the others - no one will volunteers is there is nothing to volunteer for, good quality events and cultural sites will attract tourists (but better promotion might become a priority)
Public transport to all these places
Very difficult to rank above as all equally important in my opinion

Teach the poor people of port talbot Welsh for free as part of the Strategy.

Supporting local artists/theatre groups

Gwella mynediad pobl at yr iaith Gymraeg a'i diwylliant a'i threftadaeth - mae'n cael cyffwrdd â ac yn cael effaith ar wella addysg, lles pobl, enw da y celfyddydau, ehangu mynediad, denu mwy o bobl ac arian i'r ardal.

Appendix G – Comments on Cultural Priorities

Notes:

- These have been edited only to remove comments that might lead to individuals being identified.
- They have not been changed for grammar, spelling or other accuracy issues.
- All comments made have been included apart from those which said things similar to “nothing to add”.

<p>Is there anything that you feel is missing from this list and/or which should be highlighted as a priority for support and development in the final strategy?</p>
<p>Too simplistic to rank 1 to 15. The key decision is whether to invest in enhancing current strengths, or those areas which have minimal traction (like museums and galleries). The strategy should focus on supporting bottom up collaborative action at the local community scale, for example opportunities and education to support/inspire local sports and visual and performing arts. Larger scale county wide activities, like festivals at margam, libraries, leisure centres and parks and public spaces are already the responsibility of the council and should be part of its corporate strategy.</p>
<p>I don't like this question one bit. Many of the areas you list overlap with others on the list. Not going to answer this one.</p>
<p>All above are priority</p>
<p>Cefn coed colliery needs to be saved</p>
<p>Too long a list to make meaningful choices. Does are equally important</p>
<p>Funding needs to be directed to Pontardawe. Neath and Port Talbot seem to have better facilities. The residents of Pontardawe deserve a nice swimming pool and money needs to be available for the upkeep and development of Pontardawe Arts Centre.</p>
<p>Although i ranked the above as requested the need for ranking is artificial , many of the areas are equally important. The list is well balanced the request for ranking is not.</p>
<p>We need a museum of Neath to display all the wonderful artefacts we have. Cefn Coed museum should have more investment in it.</p>
<p>sorry gave up halfway thru.....survey fatigue and i honestly thought it was about culture in NPT but it seems to be about all public facilites and aims and objectives of welsh govt</p>
<p>It was extremely difficult to prioritise this list, because they are all priorities in my opinion.</p>
<p>All rest are equal. All impact on one another and can be complementary vs competing priorities.</p>
<p>Difficult to rank some of these</p>
<p>All rest are equal. All impact on one another and can be complementary vs competing priorities.</p>
<p>I think all of the above are equal to each other for support!</p>
<p>I don't think it is possible to rank these as they are inter-dependent - ie music and musicians need venues, audiences and education... which can be provided through events and festivals, community arts event ... It's more important to consider how these things and inter-dependent and complementary, rather than being in competition with each other.</p>

Live comedy
The inclusion and development of heritage assets
TL DR - I'm not deciding your policies for you, that's for you to decide and for us to vote you into/out of power for.. doesn't matter what I say, you'll give jobs to the boys as per usual.
Safe walking and cycling routes across the borough.
Again, all should be 1
The general health of the population here is very poor. Activity and exercise need to woven into the fabric of life here.
More affordable events for all with access to suitable transport
Safe public transport to access all these facilities.
Parks - skateparks/bike pump tracks (Rhos Park - really run down). An idea for a traffic park for children - set out like a road with traffic lights etc for them to ride bikes on and learn how to ride on the road. Should be a bike shed to BORROW (not hire) bikes and helmets. Not forgetting balance bikes for the toddlers. Not enough free low-effort every day activities for them.
Scoring in this manner is not eally reflecting one's views. Emphasis needs to be placed to the same degree on more than one topic and this scoring system does not allow for it.
More things for children and youths
physical and physiological improvement to ? access to the countryside and open spaces development of the historic canal environment and infrastructure
Need a social club for older people to dance and meet friends. Neathg's working man club closed and is a great loss.
creative arts, radio broadcasting, filming training etc
mutually dependent
all very important, but funding seems main issue
renewable energy
nature connection and wellbeing an assett. ecosystem service acknowledged - adaptive capacity plans - recognition of the need to become increasingly sustainable. horse riding, climbing centre, eden project minature partnerships
people come to wales for nature place emphasis on environment so people leave feeling refreshed from their stay so they come back. maintain reputation of beauty and wildlife
adventure/risk sports climbing/surfing/sauna spa waterfall
i would like to see the culture strategy ? wildlife lessons as an opportunity. local artists / indistrual heritage creative products for sale economic development team scope existing or future opportunities
withous education and jobs what use are these questions? top priority
Al important, difficult to rank remaining.
The ones I have ticked are those that are important to me, but that is not to say that I do not recognise the importance of the others.Prioritising depends to a considerable extent on what is available at the time.
Wildlife protection.

The canals, disused railway lines, public transport, roads and pavements, ease of access to nature/landscape/rivers/lakes/coast, sports facilities,all the services and facilities for people to live in NPT and not decide to move to other places with better culture.
Parking at parks and public spaces (e.g. Gnock and Margam) should be way cheaper.
objective must be successfully accomplished within a specified amount of time, no matter what.
public free parking
Again I find it difficult to rank these - they are too connected.
Campsites / motorhome aires
Again the natural world which is such an important part of our heritage and culture is mentioned only as parks and public spaces.
All rest are equal. All impact on one another and can be complementary vs competing priorities.
Neath town centre has a reputation for violence. A cafe / arts culture is dead in the water unless this is addressed.
I haven't prioritised venues, as several have been upgraded in recent years.
Again I have found ranking to be very difficult! All have their place and are important in different ways
No. Just bear in mind Swansea has a new stadium for music. We need to offer something different to attract people. I think museums, parks and spaces etc, are a good way to go especially with the new activity development up a fan. People from Cardiff and city's can come and get away from the stadiums and music and enjoy the outdoors, it would still makes jobs for local people, and tackle the obesity crisis. Residents can access the facilities for free or discounted (same as Cardiff Castle gives a 'key' to Cardiff residents) we are poor deprived community,
Diogelu treftadaeth ieithyddol a'r Gymraeg.
Mae'n anodd gwahaniaethu rhwng blaenoriaethu hanes a diwylliant celfyddydol heddiw, ond bydden i'n dymunod gweld y Sir yn gwarchod yr hanes a'r dreftadaeth sydd yn parhau i fodoli gan hefyd hyrwyddo diwylliant celfyddydol a chreadigol yn y sir.

