

Public Document Pack



County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Wednesday, 23 November 2022

Notice of meeting

County Council

**Thursday, 1st December, 2022 at 2.00 pm,
Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA**

AGENDA

Prayers will be said prior to the Council meeting at 1.50pm. All members are welcome to join the Chair for prayers should they wish to do.

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for absence	
2.	Minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2022	1 - 10
3.	Declarations of interest	
4.	Public Questions	
5.	Chair's Announcement	11 - 12
6.	Council Reports:	
6.1.	GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22	13 - 18
6.2.	REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (RLDP) PREFERRED STRATEGY	19 - 370
6.3.	CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY	371 - 462
7.	Motions to Council:	
7.1.	Submitted by County Councillor Penny Jones This Council: Notes the longstanding concerns about road safety between the Raglan A40	

roundabout and the A40/A449 interchange.

Agrees that the appropriate cabinet member will write to the Welsh Government to urge Ministers to expedite a fully funded road safety study in 2023/24 and commit to delivering any recommended road safety improvements without delay.

7.2. Submitted by County Councillor Jackie Strong

MCC notes the threat to the continued operation of the Main Post Office in Caldicot due to the surrender of the lease by the Morrisons supermarket company which currently hosts the post office business.

MCC understands the importance of maintaining a Main Post Office service in Caldicot. It welcomes the work already undertaken to protect this service and commits itself to taking steps to support the continuation of this service in the town.

7.3. Submitted by County Councillor Richard John

This Council:

Has the utmost respect for the work of our partners in Gwent Police in keeping our communities safe.

Expresses shock and dismay at media reports alleging a culture of misogyny, racism, homophobia, and corruption in the Force.

Resolves to write to Gwent's Police & Crime Commissioner to express this Council's alarm and request that he attend a Monmouthshire select committee to address members' concerns.

8. Members Questions

8.1. From County Councillor Paul Pavia to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on the progress the Council is making to develop the WelTag Stage 3 business case for the Chepstow Bypass?

8.2. From County Councillor Paul Pavia to County Councillor Martyn Groucutt, Cabinet Member for Education

Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on the administration's plans to further develop early years provision in Chepstow?

8.3. From County Councillor Christopher Edwards to County Councillor Martyn Groucutt, Cabinet Member for Education

Could the Cabinet Member for Education inform council of any proposed future investment that the current administration intends to make in Chepstow School while we await progress with the 21st Century Schools programme?

8.4. From County Councillor Christopher Edwards to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

9.	Could the cabinet member inform council of progress with the grant funding bid to Welsh Government in 2022/23 for a safer routes in communities scheme for road safety improvement works for St Lawrence Road (between Kingsmark Lane and Racecourse roundabout), Chepstow. Next meeting - 19th January 2023	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Laura Wright	Grofield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Tony Kear	Llanbadoc & Usk;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Catrin Maby	Drybridge;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jan Butler	Goetre Fawr;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Ian Chandler	Llantilio Crossenny;	Green Party
County Councillor Sara Burch	Cantref;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
County Councillor Alistair Neill	Gobion Fawr;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Su McConnel	Croesonen;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Mary Ann Brocklesby	Llanelly Hill;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
County Councillor Fay Bromfield	Llangybi Fawr;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Jane Lucas	Osbaston;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Emma Bryn	Wyesham;	Independent Group
County Councillor Peter Strong	Rogiet;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Meirion Howells	Llanbadoc & Usk;	Independent Group
County Councillor Paul Griffiths	Chepstow Castle & Larkfield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jackie Strong	Caldicot Cross;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Rachel Catherine Garrick	Caldicot Castle;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
County Councillor Maria Stevens	Severn;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Steven Garratt	Overmonnow;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Angela Sandles	Magor East with Undy;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Ben Callard	Llanfoist & Govilon;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor John Crook	Magor East with Undy;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Tomos Dafydd Davies	Llanfoist & Govilon;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Dale Rooke	Chepstow Castle & Larkfield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Catherine Fookes	Town;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Sue Riley	Bulwark and Thornwell;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jayne McKenna	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Jill Bond	West End;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Louise Brown	Shirenewton;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Lisa Dymock	Portskewett;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Tony Easson	Dewstow;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Christopher Edwards	St. Kingsmark;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Martyn Groucutt	Lansdown;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Simon Howarth	Llanelly Hill;	Independent Group
County Councillor Richard John	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor David Jones	Crucorney;	Independent Group
County Councillor Penny Jones	Raglan;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Malcolm Lane	Mardy;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Phil Murphy	Caerwent;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Paul Pavia	Mount Pleasant;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Maureen Powell	Pen Y Fal;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Frances Taylor	Magor West;	Independent Group
County Councillor Tudor Thomas	Park;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Armand Watts	Bulwark and Thornwell;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

A copy of this agenda and relevant reports can be made available to members of the public attending a meeting by requesting a copy from Democratic Services on 01633 644219. Please note that we must receive 24 hours notice prior to the meeting in order to provide you with a hard copy of this agenda.

Watch this meeting online

This meeting can be viewed online either live or following the meeting by visiting www.monmouthshire.gov.uk or by visiting our Youtube page by searching MonmouthshireCC.

Welsh Language

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu cyfraniadau gan aelodau'r cyhoedd trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg.
Gofynnwn yn barchus i chi roi rhybudd digonol i ni er mwyn darparu ar gyfer eich anghenion
The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English.
We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Objectives we are working towards

- Giving people the best possible start in life
- A thriving and connected county
- Maximise the Potential of the natural and built environment
- Lifelong well-being
- A future focused council

Our Values

Openness. We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

Fairness. We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

Flexibility. We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

Teamwork. We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

Kindness: We will show kindness to all those we work with putting the importance of relationships and the connections we have with one another at the heart of all interactions.

This page is intentionally left blank

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of County Council held
at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Thursday, 27th October, 2022 at 2.00 pm**

PRESENT: County Councillor Laura Wright (Chair)
County Councillor Ann Webb (Vice Chair)

County Councillors: Tony Kear, Catrin Maby, Jan Butler,
Ian Chandler, Sara Burch, Alistair Neill, Su McConnel,
Mary Ann Brocklesby, Fay Bromfield, Jane Lucas, Emma Bryn,
Peter Strong, Paul Griffiths, Jackie Strong, Rachel Garrick,
Steven Garratt, Angela Sandles, Ben Callard, John Crook,
Tomos Davies, Dale Rooke, Catherine Fookes, Sue Riley,
Jayne McKenna, Jill Bond, Louise Brown, Lisa Dymock,
Tony Easson, Christopher Edwards, Martyn Groucutt,
Simon Howarth, Richard John, David Jones, Penny Jones,
Malcolm Lane, Phil Murphy, Paul Pavia, Maureen Powell,
Frances Taylor, Tudor Thomas, Armand Watts and Rachel Buckler

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Matt Phillips	Chief Officer People and Governance and Monitoring Officer
Paul Matthews	Chief Executive
Peter Davies	Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer, Resources
Jane Rodgers	Chief Officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health
Will McLean	Chief Officer for Children and Young People
Nicola Perry	Senior Democracy Officer
Frances O'Brien	Chief Officer, Communities and Place
Matthew Gatehouse	Head of Policy and Governance
Kelly Turner	Child Protection Co-Ordinator

APOLOGIES:

County Councillors Meirion Howells and Maria Stevens

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2022 were approved with the following amendments:

- Typographical error on page 4 – should read *Seconded by County Councillor Frances Taylor*.
- Page 5 - *County Councillor Frances Taylor agreed to the amendment proposed by County Councillor Rachel Garrick and asked that County Councillor Fay Bromfield's suggestion be put forward.*
- Page 4 – the reflective nature refers to the debate rather than the report, regarding Westminster and Welsh Governments.

2. Declarations of interest

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Thursday, 27th October, 2022 at 2.00 pm

County Councillor Paul Pavia declared a non-prejudicial interest in relation to item 6.3, as an employee of Practice Solutions Limited.

3. Public Questions

None.

4. Chair's Announcement

The Chair welcomed recently elected, County Councillor Rachel Buckler to the meeting.

5. Council Reports:

6. COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE PLAN

The Leader presented the report to seek approval of a new Community and Corporate Plan that sets the direction for the council and county of Monmouthshire, articulating the authority's purpose, principles and priorities alongside some of the steps we will take to deliver these.

Clarity was sought around this being an initial plan and the dates of a new version to be published.

The Leader of the Opposition considered the plan to be disappointing and lacking in detail and substance. He felt that with no definitive actions in the plan there would be no opportunity to be held to account or scrutinised.

County Councillor Phil Murphy stated that MCC receive the lowest level of grant funding in Wales, which is based on Welsh Government formula.

There were concerns around areas not included in the plan and suggestion was made that consideration should be taken to developing proposals around public transport.

A question was raised about housing provision and given the current financial challenges what actions will be taken to ensure MCC follow through on their commitment to building affordable homes.

The Cabinet Member for Education endorsed the plan and stated that what has been put forward is a sign of realism and would seek to transform the lives of people neglected by the previous administration.

It was expressed that a corporate plan should contain detailed proposals for getting things done.

Scrutiny was referred to as being an essential function for council and residents, which the MCC website quotes as being the function to scrutinise performance and delivery of the corporate objectives outlined in the corporate plan. It was thought that these objectives were not clearly defined by the administration.

County Councillor Frances Taylor expressed that the recommendations in the report do not make reference to this being an interim plan and didn't consider it responsible to endorse the plan with the lack of substance. County Councillor Taylor proposed an amendment:

That this Council agree to bring a revised more detailed and robust Community and Corporate plan containing measures and targets back to the December meeting of Council.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Thursday, 27th October, 2022 at 2.00 pm

The proposed amendment to replace recommendations 2.1 and 2.2.

Seconded by County Councillor Simon Howarth

Upon being put to a vote the amendment was accepted and debate ensued.

The Cabinet Member for Resources explained the strategic document explains a change of approach and direction, and that large changes will not occur immediately. She continued to explain that the administration has worked with member colleagues on the content of the plan and intend to continue to collaborate going forward.

It was reiterated that people need stability and some certainty around Council's priorities.

It was suggested that to bring the plan to December Council would put a lot of pressures on officers, and maybe January would be more suitable.

A vote was undertaken to move to the vote and was defeated.

Debate ensued.

The Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Economy proposed a further amendment:

That this Council agree to bring a revised more detailed and robust Community and Corporate plan containing measures and targets back to the January meeting of Council.

Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the amendment.

The Cabinet Member of Inclusive and Active Communities referred to a previous comment on housing and explained that the work was well underway, and she is working with officers on plans to reduce homelessness. She added they would be working with partners and neighbouring authorities and welcomed the opportunity to come back with more detail.

Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the report with the amended recommendation:

That this Council agree to bring a revised more detailed and robust Community and Corporate plan containing measures and targets back to the January meeting of Council.

7. RESPONSE TO URGENT NEED FOR HOUSING ACCOMMODATION

Withdrawn.

8. SOCIAL CARE, SAFEGUARDING & HEALTH ANNUAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2021/22

Cllr Chandler left the meeting at 16:30

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Thursday, 27th October, 2022 at 2.00 pm

The Chief Officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health presented her Annual Report 2021/22.

The aims within the report included:

- To evaluate progress against our social care priorities
- To inform Members and residents about the effectiveness of social care and health in Monmouthshire and identify key risks and challenges.
- To inform Members and residents about the progress made towards meeting the standards set out in SSWBA
- To set out actions and priorities for 2022 – 2023

The report was subject to scrutiny on 11th October 2022 via a Joint People / Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee.

The workforce was commended for their work through the pandemic.

The detailed report was thought to show examples of good practices, but difficulties within the sector were recognised, notably unmet care hours

The Chief Officer explained that through their commitment to preventative approaches it was hoped that we would see a decline in number of care hours. Such approaches include offering different ways of people coming into the workforce and how we work with external providers on smaller patch-based approaches.

The Deputy Chief Executive, as board chair, explained that the build at Crick Road is progressing well and he would look to make contact with relevant partners to arrange a visit for members.

It was confirmed that the refurbishment of the respite centre at Herbert Road is on track.

With regards to a query around agency staff we heard that the current number employed is 13, predominantly within Children's Services. In terms of the overall workforce it is a relatively small proportion.

Officers are at early stage discussions with overseas recruitment.

Remuneration for carers recently extended mileage allowance and changed from monthly to weekly.

Suggestion was made that discussions be held with young careers to identify if they wish to go on to develop a career in caring.

With regard to support for Ukrainian families officers work closely with the partnership Team, who have stood up the response to the Ukrainian families.

The Chief Officer agreed to provide further information regarding the Memory Clinic

Council resolved to accept the recommendations:

That Council endorses the report.

That Council tasks the Chief Officer of Social Care, Safeguarding and Health to maintain focus on the priority actions as set out in the concluding section of the report.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of County Council held
at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Thursday, 27th October, 2022 at 2.00 pm**

9. SAFEGUARDING EVALUATION REPORT April 2021 - March 2022

The Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health Services presented the report to evaluate the progress of Monmouthshire County Council's key safeguarding priorities during 2021 / 2022, highlighting progress, identifying risks and setting out actions and priorities for 2022 - 2023. The report looked to inform Members about the effectiveness of safeguarding in Monmouthshire and the work that is in progress to support the Council's aims in protecting children and adults at risk from harm and abuse. The report also sought to inform Members about the progress made towards meeting the standards in the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Policy approved by Council in July 2017, amended July 2022.

County Councillor Penny Jones welcome the higher self-assessment grades, recognising the work of colleagues. She urged people to recognise perfection won't always be attained but we can always strive for it.

It was noted that the Probation Service were not included in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub. The Safeguarding Service Manager confirmed that the Probation Service are involved virtually rather than physically, and they communicate well where a case involves probation.

Council resolved to accept the recommendations:

That Council endorses the safeguarding evaluation report for April 2021 – March 2022.

That Council tasks the Chief Officer of Social Care, Safeguarding and Health together with members of the Whole Authority Safeguarding Group to implement the safeguarding actions as set out in current activity plan (2022 – 2023) at appendix 3.

10. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODY - ANEURIN BEVAN COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

To appoint a councillor to represent the authority on the Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council (ABCHC)

At the AGM in May 2022, Councillors were appointed by full council to represent the authority on a wide range of outside bodies. At that time, County Councillor Alistair Neill was appointed to represent the Council on ABCHC, however due to a change in personal circumstances he is no longer able to continue with the appointment due to a conflict of interests. In consultation with the political group leaders of the Council, it has been agreed that a like for like conservative party councillor can be appointed to fill the vacancy and the conservative group have nominated County Councillor Jan Butler to fill the vacancy.

Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the recommendation:

That Council approve the appointment of County Councillor Jan Butler to the position.

11. Motions to Council:

12. Submitted by County Councillor Jayne McKenna

Further to this Council's declaration in September about Non-Domestic Rates, this Council:

- *Recognises the perfect storm of challenges facing town centre businesses in Monmouthshire this winter.*
- *Calls on the administration to consider steps to encourage shopping local in the run up to Christmas 2022, including free parking and free public transport at weekends*

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Thursday, 27th October, 2022 at 2.00 pm

Due to a recent announcement by the administration that there would be free bus travel and parking on weekends during December, County Councillor Jayne McKenna requested that the motion be withdrawn.

Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the withdrawal

County Councillor Richard John was invited to submit an emergency motion:

This Council:

Supports the proposal of the Boundary Commission for Wales of a Monmouthshire parliamentary constituency that is coterminous with the local authority.

County Councillor Paul Griffiths proposed an amendment that:

This Council:

*Supports the proposal of the Boundary Commission for Wales of a Monmouthshire parliamentary constituency that is coterminous with the local authority **and regrets the decision the proposal by the boundary commission to reduce the number of parliamentary constituencies in wales***

County Councillor Ben Callard seconded the amendment.

County Councillor John expressed disappointment at the amendment, considering it unrelated to the functions of Council, and unrelated to the consultation with which he wishes Council to engage.

There was suggestion that the amendment gives power to the Welsh voice and not supporting the amendment would result in Wales losing even more representation in the UK.

Upon being put to a vote the amendment was carried and debate on the substantive motion ensued.

Upon being put to a vote the substantive motion was carried.

13. Members Questions

14. From County Councillor Jan Butler to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

What representations has the administration made to Welsh Government about road safety on the A4042?

The Cabinet Member thanked County Councillor Butler and expressed gratitude to residents highlighting the safety issues on the A4042. She explained that she is in conversation with Goytre Fawr Community Council who have collated evidence indicating that the criteria have been met for a safe crossing point in their area. It is now on a waiting list for the programme with Welsh Government as trunk roads are not the direct responsibility of this Council. The Cabinet Member has written to WG to support their case.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Thursday, 27th October, 2022 at 2.00 pm

As a supplementary County Councillor Butler sought the support of Council to force the hands of WG, and asked Cabinet to look at this more closely and to press WG and SEWTRA to act more quickly.

In response the Cabinet Member explained that she would continue to be in contact with the Community Council and support them in their efforts.

15. From County Councillor Paul Pavia to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

Will the Cabinet Member make a statement regarding a county-wide review of Council controlled car parks?

The Cabinet Member explained that the planned review of car parking was deferred by the previous administration, but it is the intention that such a review will take place early in this administration, and officers intend to start a review early 2023.

As a supplementary, County Councillor Pavia recognised the delay in the review due to the pandemic and asked if the Cabinet Member would commit to reviewing the car park arrangements over the next calendar year in 2023.

County Councillor Maby agreed and added that they would look at wider issues around sustainability and affordability, ensuring that town centres are supported.

16. From County Councillor Paul Pavia to County Councillor Rachel Garrick, Cabinet Member for Resources

What assessment has the Cabinet Member made regarding the impact of energy price rises on school budgets this year?

The Cabinet Member responded that there are provisions in the 22/23 budget, so there is a level of protection from price rises for purchases ahead of the 22/23 financial year. Whilst UK Government has brought in energy price caps, that is now extended to businesses, government departments and schools, until the end of this financial year this will not benefit schools as a result of the forward purchasing of our energy contracts.

A £446k pressure in the 22/23 budget represents forecasts undertaken as part of the budget setting process of energy costs for the year. This was calculated on a site by site basis and all schools have received their share of funding and is reflected in the forthcoming month 6 forecast.

As a supplementary County Councillor Pavia asked what the administration is doing in the short term to help our schools around the other core mitigations, namely improving energy procurement and encouraging energy reduction.

The Cabinet Member explained that the Month 4 Outturn Report showed that forecasts are showing that several schools will go into deficit by year end. Officers are working with individual officers of each school to identify savings, at energy levels and beyond.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Thursday, 27th October, 2022 at 2.00 pm

17. From County Councillor Christopher Edwards to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

Withdrawn. To go to December meeting.

18. From County Councillor Lisa Dymock to County Councillor Sara Burch, Cabinet Member for Inclusive and Active Communities

What action is the administration taking to improve facilities for young people in the Caldicot area in the next 12 months?

The Cabinet Member highlighted the facilities offered by Caldicot Leisure Centre, as well as the multi-use games area and skate park, which are free to use. The sports development team supports a range of sports groups in the town. Welsh Government funding has meant that we have been able to offer free swimming sessions and the summer holiday provision at the leisure centre and food and fun activities at Dewstow Primary School.

The Cabinet Member added that the Youth Service provide sessions at The Zone four evenings a week for children and young people aged 11 to 17, and a drop-in facility during the day for young people who are not in school, which provides alternative education, counselling, CV writing support and substance misuse support. They organise trips to places such as Alton Towers, and run junior youth clubs in Portskewett, Caerwent and Rogiet. They provide support on the transition between primary and secondary schools. The Youth Service ran outreach sessions through the summer at Caldicot Town Centre, skate park and other locations and have been able to secure Safer Streets Funding for Caldicot until September 2023. This has strengthened the capacity of the Youth Service and they have added extra sessions at weekends.

The Shift Project runs one to one or small group support for young people struggling with mental health issues and have recently secured extra funding to offer more help to more young people.

The Umbrella Project helps young people and their parents who are struggling with issues around sexuality, identity and acceptance.

The Cabinet Member has asked officers to look at how the Council supports volunteer run youth clubs, arts provisions and how schools can support young people out of school hours. MonLife are also looking at how Caldicot Castle facilities serve young people and how play areas and open spaces meet the needs of the older age groups.

The planned active travel improvements for Caldicot and the 20mph limit are all part of making the town a safe and pleasant environment where people can travel independently, on foot or on bike.

Caldicot Town Council extended an invitation to County Councillor Dymock to attend the next meeting of the Caldicot Multi-Agency Problem Solving Group.

As a supplementary County Councillor Dymock welcomed the invitation and extended her support for future improvements.

19. Next Meeting - 1st December 2022

Noted.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of County Council held
at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Thursday, 27th October, 2022 at 2.00 pm**

The meeting ended at 6.30 pm

This page is intentionally left blank

Chair's Report **20th October – 16th November**

Thursday 20 th October 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Drop in for Tea and Cake with the Mayor Council Chamber, Caldicot Town Council, Sandy Lane Caldicot NP26 4NA
Saturday 5 th November	Launch Benthylg Abergavenny
Thursday 10 th November	Visit by Dawn Bowden Abergavenny Museum
Friday 11 th November 11 a.m.	Armistice Day Service County Hall, Usk
Sunday 13 th November	Armistice Day Parade Abergavenny
Wednesday 16 th November	Gwent Music Concert Royal Albert Hall, London

This page is intentionally left blank



**SUBJECT: GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22**

**MEETING: County Council
DATE: 1 December 2022
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All**

1. PURPOSE

To present the Council's Governance and Audit Committee's Annual Report for 2021/2022 to Council.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

On behalf of the Governance and Audit Committee, I submit this annual report for 2021/2022 for consideration by the Council. I believe that it shows that, over this period, the Committee has fulfilled its role as defined in its terms of reference.

The report shows that the workings of the Committee continue to be both valuable and productive and that it provides assurance to the Council regarding the Committee's activities in the effective governance of financial affairs and other matters by the Authority.

That Governance and Audit Committee endorse this report and recommend its presentation to Council, as confirmed in the Committee's approved minutes of 14th July 2022.

That Council accept and endorse this report.

3. REASONS

- 3.1** The Council's Governance and Audit Committee has responsibility for ensuring that there are procedures in place to guarantee the adequacy and effectiveness of financial control and corporate governance arrangements.

The terms of reference are:

- To review and scrutinize the Authority's financial affairs
- To make reports and recommendations in relation to the Authority's financial affairs
- To review and assess the risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements of the Authority
- To make reports and recommendations to the Authority on the adequacy and effectiveness of those arrangements
- To oversee the Authority's internal and external audit arrangements
- To review the financial statements prepared by the Authority

3.2 During 2021/22, the Committee consisted of 11 councillors and one lay member (co-opted) who was not a councillor. During 2021/22, the lay member was the Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee, as in previous years. The Committee's main responsibilities include:

- Approving the internal audit strategy, plan & performance
- Review internal audit reports and seek assurances of change where required
- Consider the reports of external audit and inspection agencies
- Consider the effectiveness of the Authority's risk management arrangements
- Maintain an overview of the Council's Constitution in respect of contract procedure rules and financial regulations
- Make recommendations, as appropriate, to Cabinet and Council on any matters reported through the Governance and Audit Committee.

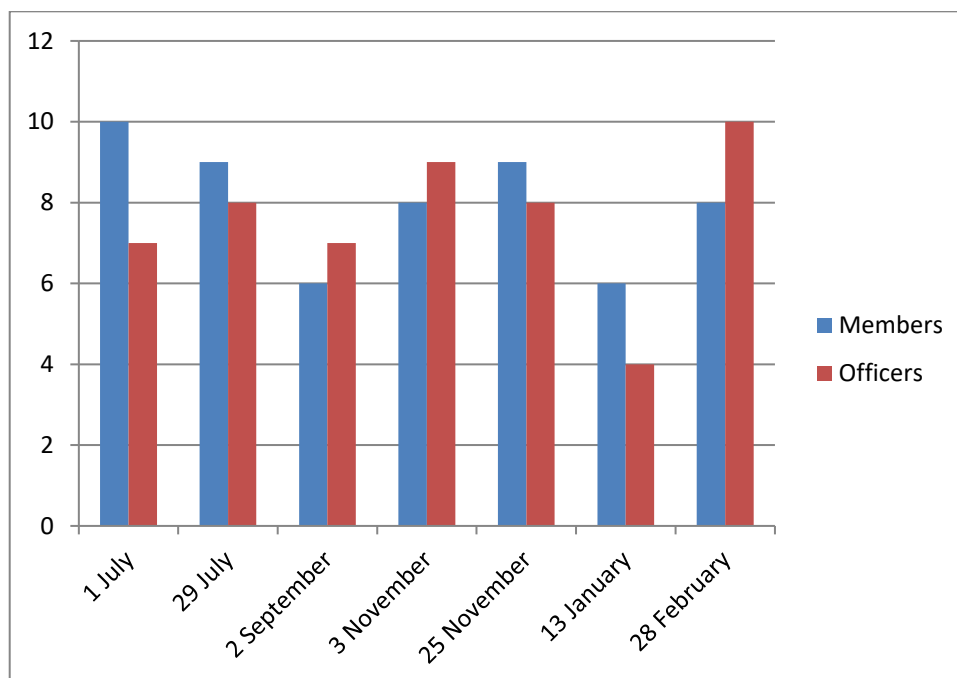
3.3 The terms and conditions of the Governance and Audit Committee in 2021/22 are set out in the Council's Constitution dated 8 September 2021 and are in accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure (2011) and the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

3.4 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 came into effect during the year, which required the Committee to be re-named as the Governance and Audit Committee (formerly the Audit Committee). Other changes required by the legislation, such as an increase in the number of lay members to comprise one third of the Committee, will be made during 2022/23.

3.5 The Governance and Audit Committee is supported by Democratic Services with the, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer Resources, the Acting Assistant Head of Finance and the Chief Internal Auditor or, occasionally, representatives, in attendance at most meetings. External Audit (Audit Wales) are invited to all meetings. During 2021/22 the Council's Governance and Audit Committee formally met 7 times (all remotely), with all meetings being quorate. Audit Wales was represented at all meetings.

Governance and Audit Committee meetings 2021/22
1 st July 2021
29 th July 2021
2 nd September 2021
3 rd November 2021
25 th November 2021
13 th January 2022
28 th February 2022

Attendance at Meetings:



- 3.6** Regular reports were received by the Governance and Audit Committee throughout the year. All Members contributed to the challenge process where officers were held to account for improving identified systems weakness. Members contributed positively to the process and took the responsibility of being on the Governance and Audit Committee seriously.

- 3.7** A standard agenda item for the Governance and Audit Committee is an Action List, where named officers are responsible for updating the Committee on previous matters discussed or questions raised. This ensures appropriate responses are received and accepted by the Committee on issues they felt were important enough to challenge and hold officers to account.
- 3.8** A further meeting was held in September 2021, where Committee members considered the requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. At the meeting held on 28th February 2022, the Chief Officer, Resources, provided a paper 'Governance and Audit Committee Review and Changes' which summarised the issues discussed and the conclusions reached to ensure compatibility with the Act. This paper can be viewed on the agenda of the 28 February meeting.
- 3.9** Recruitment of new lay members to join the Committee in 2022/2023 took place in January 2022. Interviews were conducted by a panel of four members of the current Committee, including the Chair. The current Chair has decided to step down from the Committee at the end of the 2021/22 year.

Terms of Reference: To oversee the Authority's internal and external audit arrangements

- 3.10** Reports were received and considered from the Audit Wales. MCC officers were asked to provide responses where appropriate, and Members of the Committee sought assurances on the process of External Audit. Papers presented included:
- Audited Statement of MCC Accounts 2020/21, 'ISA 260' Response to the Accounts
 - Certificate of Compliance for the audit of Monmouthshire County Council's assessment of performance for 2020/21
 - Monmouthshire Annual Audit Summary
 - Audited Trust Fund Accounts (Welsh Church Fund/Monmouthshire Farm Educational Trust)
 - Annual Grants Report
 - Cyber Resilience in the Public Sector
 - Audit Wales Work Programme and Timetable
 - Financial Sustainability Assessment
 - Welsh Procurement Review
- 3.11** The Internal Audit outturn report for 2020/21 and the annual plan for 2021/22 were presented to and endorsed by the Committee. During 2020/21 the work of Internal Audit had been significantly impacted by the pandemic, and 2021/22 would be the recovery period when things were to be put back on track. Nevertheless, members continued to challenge the performance of the Internal Audit Team and robustness

of the planned work in order to satisfy themselves that they were being provided with assurances on the adequacy of the Council's internal control environment and that public money was being used effectively, efficiently and economically.

3.12 Other reports presented for consideration included:

- Internal Audit Reports on Unfavourable Audit Opinions
- Contract Procedure Rules – exemption update
- Internal Audit Progress Reports
- Internal Audit Charter
- Implementation of Agreed Internal Audit Recommendations

Terms of Reference: To review and assess the risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements of the Authority and to make reports and recommendations.

3.13 Reports from Internal Audit and from other departments within the Authority and Audit Wales inform the Committee in respect to these terms of reference, for example the regular reports on Unfavourable Audit Opinions and the implementation of recommendations (see 3.12, above).

3.14 The Committee continues to have an opportunity to comment on and shape the Annual Governance Statement before it is included with the finalised Annual Statement of Accounts.

3.15 The Performance Manager provided reports on the Overview of Performance Management Arrangements and the Review of the Strategic Risks Register.

3.16 A report on Information Breaches was presented by the Head of Digital Services.

3.17 The Customer Relations Manager introduced the Whole Authority Annual Complaints Report 2020/21 providing feedback from complaints, comments and compliments received by the Authority.

Terms of Reference: To review and scrutinise the Authority's financial affairs, to make reports and recommendations, and to review the financial statements prepared by the Authority.

3.18 The Committee is asked to consider the Council's Statement of Accounts prior to and following the external audit of them; the draft accounts were presented in July with the final audited accounts in November. In addition, the Committee received the annual accounts of Monmouthshire County Council Welsh Church Act Fund and the Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund.

- 3.19** The Treasury Outturn Report for 2020/21 and the subsequent Mid-Year Treasury Report were reviewed by the Committee in November.
- 3.20** The Authority's Capital and Treasury Strategies for 2022//23 were presented to the Committee in February 2022, with a mid-year Treasury Report for 2020/21 presented in November.
- 3.21** In February 2022 a paper was presented to the Committee on the Assessment of the Budget Process and the Adequacy of Reserves.

Extract from the Governance and Audit Committee Minutes 14th July 2022

- 3.22 The Chief Internal Auditor introduced the Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report 2021/22; jointly authored with Philip White, Former Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee. Following presentation of the report, comments and questions were invited particularly from Members who sat on the previous Committee. A Member commented that it is a balanced report adding that the Committee was well-chaired, and the Chair was committed, dealt with Members questions and followed matters up appropriately. Members of the previous committee supported these comments. As recommended in the report, the Governance and Audit Committee endorsed the report and recommended its presentation to Council, and that Council accepts and endorses the report.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

5 CONSULTEES

Chief Internal Auditor.
Members of the Governance and Audit Committee

6 RESULTS OF CONSULTATION:

Report agreed.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Governance and Audit Committee Agendas and Minutes 2021/22.

8 AUTHOR AND CONTACT DETAILS

Andrew Blackmore, Chair, on behalf of the Governance and Audit Committee

andrewblackmore@monmouthshire.gov.uk

SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (RLDP) PREFERRED STRATEGY

MEETING: COUNCIL

DATE: 1 December 2022

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Council's agreement to the new Delivery Agreement and Council's endorsement to commence statutory consultation/engagement and stakeholder involvement on the new Preferred Strategy for the Replacement Local Development Plan and consultation on the Candidate Sites Register.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To agree the revised Delivery Agreement for the Replacement Local Development Plan for submission to the Minister for Climate Change for approval.
- 2.2 To endorse the new Preferred Strategy for the Replacement Local Development Plan to be issued for statutory consultation/engagement and stakeholder involvement.
- 2.3 To agree to consult on the Candidate Sites Register, Habitats Regulations Assessment and Integrated Sustainability Appraisal alongside the new Preferred Strategy.

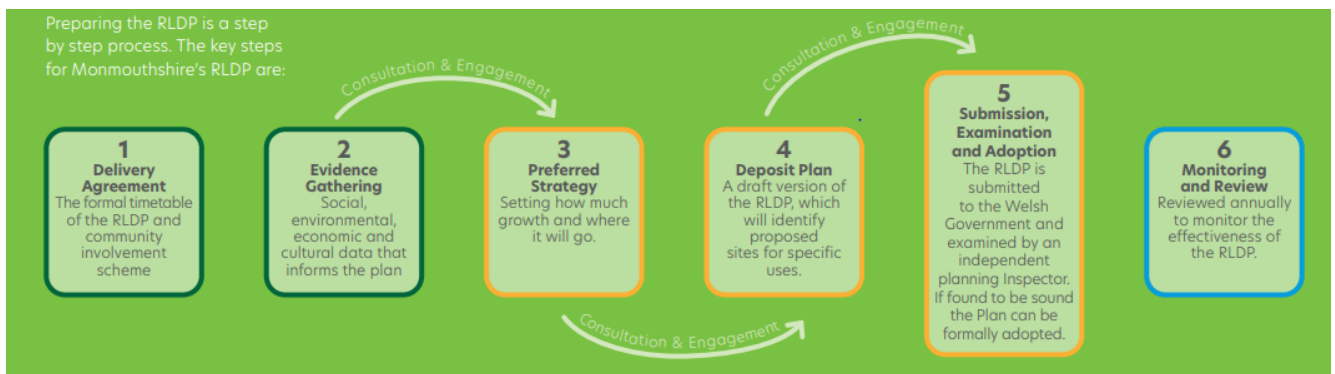
3. KEY ISSUES:

Background

- 3.1 The Council is preparing a Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) for the period 2018 to 2033. The RLDP is a key Council policy document that allocates land for development, designates areas for protection and contains policies to provide the basis for deciding planning applications. It will cover the whole of the County except for the part within Brecon Beacons National Park. The current adopted LDP covered the period 2011-2021 but remains the planning policy framework for making decisions in Monmouthshire until the adoption of the RLDP.
- 3.2 The RLDP will identify where and how much new, sustainable development will take place to 2033, underpinned by a clear and robust evidence base. Early stages of the project identified 38 issues facing the communities we serve, based on a range of evidence including responses to consultation on the Public Service Board's Local Wellbeing Plan. The RLDP's issues, vision and objectives were subject of targeted engagement in January-February 2019 and were [reviewed](#) in the light of the subsequent Climate Emergency declaration by Council in May 2019. A [further review](#) in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic concluded that the Plan's strategic direction of travel remained relevant and identified a number of key messages that will require ongoing consideration as the RLDP progresses.

- 3.3 The seventeen Plan objectives are grouped to reflect the seven wellbeing goals (they are not listed in order of importance). However, as the Plan has developed, three core objectives have become apparent: delivering affordable housing to help address inequality, rebalancing the County's demography to ensure communities are socially and economically sustainable, and responding to the climate and nature emergency to ensure proposals are environmentally sustainable.
- 3.4 Figure 1 below shows the key steps in the RLDP process. Although the Preferred Strategy is the first statutory consultation stage in the RLDP preparation process, the Council chose to engage from the outset and consulted on the issues, vision and objectives, and the growth and spatial options stages.

Figure 1: Key Steps in the RLDP Process



RLDP Preferred Strategy

- 3.5 The Preferred Strategy provides the strategic direction for the development and use of land in Monmouthshire (excluding the area within the Brecon Beacons National Park) over the Plan period 2018 to 2033 and identifies how much sustainable growth is needed and where this growth will broadly be located. Its preparation has been guided by a framework of key inputs that includes national legislation/policy, local and regional policies/strategies and an evidence base relating to key local issues for the Plan to address.
- 3.6 The overall purpose of the Preferred Strategy is to:
- identify key issues, challenges and opportunities for the County (see Section 3 of the Preferred Strategy);
 - develop a vision and objectives for the RLDP that respond to the key issues, challenges and opportunities (see Section 4);
 - set out the scale of future growth in population, housing and jobs and establish the spatial distribution of growth (see Section 4); and
 - set out the Preferred Strategic Site Allocations and strategic policies to deliver/implement the strategy (see Section 5).
- 3.7 It provides the strategic context for the preparation of more detailed policies, proposals and land use allocations which will be included in the Deposit RLDP.

- 3.8 The Preferred Strategy is attached at **Appendix 1**. A Summary version and Easy Read version of the Preferred Strategy have also been prepared (attached at **Appendix 2 and Appendix 3** respectively).
- 3.9 The Preferred Strategy is structured as follows:

Executive Summary

Section 1: Introduction – Provides a summary of the RLDP process and progress to date, outlines what the Preferred Strategy is, how it is prepared and the next key steps in the RLDP process.

Section 2: Context – Presents an overview/profile of the County outlining the key economic, social, environmental and cultural characteristics of Monmouthshire.

Section 3: Key Issues, Challenges and Opportunities – Provides a summary of the key issues, challenges and opportunities within Monmouthshire.

Section 4: RLDP Strategic Framework – Outlines the RLDP Vision and Objectives, sets out the Preferred Growth and Spatial Option (i.e. the Preferred Strategy), and provides a key diagram.

Section 5: Implementation and Delivery – Sets out the Strategic Policies and identifies the Preferred Strategic Site Allocations for our Primary Settlements.

Appendices – provide further detail in relation to RLDP key stages; supporting evidence to the Preferred Strategy; legislative and policy context and key influences on the Plan; the RLDP Issues; preferred strategic site allocations; housing supply components; and a review of the Development Management policies contained within the adopted LDP.

- 3.10 The Preferred Strategy sets out a new direction for the RLDP to ensure sustainable growth in the County, embodying the principles set out in the draft Community and Corporate Plan¹ of tackling inequality, protecting our environment and adapting to a world being reshaped by climate change. The Preferred Strategy has been informed by a wide range of evidence² and responds to a number of challenges that have arisen following stakeholder consultation and engagement on the previous Preferred Strategy in Summer 2021, namely the Welsh Government objection to the level of growth set out in that Preferred Strategy and phosphate water quality issues in the Rivers Wye and Usk.
- 3.11 The Council has considered how best to progress the RLDP having regard to these challenges, whilst also ensuring that the RLDP delivers on our objectives and addresses our core issues of delivering essential affordable housing at pace and scale, responding to the climate and nature emergency by delivering net zero carbon ready new homes in exemplar places, and ensuring our communities are socially and economically sustainable by attracting and retaining younger people to rebalance our ageing demographic. In September 2022, Council³ endorsed the proposal to proceed with a

¹ The draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022 sets out the Council's core purpose, principles, and priorities. It was endorsed by Cabinet on 19th October 2022 and a developed version will be reported to Council in January 2023.

² Our key issues, vision and objectives, Local Wellbeing Plan, community consultation and engagement sessions, the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA), Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), Sustainable Settlement Appraisal, National Planning Policy including Future Wales; the National Plan 2040, and the LDP tests of soundness.

³ [Council meeting 27th September 2022](#)

new growth and spatial strategy that responds to these challenges and maximises delivery of these core issues and objectives within the environmental and national policy constraints.

3.12 The Preferred Strategy strikes a compromise between achieving our local evidence-based objectives that underpinned the Preferred Strategy consulted upon in July 2021 and the Welsh Government's response which objected to the level of growth proposed. It also takes account of the phosphate constraint in the upper River Wye catchment. In response, the new Strategy proposes a lower level of growth and an amended spatial strategy that responds to these challenges.

3.13 The Preferred Strategy:

- **Makes provision for approximately 5,400 - 5,940 homes over the Plan period 2018-2033⁴** (Strategic Policy S1). This includes approximately 1,580 - 1,850 affordable homes (Strategic Policy S6). As there are currently approximately 3,740 homes in the housing landbank⁵, **land will be allocated for approximately 1,660 - 2,200 new homes**, including 830 - 1,100 new affordable homes.
- Sets out the planning policy framework to **enable the provision of approximately 6,240 additional jobs** (Strategic Policy S1) **by allocating sufficient employment land and by including policies to facilitate economic growth** (Strategic Policy S12). The RLDP will be supported by an Economic Development Strategy.
- **Focuses growth in the County's most sustainable settlements of Abergavenny, Chepstow and Caldicot (including Severnside)** (Strategic Policy S2). Due to the lack of an identified strategic solution to the treatment of phosphates at the Monmouth Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) within the Plan period, **no new site allocations are proposed in the primary settlement of Monmouth** or within the upper River Wye catchment area north of Bigsweir Bridge.
- Identifies **Preferred Strategic Site Allocations** in the primary settlements of Abergavenny, Chepstow and Caldicot (Strategic Policy S7). Other detailed site allocations will be set out in the Deposit RLDP.
- Limits the impact of climate change by ensuring **new homes are net zero carbon ready and well connected with existing settlements**, providing attractive and accessible places to live and work.
- **Sets out strategic policies** on a range of topic areas, reflecting the four placemaking themes in Planning Policy Wales (PPW)⁶.

3.14 The Preferred Strategy will achieve sustainable balanced deliverable outcomes by:

- Delivering a level of growth (homes and jobs) that addresses our local evidence-based issues and objectives in the south of the County and River Usk catchment area, including in relation to the delivery of affordable homes, rebalancing our demography and responding to the climate and nature emergency, whilst having

⁴ In accordance with the Development Plans Manual (WG, March 2020) an allowance is provisionally made for a 10% flexibility allowance to factor in sites that may not come forward, unforeseen issues or to meet higher aspirations for the County to enable the provision/delivery of additional sites if all sites are delivered. The flexibility allowance will be given further consideration and refined at Deposit stage.

⁵ As the Plan period has already begun (2018) some of the homes in the landbank have been built, are under construction or have planning permission. The landbank figure also takes into account windfall sites and small sites.

⁶ PPW edition 11, WG, February 2011.

regard to WG officer concerns regarding alignment with Future Wales: the National Plan 2040.

- Maximising affordable housing delivery on new housing allocations, reflecting the Council's commitment to deliver 50% affordable homes on new housing sites which will help to tackle Monmouthshire's housing need, homelessness and social inequality. This approach will also enable the Council to consider alternative mechanisms for delivering affordable homes.
- Providing a wider choice of smaller homes to enable younger people to live and work in Monmouthshire which will make our ageing communities more socially and economically sustainable.
- Requiring new homes to be net zero carbon ready, reflecting our commitment to responding to and tackling climate change.
- Delivering growth in our most sustainable settlements⁷. This will limit the impacts of climate change and ensure good placemaking principles of attractive, accessible to live and work that have access to sustainable transport links and reduce the need for journeys by the car.
- Promoting sustainable economic growth by providing policy support to enable and facilitate home/remote working⁸, enabling economic growth through supporting the delivery of the priorities and aims identified in the Council's Economic Growth and Ambition Statement, Investment Prospectus and climate emergency declaration, maximising opportunities from Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, targeting growth in key economic sectors and providing appropriate employment land in the right locations.

3.15 Table 1 below summarises the indicative spatial distribution of the proposed housing growth over the Plan period. There are different components that contribute towards the 5,940 homes (5,400 plus 10% flexibility) including homes already built since 2018 (1,579 homes), sites with planning permission that will realistically be built (1,263 homes), small sites and windfalls (900 homes), and new site allocations (2,200 homes). To encourage the promotion of sustainable communities where residents can live and work in the same area, housing growth will be accompanied by a commensurate amount of employment land, details of which will be provided in the Deposit Plan.

3.16 The exact distribution of growth will be determined following the assessment of candidate sites which will inform the Deposit RLDP. Any decisions on whether or not to allocate particular sites for development in the settlements will also depend on such issues as their impact on the physical form of the settlement, placemaking, carbon footprint, landscape setting, environmental constraints and infrastructure capacity.

⁷ Excluding those settlements in the upper River Wye catchment area due to the inability to deliver strategic solution to phosphate mitigation the area's WwTW.

⁸ In accordance with Welsh Government's ambition for 25% of the Welsh workforce working from or near home (Smarter Working: a Remote Working Strategy for Wales, Welsh Government (2022))

Table 1: Summary of Indicative Spatial Distribution of Housing Provision*

Settlement	Total Commitments		Preferred Strategy		Total Housing Provision 2018-2033*
	Completions 2018-2021	Existing Commitments	Total Allowances (Small Sites; Windfalls)	RLDP New Housing Allocations (Dwellings)	
Abergavenny (incl. Llanfoist)	426	132	245	600	1,403
Chepstow	192	267	165	145	769
Monmouth (incl. Wyesham)	264	11	0	0	275
Caldicot (incl. Severnside)	466	723	220	1,200	2609
Secondary Settlements	100	45	80	155	380
Rural Settlements	131	83	190	100	504
Total	1,579	1,261	900	2,200	5,940

*Figures include an indicative 10% flexibility allowance which will be subject to further consideration and refinement at Deposit Plan stage. The spatial distribution figures should be treated as indicative as they may alter following the consideration of sites submitted as part of the second Call for Candidate Sites and detailed site assessment work.

3.17 The Preferred Strategy also contains a number of Strategic Policies which form the framework for implementing and delivering the Strategy. These are summarised below and detailed in Sections 4 and 5 of the Preferred Strategy.

Preferred Strategy - Strategic Policies:

- S1 – Growth Strategy
- S2 – Spatial Distribution of Development – Settlement Hierarchy
- S3 – Sustainable Placemaking & High Quality Design
- S4 – Climate Change
- S5 – Infrastructure Provision
- S6 – Affordable Homes
- S7 – Preferred Strategic Site Allocations
- S8 – Gypsy and Travellers
- S9 – Sustainable Transport
- S10 – Town, Local and Neighbourhood Centres
- S11 – Community and Recreation Facilities
- S12 – Employment Sites Provision
- S13 – Rural Enterprise
- S14 – Visitor Economy
- S15 – Sustainable Waste Management
- S16 – Minerals
- S17 – Green Infrastructure, Landscape and Nature Conservation

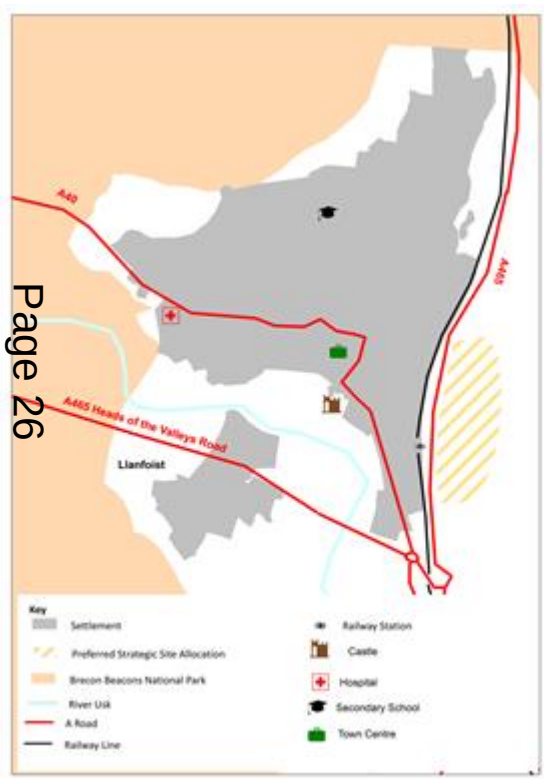
- 3.18 Policy S7 identifies Preferred Strategic Site Allocations for the Primary Settlements of Abergavenny, Caldicot and Chepstow (see Table 2 and Figure 2 below). These sites have been selected from a total of 13 Strategic Growth Options located across Abergavenny, Chepstow, Monmouth and Severnside that were previously consulted on in the 2021 Preferred Strategy. Site selection has been informed by the consultation responses received on the 2021 Preferred Strategy and by a high-level assessment undertaken to identify those sites which could contribute to delivering the level of growth (housing and jobs) required to deliver the Preferred Strategy. These sites have provided sufficient evidence of viability and deliverability that will be built on as the Plan progresses. Two of the sites, namely Abergavenny East and Caldicot East, are anticipated to provide housing both within and beyond the RLDP plan period.
- 3.19 In delivering this level of growth, there will need to be a commitment to ensuring that the new site allocations provide 50% affordable housing. In order for residential sites to be allocated in the RLDP, it will be essential to demonstrate that sites are viable and deliverable, having regard to the Council's commitment for 50% affordable housing provision on new sites, the requirement for net zero carbon ready homes and associated infrastructure to support the development. This may require Welsh Government policy position changes on use of Social Housing Grant or other public sector funding. Additional viability work will be required to demonstrate site viability and deliverability based on these policy requirements. Current policy seeks neutral tenure, but the RLDP could, if desired, include a policy specifying the affordable housing mix (social rent, intermediate rent and low cost home ownership). Such a policy should be based on the evidence contained in the updated Local Housing Market Assessment: this detail is a matter for the Deposit Plan at a future stage.

Table 2: Summary of Preferred Strategic Site Allocations

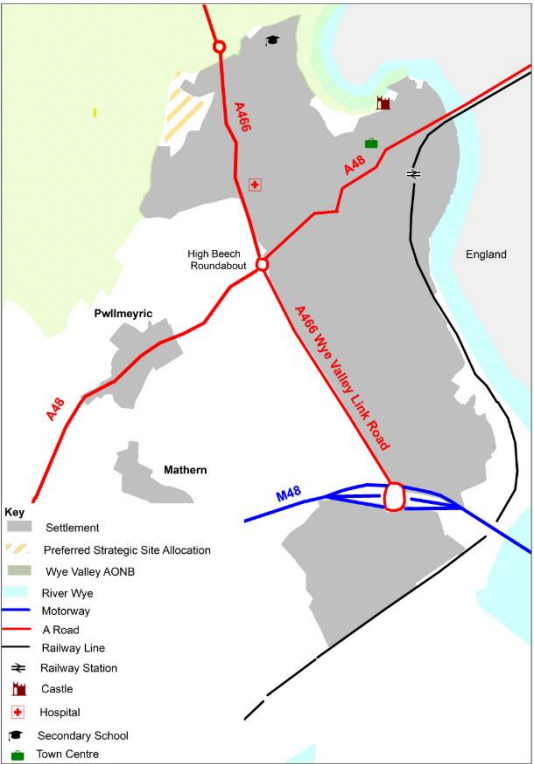
Site Name	Candidate Site Reference	Size (Ha)	Proposed Use	No. of homes proposed in Candidate Site Submissions	Approximate No. of homes within plan period
Abergavenny East	CS0213	24.75	Mixed Use: Residential, Employment, Retail, Leisure, Education and Community Use	635	500
Bayfield, Chepstow	CS0098	10.07	Residential	145	145
Caldicot East	CS0087 CS0251	67.67	Mixed Use: Residential, Employment, Retail, Leisure	1460	925

Figure 2: Location of the Preferred Strategic Site Allocations

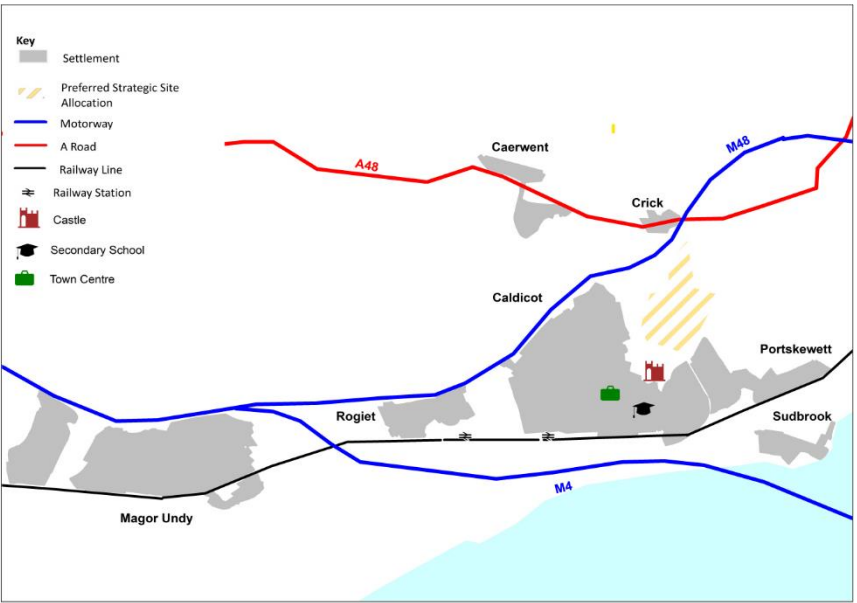
Abergavenny East



Bayfield, Chepstow



Caldicot East



- 3.20 Notwithstanding the above, it is recognised that the Preferred Strategy is unable to deliver the Council's objectives, including the delivery of new affordable homes, in those settlements in the phosphate affected upper River Wye catchment. As there are currently no identified strategic solutions to the treatment of phosphates in the upper River Wye catchment area during the Plan period, this shortcoming is unavoidable. In contrast, strategic solutions are being developed to enable the treatment of phosphates in the River Usk catchment area. This will enable sustainable growth within the most sustainable settlements within the River Usk catchment area over the Plan period. The southern part of the County where the rivers are tidal remain unaffected by this constraint.
- 3.21 If a strategic solution to the phosphate issue is secured in the Monmouth Wastewater Treatment Works during the Plan period, then windfall sites within settlement boundaries could be developed. In accordance with the Welsh Government's Development Plans Manual, these will be considered as 'bonus sites' and will not count towards our housing figures.

Supporting Documents

- 3.22 The Preferred Strategy has been subject to an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Well-being of Future Generations Assessment (WBFGA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) and Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA). The ISA assesses the extent to which the emerging proposals and policies will help to achieve the wider environmental, economic, social and cultural objectives of the RLDP. The Preferred Strategy has also been subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- 3.23 The Initial Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report and Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Preferred Strategy will be published alongside the Preferred Strategy. The ISA and HRA are iterative processes and will be updated as the RLDP progresses towards adoption.
- 3.24 The RLDP will be accompanied by an Infrastructure Plan, setting out what is needed to support the development of the allocated sites, and will sit alongside an updated Local Transport Plan and an Economic Development Strategy. Together, these Plans will seek to deliver on the Council's economic ambition and its core purpose of becoming a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life.

General Conformity with Future Wales 2040: the National Plan and 'Soundness'

- 3.25 The level of growth set out in the Preferred Strategy is in general conformity with Future Wales' overall strategy. Although Monmouthshire is not within the national growth area identified in Future Wales 2040: the National Plan, our evidence shows that the proposed level of growth is essential to deliver our local evidence-based issues and objectives and to ensure the RLDP is 'sound'. It is supported by Future Wales policies 3, 4, 5 and 7, which support public leadership and the use of public land to deliver on ambitious affordable housing targets, demographically balanced rural communities, the rural economy and the delivery of affordable homes. The growth strategy will assist in addressing our core issues without harming or compromising Welsh Government's objectives for the wider South East Wales region.

- 3.26 The Strategy also meets a key ‘Tests of Soundness’ of ensuring that the Plan is locally specific, addresses key issues, is supported by robust, proportionate and credible evidence, and the Plan’s vision and strategy are positive and sufficiently aspirational. A Self-Assessment of the Preferred Strategy against the Tests of Soundness is attached at **Appendix 4**, which includes an assessment of the Strategy’s general conformity with Future Wales 2040.

Consultation, Engagement and Stakeholder Involvement

- 3.27 Regulation 15 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended 2015)) requires the Council to publish its pre-Deposit Plan proposals (Preferred Strategy) for public consultation prior to determining the content of its Deposit Plan. Subject to endorsement by Council, the Preferred Strategy will be subject to statutory engagement and consultation for an eight-week period between Monday 5th December 2022 and Monday 30th January 2023, whereby comments will be invited on the consultation questions set out in the Preferred Strategy. The consultation and engagement will be carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in the Delivery Agreement’s Community Involvement Scheme (December 2022). It is anticipated that engagement/consultation will take place via:
- Direct contact with statutory consultees and those stakeholders who have asked to be included on the RLDP database (1000+ contacts);
 - Members’ Workshop 2nd November 2022 (hosted by Place Scrutiny Committee);
 - Place Scrutiny Committee 10th November 2022;
 - Internal discussions within the Council through an officer workshop, Department Management Team and Senior Leadership Team;
 - Seven RLDP Preferred Strategy Drop-in Sessions during December 2022 – January 2023. Full details of venues and dates will be available on the Council’s Current Consultations page of the website;
 - Two virtual events open to all during December 2022 – January 2023;
 - Virtual event for Town and Community Councils in December 2022;
 - We will seek to engage with seldom heard groups in particular young people, via the Youth Council and Gypsy and Travellers via the GTAA work.

Next Steps

- 3.28 If Council endorses the Preferred Strategy, statutory consultation/engagement will take place over an eight-week period in December 2022 – January 2023. It is worth noting that, prior to the consultation starting, the documents will have been in the public domain for an additional four weeks as part of the published Place Scrutiny Committee agenda. Following the stakeholder involvement, engagement and consultation on the Preferred Strategy, responses will be collated and carefully considered. A consultation report will be prepared and published containing details of the representations and the Council’s response to them. A summary consultation report and the Preferred Strategy with any necessary amendments will be reported to Council in Spring 2023 to seek approval of the Preferred Strategy. The Deposit Plan will then be prepared and considered by Council prior to a statutory six-week consultation and engagement period in Spring 2024.

RLDP Revised Delivery Agreement

- 3.29 The Delivery Agreement sets out the timetable for delivering the RLDP and the strategy for community involvement. The Delivery Agreement was first approved by Welsh Government

on 14th May 2018. Since then, several challenges have arisen meaning that progress on the preparation of the RLDP has been delayed. These challenges include the publication of updated Welsh Government 2018-based population projections, the Covid-19 pandemic, an objection from Welsh Government to the July 2021 Preferred Strategy, and phosphate water quality issues in the River Wye and River Usk catchment areas.

- 3.30 The Council is now proceeding with a new Preferred Strategy that responds to the Welsh Government objection and unresolved water quality constraint in the upper River Wye catchment. A revised Delivery Agreement has therefore been prepared which sets out an amended timetable for Plan preparation⁹.
- 3.31 The amended timetable sets out the following revised dates for future key stages of the RLDP process.

RLDP Key Stage	Previously Agreed DA Timetable	Revised Date – December 2022
Preferred Strategy Consultation	May- June 2021	December 2022 – January 2023
Deposit Plan – Political Reporting	July 2022	March 2024
Deposit Plan – Consultation	July – September 2022	April-May 2024
RLDP Submission to Welsh Government	February 2023	October 2024
Examination	Spring 2023	Late 2024/early 2025
Inspector's Report	Autumn 2023	June 2025
Adoption	Autumn 2023	July 2025

- 3.32 The revised Delivery Agreement, which includes the amended timetable, is attached at **Appendix 5**. The Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) has been further refined following a meeting with Cabinet Member for Sustainable Economy, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement. The Delivery Agreement must be approved by resolution of the Council and submitted to the Welsh Ministers for agreement in accordance with Regulation 9 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended 2015). Following agreement by the Minister, work will continue on the preparation of the RLDP in accordance with the revised Delivery Agreement.
- 3.33 The revised timetable shows that the adoption of the RLDP is anticipated in Summer 2025. This unavoidable delay will impact on the Council's ability to address the identified issues and objectives until the RLDP is adopted and puts pressure on the deliverability of the housing and employment figures over the Plan period, with more reliance on delivery towards the end of the Plan.
- 3.34 In terms of the time period before the RLDP is adopted, the publication of a Ministerial letter in September 2020¹⁰ clarified that the provisions in the Planning (Wales) Act 2014 relating to LDP expiry dates do not apply to LDPs adopted prior to that Act coming into force. This means that our current LDP, adopted in February 2014, remains an extant development plan for decision-making purposes until the RLDP is adopted. Although policies in the current LDP may be superseded by more recent evidence after December 2021 or by new national planning policy, the Minister's clarification provides much needed clarity to all stakeholders and removes a considerable risk of having a policy vacuum. This clarification

⁹ The Delivery Agreement was previously revised in March 2020 and October 2020.

¹⁰ Minister for Housing and Local Government Letter to Local Authority Leaders and Chief Executives National Park Authority Chief Executives 24th September 2020

does not, however, change the urgent need for the Council to make timely progress on its RLDP and to get the new Plan adopted as soon as realistically possible. Timely progress is essential to address the identified issues and to support the Council's overarching purpose of becoming a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

- 4.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) sets out the requirement for all LDPs to be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). All stages of the RLDP will be subject to an Integrated Sustainability Assessment (ISA) (including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Well-being of Future Generations (WBFG), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA), and Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA)). The ISA findings have informed the revised Preferred Strategy and will be used to inform detailed policies and site allocations in the Deposit Plan, in order to ensure that the Plan will promote sustainable development. The Initial ISA Report will be published alongside the revised Preferred Strategy.
- 4.2 An Equality and Future Generations Evaluation (including equalities and sustainability impact assessment) is attached to this report at **Appendix 6**.

Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting

- 4.3 There are no safeguarding or corporate parenting implications arising directly from this report. The RLDP will provide affordable homes, the delivery and allocation of which should be cognisant of the needs of children leaving care.

Socio-economic Duty

- 4.4 The RLDP seeks to tackle inequality, specifically by seeking to address house price unaffordability, which currently prevents some of our communities accessing suitable homes within the County. This is likely to benefit younger people, who in turn will make our ageing communities more socially and economically balanced and more sustainable. Good quality and affordable homes are important in achieving poverty reduction and equitable prosperity, and supporting the best start in life. Good spatial planning helps to build cohesive communities. The provision of affordable homes combined with policy interventions in relation to the requirement of a mix of market housing will increase opportunities for those in poverty to access safe, secure and suitable homes. In accordance with the WBFGA, the RLDP also seeks to prevent future problems and will therefore continue to avoid new development in flood risk areas and will seek net zero carbon ready development to help address the climate and nature emergency and also tackle issues such as fuel poverty.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Option	Benefit	Risk	Comment
Council agrees the Delivery Agreement and endorses the new Preferred Strategy for	The new Preferred Strategy seeks to balance meeting the evidenced-based	That notwithstanding the Council's decision, the Minister for Climate Change does not	This is the preferred option.

Option	Benefit	Risk	Comment
statutory consultation for eight weeks from 5 th December 2022, alongside the Habitats Regulations Assessment, Integrated Sustainability Appraisal and Candidate Site Register.	objectives while addressing the WG officer objection to the June 2021 Strategy and responding to the environmental constraint of water quality in the upper River Wye catchment. By endorsing the Strategy, Council will allow the RLDP to progress and will allow an opportunity for public engagement to help shape the Plan. The updated Delivery Agreement sets out the new timeline and community involvement scheme.	approve the Delivery Agreement. The WG officers object to the new Preferred Strategy. All possible steps have been taken to mitigate those risks.	The Preferred Strategy, as drafted, is considered to promote an appropriate level and spatial distribution of housing and employment growth for the County to 2033, which will assist in delivering the Council's objectives and addressing the core issues of delivering essential affordable homes, responding to the climate and nature emergency by delivering net zero carbon ready new homes in exemplar places, and ensuring our communities are socially and economically sustainable by attracting and retaining younger people to rebalance our ageing demographic. Every effort has been made to ensure the RLDP timetable and Community Involvement Scheme are realistic.
Do not endorse the new RLDP Preferred Strategy for consultation and/or do not agree the revised Delivery Agreement.	None	Timely progress is not made to deliver the RLDP and to address priority objectives such as the delivery of urgently needed affordable housing. In reality, if Council requires a different Strategy, the time delay	This option would have significant negative implications.

Option	Benefit	Risk	Comment
		in preparing it is likely to mean work on the RLDP needs to start again, because insufficient Plan period will be left on the RLDP at adoption.	

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Officer and consultant time and costs associated with the preparation of the new Preferred Strategy will be met from the Planning Policy budget and existing LDP reserve.
- 6.2 Delivery of the RLDP, once adopted, will need to be accompanied by a range of infrastructure provision including transport, education, health care, leisure and affordable housing. The infrastructure requirements will be identified in the Infrastructure Plan and updated Local Transport Plan accompanying the RLDP. Although it is expected that most of this infrastructure would be funded via S106 planning contributions (or possibly a Community Infrastructure Levy), there may be a requirement for Council expenditure to assist in providing some infrastructure or in bringing some sites forwards. This might include the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) and/or potential commercial investment to provide 'shovel ready' sites or business premises. There may also be grant funding available. The Council's commitment for 50% affordable housing provision on new site allocations may require Welsh Government policy position changes on use of Social Housing Grant or other public sector funding. This commitment could have financial implications for the Council of reduced land sale receipts and the potential need to CPO sites to bring them forward. This approach is supported by Future Wales 2040 Policy 3 which supports public leadership and the use of public land to deliver on ambitious affordable housing targets.

7. CONSULTEES

- Cabinet Member for Sustainable Economy, Deputy Leader
- Cabinet
- Place Scrutiny Committee 10th November 2022 – Scrutiny Committee welcomed the opportunity to discuss and scrutinise the proposals. The main issues arising related to infrastructure and the timing and certainty of its delivery. This included education, healthcare, active travel and transport infrastructure. Some members expressed concern regarding the amount of development proposed for Caldicot. It was emphasised that the active travel connection from the Abergavenny East site needs to be attractive to users. Affordable housing delivery and the requirement for net zero carbon homes were welcomed. It was suggested that the RLDP include a policy requiring solar pv and battery storage in new developments. A member of the public, Mr Shaun Heartly, representing the Chepstow Development Forum addressed the Committee, expressing concern regarding the level of growth proposed for Chepstow via the proposed 145 home Strategic Site at Bayfields and the proposed growth in the Forest of Dean. The Bayfields site was considered by the Forum to be distant from the town centre and amenities. The Forum disagrees that

Monmouthshire needs to accommodate the growth proposed and the issues identified can be addressed via the wider region rather than within Monmouthshire.

- SLT
- Communities and Place DMT
- Member workshop 2nd November 2022

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

- RLDP Preferred Strategy (December 2022)
- RLDP Delivery Agreement (December 2022)
- Self-Assessment of the Preferred Strategy against the Tests of Soundness (December 2022)

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT¹¹

- Initial Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report (AECOM, November 2022)
- HRA of the Monmouthshire RLDP Preferred Strategy (AECOM, November 2022)
- Monmouthshire RLDP Demographic Update Report (Edge Analytics, November 2021)
- Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper (Updated December 2022)
- Growth and Spatial Options Paper (September 2022)
- Sustainable Settlements Appraisal (December 2022)
- Housing Background Paper (December 2022)
- Employment Land Review (BE Group, October 2022)
- Monmouthshire 2040: Our Economic Growth and Ambition Statement (November 2019) and supporting MCC Economies of the Future Reports (2018)
- Candidate Sites Register (February 2022)
- Candidate Sites High Level Assessment (August 2022)
- Local Housing Market Assessment 2020-2025
- LDP Annual Monitoring Reports (2014-2022)

10. AUTHORS AND CONTACT DETAILS:

Mark Hand 07773478579 markhand@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Head of Placemaking, Regeneration, Highways and Flooding

Craig O'Connor 07816175737 craiggoconnor@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Head of Planning

Rachel Lewis 01633 644827 rachellewis@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Planning Policy Manager

¹¹ Background documents will be available via: <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/news-and-consultations/>

11. APPENDICES:

APPENDIX 1: RLDP Preferred Strategy, December 2022

APPENDIX 2: RLDP Preferred Strategy Summary, December 2022

APPENDIX 3: RLDP Preferred Strategy Easy Read, December 2022

APPENDIX 4: Self-Assessment of the Preferred Strategy against the Tests of Soundness

APPENDIX 5: RLDP Revised Delivery Agreement, December 2022

APPENDIX 6: Equality and Future Generations Evaluation

Monmouthshire Replacement Local Development Plan

Preferred Strategy

December 2022



monmouthshire
sir fynwy



**Monmouthshire County Council
Replacement Local Development Plan**

Preferred Strategy

December 2022

Planning Policy Service

Monmouthshire County Council

County Hall, Rhadyr, Usk, Monmouthshire NP15 1GA

Tel: 01633 644429

Email: planningpolicy@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Structure of the Preferred Strategy

This Document is structured as follows:

Executive Summary

Section 1: Introduction – Provides a summary of the RLDP process and progress to date, outlines what the Preferred Strategy is, how it is prepared and the next key steps in the RLDP process.

Section 2: Context – Presents an overview/profile of the County outlining the key economic, social, environmental and cultural characteristics of Monmouthshire.

Section 3: Key Issues, Challenges and Opportunities – Provides a summary of the key issues, challenges and opportunities within Monmouthshire.

Section 4: RLDP Strategic Framework – Outlines the RLDP Vision and Objectives, sets out the Preferred Growth and Spatial Option (i.e. the Preferred Strategy), and the key diagram.

Section 5: Implementation and Delivery – Sets out the Strategic Policies and identifies the Preferred Strategic Site Allocations for our Primary Settlements.

Appendices – provide further detail in relation to RLDP key stages; supporting evidence to the Preferred Strategy; legislative and policy context and key influences on the Plan; the RLDP Issues; Preferred Strategic Site Allocations; and a review of the Development Management policies contained within the adopted LDP.

Contents

	Page
Executive Summary	i
1. Introduction	1
2. Context	5
3. Key Issues, Challenges and Opportunities	10
4. Replacement LDP Strategic Framework	17
5. Implementation and Delivery – Strategic Policies	41
Appendices:	
1. RLDP Key Stages	100
2. RLDP Supporting Documents	103
3. Legislative and Policy Context	108
4. RLDP Issues	113
5. Preferred Strategic Site Allocations	124
6. RLDP Housing Supply Components	133
7. Review of Adopted LDP Development Management Policies	136

Replacement Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy – Executive Summary

Introduction

- i. Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) is preparing a Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) for the County (excluding the area within the Brecon Beacons National Park), covering the period 2018-2033. When adopted, it will be the statutory land use plan to support delivery of the Council's core purpose of becoming a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life¹. The RLDP will set out land use development proposals for the County and will identify how much new development will take place to 2033 and where this will be located. It will also identify areas to be protected from development and provide policies against which future planning applications will be assessed.
- ii. The RLDP will deliver the Council's objectives and address the core issues of delivering essential affordable homes at pace and scale, responding to the climate and nature emergency by delivering net zero carbon ready new homes in exemplar places, and ensuring our communities are socially and economically sustainable by attracting and retaining younger people to rebalance our ageing demographic.
- iii. From 5th December 2022 to 30th January 2023, we're seeking your views on the proposed Preferred Strategy. Details of [how to get involved](#) can be found on our website.

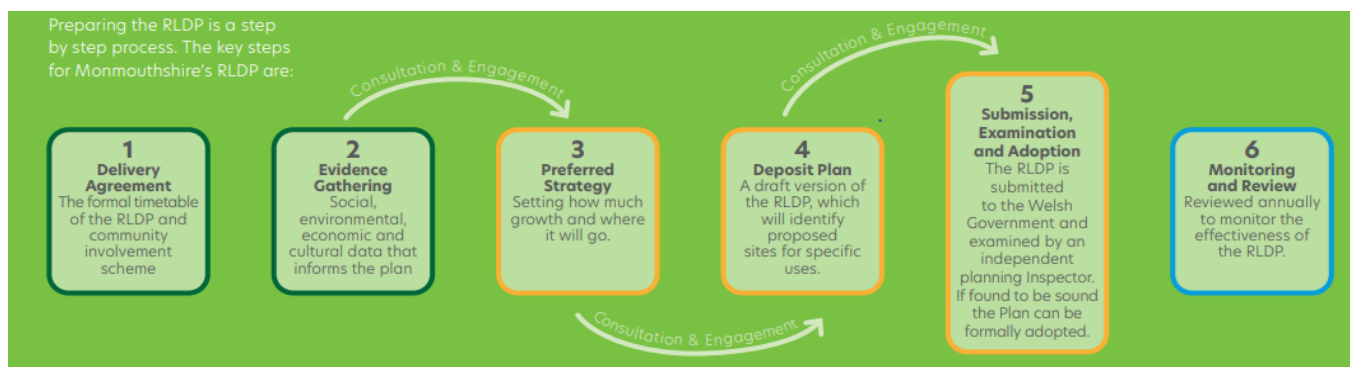
What is the Preferred Strategy?

- iv. The Preferred Strategy provides the strategic direction for the development and use of land over the Plan period 2018 to 2033.
 - Section 2 sets out a profile of the County;
 - Section 3 identifies key issues, challenges and opportunities for the County;
 - Section 4 develops a vision and objectives for the RLDP that respond to the key issues, challenges and opportunities, and sets out the scale of future growth in population, housing and jobs (Strategic Policy S1) and the spatial distribution of growth (Strategic Policy S2); and
 - Section 5 sets out the preferred strategic sites and strategic policies to deliver the strategy (Strategic Policies S3 Sustainable Placemaking & High Quality Design, S4 Climate Change, S5 Infrastructure Provision, S6 Affordable Homes, S7 Preferred Strategic Site Allocations, S8 Gypsy and Travellers, S9 Sustainable Transport, S10 Town, Local and Neighbourhood Centres, S11 Community & Recreation Facilities, S12 Employment Sites Provision, S13 Rural Enterprise, S14 Visitor Economy, S15 Sustainable Waste Management, S16 Minerals, and S17 Green Infrastructure, Landscape and Nature Conservation).

¹ The draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022 sets out the Council's core purpose, principles, and priorities. It was endorsed by [Cabinet on 19th October 2022](#) and a developed version will be reported to Council in January 2023

- v. The diagram below illustrates the Plan making process.

Replacement Local Development Plan Process



Supporting Documents

- vi. The Preferred Strategy has been subject to an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Well-being of Future Generations Assessment (WBFGA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) and Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA). The ISA assesses the extent to which the emerging proposals and policies will help to achieve the wider environmental, economic, social and cultural objectives of the RLDP. The Preferred Strategy has also been subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- vii. The RLDP will also be accompanied by an Infrastructure Plan, an updated Local Transport Plan and an Economic Development Strategy.

Preferred Strategy

- viii. The Preferred Strategy:
- Makes provision for approximately 5,400 - 5,940 homes over the Plan period 2018-2033²** (Strategic Policy S1). This includes approximately 1,580 - 1,850 affordable homes (Strategic Policy S6). As there are currently approximately 3,740 homes in the housing landbank³, **land will be allocated for approximately 1,660 - 2,200 new homes**, including 830 - 1,100 new affordable homes.
 - Sets out the planning policy framework to **enable the provision of approximately 6,240 additional jobs by allocating sufficient employment land and by including policies to facilitate economic growth** (Strategic Policy S12). The RLDP will be supported by an Economic Development Strategy.
 - Focuses growth in the County's most sustainable settlements of Abergavenny, Chepstow and Caldicot (including Severnside)** (Strategic Policy S2). Due to the lack of an identified strategic solution to the treatment of phosphates at the Monmouth Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) within

² In accordance with the Development Plans Manual (WG, March 2020) an allowance is provisionally made for a 10% flexibility allowance to factor in sites that may not come forward, unforeseen issues or to meet higher aspirations for the County to enable the provision/delivery of additional sites if all sites are delivered. The flexibility allowance will be given further consideration and refined at Deposit stage.

³As the Plan period has already begun (2018) some of the homes in the landbank have been built, are under construction or have planning permission. The landbank figure also takes account of windfall sites & small sites.

the Plan period, **no new site allocations are proposed in the primary settlement of Monmouth** or within the upper River Wye catchment area north of Bigsweir Bridge.

- d. Identifies **Preferred Strategic Site Allocations** in the primary settlements of Abergavenny, Chepstow and Caldicot, including Severnside. Other detailed site allocations will be set out in the Deposit RLDP.
 - e. Limits the impact of climate change by ensuring **new homes are net zero carbon ready and well connected with existing settlements**, providing attractive and accessible places to live and work.
 - f. **Sets out strategic policies** on a range of topic areas, reflecting the four placemaking themes in Planning Policy Wales (PPW edition 11, 2021.).
- ix. Without an identified strategic solution to the water quality environmental constraint in the upper River Wye catchment, the Preferred Strategy cannot deliver the Council's objectives, including the delivery of new affordable homes, in that part of the County. Should that situation change during the Plan period, windfall sites within settlement boundaries could be developed. It is proposed to include within the settlement boundary to Monmouth three sites that are currently unable to progress due to water quality: the current LDP allocations at Drewen Farm, off Wonastow Road (c.110 homes) and at Tudor Road, Wyesham (c.35 homes); and land with planning permission at Rockfield Road (c.130 homes). These sites do not count towards the housing figures.
- x. The table below sets out the indicative distribution of the proposed housing growth. There are different components that contribute towards the 5,940 homes (5,400 plus 10% flexibility) including homes already built since 2018 (1,579 homes), sites with planning permission that will realistically be built (1,263 homes), small sites and windfalls (900 homes), and new site allocations (2,200 homes).

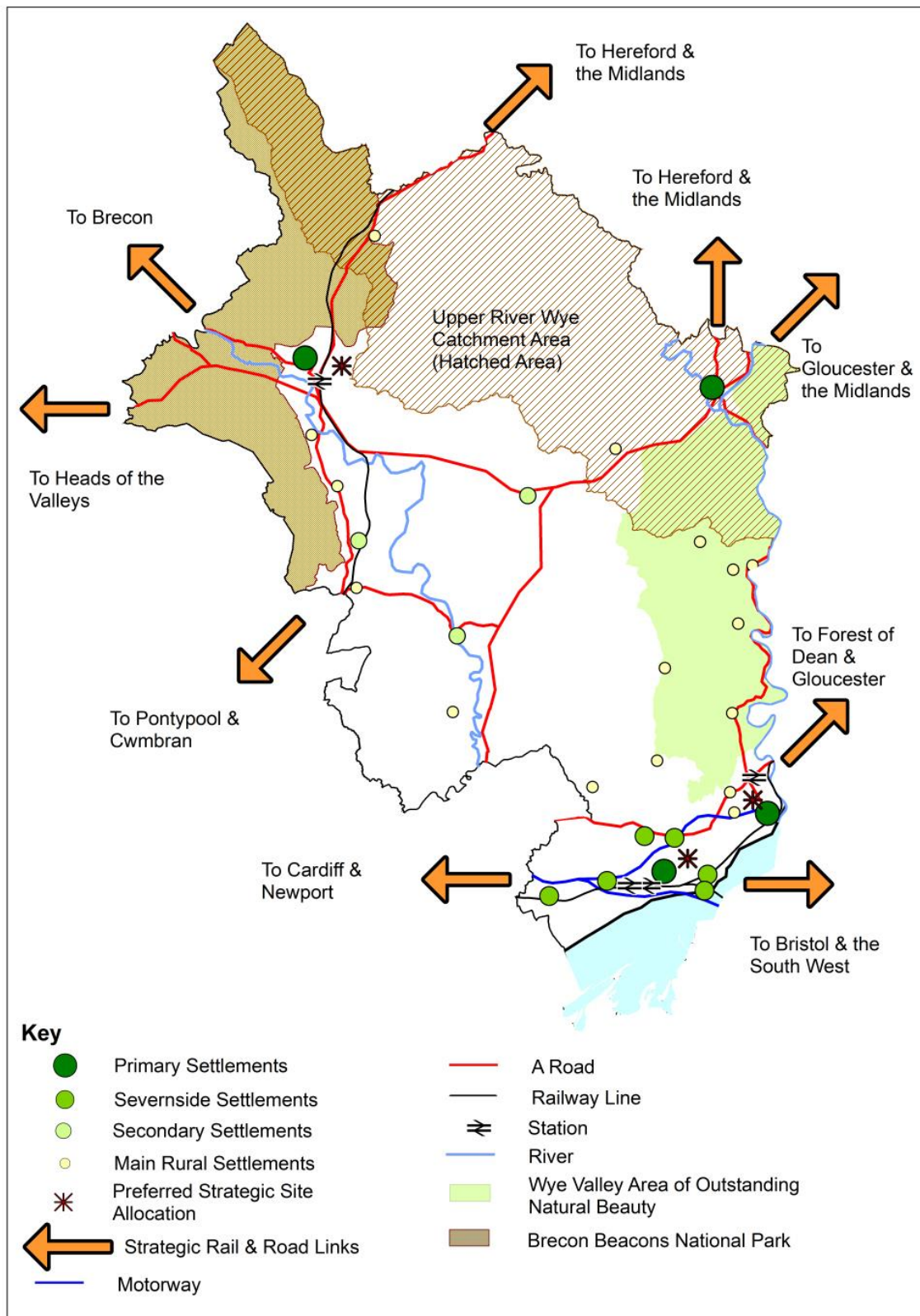
Summary of Indicative Spatial Distribution of Housing Provision*

Settlement	Total Commitments		Preferred Strategy		Total Housing Provision 2018-2033*
	Completions 2018-2021	Existing Commitments	Total Allowances (Small Sites; Windfalls)	RLDP New Housing Allocations (Dwellings)	
Abergavenny (incl. Llanfoist)	426	132	245	600	1,403
Chepstow	192	267	165	145	769
Monmouth (incl. Wyesham)	264	11	0	0	275
Caldicot (incl. Severnside)	466	723	220	1,200	2609
Secondary Settlements	100	45	80	155	380
Rural Settlements	131	83	190	100	504
Total	1,579	1,261	900	2,200	5,940

*Figures include an indicative 10% flexibility allowance which will be subject to further consideration and refinement at Deposit Plan stage. The spatial distribution may alter following detailed site assessment work

xi. The Preferred Strategy is illustrated in the Key Diagram below.

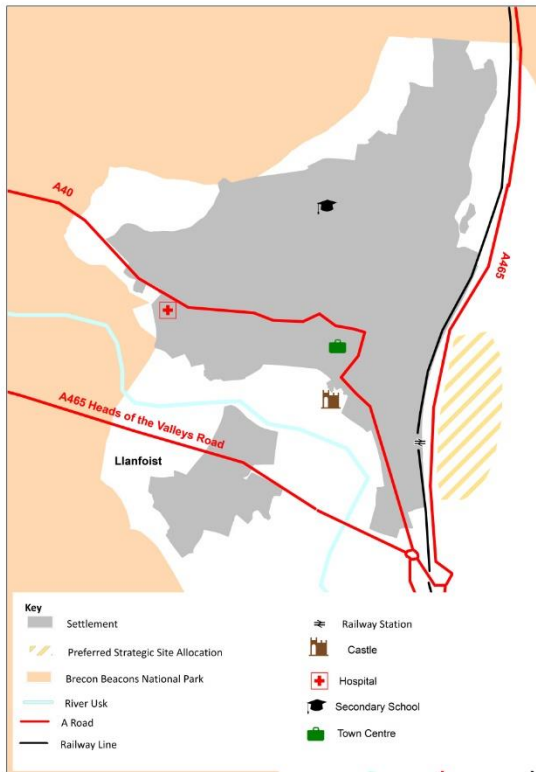
Key diagram of the Preferred Strategy



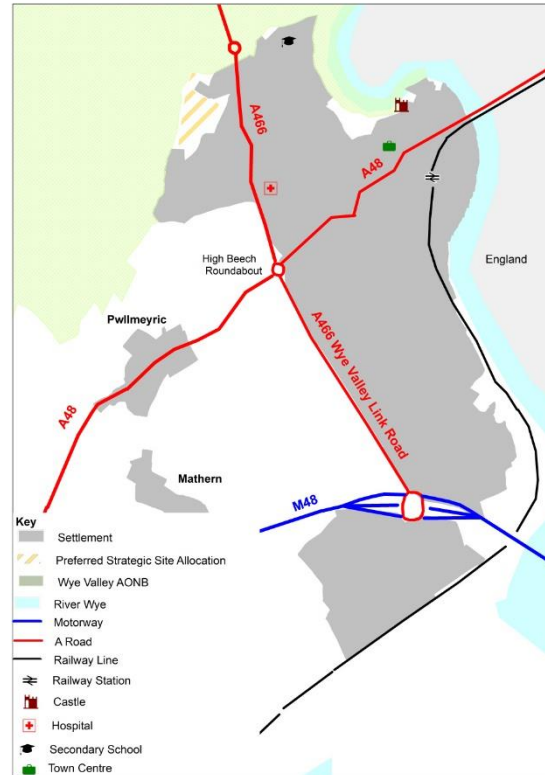
- xii. The Preferred Strategy identifies three Preferred Strategic Site Allocations, details of which are provided below.

Location of the Preferred Strategic Site Allocations

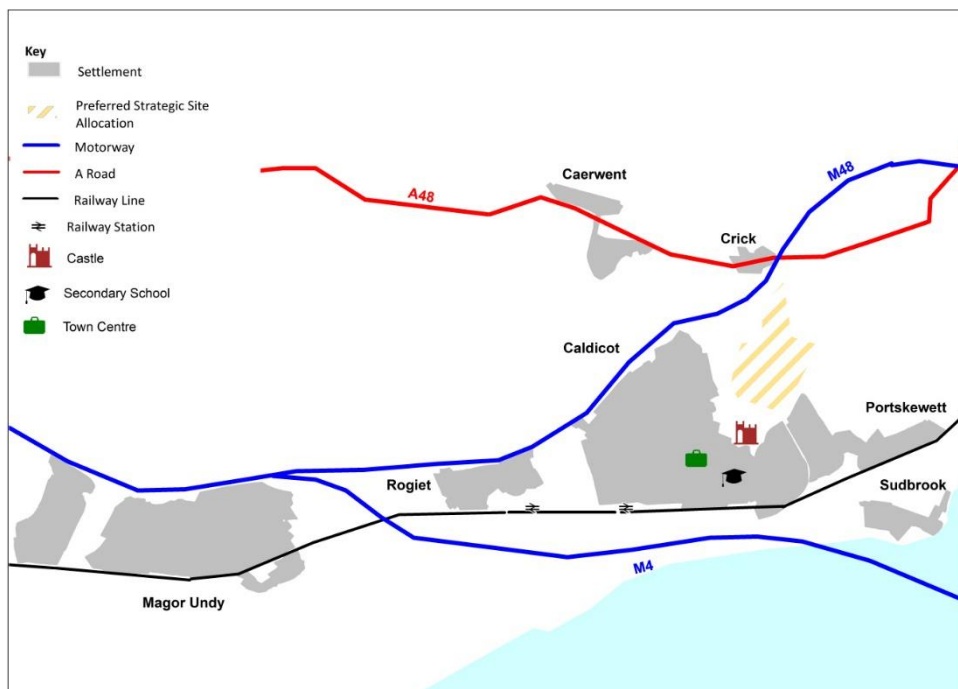
Abergavenny East



Bayfield, Chepstow



Caldicot East



Details of the Preferred Strategic Site Allocations

Site Name	Candidate Site Reference	Size (Ha)	Proposed Use	No. of homes proposed in Candidate Site Submissions	Approximate No. of homes within Plan period
Abergavenny East	CS0213	24.75	Mixed Use: Residential, Employment, Retail, Leisure, Education and Community Use	635	500
Bayfield, Chepstow	CS0098	10.07	Residential	145	145
Caldicot East	CS0087 CS0251	67.67	Mixed Use: Residential, Employment, Retail, Leisure	1460	925

- xiii. The Preferred Strategy also requires the allocation of 38ha of employment land comprising:
- B1: 3.5ha
 - B2: 9.2ha
 - B8: 25.2ha

Next Steps

- xiv. Following the consultation and stakeholder involvement on the Preferred Strategy, the Council will finalise the RLDP and place it on Deposit. Feedback from the Preferred Strategy consultation will be detailed in the Consultation Report on the Strategy. This report must accompany the RLDP ISA Report and the other supporting documents on Deposit, in accordance with Regulation 17 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended 2015). A summary of key issues raised through the consultation and the Preferred Strategy with any necessary amendments will be reported to Council in Spring 2023 to seek approval of the Preferred Strategy. The Deposit Plan will then be prepared and considered by Council prior to statutory consultation and engagement during Spring 2024.
- xv. Following consultation on the Deposit Plan and consideration of the issues raised, it will be submitted to the Welsh Government who will appoint an independent Inspector to examine the RLDP. Having regard to the evidence and representations received during the Deposit consultation, the Inspector must determine whether the RLDP accords with the 'tests of soundness' set out in the Development Plans Manual.
- xvi. Following the examination, the Inspector will issue a report recommending any necessary changes to the RLDP. The Inspector's report will be binding and the Council must accept the changes and adopt the RLDP as amended. Once adopted, the RLDP will replace the existing Adopted LDP.

1 Introduction

Replacement Local Development Plan

- 1.1 Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) is preparing a Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) for the County (excluding the area within the Brecon Beacons National Park), covering the period 2018-2033. When adopted, it will be the statutory land use plan to support delivery of the Council's core purpose of becoming a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life⁴. The RLDP will set out land use development proposals for the County and will identify how much new development will take place and where this will be located over the Replacement Plan period. It will also identify areas to be protected from development and provide policies against which future planning applications will be assessed.
- 1.2 The RLDP will deliver the Council's objectives and address the core issues of delivering essential affordable homes at pace and scale, responding to the climate and nature emergency by delivering net zero carbon ready new homes in exemplar places, and ensuring our communities are socially and economically sustainable by attracting and retaining younger people to rebalance our ageing demographic.
- 1.3 The RLDP is being prepared in accordance with the Revised Delivery Agreement (December 2022) which sets out the timetable for Plan preparation and the approach to community consultation and engagement. The Preferred Strategy is the first of the statutory consultation stages in the RLDP process. Figure 1 below provides a broad overview of the RLDP process.

Figure 1: Replacement Local Development Plan Process



⁴ The draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022 sets out the Council's core purpose, principles, and priorities. It was endorsed by [Cabinet on 19th October 2022](#) and a developed version will be reported to Council in January 2023

- 1.4 The RLDP has been through a number of key plan stages since Plan commencement in 2018. An overview of progress and key considerations at each stage is provided in Appendix 1. Several challenges have arisen, affecting progress and requiring further consideration at the relevant stage. These challenges include the publication of updated Welsh Government 2018-based population projections, the Covid-19 pandemic, an objection from Welsh Government to the June 2021 Preferred Strategy, and phosphate water quality issues in the River Wye and River Usk catchment areas. This new December 2022 Preferred Strategy has been prepared having regard to the challenges experienced whilst also ensuring the RLDP delivers on its Vision and Objectives.

What is the Preferred Strategy?

- 1.5 The overall purpose of the Preferred Strategy is to provide the strategic direction for the development and use of land in Monmouthshire (excluding the area within the Brecon Beacons National Park) over the Plan period 2018 to 2033. The Preferred Strategy:
- Identifies key issues, challenges and opportunities for the County;
 - Develops a vision and set of objectives for the RLDP that respond to the key issues, challenges and opportunities;
 - Sets out the scale of future growth in population, housing and jobs and establishes the spatial distribution of growth; and
 - Sets out the preferred strategic site allocations and strategic policies to deliver/implement the strategy.
- 1.6 Regulation 15 of the Local Development Plan Regulations⁵ requires the Council to publish its pre-Deposit Plan proposals (Preferred Strategy) for public consultation prior to determining the content of its Deposit Plan. The Preferred Strategy is the first statutory consultation stage in the RLDP preparation process. It is informed by, and represents the completion of, a period of pre-Deposit Plan preparation and engagement (as referred to above).
- 1.7 The Preferred Strategy provides the strategic framework for the future preparation of more detailed policies, proposals and land use allocations that will be included in the Deposit RLDP. The Plan will seek to deliver on the Council's core purpose of becoming a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life.
- 1.8 As evidenced in the Annual Monitoring Reports for the Adopted LDP, it is recognised that many of the Adopted LDP's policies are functioning effectively and will require only minor changes to reflect contextual changes and updates to national policy.

⁵ The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended 2015)

Supporting Documents

- 1.9 The Preferred Strategy has been subject to an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Well-being of Future Generations Assessment (WBFGA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) and Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA). The ISA assesses the extent to which the emerging proposals and policies will help to achieve the wider environmental, economic, social and cultural objectives of the RLDP. The Preferred Strategy has also been subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment. The [Initial Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report](#) and [Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Preferred Strategy](#) are published alongside the Preferred Strategy. The Integrated Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment are iterative processes and will be updated as the RLDP progresses towards adoption
- 1.10 The RLDP will also be accompanied by an Infrastructure Plan, setting out what is needed to support the development of the allocated sites, and will sit alongside an updated Local Transport Plan and an Economic Development Strategy. Together, these Plans will seek to deliver on the Council's economic ambition and its core purpose of becoming a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life.
- 1.11 The Preferred Strategy is informed by a number of additional supporting background documents as listed in Appendix 2. These [background documents](#) should be read alongside the Preferred Strategy: only the main findings of the background documents are highlighted in this Preferred Strategy given the significant amount of data/information they contain.
- 1.12 A Second Call for Candidate Sites took place over a twelve-week period between 5th July to 31st August 2021. The Preferred Strategy is accompanied by a background paper that identifies those candidate sites that broadly accord with the Strategy. A detailed assessment of candidate sites will be published alongside the Deposit RLDP

Community & Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation on the Preferred Strategy

- 1.13 The Preferred Strategy will be the subject of community and stakeholder engagement and consultation. Full details of all the [consultation events and methods on how to comment](#) on the Preferred Strategy are available to view on the Council's website.

Next Steps

- 1.14 Following the consultation and stakeholder involvement on the Preferred Strategy, the Council will finalise the RLDP and place it on Deposit. Feedback from the Preferred Strategy consultation will be detailed in the Consultation Report on the Strategy. This report must accompany the RLDP ISA Report and the other supporting documents on Deposit, in accordance with Regulation 17 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended 2015). A summary of key

issues raised through the consultation and the Preferred Strategy with any necessary amendments will be reported to Council in Spring 2023 to seek approval of the Preferred Strategy. The Deposit Plan will then be prepared and considered by Council prior to statutory consultation and engagement during Spring 2024.

- 1.15 Following consultation on the Deposit Plan and consideration of the issues raised, it will be submitted to the Welsh Government who will appoint an independent Inspector to examine the RLDP. Having regard to the evidence and representations received during the Deposit consultation, the Inspector must determine whether the RLDP accords with the 'tests of soundness' set out in the Development Plans Manual.
- 1.16 Following the examination, the Inspector will issue a report recommending any necessary changes to the RLDP. The Inspector's report will be binding and the Council must accept the changes and adopt the RLDP as amended. Once adopted, the RLDP will replace the existing Adopted LDP.

2 Context

Monmouthshire Profile and Overview

- 2.1 This section provides a broad introduction to the Plan area, outlining the key economic, social, environmental and cultural characteristics of Monmouthshire. It also identifies the policy context and other influences on the Plan due to the requirement to have regard to a range of plans, policies and programmes at the national, regional and local level. Of note, the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report also sets out a full list of policies, plans, programmes and strategies relevant to the RLDP.

Geographical Context

- 2.2 Located in South East Wales, Monmouthshire occupies a strategic position between the major centres in South Wales, the South West of England and the Midlands. Monmouthshire covers an area of approximately 88,000 hectares (880 square kilometres), of which 3% is defined as ‘built on’⁶. Monmouthshire has an estimated population of 92,961⁷, of which around 7% reside within the Brecon Beacons National Park area of the County. The County is bordered by a number of Welsh Local Authorities; Newport City Council to the south-west, Torfaen County Borough Council to the west and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to the north-west. It is also bordered by a number of English Local Authorities; Herefordshire Council to the north-east, South Gloucestershire Council and the Forest of Dean District Council to the east, with links to South Gloucestershire via the Severn Bridge.
- 2.3 The County has a distinctive identity arising from its location in the borderlands between England and the industrial heartland of South Wales. An integral element of Monmouthshire’s distinctive settlement pattern arises from its historic market towns and villages and their relationship with the surrounding rural areas. The County has a rich and diverse landscape stretching from the coastline of the Gwent Levels in the south of the County, to the uplands of the Brecon Beacons National Park to the north-west and the river corridor of the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the east.
- 2.4 Located at the gateway to Wales and the Cardiff Capital Region, the County is easily accessible from the rest of Wales and England using a number of strategic routes including the M4 and M48 motorways, the Heads of the Valleys road (A465), the A449, A40 and A4042. Monmouthshire also has four railway stations at Caldicot, Chepstow and Severn Tunnel Junction in the south of the County, and, Abergavenny in the north. These provide rail links to the key settlements of Newport, Cardiff and to west Wales, as well as to Bristol, London, Gloucester, Cheltenham, the Midlands and Manchester. A walkway rail station is proposed at Magor with Undy.

⁶ Corine Landcover Inventory

⁷ 2021 Census

Settlement Pattern

- 2.5 The Primary Settlements of Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow and Monmouth, offer a wide range of opportunities for employment, shopping, leisure, community facilities and sustainable and active travel. Outside of these areas, additional opportunities are found at the wider Severnside area and in the Secondary Settlements of Penperlleni, Raglan and Usk, and in a number of smaller rural settlements. Further details on individual settlements and the settlement hierarchy is provided in the Sustainable Settlement Appraisal which has been developed to identify those settlements which are best suited to accommodate future growth in terms of their location, role and function.

Natural and Built Environment

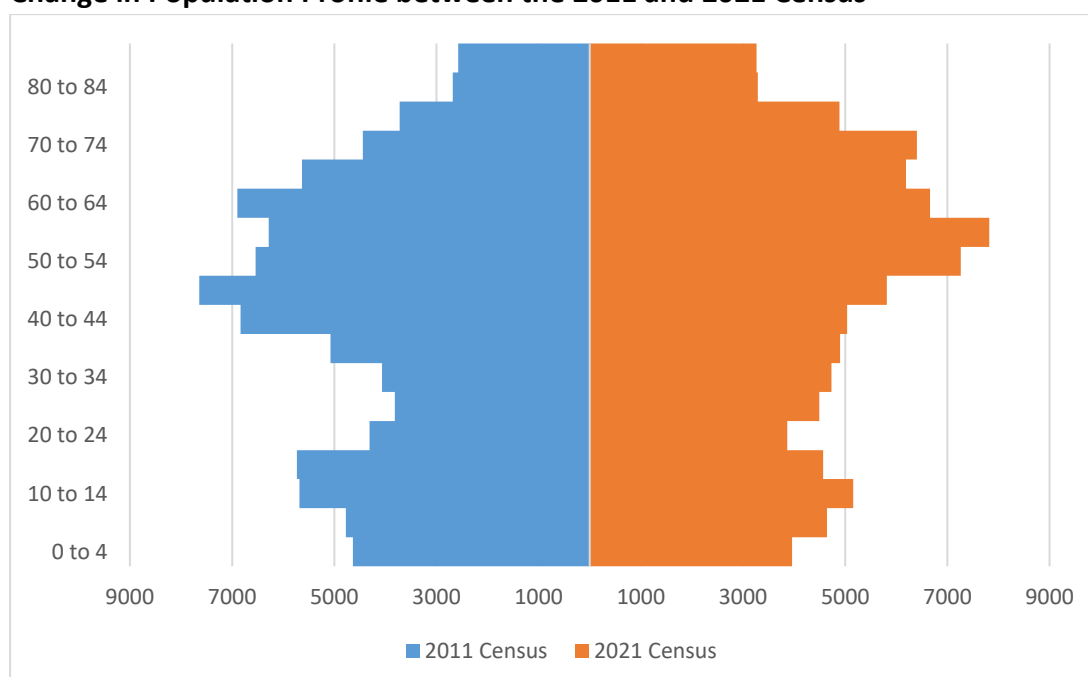
- 2.6 Monmouthshire is renowned for its beautiful landscapes and biodiversity resource. As a largely rural County, Monmouthshire has significant landscape resources and is home to internationally and nationally designated landscapes ranging from the Wye Valley AONB to the east and the Brecon Beacons National Park and the Blaenavon Industrial World Heritage Site to the north west. It has substantial biodiversity and nature conservation resources, a number of which are internationally or nationally recognised, including the Severn Estuary which is designated as a Special Area for Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Ramsar Site. The County is also home to four other SACs, namely the River Wye, the River Usk, the Wye Valley Woodlands and the Wye Valley Bat Sites. These are supplemented by a rich resource of nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and non-statutory locally identified Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).
- 2.7 The Monmouthshire RLDP area also has a rich built heritage and historic environment which includes, 31 Conservation Areas, 45 Historic Parks and Gardens, 3 Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest, approximately 164 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and 2,149 Listed Buildings. There is a need to protect, promote and enhance the best of our landscape and heritage which are an important part of Monmouthshire's culture and play a key role in tourism and economic growth.

Population

- 2.8 Monmouthshire has a population of 92,961 based on the 2021 Census. As a predominantly rural county, the four primary settlements of Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow and Monmouth account for over half of the population between them at 52%.
- 2.9 In terms of population make-up, Monmouthshire has a median age of 49 years compared to 34 years in Cardiff, and has a significantly higher proportion of older age groups (65+) and a lower proportion of young adults (16-44) compared to the Welsh

average. The proportion of our population aged 65+ and 85+ is increasing well in excess of the Welsh average. The 2021 Census shows that the population aged 65+ has increased by 26% this compares to a Welsh average of 18%. For the County as a whole, the 2021 Census identifies that nearly 26% of the population is over 65 (compared to 21% in Wales), with 16% under 16 (18% in Wales) and just over 58% in the working age population group (16-64) (61% in Wales). The change in the population profile of Monmouthshire in the past 10 years is shown clearly in the population pyramid below. However, this differs by settlement across the County. The continuing trend for an ageing demographic is one of the key issues that Monmouthshire is facing.

Change in Population Profile between the 2011 and 2021 Census



- 2.10 The relative absence of young adults is often linked to the affordability of housing across the County. Average house prices in the County are high at £398,859 when compared to the Welsh average of £236,439 (Hometrack, November 2022)⁸. House prices are also high in relation to earnings and there is a pressing need for additional affordable housing in the County in both urban and rural areas to assist in ensuring a more balanced population. The issue of affordability also impacts on the ability of young people in the County being able to form their own households, the 2021 Census shows a 14% increase in households with non-dependent children, showing children having to live with parents for longer. This issue has been heightened by the Covid-19 pandemic which has demonstrated the importance of ensuring our communities are balanced and socially sustainable, particularly in terms of demography.

⁸ Based on sales and valuations over six month period March 2022 – August 2022. Sales only over same period related to £351,643 for Monmouthshire and £224,101 for Wales. Data accessed on 02/11/2022.

Economy

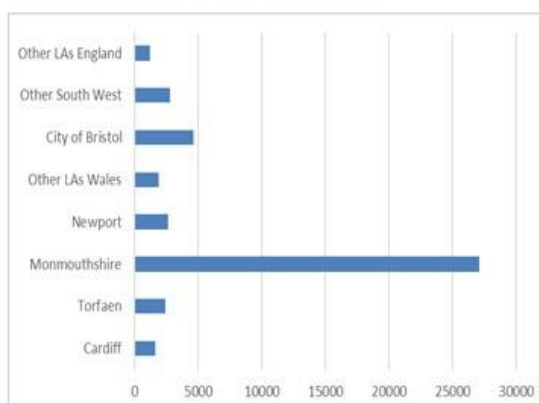
- 2.11 As the gateway to Wales, Monmouthshire is geographically well connected in a key strategic location with good transport infrastructure linking to the wider region. The County enjoys close proximity to the key growth areas of Cardiff, Bristol, Newport and the Midlands and is only a 45 minute drive to Cardiff and Bristol airports. It is the most competitive economy in Wales after Cardiff and is predicted to have the fastest GVA growth per capita in Wales (UK Competitiveness Index 2021). Our residents are among the best qualified in Wales.⁹
- 2.12 Monmouthshire is a key partner in the Cardiff Capital City Deal and given its geographical location connected to the Bristol City Region this makes it an attractive proposition for economic development.
- 2.13 The April 2021 – March 2022 ONS Annual Population Survey indicated that nearly 80% (79.7%) of Monmouthshire's working-age population were economically active, higher than the figure for Wales, at 76.5%. Whilst the proportion of the economically active of working age unemployed in Monmouthshire was 2.9% compared to 3.8% in Wales.
- 2.14 Monmouthshire has a strong core of agri-food, tourism, manufacturing, digital and tech businesses. The Council's Economic Growth and Ambition Statement¹⁰ recognises the importance of building on this success to generate growth in a spectacular setting. Maintaining the attractiveness of Monmouthshire to its current and future residents and visitors through sustainable growth is a key aim of the RLDP.
- 2.15 The ONS 2021 Annual Population Survey reveals that 61% of residents who are employed work within the county. The county had a net out-commute of some 2,800 residents. Of those commuting out for employment nearly 27% were commuting to the City of Bristol and a further 23% to other areas in England. Welsh Government's Building Better Places response to Covid-19 acknowledges that the tendency for people to work from home is likely to continue longer term, with Welsh Government ambition being for 30% of the workforce to work remotely on a regular basis.¹¹

⁹ ONS Annual Population Survey (12 months to June 2022)

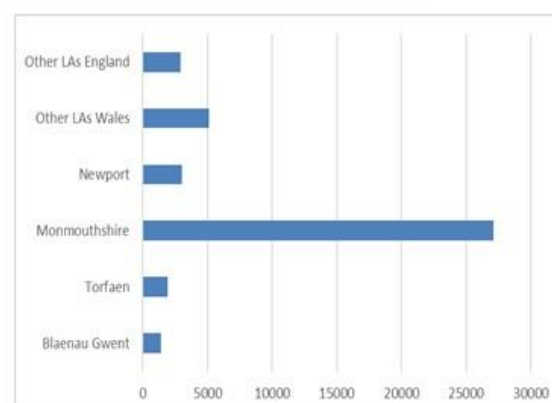
¹⁰ The Economic Growth and Ambition Statement can be viewed via <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/development-of-an-evidence-base/>

¹¹ [Smarter working: a remote working strategy for Wales \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

Where residents of Monmouthshire Work



Where those who work in Monmouthshire live



- 2.16 An Employment Background Paper¹² is prepared annually which assesses take-up of allocated employment land in the adopted LDP's (Identified Industrial and Business Sites under policy SAE1 and Protected Employment Sites under policy SAE2). The results from this annual survey will help to inform future employment land requirements. As of March 2022, of the 50.12ha of allocated SAE1 sites in the Adopted LDP, just over 40 hectares of land remained available for B1, B2 and B8 uses. The employment land take-up rate has averaged 1.8 hectares per annum since the adoption of the LDP in 2014.
- 2.17 Given the increased propensity in agile and home working which began during the Covid-19 pandemic employment land demand/ requirements may change. However, the RLDP will continue to need to provide a range of sites to meet employment needs to 2033 to support the Council's ambitions and to support the local economy. The spatial distribution of employment land will be given further consideration in the Deposit RLDP which will include the identification of suitable employment sites and premises to enable existing businesses to grow and to attract new businesses in key growth sectors.

Influences on the Replacement Local Development Plan

Legislative Context

- 2.18 The Preferred Strategy has been prepared in the context of relevant national legislation and plans, policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, details of which are set out in Appendix 3.

¹² The Employment Land Background Paper – May 2022 can be viewed via <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/annual-monitoring/employment/>

3 Key Issues, Challenges and Opportunities

Key Issues and Challenges

3.1 The key issues, challenges and opportunities/drivers facing the County (economic, environmental, social and cultural) are set out in the RLDP Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper¹³ (updated December 2022) and set out in Appendix 4. The Issues have been grouped to align with the seven well-being goals as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to ensure that they are framed within this context. A summary of the key issues, challenges and opportunities is provided below:

- We have the highest average house prices in Wales (see para 2.10). This means a large proportion of people cannot afford to buy a home so either leave the County, or have to live with their parents or in shared housing for longer. We have 2,200 households identified as being in need of affordable housing¹⁴. The RLDP will explore opportunities to increase the number of affordable homes and ensure a range and choice of homes are incorporated within new developments.
- Our population is getting older. By 2033 we will have more old people living in the County but fewer young people (see para 2.9). An older population changes the kind of services our communities will need, but also reduces the number of people using and financially supporting businesses and services. We will have a smaller economically active population making Monmouthshire a less attractive place for businesses to locate. This impacts on our future economic prospects.
- The Council has declared a climate emergency and has committed to strive to limit the increase in global temperatures to 1.5°C and strengthened emphasis on nature recovery. The RLDP will provide the land use policy framework to address the climate and nature emergency together, seeking outcomes that recognise the role resilient ecosystems can play in tackling carbon emissions and mitigating the impact of climate change. The RLDP will establish policy to support and enable renewable energy generation and establish requirements for net zero carbon ready developments and other sustainable development principles such as active travel, green infrastructure and local food production. These will sit alongside and integrate with policies for protection of sites designated for biodiversity, habitats and species and deliver on Net Biodiversity Benefit.

¹³ The Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper can be viewed via <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/development-of-an-evidence-base/>

¹⁴ MCC Affordable Housing Prospectus 2022

- We have an urgent need to tackle water quality and phosphate pollution in our rivers Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has adopted tighter targets for river water quality and have put in place a requirement to achieve phosphate neutrality or betterment in the River Usk and River Wye. In recognition of the water quality issues in the County, a Motion for Rivers and Ocean was declared by Council in March 2022 with an [action plan](#) agreed by Council in September 2022 to outline steps the Council will take to protect our rivers and ocean.
- There is a need to consider whether existing employment land is suitably located and fit for purpose for appropriate growth sectors, along with the potential increase in agile and home working and the impact this may have on employment land demand/requirements. We also need to consider future demand in line with Council aspirations and the opportunities that a shift in working behaviour could create with businesses given greater flexibility over where to locate.
- There are opportunities associated with growth from both the Cardiff Capital Region and Bristol region.
- Unemployment levels are low (see para 2.13); however, Monmouthshire has a dual economy. The qualifications, skills and earnings of the residents are above the regional and national average, however, for those working in the area earnings are lower and employment is relatively less skilled. Monmouthshire has a net-outflow of commuters (see para 2.15). To address these issues there is a need to provide support for inward investment and local employment growth/opportunities.
- Vacancy rates in some of the County's town and local centres have increased¹⁵ due to changing shopping habits including internet shopping and economic factors such as high business rates and the cost of living crisis.
- There are challenges of rural isolation and sustaining rural communities, including regenerating the rural economy. The recent pandemic has emphasised the value and importance of having locally accessible services and facilities.
- We want to protect the landscapes and heritage that make Monmouthshire a unique and attractive place to live. The RLDP recognises the value and importance of placemaking and the provision of locally accessible open/spaces for health and well-being and recreation.

¹⁵ Evidence is contained in the Retail section of the 2020-2021 Annual Monitoring Report
<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2021/11/Monmouthshire-LDP-AMR-2020-2021.pdf>

- Tourism plays a significant part in the Monmouthshire economy particularly in assisting in the diversification of the rural economy and in sustaining the County's historic town centres. According to figures supplied by tourism economic indicator STEAM (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor), the sector brought in £245m to Monmouthshire in 2019 (latest figures available) and supported the equivalent of 3,119 full-time jobs (STEAM report 2019).

Development Constraints

- 3.2 The RLDP response to these issues must be considered and delivered with regard to development constraints that need to be avoided, mitigated and balanced to achieve sustainable development principles such as placemaking, active travel and environmental considerations including high quality landscape across the County, biodiversity designations and green infrastructure. Collectively these constraints and policy requirements will need to be balanced and will influence the location and scale of development appropriate to different parts of the County. Specific examples are discussed throughout the policy framework contained in the Preferred Strategy, with some key constraints discussed below.

Water Quality in Riverine Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

- 3.3 Following new evidence about the environmental impacts of phosphates in watercourses, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has adopted tighter targets for river water quality and has assessed the nine riverine Special Areas of Conservation in Wales. Within Monmouthshire, it was identified that 88% of the River Usk's water bodies failed to meet the required target and within the River Wye 67% failed to meet the required target. In response, NRW has issued detailed planning guidance to ensure that the environmental capacity of the rivers does not deteriorate any further. A plan of the catchment area of the rivers can be found on the Council's website via: <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning/water-quality>.
- 3.4 NRW has provided planning guidance outlining what type of development is unlikely to have an impact on phosphate levels in the watercourses. Development proposals within the affected catchment areas of the rivers Usk and Wye that might increase phosphate levels must achieve phosphate neutrality or betterment. This [guidance](#) can be found on the Council's website.
- 3.5 This new guidance has significant implications for development proposals within the river catchment areas. We are working with NRW, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, Welsh Government, the development industry and our biodiversity officers to find solutions to enable growth and allocate candidate sites through the RLDP process that do not harm the environmental capacity of our watercourses. Following discussions with Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) and NRW, a workable and achievable solution has been

identified for the Llanfoist Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) (upper River Usk catchment), but there is no identified strategic solution for phosphate mitigation at the Monmouth WwTW (upper River Wye catchment) at this time. Without an identified strategic solution, new site allocations for future growth within the affected upper River Wye catchment area cannot be evidenced to be deliverable within the Plan period. Consequently, no new site allocations can be proposed within the upper River Wye catchment, including the primary settlement of Monmouth. The restrictions on new housing and employment development in this area during the Plan period are reflected in the RLDP spatial strategy.

Site Search Sequence and Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

- 3.6 The approach to site selection for the Deposit Plan will follow the site search sequence outlined in PPW11, which prioritises the use of suitable and sustainable previously developed land before considering greenfield sites. This process must, however, acknowledge the limited brownfield resource available in Monmouthshire and the environmental, social and economic considerations that need to be balanced in a Monmouthshire context.
- 3.7 A key consideration in assessing the Candidate Sites will be the high percentage of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land within Monmouthshire. Appendix 5 sets out the Council's anticipated approach to assessing the potential loss of BMV agricultural land. This will be developed further to provide an Agricultural Land Classification Background Paper for Deposit RLDP stage. The widespread distribution of BMV agricultural land throughout Monmouthshire means that it does not affect the spatial strategy: all four of our primary settlements are surrounded by BMV agricultural land, so it is not possible to avoid the development of such land via a different spatial strategy.

Green Belt

- 3.8 Policy 34 of Future Wales requires the South East Wales Strategic Development Plan (SDP) to identify a green belt to the north of Cardiff, Newport and the eastern part of the region to manage urban form and growth. The South East Wales Regional Strategic Diagram (page 163 of Future Wales) provides an indicative plan of the area for consideration with the detailed boundary to be defined through the preparation of the SDP. In advance of an SDP, the indicative area shown for consideration in Future Wales should be treated as a designated Green Belt.
- 3.9 While the County's main towns are situated outside of Future Wales' indicative green belt, in assessing candidate sites and their relationship to Policy 34 of Future Wales, consideration will be given to paragraph 3.72 of PPW11 which states that when considering a Green Belt designation, a sufficient range of development land which is suitably located in relation to the existing urban edge should be made available, having regard to the longer term need for development land, the effects of

development pressures in areas beyond the Green Belt and the need to minimise demand for travel. This may require land to be safeguarded, and boundaries of proposed Green Belts must be carefully defined to achieve this. A Green Belt Study has been commissioned on a sub-regional basis to inform the evidence base of RLDPs and the South East Wales SDP.

Key Opportunities

- 3.10 Having identified the key issues and challenges facing the County that the RLDP needs to address, the following sets out some of the key opportunities to realising some of the issues and challenges.

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (February 2021)

- 3.11 Welsh Government published Future Wales 2040 in February 2021. While this sets out the national development framework and direction for development in Wales to 2040, it contains a number of policies that are of particular relevance to Monmouthshire providing the national policy context to address our evidenced key issues. Policy 3 – Supporting Urban Growth and Regeneration - Public Sector Leadership - sets out that Welsh Government will play an active role in the delivery of growth and urban regeneration, working with local authorities to unlock the potential of public land and support local authorities to take an increased development role. Policy 4 – Supporting Rural Communities and Policy 5 – Supporting the Rural Economy, provide the policy framework to consider how age balanced communities can be achieved, where depopulation should be reversed and allowing for sustainable, appropriate and proportionate economic growth. Policy 7 – Delivering Affordable Homes, also addresses the key issue of affordable housing prices in the County and provides the framework to address this through affordable housing led developments. These policies provide significant opportunities to address a number of the key issues facing the County.

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

- 3.12 The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in many challenges, but it has also resulted in some significant changes in how we operate our daily lives and use the neighbourhood spaces around us. Welsh Government's Building Better Places Covid-19¹⁶ recovery policy document recognises this, and the opportunity it has created to embed behavioural shift and the increased importance of placemaking. The RLDP is a key mechanism to deliver on Covid-19 recovery. Examples include greater emphasis on creating neighbourhoods that enable residents to stay and move locally to access most services and amenities through revitalised town centres and the provision of locally

¹⁶ Building Better Places – Placemaking and the Covid-19 recovery – July 2020 can be viewed via: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-07/building-better-places-the-planning-system-delivering-resilient-and-brighter-futures.pdf>

accessible green spaces. Similarly, the importance of digital connectivity and necessity to incorporate sufficient infrastructure in developments from the outset has been highlighted, particularly in rural areas.

Climate and Nature Emergency and Motion for the Rivers and Ocean

- 3.13 In May 2019, the Council declared a Climate Emergency and published an updated Climate and Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan in November 2021, with strengthened emphasis on nature recovery in recognition of the nature emergency. This sets out key actions the Council will take to reduce its own carbon emissions to net zero in line with Welsh Government's target of 2030, but also make a commitment to work with partners and organisations to develop and implement best practice in limiting global warming to less than 1.5°C. As recognised by PPW11 and Building Better Places, the RLDP and its policy framework and allocations provide a significant opportunity to address the causes and effects of climate change. It is recognised that efforts to tackle climate change are wide-ranging and will require a co-ordinated approach to development including aspects such as active travel, green infrastructure, effective use of land and resources and flood resilience.
- 3.14 In recognition of urgent need to address water quality in the County, the Climate Emergency Action Plan November 2021 update included the requirement to prepare an action plan to address water quality. In March 2022 the Motion for the Rivers and Ocean was agreed by Council with the associated action plan agreed in September 2022. This sets out measures and to tackle river water quality, utilising existing partnerships to provide a co-ordinated approach. Of particular relevance to the RLDP is the ongoing work with NRW and Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water and continued involvement with the Wye Nutrient Management Board and the Usk Catchment Partnership to identify and implement options for delivering improvements in water quality.

Cardiff Capital Region City Deal

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

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

Monmouthshire 2040: Our Economic Growth and Ambition Statement and Inward Investment Prospectus 2020: Growing your Business in Monmouthshire

- 3.16 The Council's Economic Growth and Ambition Statement and Prospectus set out the aspirations to raise the profile of Monmouthshire as a dynamic place to do business, a credible place to invest and an incredible place to live, visit and stay. It recognises that Monmouthshire's economy needs to grow to help build sustainable and resilient communities and to achieve the draft Community and Corporate Plan¹⁷ goal of being a thriving and ambitious place, full of hope and enterprise.
- 3.17 The Economic Growth and Ambition Statement and accompanying Prospectus and emerging Economic Development Strategy will work alongside the RLDP and will assist in:
- Raising the profile of Monmouthshire as a key investment opportunity for the private sector.
 - Attract funding and investment to Monmouthshire to attract and facilitate economic growth to the County.
 - Increasing the take up of apprenticeships and reducing the number of residents who are not in education, employment or training.
 - Increasing next generation access broadband and mobile phone coverage across the County.

¹⁷ The draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022 sets out the Council's core purpose, principles, and priorities. It was endorsed by [Cabinet on 19th October 2022](#) and a developed version will be reported to Council in January 2023.

4 RLDP Strategic Framework

RLDP Vision (2018-2033)

- 4.1 The Vision clarifies the core purpose of the RLDP and provides a framework for developing the Preferred Strategy and future detailed policies. The Vision set out in the adopted LDP 2011-2021 has been reviewed and updated to take account of the issues, challenges and opportunities facing the County, key elements of the PSB Well-being Plan and draft Community and Corporate Plan¹⁸ and to reflect the new growth and spatial strategy.

By 2033 Monmouthshire will be a place where:

- (1) People are living in sustainable, resilient communities that support the well-being of current and future generations and are more inclusive, equal, safe, cohesive, prosperous, vibrant and balanced demographically. Both urban and rural communities are well-connected with better access to local services and facilities, open space and employment opportunities.**
- (2) Communities and businesses are part of an economically thriving, ambitious and well-connected County.**
- (3) The best of the County's built heritage, countryside, biodiversity, landscape and environmental assets have been protected and enhanced to retain its distinctive character.**
- (4) People enjoy healthier, more sustainable lifestyles with improved access to public transport and active travel opportunities and have a minimised impact on the global environment, supporting our ambitions for a zero carbon county.**

The implications of achieving this Vision will be that by 2033 Monmouthshire will be home to well-connected exemplar, affordable housing-led, net zero carbon ready places that provide employment and support demographically balanced sustainable and resilient communities for all.

RLDP Objectives (2018-2033): Delivering the Vision

- 4.2 In order to address the key issues and challenges and deliver the Vision, 17 Objectives have been developed for the RLDP. These build upon the Adopted LDP objectives and the well-being objectives set out in the Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan. The objectives are kept under review and updated as necessary as part of the continued development of the RLDP evidence base. The RLDP will deliver Council's objectives and address the core issues of delivering essential affordable homes at pace and scale, responding to the climate and nature emergency by delivering net zero carbon ready new homes in exemplar places, and ensuring our communities are socially and

¹⁸ The draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022 sets out the Council's core purpose, principles, and priorities. It was endorsed by [Cabinet on 19th October 2022](#) and a developed version will be reported to Council in January 2023.

economically sustainable by attracting and retaining younger people to rebalance our ageing demographic.

- 4.3 The Objectives are sufficiently aspirational yet also achievable within a spatial planning context. As with the RLDP issues, the objectives have been grouped in alignment with the seven well-being goals as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and are aligned with the RLDP issues, the main policy themes identified in Planning Policy Wales (PPW11) and the Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan objectives, as set out in Table 1. The objectives are not listed in priority order.

Table 1 – RLDP Objectives

RLDP Objective Number	Headline	RLDP Objective	RLDP Issues addressed	Main PPW11 theme	Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan objective
A Prosperous Wales (Well-being Goal 1)					
Objective 1	Economic Growth/ Employment*	To support a thriving, well-connected, diverse economy, which provides a range of good quality employment opportunities to enable and encourage indigenous business growth and attract inward investment and competitive innovative businesses in appropriate growth sectors, including through the provision of start-ups and grow on spaces.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 24	Productive and enterprising places	Develop opportunities for communities and business to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.
Objective 2	Town and Local Centres*	To sustain and enhance the County's towns of Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow, Monmouth, and local centres of Magor, Raglan and Usk as vibrant and attractive centres serving the needs of their population and those of their surrounding hinterlands, and supporting adaptation to meet the needs of the evolving role of the high street.	8	Active and social places	Develop opportunities for communities and business to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.
A Resilient Wales (Well-being Goal 2)					
Objective 3	Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Landscape*	To protect, enhance and manage the resilience of Monmouthshire's natural environment, biodiversity and ecosystems and the connectivity between them, while at the same time maximising benefits for the economy, tourism, health and well-being.	11, 12, 35	Distinctive and natural places	Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change.

RLDP Objective Number	Headline	RLDP Objective	RLDP Issues addressed	Main PPW11 theme	Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan objective
		This includes the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the County's other high quality and distinctive landscapes, protected sites, protected species and other biodiversity interests.			
Objective 4	Flood risk	To ensure that new development takes account of the risk of flooding, both existing and in the future, including the need to avoid inappropriate development in areas that are at risk from flooding or that may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere and the need to design development, including the use of natural flood management measures to appropriately manage flood risk and surface water run-off.	12, 13	Distinctive and natural places	Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change.
Objective 5	Minerals and Waste	To meet the County's regional and local obligations to manage and dispose of its waste and to safeguard and exploit its mineral resource in a sustainable fashion.	14, 15	Productive and enterprising places	Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change.
Objective 6	Land-	To promote the efficient use of land, including the need to: • maximise opportunities for development on previously developed land, whilst recognising that brownfield	16, 17	Strategic and spatial choices	Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change.

RLDP Objective Number	Headline	RLDP Objective	RLDP Issues addressed	Main PPW11 theme	Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan objective
		opportunities are limited in Monmouthshire. • protect the best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land whilst at the same time recognising that this will not always be possible given high proportion of BMV land in the County and the limited opportunities for brownfield development. • support the adaptation and re-use of existing sustainably located buildings.			
Objective 7	Natural resources	To promote the efficient use of natural resources including providing increased opportunities for water efficiency, energy efficiency, renewable energy, recycling and waste reduction.	14, 15, 31, 37	Productive and enterprising places	Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change.
A Healthier Wales (Well-being Goal 3)					
Objective 8	Health and Well-being*	To improve access for all to recreation, sport, leisure activities, open space and the countryside and to enable healthier lifestyles. To support the Health Board to improve health infrastructure to meet community needs.	18, 20, 21, 33, 35	Active and social places	Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life.
A More Equal Wales (Well-being Goal 4)					

RLDP Objective Number	Headline	RLDP Objective	RLDP Issues addressed	Main PPW11 theme	Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan objective
Objective 9	Demography*	To increase opportunities for the younger population to both live and work within Monmouthshire, creating a more balanced demography and socially and economically sustainable communities.	2, 3, 4, 5, 24	Active and social places	Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change.
A Wales of Cohesive Communities (Well-being Goal 5)					
Objective 10	Housing*	To provide urgently needed affordable housing within exemplar, mixed, sustainable and well-connected places both for existing and future residents.	23, 25, 26, 27, 28	Active and social places	Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change.
Objective 11	Placemaking	To create exemplar sustainable places through design, layout and mix of uses that enhance the character and identity of Monmouthshire's settlements and landscape; create attractive, safe and accessible places to live, work and visit; and promote people's prosperity, health, happiness and well-being.	1, 11, 12, 18, 20, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35	Strategic and spatial choices	Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change.
Objective 12	Communities	To build sustainable resilient communities where people have good access to employment, shops, housing, public transport, active travel, healthcare, community and cultural facilities.	1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 18, 20, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 33, 35	Strategic and spatial choices	Develop opportunities for communities and business to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.
Objective 13	Rural Communities	To sustain existing rural communities as far as possible by providing affordable homes and development opportunities of an	6, 7, 20, 22, 26, 29, 30, 34	Productive and	Develop opportunities for communities and business to be part of

RLDP Objective Number	Headline	RLDP Objective	RLDP Issues addressed	Main PPW11 theme	Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan objective
		appropriate scale and location in rural areas in order to assist in building sustainable rural communities and strengthening the rural economy.		enterprising places	an economically thriving and well-connected county.
Objective 14	Infrastructure*	To ensure that appropriate physical and digital infrastructure (including community and recreational facilities, sewerage, water, transport, schools, health care and broadband etc.) is in place or can be provided to accommodate new development.	12, 19, 20, 31	Productive and enterprising places	Develop opportunities for communities and business to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.
Objective 15	Accessibility	To seek to reduce the need to travel by promoting a mix of land use allocations and improved internet connectivity, and where travel is required, to provide opportunities for active travel and integrated sustainable transport above use of the private car.	10, 30, 36	Active and social places	Develop opportunities for communities and business to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.
A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language (Well-being Goal 6)					
Objective 16	Culture, Heritage and Welsh Language	To protect and enhance the built environment, culture and heritage of Monmouthshire for the future while maximising benefits for the economy, tourism and social well-being, including supporting and safeguarding the Welsh Language.	9, 32, 33, 34, 35	Distinctive and natural places	Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change.

RLDP Objective Number	Headline	RLDP Objective	RLDP Issues addressed	Main PPW11 theme	Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan objective
A Globally Responsible Wales (Well-being Goal 7)					
Objective 17	Climate and Nature Emergency *	To strive to limit the increase in global temperatures to 1.5°C, supporting carbon reduction through a variety of adaptation measures including facilitating resilient ecosystems and nature recovery, the use of renewable energy, net zero ready homes, the design and location of new development, encouraging balanced job and population growth to reduce out-commuting, the provision of broadband connectivity to reduce the need to travel, the provision of ultra-low emission vehicle charging infrastructure to reduce emissions and improve air quality, and the provision of quality Green Infrastructure.	10, 12, 36, 37, 38	Distinctive and natural places	Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change.

** indicates the Objective has increased emphasis and importance in light of Covid-19*

Preferred Strategy

- 4.4 The Preferred Strategy sets out a new direction for the RLDP to ensure sustainable growth in the County, embodying the principles set out in the draft Community and Corporate Plan of tackling inequality, protecting our environment and adapting to a world being reshaped by climate change. The Preferred Strategy has been informed by a wide range of evidence¹⁹ and responds to a number of challenges that have arisen following stakeholder consultation and engagement on the previous Preferred Strategy in Summer 2021, namely the Welsh Government objection to the level of growth set out in that Preferred Strategy²⁰ and water quality issues in the Rivers Wye and Usk²¹.
- 4.5 The Council has considered how best to progress the RLDP having regard to these challenges, whilst also ensuring that the RLDP delivers on our objectives and addresses our core issues of delivering essential affordable housing at pace and scale, responding to the climate and nature emergency by delivering net zero carbon ready new homes for our communities, and ensuring our communities are socially and economically sustainable by attracting and retaining younger people to rebalance our ageing demographic. In September 2022 Council endorsed the proposal²² to proceed with a new growth and spatial strategy that responds to these challenges and maximises delivery of these core issues and objectives within the environmental and national policy constraints. Further details on the strategy options considered are set out in the Growth and Spatial Options Paper, September 2022. In response, the new Preferred Strategy proposes a lower level of growth and an amended spatial strategy that responds to these challenges.
- 4.6 The Preferred Strategy:
- **Makes provision for approximately 5,400 - 5,940 homes over the Plan period 2018-2033²³.** This includes the provision of approximately 1,580 - 1,850 affordable homes. As there are currently approximately 3,740 homes in the housing

¹⁹ Our key issues, vision and objectives, Local Wellbeing Plan, community consultation and engagement sessions, the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA), the Sustainable Settlement Appraisal, National Planning Policy including Future Wales; the National Plan 2040, and the LDP tests of soundness.

²⁰ Welsh Government's Planning Division raised significant concerns regarding the Strategy's proposed level of growth and 'general conformity' with policies 1 and 33 of the Future Wales 2040: the National Plan, suggesting that growth in Monmouthshire would undermine growth in the national growth area of Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys. Welsh Government unusually prescribed a maximum growth of 4,275 dwellings over the Plan period, which is below the Adopted LDP's annual dwelling requirement (450) and the June 2021 Preferred Strategy's dwelling requirement figure (507).

²¹ Phosphate water quality issues are detailed in Chapter 3

²² [Council meeting 27th September 2022](#)

²³ In accordance with the Development Plans Manual (WG, March 2020) an allowance is provisionally made for a 10% flexibility allowance to factor in sites that may not come forward, unforeseen issues or to meet higher aspirations for the County to enable the provision/delivery of additional sites if all sites are delivered. The flexibility allowance will be given further consideration and refined at Deposit stage.

landbank²⁴, **land will be allocated for approximately 1,660 - 2,200 new homes, including 830 - 1,100 new affordable homes.** These homes will be delivered through various housing land supply components, details of which are set out in Table 2 below, Appendix 6 and the Housing Background Paper.

- Sets out the planning policy framework to enable the **provision of approximately 6,240 additional jobs** by allocating sufficient employment land in the right places in the County to meet the needs of new and existing businesses. The Plan will also include policies to facilitate growth in retail, leisure and tourism sectors. The RLDP will be supported by an economic development strategy.
- **Focuses growth in the County's most sustainable settlements of Abergavenny, Chepstow and Caldicot, including Severnside**, as well as some growth in our most sustainable rural settlements to deliver much needed affordable homes and to address rural inequality and rural isolation in these areas. Due to the lack of an identified strategic solution to the treatment of phosphates at the Monmouth Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) within the Plan period, **no new site allocations are proposed in the primary settlement of Monmouth** or within the upper River Wye catchment area north of Bigsweir Bridge.
- Identifies **Preferred Strategic Site Allocations** in the primary settlements of Abergavenny, Chepstow and Caldicot, including Severnside. Other detailed site allocations will be set out in the Deposit RLDP.
- Limits the impact of climate change by ensuring **new homes are net zero carbon ready and well connected with existing settlements**, providing attractive and accessible places to live and work.
- **Sets out strategic policies** on a range of topic areas, reflecting the four placemaking themes in Planning Policy Wales (PPW)²⁵.

4.7 It is recognised that the Preferred Strategy is unable to deliver the Council's objectives, including the delivery of new affordable homes, in those settlements in the upper River Wye catchment. In the absence of identified strategic solutions to the treatment of phosphates in the River Wye catchment area during the Plan period, this shortcoming is unavoidable and it is not possible to allocate sites for new growth (homes and employment) in the affected river catchment. In contrast, strategic solutions are being developed to enable the treatment of phosphates in the River Usk catchment area which enables sustainable growth within the most sustainable settlements within the River Usk catchment area over the Plan period. The southern part of the County remains unaffected by this issue.

²⁴ As the Plan period has already begun (2018) some of the homes in the landbank have been built, are under construction or have planning permission. The landbank figure also takes into account windfall sites and small sites.

²⁵ PPW edition 11, WG, February 2021.

4.8 If a strategic solution to the phosphate issue is developed in the Monmouth WwTW during the Plan period, then windfall sites within development boundaries could be developed. In accordance with the Development Plans Manual, these will be considered as ‘bonus sites’ and will not count towards our housing figures. It is proposed to include the following sites within the settlement boundary for Monmouth:

- a. Current LDP allocation at Drewen Farm, off Wonastow Road (approximately 110 homes);
- b. Current LDP allocation at Tudor Road, Wyesham (approximately 35 homes);
- c. Site with planning permission at Rockfield Road (approximately 130 homes).

The above sites have been unable to proceed at present due to the water quality constraint. In contrast, all other allocated housing sites within the adopted LDP that have not been delivered will be de-allocated.

Preferred Level of Growth

4.9 Strategic Policy S1 sets out the RLDP’s Preferred Growth Strategy.

Strategic Policy S1 – Preferred Growth Strategy

In order to meet Monmouthshire’s core purpose of building sustainable and resilient communities for all, between 2018 and 2033 the Plan will make provision for:

- **5,940* homes to meet a housing requirement of 5,400 homes**
- **6,240 new jobs**

The focus of this growth will be on the County’s most sustainable settlements, as outlined in the sustainable settlement hierarchy set out in Policy S2.

*This figure includes an indicative 10% flexibility allowance, which will be subject to further consideration and refinement at Deposit Plan stage

4.10 The Preferred Growth Strategy is based on a demographic-led scenario with added policy assumptions²⁶. It provides a level of growth (homes and jobs) that maximises the extent to which we address our local evidence-based issues and objectives in the south of the County and River Usk catchment area, including in relation to the delivery of affordable homes, sustainable economic growth, rebalancing our demography by ensuring that young people can choose to live in the County while responding to the climate and nature emergency, and the issues identified in paragraph 4.7.

²⁶ Demographic-led option for the LPA area (i.e. excludes the BBNP area within Monmouthshire) using ONS 2020 MYE base and applying assumptions in relation to migration, household membership rates and commuting ratio, as set out in the Housing Background Paper.

- 4.11 This level of growth is in general conformity with Future Wales' overall strategy. Although Monmouthshire is not within the national growth area identified in Future Wales 2040: the National Plan, our evidence shows that the proposed level of growth is essential to deliver our local evidence-based issues and objectives and ensure the RLDP is sound. It is supported by Future Wales policies 3, 4, 5 and 7, which support public leadership and the use of public land to deliver on ambitious affordable housing targets, demographically balanced rural communities, the rural economy and the delivery of affordable homes. The RLDP growth strategy will assist in addressing our core issues without harming or compromising Welsh Government's objectives for the wider South East Wales region.
- 4.12 The Strategy also meets a key 'Tests of Soundness' of ensuring that the Plan is locally specific, addresses key issues, is supported by robust, proportionate and credible evidence, and the Plan's vision and strategy are positive and sufficiently aspirational. A Self-Assessment of the Preferred Strategy against the Tests of Soundness includes an assessment of the Strategy's general conformity with Future Wales 2040. This demonstrates that the Preferred Strategy and the stages undertaken and processes followed to reach this stage are 'sound', and that the Strategy assists in the delivery of key Future Wales policies and is in general conformity with its overarching strategy.

Preferred Growth Strategy: Addressing our Key Issues and Objectives

Delivery of Affordable Housing

- 4.13 The RLDP will deliver approximately 5,400 - 5,940 homes over the Plan period 2018-2033. This includes the provision of 1,580 - 1,850 affordable homes, of which approximately 830 – 1,100 will be delivered through new housing allocations.
- 4.14 The Preferred Strategy is focused on the delivery of affordable homes to specifically address housing affordability which is one of the most fundamental challenges facing our communities. High average house prices (see para 2.10) and high house prices in relation to earnings in the County has resulted in a pressing need for affordable housing, with a significant proportion of people unable to afford to buy or rent a home, meaning they have to either leave the County, or live with their parents or in shared housing for longer. The recent pandemic has further increased the need for affordable homes and revealed the extent of hidden homelessness in the County. The Minister, formerly known as the Minister for Housing and Local Government, announced that post-Covid-19, no-one should return to the streets and Welsh Government's Building Better Places response to Covid-19 also highlights how the delivery of new social and market housing can make a significant contribution to economic recovery and social cohesion.
- 4.15 The Strategy seeks to maximise affordable housing delivery on new housing allocations, reflecting the Council's commitment to deliver 50% affordable homes on new housing sites to help tackle Monmouthshire's housing need, homelessness and

social inequality. The Strategy enables the Council to consider alternative mechanisms for delivering affordable homes and all opportunities to increase the supply of affordable housing will be explored.

- 4.16 To deliver on the key objectives, a commitment is needed to ensure that the new site allocations provide 50% affordable homes. For residential sites to be allocated in the RLDP, it will be essential to demonstrate that sites are viable and deliverable, having regard to the Council's commitment for 50% affordable housing provision on new site allocations, the requirement for net zero carbon ready homes and associated infrastructure to ensure the development is sustainable and well-connected. This ambitious policy may require Welsh Government policy position changes on use of Social Housing Grant or other public sector funding. This commitment could have financial implications for the Council of reduced land sale receipts and the potential need to CPO sites to bring them forward. This approach is supported by Future Wales 2040 Policy 3 which supports public leadership and the use of public land to deliver on ambitious affordable housing targets. Additional viability work will be required to demonstrate site viability and deliverability based on these policy requirements. The RLDP will be accompanied by an Infrastructure Plan and updated Local Transport Plan to ensure essential infrastructure is delivered.
- 4.17 The homes that we create will need to match people's ability to pay. Development will be informed by the Local Housing Market Assessment which currently shows that 34% of homes on new sites will need to be social housing for rent and another 16% will need to be at less than market price or market rent. The LHMA is being updated based on a new Welsh Government template, but given increased property prices and the cost of living crisis, social rented affordable housing is expected to remain the greatest proportion of need. The Council will work with the Welsh Government, Registered Social Landlords and house developers to ensure that this is achieved. The spatial strategy recognises the aspiration of Future Wales Policy 3 for public sector leadership to unlock the potential of public land and to take an increased development role.

Rebalancing our Ageing Population

- 4.18 Monmouthshire's population is getting older which impacts on the economic and social sustainability of our communities. We must therefore seek to ensure that younger people can choose to live in the County to create more age-balanced sustainable and resilient communities, as well as increasing the economically active population.
- 4.19 The strategy proposes a level of growth that begins to address the unbalanced and ageing demographic with an increase in younger and working age groups²⁷. The

²⁷ Provides an uplift in younger (0-19, +880) and working age (30-49, +3,222) groups

provision of 50% affordable housing as well as potential policy intervention to ensure the market sector housing provides a suitable range and mix of house sizes will assist in attracting and retaining a younger, economically active population and balancing the ageing population.

- 4.20 Requiring the provision of a wider choice of smaller market and affordable homes will provide opportunities for younger people to both stay in and move to the area. Enabling younger people to live and work in Monmouthshire will assist in making our ageing communities more socially and economically sustainable, the importance of which has been clearly demonstrated during the recent pandemic.

Responding to the Climate and Nature Emergency

- 4.21 The Strategy proposes a level of growth that secures the economic, social and cultural sustainability of Monmouthshire's communities without comprising the environmental sustainability. All new homes will be required to be sustainable in construction and liveability (net zero carbon ready), reflecting the Council's commitment to responding to and tackling climate change, and will be well connected with existing settlements, adding to their sustainability. Placemaking principles will underpin all new developments ensuring we deliver attractive and accessible places to live and work.

Supporting Sustainable Economic Growth

- 4.22 The Strategy seeks to address the issues currently impacting on economic growth such as a shrinking working age population and high levels of out commuting. The Strategy provides the planning policy framework to enable the provision of 6,240 additional jobs over the Plan period (416 jobs per annum). Not all of these jobs will be in planning B-class uses: jobs will be delivered through a range of sectors such as tourism, leisure and retail. Supporting job growth in the County will reduce the need to travel and travel to work distances, which will assist in addressing our challenges in relation to the climate and nature emergency.
- 4.23 Whilst the Strategy projects a growth in jobs over the Plan period, it has become widely accepted that the fundamental shift in working practices experienced as a legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic, with a significant increase in people working from home/remotely, has made it less important where some jobs are located as employees no longer need to commute for work in many cases. This has provided the opportunity for many people to live and work in the same location via a remote working approach.

- 4.24 It is expected that the trend for increased home and remote working will continue over the longer term in accordance with Welsh Government's ambition of 30% of the Welsh workforce working from or near home²⁸, making it less important where the jobs are located as commuting is reduced as a result of changing working habits.
- 4.25 Increased remote/home working will mean both employers and employees will have greater flexibility over where to locate with quality of life and environment potentially becoming increasingly important to Monmouthshire's benefit. The recent pandemic has also affected home-buying trends with an emphasis on quality of life, house size and access to outdoor green space rather than a focus on commuting times. Monmouthshire is a very attractive proposition and stands to gain from an increased economically active population without the associated problems of increased commuting. Local businesses and services would benefit from increased custom and footfall with workers spending their wages in their local areas helping to create vibrant neighbourhoods and sense of place. Notwithstanding this, there remains a need to provide a sufficient range and choice of employment land in the County as not all businesses are able to operate remotely.
- 4.26 The Preferred Growth Strategy promotes sustainable economic growth that will help reduce levels of commuting and promote self-contained communities, ensuring the environmental and economic sustainability of our communities. This will be achieved by providing policy support to enable and facilitate home/remote working, enabling economic growth through supporting the delivery of the priorities and aims identified in the Council's Economic Growth and Ambition Statement, Investment Prospectus and climate emergency declaration, maximising opportunities from Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, targeting growth in key economic sectors and providing appropriate employment land in the right locations. Further information on employment land provision is set out in Strategic Policy S12.

S1 – Preferred Growth Strategy - Links to Wider Policy Framework	
RLDP Objectives	Objective 1 – Economic Growth/Employment Objective 9 – Demography Objective 10 – Housing Objective 11 – Placemaking Objective 12 – Communities Objective 13 – Rural Communities Objective 15 – Accessibility
Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (WG, February 2021)	Policy 1 – Where Wales will Grow Policy 3 – Supporting Urban Growth and Regeneration – Public Sector Leadership Policy 4 – Supporting Rural Communities

²⁸ Smarter Working: a Remote Working Strategy for Wales, Welsh Government (2022)

	Policy 5 – Supporting the Rural Economy Policy 7 – Delivering Affordable Homes Policy 34 - Green Belts in the South East
Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (WG, February 2021)	Strategic and Spatial Choices Theme (Chapter 3)
Building Better Places (WG, July 2020)	Priorities and Actions for Places - Post Covid-19 Considerations: Staying local: creating neighbourhoods (Page 14) Changing working practices: our future need for employment land (Page 20)
Well-being of Future Generations Act (WBFGA) (WG, 2015)	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities
Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan (MWBP) (February 2018)	• Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change. • Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.
Monmouthshire draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022	This policy supports the draft Community and Corporate Plan goals of ensuring Monmouthshire is a: • fair place to live where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced; • green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions, making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency; • thriving and ambitious place, full of hope and enterprise; • safe place to live where people have a home they feel secure in; • connected place where people feel part of a community, are valued and connected to other; • learning place where everybody has the opportunity to reach their potential.
Key Evidence	Growth and Spatial Options Paper – September 2022 Updating the RLDP Demographic Evidence Report, Edge Analytics November 2021 Housing Background Paper – December 2022
Monitoring	TBC
Detailed Policies	TBC in Deposit RLDP

Strategic Policy S2 – Spatial Distribution of Development – Settlement Hierarchy

In order to deliver sustainable and resilient communities for all, the main focus for new development will be distributed based on the following settlement hierarchy:

		Indicative Distribution of Residential Growth*		Distribution of Employment Growth
Settlement Hierarchy		Indicative % of distribution	Indicative No. of homes	This will be set out in the Deposit RLDP and will be consistent with the spatial strategy and commensurate to the level of housing growth.
Tier 1	Primary Settlements: - Abergavenny (inc. Llanfoist) - Chepstow - Monmouth (inc. Wyesham) - Caldicot (inc. Severnside Area comprising of: Caerwent, Crick, Magor Undy, Portskewett, Rogiet and Sudbrook)	24% 13% 5% 44% across Severnside Area	1,403 769 275 2,609 across Severnside Area	
Tier 2	Secondary Settlements: - Penperlleni - Raglan - Usk	6% across Secondary Settlements	380 across Secondary Settlements	
Tier 3	Main Rural Settlements: Devauden Dingestow Little Mill Llandogo Llanellen Llangybi Llanover Llanvair Discoed Mathern Pwllmeyric Shirenewton/ Mynyddbach St Arvans Tintern Trellech Werngifford/Pandy	8% across Main Rural and Minor Rural Settlements (Tiers 3 and 4)	504 across Main Rural and Minor Rural Settlements (Tiers 3 and 4)	
Tier 4	Minor Rural Settlements: Bettws Newydd Broadstone /Catbrook			

	Brynygwenin Coed y Paen Cross Ash Cuckoo's Row Great Oak Grosmont Gwehelog Llanarth Llanddewi Rhydderch Llandegveth Llandenny Llangwm Llanishen Llansoy Llantilio Crossenny Llantrisant Llanvair Kilgeddin Llanvapley Mitchel Troy Penallt Penpergwm The Bryn The Narth Tredunnock			

Development boundaries will be defined for Settlement Tiers 1 – 3, within which the principle of development is considered to be acceptable, subject to the detailed policy considerations to be set out in the RLDP.

Within Tier 4 – Minor Rural Settlements, minor infilling between existing buildings will be considered acceptable, subject to the detailed policy requirements to be set out in the RLDP.

Outside of Tiers 1 – 4, open countryside policies will apply where planning permission will only be allowed for the following types of development, subject to satisfying detailed planning criteria:

- **Acceptable conversions of rural buildings**
- **Sub-division of existing dwellings**
- **Rural Enterprise Dwellings**
- **One Planet Development**
- **Rural diversification and rural enterprise uses**
- **Affordable housing exception sites adjoining settlement boundaries to meet local needs**
- **Gypsy and Traveller Sites**

*Figures include an indicative 10% flexibility allowance which will be subject to further consideration and refinement at Deposit Plan stage. The spatial distribution figures should be treated as indicative as they may alter following detailed Candidate Site assessment work.

- 4.27 Policy S2 seeks to focus new development associated with the Preferred Strategy on the primary settlements of Abergavenny (including Llanfoist), Chepstow and Caldicot including the Severnside area, together with a lower level of growth to the most sustainable lower tier settlements to deliver much needed affordable homes and to address rural inequality and rural isolation in these areas. It sets out the indicative proportion of residential growth to be accommodated by each of the settlement tiers (a full breakdown can be found in the Housing Background Paper).
- 4.28 The Settlement Hierarchy reflects the findings of the Sustainable Settlement Appraisal²⁹, which has grouped settlements into tiers based on their role and function and has informed where development should be spatially located to achieve a sustainable pattern of growth. The appraisal sets out the methodology used to assess the sustainability of each settlement, based on three primary principles of transport and accessibility, facilities and services, and employment provision. The appraisal confirms the dominant role of the primary settlements of Abergavenny, Chepstow, Caldicot and Monmouth. The report recognises that some of the lower tier settlements have a close geographical and functional relationship with a Tier 1 settlement and have therefore been clustered together. The settlements along the M4 corridor in particular exhibit a strong geographical and functional relationship and collectively form the Severnside Area centred around the primary settlement of Caldicot and includes Magor Undy, Rogiet, Caerwent, Portskewett, Sudbrook and Crick. Similarly, the appraisal recognised the strong relationship between Abergavenny and Llanfoist and Monmouth and Wyesham.
- 4.29 The spatial strategy also has regard to the latest position on the water quality issue and associated requirements to demonstrate phosphate neutrality or betterment when proposing development. The strategy has been developed following ongoing discussions with NRW and Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water on future strategic solutions for phosphate mitigation within the river catchment areas. Due to the lack of an identified strategic solution to the treatment of phosphates at the Monmouth WwTW within the Plan period, no new site allocations can be considered in settlements within the upper River Wye catchment area north of Bigsweir Bridge, including the primary settlement of Monmouth. This constraint has also been factored into the reduced contribution infill and windfall allowances can potentially make in this river catchment. Full details are set out in the Housing Background Paper.
- 4.30 We are, however, committed to finding phosphate solutions for the upper River Wye catchment as the Plan progresses. The RLDP will keep existing LDP allocations in Monmouth within the settlement boundary as ‘aspirational sites’ which could be developed if a strategic phosphate solution is found for the upper River Wye catchment during the RLDP plan period. Such sites cannot be relied upon to contribute to meeting the housing requirement and will not be included in the

²⁹ The Sustainable Settlement Appraisal can be viewed on the Council’s website via the following link:

detailed housing provision figures. Such an approach will provide potential for development to progress in Monmouth should this environmental constraint be resolved before the end of the Plan period, thereby enabling the provision of much needed homes for those communities.

- 4.31 The exact distribution of development will be identified in the Deposit RLDP. Any decisions on whether or not to allocate particular sites for development will also depend on such issues as their impact on the physical form of the settlement, placemaking, carbon footprint, landscape setting, environmental constraints and infrastructure capacity. Where growth cannot be met in an individual settlement, development will be directed toward a same tier or higher tier settlement within the same Housing Market Area. A map of the Housing Market Areas is provided in the Housing Background Paper. Further refinement of the Main Rural and Minor Rural Settlements will take place for the Deposit Plan to establish which of these settlements are appropriate to accommodate a sustainable amount of growth to meet local needs and support sustainable rural communities.
- 4.32 To encourage the promotion of sustainable communities where residents can live and work in the same area, housing growth will be accompanied by a commensurate amount of employment land. The proportion of employment growth to be accommodated in the settlement tiers will be set out in the Deposit RLDP. Further details on the employment sites provision can found in Policy S12.
- 4.33 Development proposals will be expected to make full and appropriate use of land, with preference given to the development of previously development land, although it is recognised that there are limited opportunities for further significant brownfield development in Monmouthshire. While growth will be focused in the most sustainable settlements, it must be recognised that landscape quality and agricultural land quality are high throughout the County, and as such these challenges cannot be avoided via a different spatial option. For example, all of our settlements are surrounded by agricultural land with a high-level classification as best and most versatile land. Rather, the RLDP will seek to allocate those sites that are the best connected, most sustainable, best deliver placemaking and are least harmful, which will require balanced consideration and trade-offs at Deposit Plan stage. The same approach has been taken in identifying the Preferred Strategic Allocation for each primary settlement.
- 4.34 Future Wales 2040 (Policy 34) requires the South East Wales Strategic Development Plan to identify a Green Belt to the north of Cardiff, Newport and the eastern part of the region to manage urban form and growth. The South East Wales Regional Strategic Diagram set out in Future Wales indicates the indicative extent of the Green Belt in the region which includes part of rural Monmouthshire. The Spatial Strategy has regard to Policy 34 and the indicative Green Belt boundary. Monmouthshire's primary settlements fall outside of the indicative Green Belt boundary and national planning

policy³⁰ allows for extensions to existing settlements within and adjoining the Green Belt of an appropriate scale having regard to the identified and longer term need for development land, the effects of development pressures in areas beyond the Green Belt, the need to minimise demand for travel, and the purpose of the overall greenbelt designation. PPW11 states that this may require land to be safeguarded and boundaries of proposed Green Belts must be carefully defined to achieve this. A Green Belt Study has been commissioned on a sub-regional basis to inform the evidence base of RLDPs and the South East Wales SDP.

- 4.35 Table 2 sets out a summary of the overarching indicative spatial distribution of housing provision for the RLDP. A full breakdown of each component is set out in the Housing Background Paper.

Table 2: Summary of Indicative Spatial Distribution of Housing Provision*

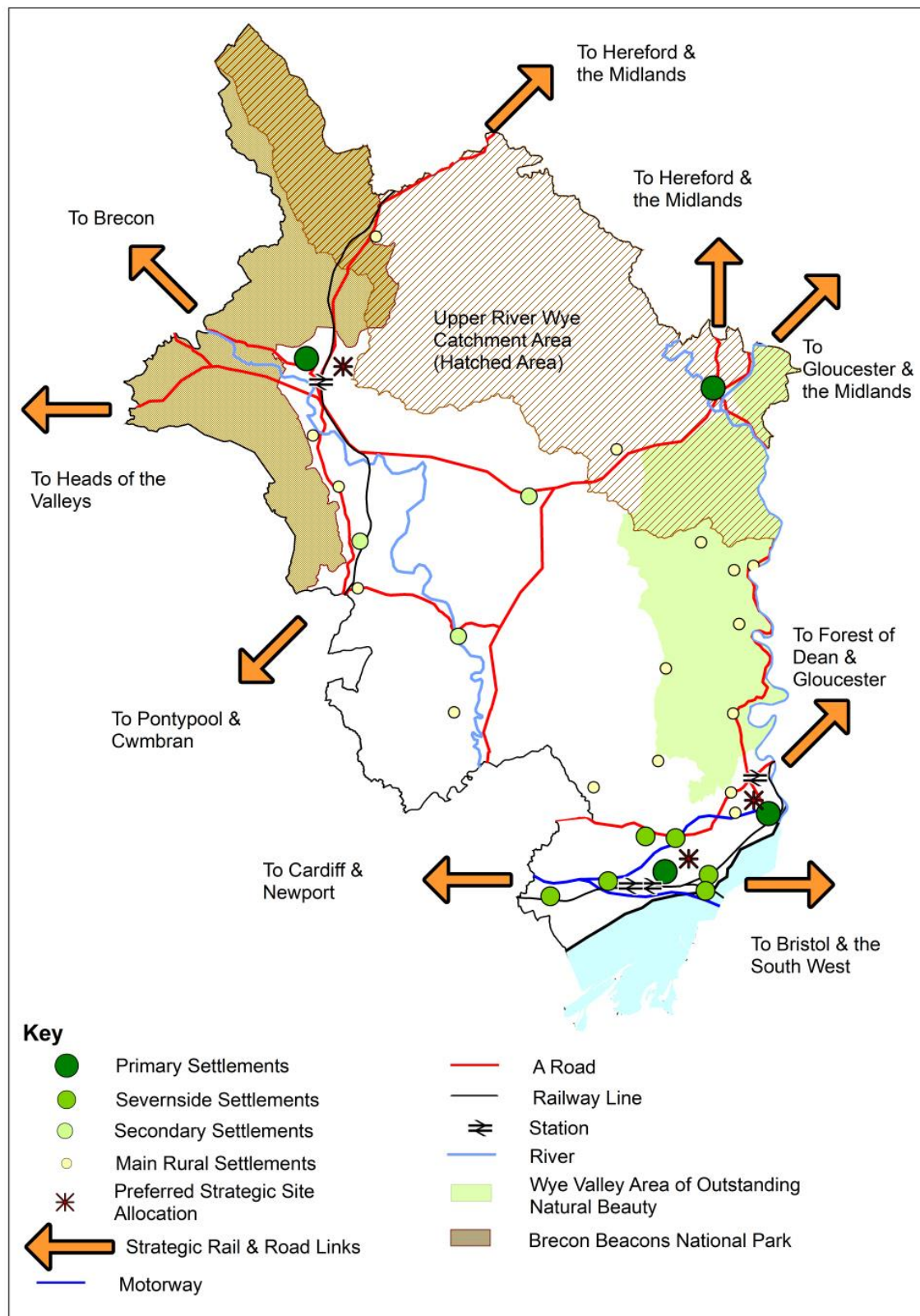
Settlement	Total Commitments		Preferred Strategy		Total Housing Provision 2018-2033*
	Completions 2018-2021	Existing Commitments	Total Allowances (Small Sites; Windfalls)	RLDP New Housing Allocations (Dwellings)	
Abergavenny (incl. Llanfoist)	426	132	245	600	1,403
Chepstow	192	267	165	145	769
Monmouth (incl. Wyesham)	264	11	0	0	275
Caldicot (incl. Severnside)	466	723	220	1,200	2609
Secondary Settlements	100	45	80	155	380
Rural Settlements	131	83	190	100	504
Total	1,579	1,261	900	2,200	5,940

*Figures include an indicative 10% flexibility allowance which will be subject to further consideration and refinement at Deposit Plan stage. The spatial distribution figures should be treated as indicative as they may alter following the consideration of sites submitted as part of the second Call for Candidate Sites and detailed site assessment work.

³⁰ PPW11, paragraph 3.72

4.36 The Preferred Strategy is illustrated in the Key Diagram below.

Figure 2: Preferred Strategy Key Diagram



S2 – Spatial Distribution & Settlement Hierarchy - Links to Wider Policy Framework	
RLDP Objectives	Objective 1 – Economic Growth/Employment Objective 9 – Demography Objective 10 – Housing Objective 11 – Place-making Objective 12 – Communities Objective 13 – Rural Communities Objective 15 – Accessibility
Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (WG, February 2021)	Policy 1 – Where will Wales Grow Policy 3 – Supporting Urban Growth and Regeneration – Public Sector Leadership Policy 4 – Supporting Rural Communities Policy 7 – Delivering Affordable Homes Policy 34 – Green Belts in the South East
Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (WG, February 2021)	Strategic and Spatial Choices Theme (Chapter 3)
Building Better Places (WG, July 2020)	Priorities and Actions for Places - Post Covid-19 Considerations: Staying local: creating neighbourhoods Active travel: exercise and rediscovered transport methods Changing working practices: our future need for employment land
Well-being of Future Generations Act (WBFGA) (WG, 2015)	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities
Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan (MWBP) (February 2018)	- Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change. - Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.
Monmouthshire draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022	This policy supports the draft Community and Corporate Plan goals of ensuring Monmouthshire is a: - fair place to live where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced; - green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions, making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency; - thriving and ambitious place, full of hope and enterprise; - connected place where people feel part of a community, are valued and connected to other;
Key Evidence	Sustainable Settlement Appraisal – December 2022 Candidate Site Register Second Call – February 2022

	Review of Second Call Candidate Sites against the Preferred Strategy – December 2022 Housing Background Paper – December 2022
Monitoring	TBC
Detailed Policies	TBC in Deposit RLDP

5 IMPLEMENTATION & DELIVERY - STRATEGIC POLICIES

Introduction

- 5.1 This section sets out the Strategic Policies which form the framework for implementing and delivering the Preferred Strategy of the RLDP as set out in Strategic Policies S1 and S2. The format and structure reflect PPW11's placemaking themes and the overarching aim of delivering sustainable development. The Strategic Policies are therefore grouped by the planning policy topics clustered around the four placemaking themes in PPW11³¹:

PPW11 Placemaking Themes	Planning Policy Topics Set Out in PPW11
Strategic & Spatial Choices	Good Design / Promoting Healthier Places / The Welsh Language / Sustainable Management of Natural Resources / Strategic Planning / Placemaking in Rural Areas / Managing Settlement Form
Active & Social Places	Transport / Housing / Retail & Commercial Centres / Community Facilities / Recreational Spaces
Productive & Enterprising Places	Economic Development / Tourism / The Rural Economy / Transportation Infrastructure / Telecommunications / Energy / Minerals / Waste
Distinctive & Natural Places	Landscape / Coastal Areas / Historic Environment / Green Infrastructure / Biodiversity / Water, Air, Soundscape & Light / Flooding / De-risking

- 5.2 It should be noted that not all of the PPW11 planning policy topics listed above are covered by the RLDP Strategic Policies. Some of those topics are best considered as underpinning matters of detail via other policies that will be included within the Deposit RLDP. Others are adequately covered by national planning policy and need not be duplicated via the RLDP.
- 5.3 It is recognised that there will be some overlap between the respective themes and the policies and as such they should be read in conjunction with one another. Each section highlights the relevant strategic policy, the reasoned justification for the policy and the summary table following each of the strategic policies provides a link back to the relevant RLDP objectives, Future Wales 2040 policies, PPW11 themes, Building Better Places priorities, Monmouthshire PSB Well-Being Plan (MWBP) and the Well-being of Future Generations (WCFG) goals. An outline of how the Deposit Plan will respond with further criteria or topic-based policies, where relevant, is also included. The 'delivery and monitoring section' at the end of each policy will be developed as part of the Deposit Plan. A review of the existing Local Development Plan (LDP) detailed Development Management policies is set out in Appendix 7. This identifies

³¹ Figure 6 PPW11 – Page 20

policies which are functioning effectively, those where changes are likely to be required and highlights ones which may no longer be appropriate for inclusion in the RLDP.

STRATEGIC & SPATIAL CHOICES

- 5.4 Within the context of PPW11's Strategic and Spatial Choices theme, the policies within this section focus on setting out how Monmouthshire's preferred level and spatial distribution of growth as set out in policies S1 and S2, will contribute to supporting sustainable and resilient communities for all. Where development does take place, it is important that it contributes to the creation of sustainable places that focus on delivering placemaking and ensuring that Monmouthshire's communities are sustainable in the long-term and are attractive places to live, work and visit.

Sustainable Placemaking & High Quality Design

Strategic Policy S3 – Sustainable Placemaking & High Quality Design	
Development will contribute to creating high quality, attractive and sustainable places that support the health and well-being of the community. In order to achieve this, development shall:	
i)	Incorporate high quality, sustainable, safe and inclusive design that offers ease of access for all and provides connectivity between uses;
ii)	Incorporate an appropriate mix of uses to minimise the need to travel and to maximise opportunities for active travel and public transport use;
iii)	Incorporate a Green Infrastructure-led approach that respects local distinctiveness and the character of the site and its surroundings; and
iv)	Protect and enhance the natural, historic and built environments and show an understanding of how these function together to contribute towards the quality of places.

- 5.5 Monmouthshire is renowned for its distinctive identity and the high quality of its natural, historic and built environments. It is intended to protect and enhance the quality of the County's settlements by ensuring that new development is designed to a high standard that creates buildings and places that are sustainable, well-integrated within their context and contribute to the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of strong, vibrant and healthy communities. The Plan will seek to achieve this by ensuring new development incorporates the principles of sustainable placemaking and good design.
- 5.6 The RLDP strategy and policies will seek high quality sustainable design and green infrastructure and will place people, natural resources and the natural environment at the heart of the design process. Proposals should embrace a green infrastructure-led approach that is capable of delivering a wide range of social, economic, environmental, and health and well-being benefits for local communities and the

County as a whole. This will enhance the character and identity of Monmouthshire's settlements and countryside, encourage sustainable lifestyles and create attractive, safe and accessible places. The achievement of this will depend largely upon identifying and understanding the local characteristics which are distinctive to an area: a green infrastructure approach to design will be essential to delivering placemaking. A Placemaking Wales Charter has been developed by Welsh Government and the Design Commission for Wales in collaboration with the Placemaking Wales Partnership: the Council is a charter signatory to these principles.

Links to Wider Policy Framework	
RLDP Objectives	Objective 3 – Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Landscape. Objective 8 – Health and Well-being Objective 11 – Place-making Objective 12 – Communities Objective 13 – Rural Communities Objective 15 – Accessibility Objective 16 – Culture, Heritage and Welsh Language Objective 17 – Climate Change
Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (WG, February 2021)	Policy 2 – Shaping Urban Growth and Regeneration – Strategic Placemaking Policy 4 – Supporting Rural Communities
Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (WG, February 2021)	People and Places: Achieving Well-being Through Placemaking (Chapter 2) Strategic and Spatial Choices Theme (Chapter 3)- Placemaking In Action: Good Design Making Better Places
Building Better Places (WG, July 2020)	Priorities and Actions for Places – post Covid-19 considerations: Considering Health and Well-being throughout the Planning Process (page 12) Staying local: creating neighbourhoods (Page 14) Active travel: exercise and rediscovered transport methods (Page 16) Revitalising our town centres (Page 18) Changing working practices – our future need for employment land (Page 20) Reawakening Wales' tourism and cultural sectors (Page 21) Green Infrastructure, health and well-being and ecological resilience (Page 22) Improving air quality and soundscapes for better health and well-being (Page 23)
Well-being of Future Generations Act (WBFGA) (WG, 2015)	A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language

Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan (MWBP) (February 2018)	• Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life. • Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change. • Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change. • Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.
Monmouthshire draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022	This policy supports the draft Community and Corporate Plan goals of ensuring Monmouthshire is a: • fair place to live where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced; • green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions, making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency; • thriving and ambitious place, full of hope and enterprise; • safe place to live where people have a home they feel secure in; • connected place where people feel part of a community, are valued and connected to other.
Key Evidence	TAN 12 Design
Monitoring	TBC
Detailed Policies	TBC in Deposit RLDP

Climate Change

Strategic Policy S4 – Climate Change	
All development proposals will be required to address the causes of, and adapt to the impacts of, climate change. Means of achieving this will include: i) Avoiding locating development in areas at risk of flooding, or where appropriate, minimising the risk of flooding including the incorporation of measures such as Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and flood resilient design; ii) Incorporating low/zero carbon energy requirements by reducing energy demand and promoting energy efficiency; iii) Supporting the development of renewable and low/zero carbon energy generation and a presumption against energy generation utilising fossil fuels, fracking and methods that are not low/zero carbon; iv) Utilising sustainable construction techniques and local supplies through the adoption of the circular economy principles; v) Incorporating water efficiency measures and minimising adverse impacts on water resources and quality;	

- vi) **Using land efficiently and co-locating uses to minimise the overall need to travel and maximise opportunities for active travel and public transport use;**
- vii) **Providing ultra-low emission vehicle charging infrastructure to reduce emissions and improve air quality; and**
- viii) **Supporting the resilience of development through Green Infrastructure solutions including: opportunities for biodiversity and resilient ecosystems, greenspace provision and connectivity, and water resource management.**

Detailed targets and measures will follow in the Deposit RLDP policies and site allocations.

- 5.7 The need to tackle climate change represents a fundamental challenge if sustainable development and the obligations under the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 are to be delivered. One of the themes embodied in the Well-being of Future Generations Act is the need for ‘a resilient Wales’ whereby there is capacity to adapt to change such as climate change. A key principle of sustainable development, as recognised in PPW11, is tackling climate change by reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change and ensuring that places are resilient to the consequences of climate change. National guidance outlines how the planning system can play an important part in improving the sustainability of new developments whilst also tackling climate change. The RLDP will provide a positive planning policy framework to support and enable this approach to support climate change and decarbonisation.
- 5.8 In May 2019 Monmouthshire County Council passed a motion declaring a climate emergency and has committed to strive to limit the increase in global temperatures to 1.5°C. More recently, this has broadened to incorporate a strengthened emphasis on nature recovery in recognition of the nature emergency and the relationship between the two. The Climate and Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan³² accompanying the declaration were approved by the Council in October 2019 and updated in November 2021, setting out the broad objectives and actions that the Council will seek to implement to deliver a net reduction in its own carbon emissions to net zero by 2030 and address water quality issues in the County. In recognition of the water quality issues in the County, a Motion for Rivers and Ocean was declared by Council in March 2022 with an [action plan](#) agreed by Council in September 2022 to outline steps the Council will take to protect our rivers and ocean.

³² The Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan can be viewed via:
<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/climate-emergency/>

- 5.9 Policy S4 builds on a number of these actions and draws together specific sustainability issues in relation to energy use and generation, efficient resource use and flood risk and provides a framework for sustainable growth which seeks to enable development that both mitigates the causes of climate change and is able to adapt to its likely effects. Such an approach is essential in ensuring that Monmouthshire meets its commitments contained within the Monmouthshire declaration on Climate Emergency (Nov 2021) and the economic, environmental and social objectives of the RLDP. The Council's Climate Emergency agenda will continue to be monitored and given further consideration in the Deposit RLDP.
- 5.10 The RLDP recognises that the sustainability issues covered by Policy S4 are only part of the solution to addressing climate change, and while the planning system has an important role to play in this agenda, actions by individuals, communities and other organisations outside of the planning system are vital. We recognise that the climate emergency and nature emergency are intrinsically linked and that the principles of sustainable development are wide-ranging and include such aspects as transport, green infrastructure, and the natural environment. These principles are dealt within the Plan's other Strategic Policies, including S3 – Sustainable Placemaking and High Quality Design, S9– Sustainable Transport and S17 – Green Infrastructure, Landscape and Nature Conservation and are therefore not repeated in this policy. These policies should be considered as a whole.
- 5.11 A key effect of climate change is the risk of flooding, both in terms of the likelihood of flooding as well as the intensity of flooding. An updated version of TAN 15: Development, Flooding and Coastal Erosion was published on 28th September 2021 with the intention of it coming into effect on 1st December 2021. Formal publication has, however, been suspended until 1st June 2023 for Development Management decisions. In the meantime, however, the updated TAN15 remains the policy basis for the preparation of the RLDP. A further consultation is anticipated during 2022 in advance of formal publication in June 2023; the outcome of which will be taken into consideration as the Plan progresses. The approach of the Plan will be to locate vulnerable development away from flood risk areas, to assess the implications of development in areas at risk of flooding and to ensure that development does not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere.
- 5.12 In accordance with the updated TAN15, we have commissioned a Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment (SFCA) along with nine other Local Planning Authorities in the South-East Wales region to inform the preparation of the RLDP. The SFCA will be used to help inform the identification of areas most suitable for development and support the identification and safeguarding of areas suitable for sustainable and natural flood management.
- 5.13 The use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDs) must be an integral part of a development to reduce the potential impact of new development with respect to surface water drainage discharges. A separate regulatory framework, namely the

Sustainable Drainage Approving Body (SAB) is now in place to ensure this happens. The effective management of surface water drainage can mitigate the impact of development in terms of flooding, water efficiency and water quality.

- 5.14 The RLDP needs to ensure that new development incorporates the broader principles of sustainable design in order to significantly reduce energy usage and carbon emissions, such as making the best use of orientation and shading. The Plan will also support, where appropriate, renewable and low/zero carbon energy generation technology, subject to a range of material planning considerations. A Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Assessment³³ of the potential for renewable energy generation, using the Welsh Government Toolkit, has been undertaken by the Carbon Trust and will inform the Deposit Plan in terms of identifying specific areas of search for renewable energy generation and targets. The Deposit RLDP will include a policy to require all new developments to be net zero carbon ready alongside the proposed changes to Building Regulations being implemented in 2025, the details of which will be determined in the Deposit RLDP.
- 5.15 PPW11 promotes the principles of a circular economy whereby the use of material resources in the building industry is influenced by making the most appropriate and sustainable use of finite resources. Such an approach sources materials as locally as possible, makes best use of the resources available through design and construction techniques, and minimises waste by re-using materials on site wherever possible.
- 5.16 The sustainable provision and use of water resources is also an important consideration in terms of building climate change resilience. Developers will be required to use design approaches and techniques that improve water efficiency and minimise adverse impacts on water resources. Development proposals within the River Wye and River Usk phosphate sensitive catchment areas will have to satisfy NRW's planning guidance in relation to evidencing that the development can demonstrate phosphate neutrality and betterment in its design and and/or contribution to the water body.
- 5.17 Development proposals will be expected to make full and appropriate use of land, while balancing density with placemaking, with preference given to the development of previously development land, although it is recognised that there are limited opportunities for further significant brownfield development in Monmouthshire. The potential impacts of climate change should be central to the design process, including the contribution that location, density, layout, built form and mix of uses can make towards climate responsive developments. The RLDP categorises settlements into a hierarchy which reflects their relative sustainability and will be a guiding policy in terms of a site's ability to accommodate development. The Plan will direct

³³ The Renewable and Low carbon Energy Assessment (October 2020) can be viewed via the following link:
<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2021/12/RLCEA-MCC-Report-Body-Version-1-1.pdf>

development to the most sustainable locations, following the travel hierarchy set out in *Llwybr Newydd* of reducing the need to travel and achieving modal shift. The increase in home and remote working as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic can be supported over the longer term, for example by providing local shared work spaces. Combined with enhanced sustainable transport opportunities such as active travel networks, improved public transport and electric vehicle charging point infrastructure, the impact of transport-based emissions can be reduced resulting in improvements in air quality.

Links to Wider Framework	
RLDP Objectives	Objective 4 – Flood risk Objective 6 – Land Objective 7 – Natural resources Objective 15 – Accessibility Objective 17 – Climate change
Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (WG, February 2021)	Policy 8 – Flooding Policy 12 – Regional Connectivity Policy 16 – Heat Networks Policy 17 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy and Associated Infrastructure Policy 18 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments of National Significance
Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (WG, February 2021)	Productive and Enterprising Places Theme (Chapter 5) Distinctive and Natural Places Theme (Chapter 6)
Building Better Places (WG, July 2020)	Priorities and Actions for Places – post Covid-19 considerations: Climate Change and Decarbonisation (Page 11) Staying local: creating neighbourhoods (Page 14) Green Infrastructure, health and well-being and ecological resilience (Page 22) Improving air quality and soundscapes for better health and well-being (Page 23)
Well-being of Future Generations Act (WBFGA) (WG, 2015)	A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A globally responsible Wales
Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan (MWBP) (February 2018)	• Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life. • Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change. • Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change. • Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.

Monmouthshire draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022	This policy supports the draft Community and Corporate Plan goal of ensuring Monmouthshire is a green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions, making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency.
Key Evidence	TAN 8: Planning for Renewable Energy (2005) TAN 12: Design TAN 15: Development and Flood Risk (2004) Development Advice Maps (TAN 15) Practice Guidance – Planning for Sustainable Buildings (WG, 2014). Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Assessment for Monmouthshire County Council – October 2020 To follow in the Deposit: Renewable Energy Assessment (using the Welsh Government Toolkit. Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Supplementary Planning Guidance - March 2016) Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment in preparation
Monitoring	TBC
Detailed Policies	TBC in Deposit RLDP

Infrastructure Provision

Strategic Policy S5 – Infrastructure Provision

Where existing infrastructure is inadequate to serve the proposed development, new or improved infrastructure and facilities to remedy deficiencies must be provided as part of the proposed development. Where possible, infrastructure improvements should be provided prior to occupation. Where provision on-site is not appropriate, off-site provision, or a financial contribution towards it, will be sought.

Arrangements will be required towards the future management and maintenance of facilities provided, either in the form of initial support or in perpetuity.

Planning Obligations will be sought to secure improvements in infrastructure, facilities, services and related works, where they are necessary to make development acceptable. In identifying appropriate contributions, due regard will /be paid to the overall development viability, including the cost of measures that are necessary to physically deliver a development and ensure that it is acceptable in planning terms. Such obligations may include:

- **Affordable Housing Provision**
- **Education Facilities**
- **Active Travel**

- Sustainable Transport Measures
- Transport Infrastructure
- Recreation and Leisure Facilities including formal and informal open space
- Green Infrastructure
- Community and Cultural Facilities
- Ecological Mitigation and Enhancement
- Strategic utilities including; water and sewerage infrastructure
- Waste management facilities
- Health infrastructure

In the event that viability considerations indicate that not all the identified contributions can be reasonably required, priority contributions will be determined on the basis of the individual circumstances of each case. In the case of housing developments, priority will be given to the affordable housing required by Policy S6 unless there is an overwhelming need for the available contribution, in whole or in part, to be allocated for some other necessary purpose/s.

- 5.18 The RLDP recognises the need to ensure that appropriate infrastructure is already in place or can be provided to accommodate the level of growth identified and is reflected in the spatial strategy. The provision of a range of services and facilities is essential to delivering sustainable development and to meeting diverse community needs, and the provision of appropriate infrastructure will be supported by the Plan.
- 5.19 Infrastructure covers a range of services and facilities provided by public and private bodies and includes:
- Physical infrastructure such as transport facilities and related infrastructure (such as footpaths, cycleways), water provision and treatment, sewerage, flood prevention and drainage, waste disposal, power generation and supply, including renewables, digital infrastructure and telecommunications.
 - Community infrastructure such as schools, healthcare, transport services (including public transport), community buildings, community recycling facilities, sport and recreation facilities, open space, etc.
 - Green Infrastructure (as detailed in Strategic Policy S17)
- 5.20 Without appropriate investment to enable the provision of improved or new infrastructure, the proposed level of growth will be neither sustainable nor acceptable. New development will therefore be required to provide or contribute towards the provision of necessary infrastructure to enable it to be provided in a timely manner and to support sustainable development in Monmouthshire. Development will only be permitted when agreement has been reached between the

relevant parties on the funding and programmed implementation of required provision in line with Policy S5.

- 5.21 Developers should consult and work with statutory undertakers and service providers to ensure that adequate provision is made for such infrastructure – this includes highways, utility services and surface water drainage and sewage disposal. Given Monmouthshire’s rural character, the provision of adequate digital infrastructure is key to enhancing the County’s economic and community connectivity and communication needs and reducing the need to travel.
- 5.22 This policy will be delivered through the development management process. Planning contributions can be secured via agreements entered into under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, or via a Community Infrastructure Levy. A decision on which tool best delivers the required infrastructure will be made as the RLDP progresses and the infrastructure needs are fully known. Planning obligations are a means of seeking contributions from developers to enhance the quality of a development, provide community benefits and infrastructure, and mitigate any negative impacts that may arise as a consequence of the development. In line with Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended), the Council will negotiate obligations where these are necessary, relevant to planning, directly related to the proposed development and reasonable in all other respects. Further guidance on the use of planning obligations is provided in PPW11 and Welsh Office Circular 13/97 Planning Obligations. Supplementary Planning Guidance will be prepared to provide further detail on the Council’s Planning Obligations policy.
- 5.23 An Infrastructure Plan will be prepared to accompany the Deposit RLDP, which will identify the key infrastructure needed, anticipated timescales of delivery and potential funding streams to support the delivery of allocated sites.
- 5.24 Where a viability assessment is deemed necessary, the Council will require applicants to provide detailed information and supporting evidence. The Council’s policy requirements should be the starting point for viability appraisals with an expectation that land values will reflect these. Where it is considered necessary to independently assess viability assessments, the costs will be borne by the developer.

Links to Wider Policy Framework	
RLDP Objectives	Objective 1 – Economic Growth / Employment Objective 3 – Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Landscape Objective 4 – Flood risk Objective 8 – Health and Well-being Objective 10 – Housing Objective 11 – Place-making Objective 12 – Communities Objective 13 – Rural Communities Objective 14 – Infrastructure Objective 17 – Climate Change
Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (WG, February 2021)	Policy 13 – Supporting Digital Communications Policy 14 – Planning in Mobile Action Zones
Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (WG, February 2021)	Strategic and Spatial Choices Theme (Chapter 3) – Supporting Infrastructure
Building Better Places (WG, July 2020)	Priorities and Actions for Places – post Covid-19 considerations: Climate Change and Decarbonisation (page 11) Staying local: creating neighbourhoods (page 14) Active travel- exercise and rediscovered transport methods (page 16) Digital places – the lockdown lifeline (pages 19-20) Green infrastructure, health and well-being and ecological resilience (page 22)
Well-being of Future Generations Act (WBFGA) (WG, 2015)	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A globally responsible Wales
Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan (MWBP) (February 2018)	• Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life. • Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change. • Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change. • Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.
Monmouthshire draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022	This policy supports the draft Community and Corporate Plan goals of ensuring Monmouthshire is a: • fair place to live where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced;

	• green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions, making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency; • thriving and ambitious place, full of hope and enterprise; • safe place to live where people have a home they feel secure in; • connected place where people feel part of a community, are valued and connected to other; • learning place where everybody has the opportunity to reach their potential.
Key Evidence	Infrastructure Plan to follow alongside Deposit RLDP Viability Assessments for Allocations in time for the Deposit RLDP
Monitoring	TBC
Detailed Policies	TBC in Deposit RLDP

ACTIVE & SOCIAL PLACES

- 5.25 The Active & Social Places theme aims to create well-connected and cohesive communities. The Strategic Policies contained within this section seek to deliver well connected, active and healthy communities that have access to good quality homes, services and community facilities.

Affordable Homes

Strategic Policy S6 – Affordable Homes
The affordable homes target for the Plan period of 2018 – 2033 is 1,580 – 1,850 homes. The Council is committed to ensuring the delivery of 50% affordable homes on all new site allocations. Further detail relating to affordable housing thresholds will be included in the Deposit RLDP to reflect the outcomes of the emerging viability work.

- 5.26 Policy S6 seeks to tackle inequality, specifically by seeking to address house price unaffordability, which currently prevents some of our communities accessing suitable homes within the County. This is likely to benefit younger people, who in turn will make our ageing communities more socially and economically balanced and more sustainable. Good quality and affordable homes are important in achieving poverty reduction and equitable prosperity, and supporting the best start in life. A core Council objective is to deliver much needed affordable homes at pace and scale to

help address inequality and rebalancing the County's demography to ensure communities are socially and economically sustainable. The Council is committed to ensuring new site allocations provide for 50% affordable housing.

- 5.27 The Covid-19 pandemic increased the need for affordable homes and revealed the extent of hidden homelessness in the County. The Minister for Housing and Local Government announced that post-Covid-19, no-one should return to the streets.

Affordable Housing Target

- 5.28 The delivery of affordable homes across the County that seeks to address these issues is a key aim of the Preferred Strategy, and an integral part of the general provision of housing in the RLDP. Economically viable and deliverable allocations will facilitate this aim and ensure communities have access to sufficient, good quality, affordable homes to meet a range of needs.
- 5.29 The latest Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) (December 2020) identifies an annual shortfall of 468 dwellings for the 5-year period 2020-2025 for the affordable housing tenures of low cost home ownership, intermediate rent and social rent. This would represent an affordable housing requirement of 7,017 homes if extrapolated over the Plan period. This is not a realistic affordable housing target for the Plan and it is not expected to be as new development is only one of a variety of means of achieving a supply of affordable housing. However, as set out in Section 4 and Policy S1, affordable housing provision is a key issue for the County and forms an integral part of the overarching Strategy with 50% provision required on all new site allocations.
- 5.30 The RLDP will contain detailed policies setting out thresholds at which development will be required to provide affordable housing. An Affordable Housing Viability Study will be undertaken to inform the appropriate thresholds set out in the Deposit RLDP.
- 5.31 Detail relating to the required tenure split will be included in the Deposit RLDP based on the most up to date information contained in the LHMA.

Links to Wider Policy Framework	
RLDP Objectives	Objective 9 – Demography Objective 10 – Housing Objective 11 – Placemaking Objective 12 – Communities Objective 13 – Rural Communities
Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (WG, February 2021)	Policy 2 – Shaping Urban Growth and Regeneration – Strategic Placemaking Policy 3 – Supporting Urban Growth and Regeneration – Public Sector Leadership Policy 4 – Supporting Rural Communities

	Policy 7 – Delivering Affordable Homes Policy 33 – National Growth Area – Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys
Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (WG, February 2021)	Active & Social Places Theme (Chapter 4)
Building Better Places (WG, July 2020)	Priorities and Actions for Places - Post Covid-19 Considerations: Staying local: creating neighbourhoods (Page 14)
Well-being of Future Generations Act (WBFGA) (WG, 2015)	A More Equal Wales A Resilient Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities
Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan (MWBP) (February 2018)	• Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life. • Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change. • Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.
Monmouthshire draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022	This policy supports the draft Community and Corporate Plan goals of ensuring Monmouthshire is a fair place to live, where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced, and a safe place to live where people have a home they feel secure in.
Key Evidence	Updating the RLDP Demographic Evidence Report, Edge Analytics November 2021 Housing Background Paper – December 2022 Monmouthshire Local Housing Market Assessment – December 2020 Affordable Housing Viability Assessment – to be undertaken for the Deposit RLDP.
Monitoring	TBC
Detailed Policies	TBC in Deposit RLDP

Preferred Strategic Site Allocations

Strategic Policy S7 – Preferred Strategic Site Allocations

Strategic Sites will be allocated to contribute to the delivery of the housing and job growth rates set out in Policy S1. The following sites are identified as Preferred Strategic Site Allocations:

- a) Abergavenny East**
- b) Bayfield, Chepstow**
- c) Caldicot East**

- 5.32 In order to implement the RLDP's Strategy, Preferred Strategic Site Allocations have been identified for the Primary Settlements of Abergavenny, Chepstow and Caldicot. These sites have been selected from a total of 13 strategic growth options located across Abergavenny, Chepstow, Monmouth and Severnside that were previously consulted on in the 2021 Preferred Strategy. Site selection has been informed by the consultation responses received on the 2021 Preferred Strategy. To inform these Preferred Strategic Site Allocations, a high-level assessment has been undertaken to identify those sites which could contribute to delivering the level of growth (housing and jobs) required to deliver the Preferred Strategy. These sites have provided sufficient evidence of viability and deliverability that will be built on as the plan progresses. Two of the sites namely, Abergavenny East and Caldicot East, are anticipated to provide housing both within and beyond the RLDP plan period.
- 5.33 Policy S7 relates only to Preferred Strategic Site Allocations, additional sites are required to fulfil the housing requirement set out in the Strategy and these will be identified in the Deposit Plan. The final selection of sites for the Deposit Plan will be dependent on further detailed assessment work.
- 5.34 Details of the Preferred Strategic Site Allocations are provided in Figures 3 to 5 and Tables 3 to 5. Further details are set out in Appendix 5.
- 5.35 Planning Policy Wales emphasises the importance of re-using brownfield sites, however, there are limited opportunities for further significant brownfield development in Monmouthshire. The objective is to achieve sustainably located urban extensions that can be well-connected to town centres and public transport. The RLDP will seek to allocate those sites that are the best connected, most sustainable, best deliver placemaking and are least harmful, which will require balanced consideration and trade-offs at Deposit Plan stage. The same approach has been taken in identifying the Preferred Strategic Site Allocation for each primary settlement.

5.36 Following the consultation on the Preferred Strategy the Council will undertake a detailed assessment of all sites to ensure delivery of the Plan's Strategy, including the provision of:

- 50% affordable homes;
- Net zero carbon ready homes;
- Necessary supporting infrastructure;
- A masterplanning process to ensure allocations create sustainable, cohesive, well-designed places delivered through a strong placemaking approach; and
- A financial viability assessment to ensure sites are deliverable within the Plan period.

Abergavenny

Figure 3: Abergavenny East

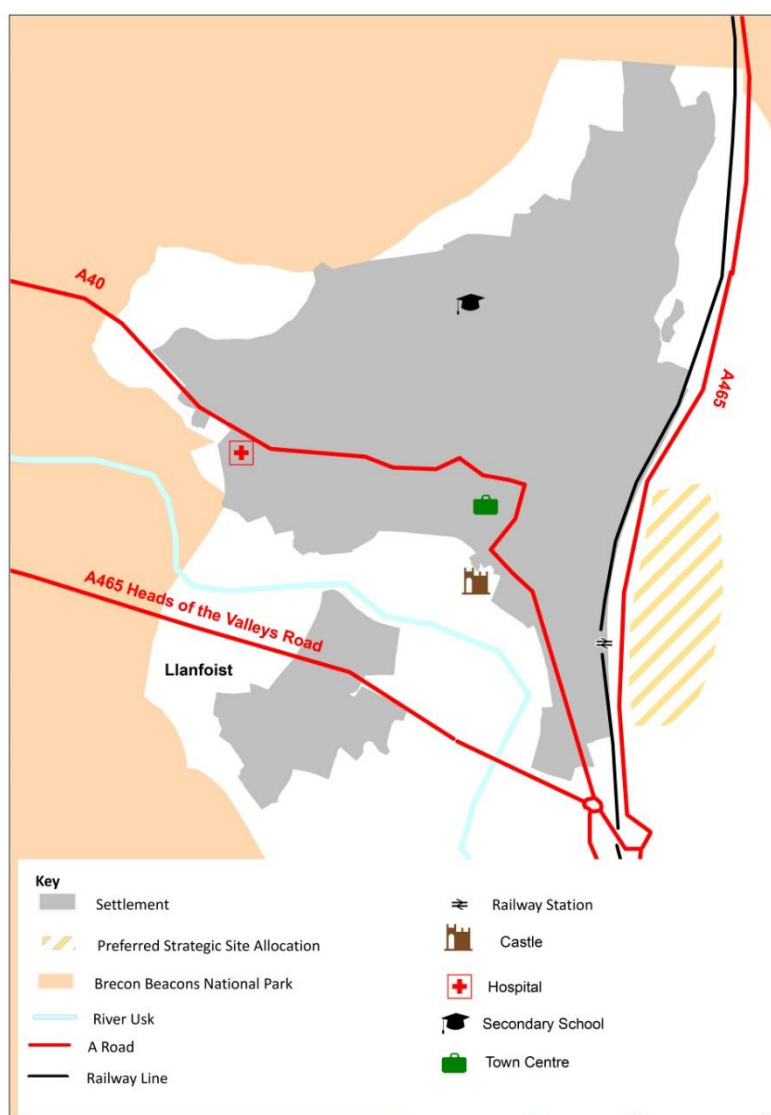


Table 3: Abergavenny East Site Details

Site Name	Size (Ha)	CS Ref	Proposed Use	No. of homes proposed in Candidate Site Submissions	Approximate No. of homes within Plan period
Abergavenny East	24.75	CS0213	Mixed Use: Residential, Employment, Retail, Leisure, Education and Community Use	635	500

Chepstow

Figure 4: Bayfield, Chepstow

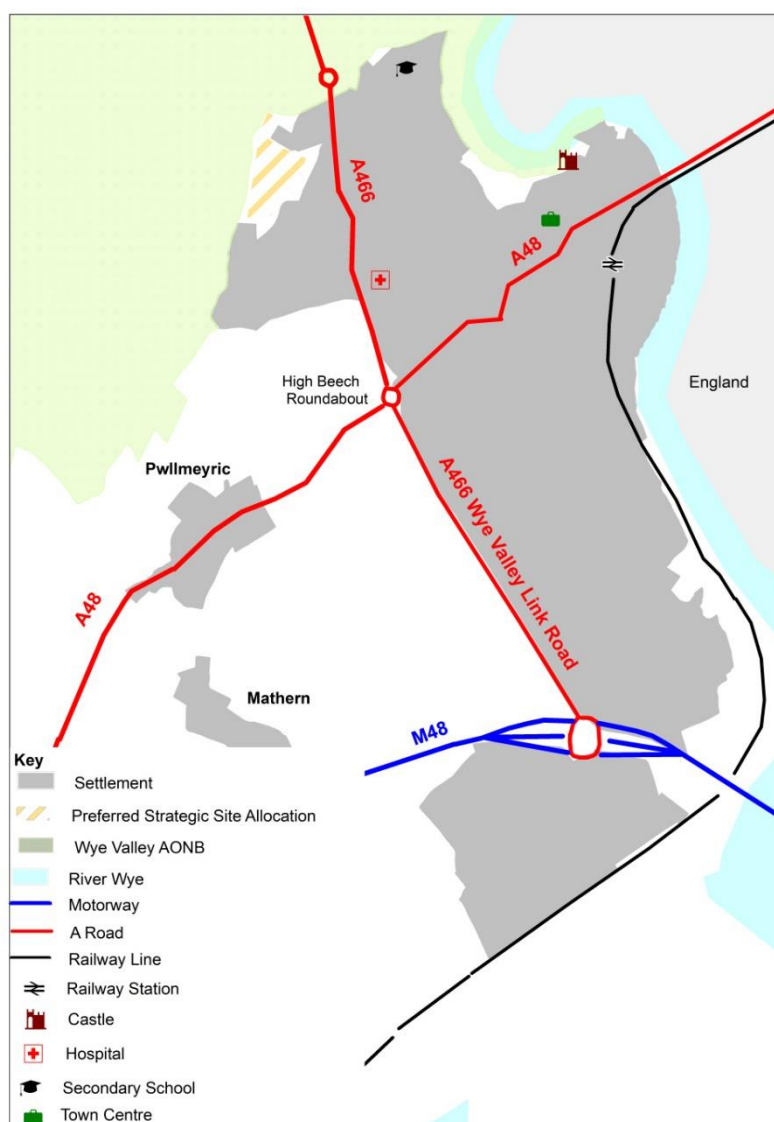


Table 4: Bayfield, Chepstow Site Details

Site Name	Size (Ha)	CS Ref	Proposed Use	No. of homes proposed in Candidate Site Submission	Approximate No. of homes within Plan period
Bayfield, Chepstow	10.07	CS0098	Residential	145	145

Severnside

Figure 5: Caldicot East

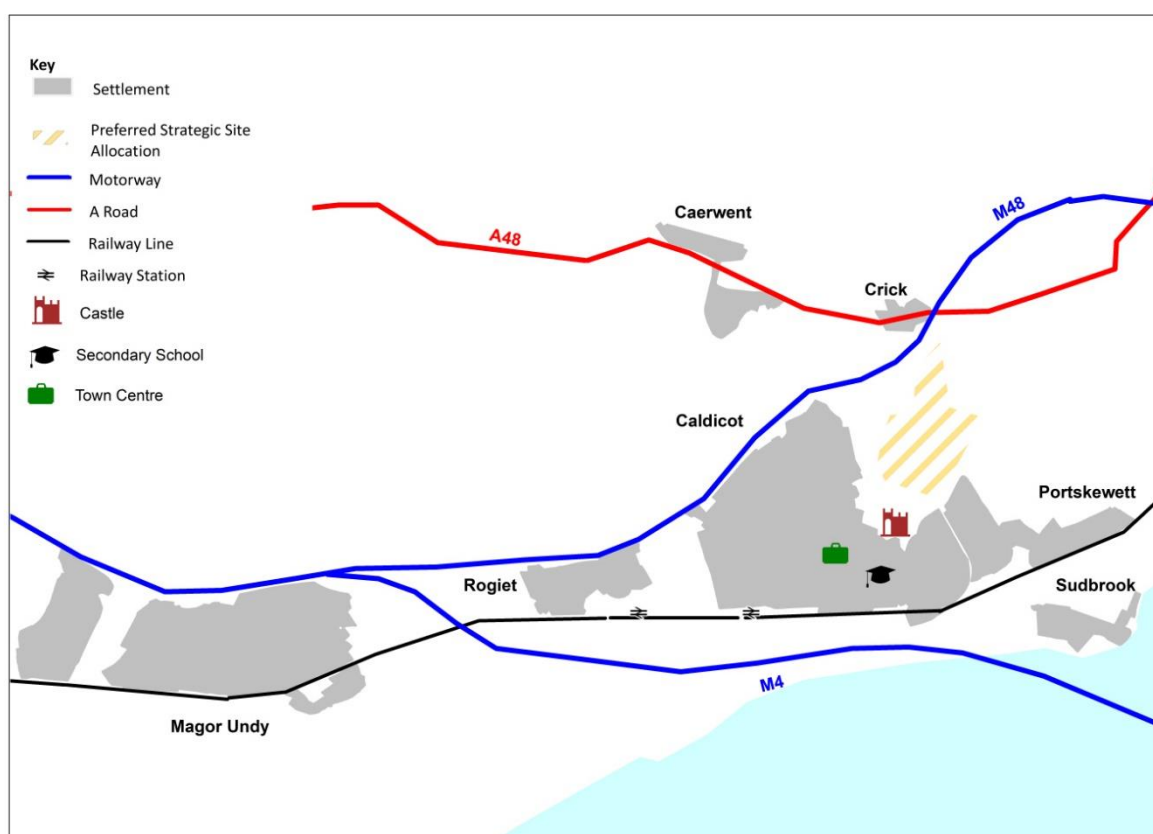


Table 5: Caldicot East Site Details

Site Name	Size (Ha)	CS Ref/s	Proposed Use	No. of homes proposed in Candidate Site Submissions	Approximate No. of homes within Plan period
Caldicot East	67.67	CS0087 CS0251	Mixed Use: Residential, Employment, Retail, Leisure	1460	925

Links to Wider Policy Framework	
RLDP Objectives	Objective 1 – Economic Growth / Employment Objective 6 – Land Objective 9 – Demography Objective 10 – Housing Objective 11 – Placemaking Objective 12 – Communities Objective 14 – Infrastructure Objective 15 - Accessibility
Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (WG, February 2021)	Policy 2 – Shaping Urban Growth and Regeneration – Strategic Placemaking Policy 3 – Supporting Urban Growth and Regeneration – Public Sector Leadership Policy 4 – Supporting Rural Communities Policy 5 – Supporting the Rural Economy Policy 34 – Green Belts in the South East
Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (WG, 2021)	Strategic and Spatial Choices Theme (Chapter 3) - Spatial Strategy and Site Search Sequence
Building Better Places (WG, July 2020)	Priorities and Actions for Places - Post Covid-19 Considerations: Staying local: creating neighbourhoods (page 14) Active Travel: exercise and rediscovered transport methods (page 16) Changing working practices: our future need for employment land (page 20)
Well-being of Future Generations Act (WBFGA) (WG, 2015)	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities
Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan (MWBP) (February 2018)	• Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life. • Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change.

	• Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change. • Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.
Monmouthshire draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022	This policy supports the draft Community and Corporate Plan goals of ensuring Monmouthshire is a: • green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions, making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency; • thriving and ambitious place, full of hope and enterprise; • connected place where people feel part of a community, are valued and connected to other.
Key Evidence	Sustainable Settlement Appraisal – November 2022 Candidate Sites High-Level Assessment – September 2022 Growth and Spatial Options Background Paper – September 2022 Housing Background Paper – December 2022
Monitoring	TBC
Detailed Policies	TBC in Deposit RLDP

Gypsy and Travellers

Strategic Policy S8 – Gypsy and Travellers

Land will be made available to accommodate unmet Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs identified in the latest Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment.

- 5.37 The Housing Act requires the Assessments be updated every five years. An updated Gypsy and Travellers Needs Assessment has been prepared and was submitted to Welsh Government for approval in January 2021. This identified a need for nine residential pitches between the period 2020 – 2025 and a further four pitches for the remaining Plan period of 2026 – 2033, giving a total need of 13 pitches until the end of Plan period. The update did not identify a need for a transit pitch. Land will be identified to accommodate unmet Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need in the Deposit Plan.
- 5.38 In terms of transit sites, it is considered that these would be best considered on a regional basis, requiring collaboration with neighbouring local authorities through the SDP process.

- 5.39 Specific criteria-based policies to assess proposals for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation that come forward during the Plan period will be considered within the Deposit RLDP.

Links to Wider Policy Framework	
RLDP Objectives	Objective 9 – Demography Objective 10 – Housing Objective 11 – Placemaking Objective 12 – Communities Objective 13 – Rural Communities
Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (WG, February 2021)	Policy 7 – Delivering Affordable Homes
Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (WG, February 2021)	Active and Social Places Theme (Chapter 4) - Gypsies and Travellers
Building Better Places (WG (July 2020)	Priorities and Actions for Places - Post Covid-19 Considerations: Staying local: creating neighbourhoods (page 14)
Well-being of Future Generations Act (WBFGA) (WG, 2015)	A more equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language
Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan (MWBP) (February 2018)	• Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life. • Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change.
Monmouthshire draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022	This policy supports the draft Community and Corporate Plan goals of ensuring Monmouthshire is a: • fair place to live where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced; • safe place to live where people have a home they feel secure in.
Key Evidence	Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Assessment – May 2016 Draft Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Assessment – 2020 – 2025 (January 2021) – submitted to Welsh Government for approval in January 2021 (currently awaiting a response from WG). Housing (Wales) Act 2014 Welsh Government Circular 005/2018: Planning for Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Sites TAN 6: Planning Sustainable Rural Communities (2010)
Monitoring	TBC

Detailed Policies	TBC in Deposit RLDP

Sustainable Transport

Strategic Policy S9 – Sustainable Transport

Development proposals must promote sustainable, low carbon, safe forms of transport which reduce the need to travel by car, increase provision for walking and cycling and improve public transport (rail and bus) provision in order to deliver significant health and well-being benefits through an increase in human physical activity, and environmental benefits through reduction of transport related air and noise pollution. This will be facilitated by:

- Development that accords with the Sustainable Transport Hierarchy (as set out in PPW, Future Wales and Llwybr Newydd) of reducing the need to travel by car, and promoting walking, cycling public transport and Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) above private motor vehicles;
- Promoting digital and innovative infrastructure in both urban and rural areas to enable remote working and reduction in a need to travel to the workplace on a day-by-day basis;
- Promoting Active Travel (walking and cycling) connectivity through safeguarding, enhancing and expanding on the Active Travel Network Maps (ATNMs);
- Locating development close to public transport facilities and designing developments to facilitate and improve public transport infrastructure, its connections and geographical reach to rural areas;
- Ensuring developments incorporate and/or enable the use of ULEVs by providing the necessary underlying infrastructure;
- Improving travel infrastructure safety;
- Ensuring developments are served by an appropriate level of parking provision depending on the nature and location of the proposal;
- Developing the role of Monmouthshire's Primary Settlements in accordance with the South East Wales Regional Plan and Monmouthshire's Local Transport Plan (LTP) around which low carbon sustainable transport opportunities can be developed and linked to the South East Wales Metro, and;
- Demonstrating how proposed development in rural areas enables solutions to rural transport problems, such as improvement of links to public transport, digital infrastructure, and innovative solutions, such as car sharing schemes.

The Deposit Plan will safeguard sites necessary to deliver the key transport measures and schemes identified in National, Regional and Local Transport Plans.

- 5.40 The priority for the ‘reduction in the need to travel’ and a shift away from the private car for travel is reflected in the Welsh Government’s Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 and ‘Llwybr Newydd – The Wales Transport Strategy 2021’ which sets out priorities of:
- Improving physical and digital connectivity to support remote working and reduce the need for people to use their cars on a daily basis. This is in line with the wider Welsh Government target of 30% of the workforce to work remotely on a regular basis.³⁴
 - Investment in low carbon, accessible and efficient transport infrastructure that enable more people to walk and cycle, encouraging more sustainable and healthy lifestyles.
 - ‘Future proof’ transport infrastructure to adapt to climate change and give priority to the ‘Sustainable Transport Hierarchy’ set out in PPW11, which puts walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure above the private car. Where private cars are to be used there needs to be a move away from petrol and diesel vehicles to Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicles (ULEVs).
- 5.41 The spatial strategy of the RLDP focuses development in our most sustainable settlements of Abergavenny, Chepstow and Caldicot, including Severnside, that provide opportunities for a reduction in travel and provide opportunities for sustainable transport, particularly walking, cycling (Active Travel) and public transport. In line with the Active Travel Act 2013 and Welsh Government Travel Act Guidance (2021)³⁵, the Council has produced Active Travel Network Maps (ATMNs) ³⁶, identifying the walking and cycling routes required to create fully integrated networks for walking and cycling.
- 5.42 The RLDP will promote the concept of the ‘20 minute neighbourhood’³⁷ whereby new development should be within a 20 minute walking distance of key everyday services, which in turn will promote physical activity and the health and well-being of our residents. The RLDP will also establish the foundations to encourage longer term changes to the historic high level of car usage in Monmouthshire and promote modal

³⁴ Smarter Working: a Remote Working Strategy for Wales, Welsh Government (2022)

³⁵ Welsh Government Active Travel Act Guidance (July 2021)

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-01/active-travel-act-guidance.pdf>

³⁶ Monmouthshire’s Active Travel Network Maps can be viewed via

<https://maps.monmouthshire.gov.uk/custom/activetravelATNM.html>

³⁷ Future Generations Commissioner for Wales (2020) Climate Week: How 20-minute neighbourhoods can help us fight the Climate Emergency and save our towns and cities

[Climate Week: How 20-minute neighbourhoods can help us fight the Climate Emergency and save our towns and cities – The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales](#)

shift as per Llwybr Newydd. Site allocations will be sustainably located and well connected to encourage active travel and public transport use. Policies will ensure that new developments provide the charging infrastructure required to support a move to ULEVs away from petrol and diesel vehicles, such as reducing parking spaces in sustainable locations.

Rural Transport

- 5.43 Monmouthshire is predominantly a rural County and as set out in Future Wales Policy 5, and it is recognised there are significant disparities between urban areas with regard to the feasibility of delivering effective and public transport systems and active travel routes. 'A rural location within the proximity of major urban areas experiences different issues compared with a more isolated rural location. It may not be appropriate for policies to be applied to both types of location equally.'³⁸ Travel by the car in some rural areas of Monmouthshire therefore may be the only realistic mode of travel.
- 5.44 Llwybr Newydd: the Wales Transport Strategy has committed to a 'Rural Pathway' which sets out how regional Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) and Welsh Government policy makers will work together on strategies to tailor solutions to extend the geographical reach of public transport links into rural areas, and trip reduction through car sharing schemes and creation of 'local distribution networks' hubs to help manage the impacts of increasing home deliveries.³⁹ Development proposals in rural areas of Monmouthshire should therefore demonstrate innovative solutions to connect rural locations to services and facilities.

Regional Planning

- 5.45 Monmouthshire is part of the South East Region of Wales and development proposed in the RLDP will need to demonstrate how regional aspirations and opportunities can be incorporated in local plans as part of a joined up approach with transport planning and local land use planning. Future Wales 2040 policies 11 and 12 set out national and regional transport plans and initiatives for Wales and the importance to strategically plan for opportunities arising from the investment in public transport. The recent 'South East Wales Transport Commission Final Recommendations Plan 2020' recommends a 'Network of Alternatives' to solve congestion and travel reliance on the M4 travel route,⁴⁰ which sets out public transport improvement schemes and the need for a 'behavioural shift' in people to change commuting patterns. Within

³⁸ Future Wales 2040: Policy 5: Supporting the rural economy [Update to Future Wales - The National Plan 2040 \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/update-to-future-wales-the-national-plan-2040)

³⁹ Living Locally in rural Wales: RTPi Cymru 2022 explores the role the planning system can play in supporting more sustainable local living in rural Wales [Plan The World We Need \(rtpi.org.uk\)](https://rtpi.org.uk/plan-the-world-we-need)

⁴⁰ South East Wales Transport Commission Final Recommendations <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-11/south-east-wales-transport-commission-final-recommendations.pdf>

Monmouthshire the report specifically recommends enhancement of the Severn Tunnel Junction rail station and access arrangements, and development of a walkway station at Magor with Undy. Policy 36 of Future Wales: South East Metro, which Monmouthshire is a part of, further identifies the Metro as “a major strategic opportunity to improve rail, bus, cycling and walking infrastructure across the region”⁴¹ and that the local planning policy frameworks must ensure that long term strategic decisions maximise opportunities in areas that will benefit from the Metro.

- 5.46 The RLDP will therefore plan for strategic development within Monmouthshire’s most sustainable locations that have opportunities and potential to connect and link with regional travel aspirations and plans, in particular identified opportunities at Severn Tunnel Junction and the South East Wales Metro scheme. The identified preferred strategic growth areas of Abergavenny East, Bayfield, and Caldicot East will be linked to the town centre and railway stations via active travel connections.

Monmouthshire Local Transport Plan

- 5.47 The RLDP will also be accompanied by a Local Transport Plan (LTP)⁴² which will highlight several different transport measures Monmouthshire will hope to undertake to facilitate proposed development set out in the RLDP. The programmes outlined in the current LTP includes walking and cycling infrastructure, bus network, station and highways improvements, Cardiff Capital Region Metro schemes, 20mph limits and road safety schemes. The LTP is being updated and will inform the Deposit Plan. The RLDP will support the transport schemes identified within the Monmouthshire updated LTP and, where appropriate, safeguard land for key transport proposals such as the Magor Walkway Station and Severn Tunnel Junction link road and public transport interchange.

Links to Wider Policy Framework	
RLDP Objectives	Objective 1 – Economic Growth/Employment Objective 8 – Health and Well-being Objective 9 – Demography Objective 11 – Place-making Objective 12 – Communities Objective 13 – Rural Communities Objective 14 – Infrastructure Objective 15 – Accessibility Objective 17 – Climate Change

⁴¹ Future Wales 2040 Policy 36: South East Metro [Update to Future Wales - The National Plan 2040 \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/update-to-future-wales-the-national-plan-2040)

⁴² Monmouthshire Local Transport Plan – May 2015 can be viewed via <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/local-transport-plan/>

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (W G, February 2021)	Policy 11 – National Connectivity Policy 12 – Regional Connectivity Policy 36 – South East Metro
Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (WG, February 2021)	Active and Social Places Theme (Chapter 4) - Moving within and between places
Building Better Places (WG, July 2020)	Priorities and Actions for Places - Post Covid-19 Considerations: Staying local: creating neighbourhoods (page 14) Active travel: exercise and rediscovered transport methods (page 16)
Well-being of Future Generations Act (WBFGA) (WG 2015)	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive Communities
Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan (MWBP) (February 2018)	• Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life. • Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change. • Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change. • Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.
Monmouthshire draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022	This policy supports the draft Community and Corporate Plan goals of ensuring Monmouthshire is a: • green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions, making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency; • connected place where people feel part of a community, are valued and connected to other.
Key Evidence	• Llwybr Newydd: The Wales Transport Strategy 2021 • Welsh Government Active Travel Act Guidance July 2021 • South East Wales Transport Commission: Final Recommendations: November 2020 • Monmouthshire Local Transport Plan and updated LTP to be prepared alongside the Deposit Plan. • ATNM's for Monmouthshire • Living Locally in Rural Wales: Planning policy and practice RTPi discussion paper 2022
Monitoring	TBC
Detailed Policies	TBC in Deposit RLDP

Town, Local and Neighbourhood Centres

Strategic Policy S10– Town, Local and Neighbourhood Centres

All new or enhanced retail, commercial and social developments, including leisure, cultural and entertainment uses, will be focussed according to the hierarchy defined below. Developments should be consistent in scale and nature with the size and character of the centre and its role in the hierarchy.

Proposals must maintain or enhance the vibrancy, vitality and attractiveness of the centre. Proposals which would undermine the vibrancy, vitality and attractiveness of the centre will not be permitted.

Town Centres: Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow, Monmouth

Local Centres: Magor, Raglan, Usk

Neighbourhood Centres: Abergavenny - Hillcrest Road, Rother Avenue,
(These will be reviewed as part of the Deposit RLDP) The Mardy
Caldicot – West End
Chepstow – Bulwark, Thornwell
Monmouth – Overmonnow, Wyesham, The Albion

- 5.48 PPW11 requires local planning authorities to identify a hierarchy of centres which distinguishes between higher order centres which have a wider range of uses and larger catchment areas, and lower order centres which are important to communities for day-to-day needs. Policy S10 sets out this hierarchy for Monmouthshire, although this will be given further consideration as part of the Retail Study which will inform the Deposit Plan.
- 5.49 The Primary Settlements of Abergavenny, Chepstow and Monmouth are akin to market towns, providing a broad range of facilities and services, of which retailing is a key component, for residents and visitors. The centres attract significant numbers of shoppers from their respective town and rural hinterlands. The towns are also main visitor destinations in the County, providing a range of leisure, tourism and cultural facilities. Caldicot town centre has a more limited offer than the other primary settlements, although it remains an important centre serving the area with a range of facilities. Monmouthshire County Council, with the support of key stakeholders such as Caldicot Town Council, Cardiff Capital Region and Welsh Government, is implementing an ambitious town centre regeneration project in Caldicot. While the town is not a major tourist destination, Caldicot is an important local attraction and the Council is promoting nearby tourist attractions such as Caldicot Castle and Country Park, Black Rock and the Gwent Levels.

- 5.50 The County's local centres – Magor, Raglan and Usk – also provide an important role in the hierarchy serving a more local function for residents, with a prominent focus on convenience (food) shopping and an element of comparison (non-food) shopping together with some local service provision. Neighbourhood centres similarly provide an important local day-to-day function for their local communities.
- 5.51 The Monmouthshire Retail Expenditure Forecasts Update (2020)⁴³ notes that Monmouthshire's centres are performing relatively well as destinations for convenience trading, but less well as destinations for comparison shopping. Further information on the health and function of the town and local centres can also be found in the latest Retail Background Paper August 2022⁴⁴. The decline in the role of town centres as destinations for comparison goods shopping highlights the importance of attracting a diverse range of uses to commercial centres such as leisure and community uses. Given the changing role of commercial centres, the current Central Shopping Area and Primary Shopping Frontage boundaries will be reviewed in the Deposit RLDP and amended, if necessary, in recognition of the need for flexibility in maintaining occupancy and footfall and encouraging a mix of uses that will promote the overall health and vibrancy of the town centres. An update of Monmouthshire's Retail Expenditure Forecasts (2020) will also be undertaken to take account of the population growth levels established in the Preferred Strategy. If appropriate, land will be identified in the Deposit Plan for future retailing needs.
- 5.52 Given the essential role and function of these centres, it is important that a centre's position in the hierarchy is maintained and, where possible, enhanced. A key objective of the RLDP is to sustain and enhance the County's primary settlements as vibrant and attractive centres and to maintain the essential function of our other centres, by focusing new and enhanced retail, and commercial, including leisure, entertainment, cultural and community developments of an appropriate scale and nature, in designated centres. This is vital in ensuring that the centres remain attractive places to live and visit and provide a valuable role in meeting the needs of local communities and visitors.
- 5.53 Welsh Government's Building Better Places (July 2020) document recognises the economic consequences to town centres as a result of the recent pandemic. It tasks the planning system with responding to this by ensuring that town and local centres can operate as flexibly as possible. Whilst recognising the important role our town centres play, high streets will continue to change, and there is a clear need for flexible planning policies in our centres to enable a 're-imagining' of our high streets across the County. Increased agile/home working might also result in increased expenditure within our towns, with the community good-will encapsulated by the Covid-19

⁴³ Monmouthshire's Retail Expenditure Forecasts – 2020 can be viewed via <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/development-of-an-evidence-base/>

⁴⁴ The Retail Background Paper – August 2022 can be viewed via <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/annual-monitoring/retail/>

response helping to support local businesses and retailers. In light of these changes a need for greater flexibility will be reflected in the detailed planning policy framework which will be set out in the Deposit Plan.

- 5.54 Whilst recognising the need for greater flexibility, Welsh Government in Future Wales has adopted a ‘Town Centre First’ approach. This puts the health and vibrancy of town centres as the starting point of locational decision-making. It also directs facilities and services to where intended users can easily walk, cycle and/or use public transport to access them. Developments of an appropriate scale within our town and local centres that maintain and/or enhance their vitality, attractiveness and viability will be supported in the RLDP. The future size and scale of Town Centre development is critical to the maintenance of the character and function of the County’s settlements. It is therefore important that new developments are in keeping with the scale and function of the existing centres and have regard to their position within the overall hierarchy. Inappropriate development which would undermine the vitality, viability and attractiveness of the County’s town, local and neighbourhood centres, such as out of town retail, will be strongly resisted. Detailed policies will be set out in the Deposit RLDP providing further clarification on where development will and will not be permitted, and where change of use will be limited.
- 5.55 The County’s town, local and neighbourhood centres provide retail, employment, leisure, tourism and cultural opportunities. Tourism, in particular, plays an important part in sustaining Monmouthshire’s historic town centres of Abergavenny, Chepstow and Monmouth, as well as Usk. It is essential that the role and function of these settlements as important visitor destinations is maintained and enhanced over the Plan period. The co-location of retail, commercial and leisure and tourism facilities in these centres, where they can be accessed by public transport, walking and cycling, will help to sustain and enhance their vitality, viability and attractiveness and contribute to a reduction in travel demand.

Links to Wider Policy Framework	
RLDP Objectives	Objective 1 – Economic Growth/ Employment Objective 2 – Town and Local Centres Objective 8 – Health and Well-being Objective 9 – Demography Objective 11 – Place-making Objective 12 – Communities Objective 13 – Rural Communities Objective 14 – Infrastructure Objective 15 – Accessibility Objective 16 – Culture, Heritage and Welsh Language
Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (WG, February 2021)	Policy 6 – Town Centre First

Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (WG, February 2021)	Active and Social Places Theme (Chapter 4) - Retail and Commercial Development
Building Better Places (WG, July 2020)	Priorities and Actions for Places - Post Covid-19 Considerations: Staying local: creating neighbourhoods (Page 14) Active travel: exercise and rediscovered transport methods (Page 16) Revitalising our town centres (Page 18) Changing working practices – our future need for employment land (Page 20) Reawakening Wales’ tourism and cultural sectors (Page 21) Improving air quality and soundscapes for better health and well-being (Page 23)
Well-being of Future Generations Act (WBFGA) (WG, 2015)	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan (MWBP) (February 2018)	• Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life. • Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change. • Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.
Monmouthshire draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022	This policy supports the draft Community and Corporate Plan goals of ensuring Monmouthshire is a: • thriving and ambitious place, full of hope and enterprise; • connected place where people feel part of a community, are valued and connected to other.
Key Evidence	TAN 4: Retail & Commercial Development – Nov 2016 Review of Central Shopping Area and Primary Shopping Frontage boundaries – this will support the detailed boundaries defined in the Deposit LDP. Monmouthshire Retail Study will be prepared to inform the Deposit Plan. Retail Background Paper – August 2022 Primary Shopping Frontages SPG – April 2016
Monitoring	TBC
Detailed Policies	TBC in Deposit RLDP

Community & Recreation Facilities

Strategic Policy S11 – Community and Recreation Facilities

Where a town or local centre location is not available or appropriate, development proposals that provide and/or enhance community and recreation facilities will be permitted within or adjoining settlement boundaries subject to detailed planning considerations. Development proposals that result in the unjustified loss of community and recreation facilities will not be permitted.

- 5.56 The Council is committed to protecting and enhancing community facilities to meet the needs of residents over the Plan period. Providing a range of community facilities which are accessible to as many people as possible is essential in developing sustainable, resilient and inclusive communities. Such facilities are valuable in terms of the facilities they provide, the employment they generate and in attracting people to live within an area. As noted above, Future Wales advocates a ‘Town Centre First’ approach which puts the health and vibrancy of town centres as the starting point of locational decision making. It also directs facilities and services to where intended users can easily walk, cycle and/or use public transport to access them.
- 5.57 For the purpose of this policy, community facilities are defined as facilities used by local communities for leisure, social, health, education and cultural purposes and include village halls and shops, schools, GP surgeries / health centres, leisure centres, public houses, places of worship, cemeteries, allotments, community food growing and libraries. They can be owned by the public, private or community groups. Community facilities can be considered appropriate in residential and non-residential areas, where they satisfy the relevant policies, as they serve the needs of the wider community. Whilst there is a general presumption in favour of community facilities, they should not erode the character and appearance of the natural and built environment, nor the design qualities of their location. New facilities need to have good access to public transport and active travel routes, as well as be in walkable distance to as many homes as possible. The criteria against which proposals that involve the loss of community or recreation facilities will be assessed will be set out in Development Management policies in the Deposit Plan.
- 5.58 The recent Covid-19 pandemic has emphasised the importance of considering health and well-being throughout the planning system to ensure communities across Wales are healthy, vibrant and inclusive. Welsh Government’s Building Better Places (July 2020) document recognises that the planning system has an important role in supporting healthier lifestyles. The Council is committed to providing, protecting and enhancing open spaces in the County that are important for recreation, amenity, biodiversity, connectivity and/or heritage. Access to areas of open space is essential in enhancing the quality of life for all and promoting sustainable and resilient communities for all. It can help foster social inclusion, assist healthier lifestyles and

allow for recreation and leisure activities. It is important that an accessible network of open space is maintained and improved.

- 5.59 Recreation facilities include formal sport, recreation and leisure pursuits such as team games, children's play facilities, as well as more informal activities such as walking in the countryside. Further details on recreation categories and standards will be provided in the Deposit Plan as well as the designation of land to be protected for such purposes. Recreation and leisure facilities are an important generator of tourism and, in practice, the difference between facilities for local residents and tourists is difficult to define. However, for the purposes of the Plan, policies which relate to recreation and community facilities refer to activities primarily undertaken by local residents as opposed to the more tourist related activities associated with visitors.
- 5.60 The provision of new community and recreation facilities and areas of open space and/or contributions towards improving existing areas of open space and recreation will be sought in connection with new residential developments where they are needed and justified. This approach will help create sustainable developments that cater for the community's needs as well as promoting sustainable mixed use developments that facilitate access via public transport, walking and cycling.

Links to Wider Policy Framework	
RLDP Objectives	Objective 3 –Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Landscape Objective 8 – Health and Well-being Objective 9 – Demography Objective 11 – Place-making Objective 12 – Communities Objective 14 – Infrastructure Objective 15 – Accessibility
Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (WG, February 2021)	Policy 2 – Shaping Urban Growth and Regeneration – Strategic Placemaking Policy 4 – Supporting Rural Communities Policy 6 – Town Centre First Policy 34 – Green Belts in the South East
Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (WG, February 2021)	Active and Social Places Theme (Chapter 4) - Community Facilities Recreational Spaces
Building Better Places (WG, July 2020)	Priorities and Actions for Places - Post Covid-19 Considerations: Considering Health and Well-being throughout the Planning Process (page 12) Staying local: creating neighbourhoods (Page 14) Active travel: exercise and rediscovered transport methods (Page 16) Green Infrastructure, health and well-being and ecological resilience (Page 22)

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WBFGA) (WG, 2015)	A healthier Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language
Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan (MWBP) (February 2018)	• Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life. • Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change. • Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.
Monmouthshire draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022	This policy supports the draft Community and Corporate Plan goal of ensuring Monmouthshire is a connected place where people feel part of a community, are valued and connected to other.
Key Evidence	TAN 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space Monmouthshire Amenity Open Space Audit to follow with the Deposit plan.
Monitoring	TBC
Detailed Policies	TBC in Deposit RLDP

PRODUCTIVE & ENTERPRISING PLACES

- 5.61 Economic growth and resilience are key priorities for Monmouthshire County Council driven by the need to address the shrinking working age population and the high levels of out-commuting the County experiences. In order to create sustainable and resilient communities, the Preferred Strategy identifies a level of growth that aims to provide an appropriate balance of household and jobs growth. The RLDP will seek to facilitate this growth by providing a policy framework that allows Monmouthshire to attract and retain investment, create jobs, improve strategic infrastructure through the identification of sufficient employment land for traditional employment uses (B use class) and the promotion of other employment generators important to Monmouthshire's economy. Job growth will also come via the growth and retention of existing Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and the formation of new ones, with supportive planning policies, marketing and other interventions as required to make this happen.

Employment Sites Provision

Strategic Policy S12 – Employment Sites Provision

Provision will be made for a minimum of 38 ha of land on a suitable range and choice of sites for industrial and business development (classes B1, B2 and B8 of the Town and Country Planning Use Classes Order 1987) in accordance with the Plan's Spatial Strategy.

Existing employment land and premises that continue to be required for employment purposes will be protected from alternative forms of development.

To ensure that a range of types and sizes of employment land and premises is provided, development for the following will be permitted, subject to detailed planning considerations:

- Small units and workshops for small businesses throughout the County to assist in providing regeneration opportunities, enabling SMEs to start up and grow, and ensuring sustainable economic growth;**
- The integration of new employment opportunities in mixed-use developments.**

- 5.62 Monmouthshire's economic profile is characterised by low unemployment levels, but a high economic inactivity rate, reflecting its increasing ageing population and shrinking working age population. Levels of out-commuting and the distances travelled have also been high historically. Combined, these factors are impacting on employment growth within Monmouthshire and the social sustainability of our communities. The Preferred Strategy seeks to address these issues by promoting a growth level and spatial strategy that will promote higher employment growth, supporting greater labour force retention and achieve a reduction in the net out-flow of workers. The Preferred Strategy provides the planning policy framework to enable the provision of 6,240 jobs over the Plan period (416 jobs per annum). This level of job growth aligns with the projected population and housing growth and takes account of adjustments to household membership rates for key younger age groups and a reduced level of commuting by retaining more of the resident workforce.
- 5.63 Securing local economic growth and prosperity are a key aim of the Plan and will be achieved through a range of mechanisms and sectors. Delivering on the growth ambition will require more than simply allocating land in the RLDP; the Economic Ambition Statement sets the Council's direction of travel and the combination of measures required, including an Investment Prospectus, close engagement with the business sector, demonstrating a pro-business culture and land assembly interventions to ensure sites come forward. Policy interventions are also likely to be needed in terms of housing mix policies, to achieve the objective of retaining and attracting a younger demographic.

- 5.64 The RLDP has a key role in supporting the Council's vision for economic growth and will be one of the main enablers in delivering sustainable economic growth and increasing employment opportunities in existing and emerging sectors. As noted above, Monmouthshire's priorities for economic growth are set out in the 'Monmouthshire 2040: Our Economic Growth and Ambition Statement' and accompanying Investment Prospectus. The statement reflects national and regional policies including the ambitions for the Cardiff Capital Region and the Council's Corporate Plan and builds on the recommendations of the 'Economies of the Future Reports'. As detailed in Section 2, the Statement sets out Monmouthshire's economic priorities moving forward as being:
- A dynamic place to do business
 - A credible place to invest
 - An incredible place to live, visit and stay
- 5.65 Monmouthshire is geographically well connected, located in a key strategic location that benefits from good links to Cardiff, Bristol and the Midlands. With the recent removal of the Severn Bridge tolls, Monmouthshire's relationship with the West of England Combined Authority (WECA), the Bristol City Region, Forest of Dean and South Gloucestershire is also expected to strengthen and enhance the County's economic role in the region. Monmouthshire is well located to benefit from initiatives such as the Great Western Cities and the Western Power House, which aim to drive economic growth through regional collaboration.
- 5.66 As noted in the Development Plans Manual (March 2020), the aim of a strategy is to achieve a balance between homes and jobs thereby reducing the need for commuting (paragraph 5.25). The Manual recognises that the scale of economic growth to be delivered in a plan will be strongly influenced by factors including the available labour force, skills, net migration levels and commuting patterns. While these factors remain relevant and are key objectives of the Plan, it is becoming widely accepted that the fundamental shift in working practices experienced as a legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic, with a significant increase in people working from home/remotely, has made it less important where some jobs are located as employees no longer need to commute for work in many cases. This has provided the opportunity for many people to live and work in the same location via a new remote working approach and aligns with Welsh Government's 'Smarter Working: a Remote Working Strategy for Wales. This sets out Welsh Government's approach to achieving 30% of the Welsh workforce working at or near to home and embedding a culture that supports remote working.
- 5.67 The benefits of this change extend beyond reducing traffic pollution and congestion: experience during the pandemic showed that people working from home spent their income locally rather than at their work-base. In many cases, despite the wider restrictions associated with the pandemic, local businesses in our market towns survived: Magor town centre is a particularly successful case study of increased local

spend. At present, data on the extent of continued home/local working is limited but factors such as the increased focus on quality of life and home environment and increasing fuel costs act as continuing levers to encourage behaviour change. The RLDP can support this by securing the provision of local shared working hubs, provision of broadband infrastructure and placemaking to ensure quality home environments.

5.68 In line with PPW and Building Better Places and the requirement to provide an economic development evidence base to support LDP preparation, the Council has commissioned the preparation of an Employment Land Review (ELR)⁴⁵. This has undertaken a review of employment forecasts and B-use class land requirements for the Plan period 2018 – 2033. The study recommends that a forecast scenario based on past take-up rates is adopted for the RLDP. This provides a minimum requirement of 38ha of land, including a five-year buffer to allow for choice and uncertainty in forecasting. The ELR breaks this down by individual land use types as follows:

- B1: 3.5ha
- B2: 9.2ha
- B8: 25.2ha

5.69 Providing for this level of jobs growth is part of a complex picture. A fundamental element will be the provision of a deliverable range of employment land supply, in appropriate locations and in the right quantities to attract new businesses in key growth sectors and enable our existing businesses to grow. Many of the County's businesses are SMEs and may not require new land allocations to grow.

5.70 Moreover, there is an increased propensity for agile and home working over the longer term, meaning demand for physical employment land or space is changing. It is acknowledged that this tends to relate more to office-based sectors, and that not all sectors are able to work from home or in an agile manner. The RLDP will provide a range of sites to meet employment needs to 2033 to support the Council's ambitions and to support the local economy, being flexible to future changes. Community-based remote working hubs support a hybrid way of working from home and remotely at a local hub, reducing the need to travel and supporting small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) needs which are a key sector in the County. Having regard to the outcome of the evidence base set out above, the Deposit RLDP will allocate sufficient employment land (B use class) to cover the employment needs of the County in locations consistent with the Plan's spatial strategy. Details of employment land allocations and existing protected sites will be provided in the Deposit RLDP, along with criteria setting out the exceptional circumstances in which the loss of existing industrial and business sites or premises will be considered acceptable.

⁴⁵ Employment Land Review (BE Group, October 2022)

- 5.71 The ELR undertakes an assessment of the suitability and deliverability of existing LDP allocations, protected LDP employment sites along with Second Call Candidate Sites. The outcome of this work will inform the employment allocations made in the Deposit RLDP. Site allocations will also have regard to the spatial strategy and the restrictions on development in the upper River Wye Phosphates Catchment area. Site allocations and distribution will also have regard to the large existing employment allocation at Quay Point, Magor, which accounts for a significant mass of land of the available supply of employment land at one site (13.76ha). Further supply is recommended to meet the shortfall of supply and enable further flexibility in the market in terms of types of land and locations.
- 5.72 In accordance with PPW, the ELR sits alongside the Regional Employment Study⁴⁶, which covers a Larger than Local Area of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen. This related study provides a regional scale analysis of the economic evidence base and the property and employment land market in the Larger than Local Area, up to 2040 (the ELR covers the 2018 – 2033). This Study provides a regional viewpoint of demand and land requirements within the region and recognises the important role the M4 corridor plays in the region as well as the strategic function of the north of the sub-region linking to Herefordshire and the west Midlands. Strategic employment should be geographically distributed throughout the region to support this. The findings of this Study will be considered as part of the Deposit RLDP along with the ELR.
- 5.73 It should be noted that not all these jobs will be in planning B-class uses and many will be delivered through foundational sectors such tourism, leisure, food and retail and the agricultural and forestry sector, which play an important role within Monmouthshire's economy. Future Wales recognises and supports the significant role foundational and agricultural sectors can play in the Welsh economy generally but with significant relevance to supporting the rural economy (Policy 5 of Future Wales). The RLDP plans positively for these sectors through complementary Strategic Policies including S10 – Town, Local and Neighbourhood Centres Hierarchy, S13 – Rural Enterprise and S14 – Visitor Economy.

Links to Wider Policy Framework	
RLDP Objectives	Objective 1 – Economic Growth / Employment Objective 9 – Demography Objective 11 – Place-making Objective 12 – Communities Objective 14 – Infrastructure Objective 15 – Accessibility
Future Wales: The National	Policy 4 – Supporting Rural Communities Policy 5 – Supporting the rural economy Policy 6 – Town Centre First

⁴⁶ Regional Employment Study: Larger Than Local (BE Group, March 2020)

Plan 2040 (WG, February 2021)	
Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (WG, February 2021)	Productive and Enterprising Places Theme (Chapter 5) - Economic Development
Building Better Places (WG, July 2020)	Priorities and Actions for Places - Post Covid-19 Considerations: Staying local: creating neighbourhoods Revitalising our town centres Digital Places – the lockdown lifeline Changing working practices: our future need for employment land Reawakening Wales’ tourism and cultural sectors
Well-being of Future Generations Act (WBFGA) (WG, 2015)	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A more Equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A globally responsible Wales
Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan (MWBP) (February 2018)	• Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change • Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.
Monmouthshire draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022	This policy supports the draft Community and Corporate Plan goal of ensuring Monmouthshire is a thriving and ambitious place, full of hope and enterprise.
Key Evidence	Monmouthshire 2040: Our Economic Growth and Ambition Statement (November 2019) Vision 2040: Growing Your Own Business Monmouthshire Inward Investment Prospectus (March 2020) Monmouthshire Employment Land Review (October 2022) Regional Employment Study – Larger than Local Study – Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Torfaen, Monmouthshire and Newport (BE Group) (March 2020) Economies of the Future Analysis – Strategic Directions Report (October 2018)
Monitoring	TBC
Detailed Policies	TBC in Deposit RLDP

Rural Enterprise

Strategic Policy S13 – Rural Enterprise

Development to enable rural enterprise uses and the diversification of the rural economy will be permitted outside settlement development boundaries where it is of a scale and type compatible with the surrounding area and will cause no unacceptable harm to the surrounding landscape, historic and cultural heritage, biodiversity or local amenity value. Development must re-use or adapt existing buildings where possible. The exceptional circumstances in which new buildings may be permitted outside the settlement boundaries to support the rural economy will be set out in the Deposit RLDP.

- 5.74 The need to sustain and regenerate the County's rural economy is a key objective of the Plan. In allowing for an appropriate amount of diversification and enterprise in rural areas, the Plan seeks to sustain and enhance and, where appropriate, regenerate the County's rural settlements. The promotion of diverse economic activity is a key element of this, which is also recognised as a key objective of 'Monmouthshire 2040: Our Economic Growth and Ambition Statement'⁴⁷, which aims to continue to support and promote rural businesses and services. Building on the work of the EU funded Rural Development Programme⁴⁸, which ceased in September 2022, the Council has been successful in securing £2.04M funding as part of the UK Community Renewal Fund⁴⁹ which was launched by central government as a precursor to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to replace EU funding sources. The Council has been awarded £7.16 million from the [Shared Prosperity Fund](#) over the next three years.
- 5.75 Future Wales 2040 has expressed a commitment to supporting vibrant rural areas. Policy 5 – Supporting the Rural Economy – establishes the national policy approach for LDPs to plan positively to meet the employment needs of rural areas through appropriate and proportionate economic growth.
- 5.76 National policy supports rural enterprise and agricultural diversification where it is environmentally acceptable. TAN 6: Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities (2010), advises that LDPs should facilitate the diversification of the rural economy by

⁴⁷ Monmouthshire 2040: Our Economic Growth and Ambition Statement can be viewed via: <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2020/03/Economic-Growth-and-Ambition-Statement-November-2019.pdf>

⁴⁸ Details of the Rural Development Programme – 2014 – 2020 can be viewed via Monmouthshire's website at [Monmouthshire Business & Enterprise | Rural Innovation | Embracing innovation and enabling big things to happen in South Wales](#) and Welsh Government via <https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/wrn-support-unit/rural-development-programme-funding>

⁴⁹ Details of the UK Community Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund can be viewed via <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus-2021-22>

accommodating the needs of both traditional rural industries and new enterprises, whilst minimising impacts on the local community and the environment. New enterprises should be small-scale and be located within or adjoining settlement boundaries and not have an unacceptable impact on the local community or environment. Detailed criteria for assessing rural enterprise will be set out in the Deposit Plan. Separate criteria apply to rural diversification as set out in TAN 6: Planning for Sustainable Communities. Diversification may include livestock, non-traditional livestock and crop farming, tourism projects and renewable energy proposals that help to increase the viability of the rural enterprise by reducing their operating costs (5.6.13 – PPW11). The Deposit Plan will also provide detailed policy criteria to assess rural diversification proposals.

- 5.77 The significant role tourism plays in Monmouthshire's economy particularly in assisting in the diversification of the rural economy is also recognised. Diversification for such purposes could therefore assist in maintaining and enhancing local employment opportunities, with further details set out in Strategic Policy S14 – Visitor Economy.
- 5.78 It is recognised that an important balance exists between rural enterprise / diversification and the need to promote sustainable development and maintain the local distinctiveness and high quality of Monmouthshire's environment. To achieve this balance, and in accordance with PPW11, priority should be given to the re-use of existing buildings rather than the development of new ones. Where this is not possible, limited new build may be acceptable in exceptional circumstances. Detailed criteria in relation to this will be set out in the Deposit RLDP.

Links to Wider Policy Framework	
RLDP Objectives	Objective 1 – Economic Growth / Employment Objective 3 – Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Landscape Objective 6 – Land Objective 7 – Natural Resources Objective 9 – Demography Objective 11 – Place-making Objective 12 – Communities Objective 13 – Rural Communities Objective 15 – Accessibility
Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (WG, February 2021)	Policy 4 – Supporting Rural Communities Policy 5 – Supporting the Rural Economy
Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (WG, February 2021)	Productive and Enterprising Places Theme (Chapter 5)- Rural Economy

Building Better Places (WG, July 2020)	Priorities and Actions for Places - Post Covid-19 Considerations: Staying local: creating neighbourhoods (page 14) Digital places – the lockdown lifeline (page 19) Changing working practices: our future need for employment land (page 20) Reawakening Wales' tourism and cultural sectors (page 21)
Well-being of Future Generations Act (WBFGA) (WG, 2015)	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities
Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan (MWBP) (February 2018)	• Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change. • Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county. • Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change.
Monmouthshire draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022	This policy supports the draft Community and Corporate Plan goal of ensuring Monmouthshire is a thriving and ambitious place, full of hope and enterprise.
Key Evidence	Monmouthshire 2040: Our Economic Growth and Ambition Statement (Nov 2019) Vision 2040: Growing Your Own Business Monmouthshire Inward Investment Prospectus (March 2020) TAN 6: Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities (2010)
Monitoring	TBC
Detailed Policies	TBC in Deposit RLDP

Visitor Economy

Strategic Policy S14 – Visitor Economy	
Development proposals that provide and / or enhance sustainable forms of tourism will be permitted subject to detailed planning considerations. Development proposals that would have an unacceptable adverse impact on features and areas of tourism interest and their settings, or that would result in the unjustified loss of tourism facilities will not be permitted.	

- 5.79 Tourism plays a significant role in the Monmouthshire economy, particularly in assisting in the diversification of the rural economy and in sustaining the County's historic town centres. Future Wales 2040 recognises that tourism and leisure is a major and growing employer and contributor to the Welsh rural economy. Policy 5:

Supporting the rural economy⁵⁰ sets out that sustainable forms of tourism including opportunities for active, green, and cultural tourism should be explored within the planning policy framework.

- 5.80 PPW11 (5.5.3) equally values the importance of tourism to economic prosperity and job creation and its ability to act as a catalyst for environmental protection, regeneration, and improvement in both urban and rural areas. In rural areas tourism related development is an essential element in providing for a healthy, diverse local economy and in contributing to the provision and maintenance of facilities for local communities. The role of tourism has also been acknowledged in the Welsh Government's 'Building Better Places' policy document where tourism and visitor sectors within rural areas of Wales are noted as key areas to facilitate the Covid-19 economic recovery.
- 5.81 Monmouthshire benefits from extensive natural and cultural assets that offer considerable potential for residents and visitors to enjoy. The County is noted for its natural beauty and has a rich and diverse landscape stretching from the coastline of the Gwent Levels in the south to the uplands of the Brecon Beacons in the north and the picturesque river corridor of the Wye Valley in the east. Monmouthshire's historic market towns and cultural/heritage assets are also key attractions.
- 5.82 The visitor economy provides jobs, services and facilities that are essential to the well-being and enjoyment of local communities and residents of Monmouthshire. According to figures supplied by tourism economic indicator STEAM (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor), the sector brought in £245m to Monmouthshire in 2019 (latest accurate figures available pre- Covid19) and supported the equivalent of 3,119 full-time jobs (STEAM report 2019)⁵¹. The vision and priorities for the visitor economy are set out in Monmouthshire's Destination Management Plan – 2017-2020⁵². The draft revised plan is currently in development. Given the importance of tourism to the Monmouthshire economy the need to safeguard, provide and enhance the visitor economy/tourism facilities is essential, in ensuring that Monmouthshire realises its potential as a high quality and competitive visitor destination. A recent RTPi paper on Living Locally in Rural Wales⁵³, however, highlights that 'increased tourism visitor numbers can have an overbearing impact on smaller rural villages and therefore require careful planning and management and low value tourism puts

⁵⁰ Future Wales 2040: Policy 5: Supporting the rural economy [Update to Future Wales - The National Plan 2040 \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/update-to-future-wales-the-national-plan-2040)

⁵¹ STEAM Trend Report 10-2019

<https://www.visitmonmouthshire.com/dbimgs/STEAM%20Report%20MOM%202021.pdf>

⁵² Monmouthshire's Destination Management Plan 2017-2020

[https://www.visitmonmouthshire.com/dbimgs/FINAL%20July%202017%20Monmouthshire%20Destination%20Plan%202017-2020\(1\).pdf](https://www.visitmonmouthshire.com/dbimgs/FINAL%20July%202017%20Monmouthshire%20Destination%20Plan%202017-2020(1).pdf)

⁵³ ⁵³Living Locally in rural Wales: RTPi Cymru 2022 [Plan The World We Need \(rtpi.org.uk\)](https://rtpi.org.uk/plan-the-world-we-need)

pressure on services and infrastructure but contributes comparatively little to local business and that there is therefore ‘a balance to be found.’

- 5.83 The RLDP therefore has a key role in supporting and protecting Monmouthshire’s rural economy by enabling development that safeguards, provides and enhances tourism that both supports local communities and protects the natural and built environment, key drivers of Monmouthshire’s visitor economy. The RLDP will seek to strengthen the County’s tourism industry by encouraging and planning for sustainable forms of tourism in Monmouthshire. This is defined as tourism that is economically viable, generates local benefits, is welcomed by, and helps support local communities, reduces global environmental impacts and protects / enhances the local environment.

Links to Wider Policy Framework	
RLDP Objectives	Objective 1 – Economic Growth / Employment Objective 3 – Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Landscape Objective 11 – Place-making Objective 12 – Communities Objective 13 – Rural Communities Objective 16 – Culture, Heritage and Welsh Language
Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (WG, February 2021)	Policy 4 – Supporting Rural Communities Policy 5 – Supporting the Rural Economy
Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (WG, February 2021)	Productive and Enterprising Places Theme (Chapter 5)- Tourism Rural Economy
Building Better Places (WG, July 2020)	Priorities and Actions for Places - Post Covid-19 Considerations: Reawakening Wales’ tourism and cultural sectors (page 21)
Well-being of Future Generations Act (WBFGA) (WG, 2015)	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities
Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan (MWBP) (February 2018)	• Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change. • Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.
Monmouthshire draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022	• This policy supports the draft Community and Corporate Plan goal of ensuring Monmouthshire is a thriving and ambitious place, full of hope and enterprise.
Key Evidence	• Sustainable Tourism Accommodation SPG – Nov 2017

	• Rural Conversions to a Residential or Tourism Use SPG – 2017 • Monmouthshire’s Destination Management Plan 2017-2020 • Living Locally in Rural Wales: Planning policy and practice RTP1 discussion paper 2022
Monitoring	TBC
Detailed Policies	TBC in Deposit RLDP

Sustainable Waste Management

Strategic Policy S15 – Sustainable Waste Management	
To facilitate the delivery of sustainable management of waste the Plan will:	
i)	Ensure that proposals conform to the principles of the waste hierarchy supporting those that move waste up the hierarchy;
ii)	Support an integrated and adequate network of waste management installations that has regard to the nearest appropriate installation concept and self-sufficiency principles where necessary;
iii)	Identify suitable allocated and protected Class B2 industrial sites that are appropriate for in-building waste management treatment facilities, subject to detailed planning considerations;
iv)	Support the circular economy by encouraging the minimisation of the production of waste and the use of reused and recycled materials in the design, construction and demolition stages of development; and
v)	Ensure that provision is made for the sustainable management, sorting, storage and collection of waste in all new development.

- 5.84 The planning system has an important role to play in facilitating sustainable waste management. Welsh Government’s Policy for waste management is set out in ‘Towards Zero Waste’ (2010) and associated Sector Plans. Local authorities are required to develop a sustainable approach to the management of waste, including the support of proposals which move the management of waste up the waste hierarchy, with waste prevention and re-use at the top of the hierarchy, followed by preparation for re-use, recycling, recovery and finally disposal.
- 5.85 The Collections, Infrastructure and Markets Sector Plan (CIMSP) sets out the waste management framework considered to provide the best solutions to meet environmental, social and economic needs in Wales to 2050. The CIMSP requires the provision of an integrated and sustainable network of waste facilities. The ‘Nearest Appropriate Installation’ concept and the principle of self-sufficiency will only be

applicable in relation to mixed municipal wastes (covered by Article 16 of the revised Waste Framework Directive).

- 5.86 Future Wales recognises waste as a policy area requiring a co-ordinated framework through the preparation of a Strategic Development Plan (SDP). Progress on the preparation of an SDP for the South East Wales region will continue to be monitored as the Plan progresses. In the meantime, PPW11 and TAN 21: Waste, establish regional monitoring arrangements to inform the preparation of LDPs and assist in the determination of planning applications. The most recent Waste Planning Report for South East Wales was published in April 2016⁵⁴ and concludes that there is currently no need for additional landfill capacity within the region. In addition, the report advises that any new proposal for further residential waste treatment should be carefully assessed to ensure that overprovision does not occur within the region. As such, no specific need for such waste management facilities has currently been identified at a regional level.
- 5.87 At a local level, Monmouthshire has a number of partnerships in place to deal with its municipal waste.
- Residual Municipal Waste - Monmouthshire is a member of Project Gwyrdd, a residual waste procurement partnership made up of five local authorities, (Caerphilly, Cardiff, Monmouthshire, Newport and the Vale of Glamorgan) who have entered into a long term contract with Viridor Waste Management Ltd to treat municipal residual waste at their Energy from Waste Facility at Trident Park in Cardiff.
 - Food Waste - this is dealt with via a long term procurement partnership involving Bridgend, Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire and Torfaen with Severn Trent Water Anaerobic Digestion Facility at Stormy Down, near Porthcawl.
 - Garden Waste – Monmouthshire has a medium term contract with Abergavenny Green Waste Company.
 - Recycled Waste – is bulked and sent to reprocessors across the UK.
 - Residual Commercial Waste – this is bulked and treated as part of the Project Gwyrdd arrangements.
 - Trade Waste – Monmouthshire County Council also offer a trade collection service for residual waste, which is recycled in the same way as municipal recycled waste.
 - Landfill – Less than 1% of waste from Monmouthshire goes to landfill, with the facilities used depending on where the reprocessing of material takes place.
(Source: MCC Neighbourhood Services Section)

⁵⁴ The SE Wales Waste Planning Report – April 2016 can be viewed via <https://gov.wales/waste-planning-monitoring-reports>

- 5.88 TAN 21: Waste, notes that many general employment sites and major industrial areas are likely to be suitable locations for waste facilities⁵⁵. Details of those employment land allocations that are considered suitable for the provision of waste management facilities will be provided in the Deposit Plan as well as the detailed criteria against which planning applications for waste management facilities will be assessed. As required by TAN 21: Waste (2014), a 'Waste Planning Assessment' will be required for all applications for a waste facility classified as a disposal, recovery or recycling facility. The assessment should be proportionate to the nature, scale and size of the development proposed.
- 5.89 Developments should where possible minimise the production of waste in the development process through the use of secondary and recycled aggregates as part of the construction process in accordance with the circular economy principle.
- 5.90 It is also important that new developments facilitate sustainable waste management options for the people living in and using new developments once complete. This Policy aims to encourage the recycling of waste materials by the provision of adequate facilities for storage and collection of waste and separation at source. Waste related considerations should be taken into account in the design of the development so that they are properly integrated into it, and fully accessible to collection vehicles.

Links to Wider Policy Framework	
RLDP Objectives	Objective 5 – Minerals and Waste Objective 7 – Natural Resources Objective 14 – Infrastructure Objective 17 – Climate Change
Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (WG, February 2021)	Policy 19 – Strategic Policies for Regional Planning
Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (WG, February 2021)	Productive and Enterprising Places Theme (Chapter 5) -
Building Better Places (WG, July 2020)	Priorities and Actions for Places - Post Covid-19 Considerations: Climate Change and Decarbonisation: take forward measures to embed the principles of a circular economy (page 11).
Well-being of Future Generations Act (WBFGA) (WG, 2015)	A resilient Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A globally responsible Wales

⁵⁵ Paragraph 3.19 of TAN 21: Waste (2014)

Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan (MWBP) (February 2018)	• Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change. • Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.
Monmouthshire draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022	This policy supports the draft Community and Corporate Plan goal of ensuring Monmouthshire is a green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions, making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency.
Key Evidence	Technical Advice Note 21: Waste (2014) Waste Planning Monitoring Report South East Wales April 2016 Employment Land Review – October 2022
Monitoring	TBC
Detailed Policies	TBC in Deposit RLDP

Minerals

Strategic Policy S16 – Minerals	
The Council will sustainably manage its mineral resources by: i) Safeguarding known / potential land won sand and gravel and crushed rock resources for future possible use; ii) Maintaining a minimum 10-year land bank of crushed rock and 7 years land-based sand and gravel reserves throughout the Plan period in line with the requirements of the latest South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party Regional Technical Statement on Aggregates; and iii) Encouraging the efficient and appropriate use of high-quality minerals and maximising the potential for the use of secondary and recycled aggregates as an alternative to primary land won resources.	

- 5.91 In accordance with national and regional policy requirements, the RLDP encourages a sustainable approach to minerals planning. This seeks to ensure that valuable finite resources are safeguarded for possible future extraction and that the use of secondary and recycled aggregates is maximised in preference to primary aggregates.
- 5.92 Future Wales recognises minerals as a policy area requiring a co-ordinated framework through the preparation of a Strategic Development Plan (SDP). Progress on the preparation of an SDP for the South East Wales region will continue to be monitored as the Plan progresses. PPW11 and Minerals Technical Advice Note 1: Aggregate (2004) (MTAN1) require Local Planning Authorities to make provision for a minimum land bank of 10 years for crushed rock and 7 years for land-based sand and gravel throughout the full 15 years of a development plan period. To establish these requirements MTAN1 requires the preparation of Regional Technical Statements (RTS)

for the areas covered by both the South Wales and North Wales Regional Aggregates Working Parties (RAWPs).

- 5.93 A revised RTS – 2nd Review for South Wales⁵⁶ was published in September 2020 and endorsed by the Minister for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs in March 2021. The revised RTS makes recommendations for the apportionments necessary to ensure an adequate supply of crushed rock, including the nationally recommended minimum provision of 7 and 10 years, are available for the entire duration of the RLDP. The total apportionments required for Monmouthshire are zero for land-won sand and gravel and 6.05 million tonnes for crushed rock. These compare with existing landbanks (excluding dormant sites) of zero for sand and gravel, and 11.25 million tonnes for crushed rock (as of 31st December 2016), reflecting the significant unworked permitted reserves of Limestone at the quarry at Ifton. When compared against the apportioned requirement as set out in the RTS2, Monmouthshire has a surplus of provision and therefore no further allocations for future working are specifically required to be identified within the RLDP when determined on a Local Planning Authority basis.
- 5.94 On a regional basis Monmouthshire forms part of the former Gwent sub-region along with Torfaen, Newport and Blaenau Gwent. Within the sub-region there is an overall shortfall of reserves. PPW11 notes that in such circumstances authorities must agree a joint approach with neighbouring authorities in line with current regional arrangements⁵⁷. Monmouthshire will work collaboratively with neighbouring authorities to consider options for satisfying regional apportionments. The latest position will be updated in the Deposit Plan.
- 5.95 Safeguarding areas for potential sources of sand and gravel and crushed rock aggregates will be identified on the Proposals Map accompanying the Deposit Plan in accordance with the National Minerals Resource Maps and the National Aggregates Safeguarding Maps for Wales.
- 5.96 The policy seeks to ensure that best use of high-quality mineral resources is achieved and is not used for a lower grade purpose than intended. The increased use of alternatives to naturally occurring minerals is also promoted. The re-use and/or recycling of construction and demolition material and industrial waste serves not only to reduce the amount of waste produced but also conserves scarce resources and minimises environmental damage.

⁵⁶ Regional Technical Statement – Second Revision main report – Final September 2020 - [1 \(swrawp-wales.org.uk\)](https://www.swrawp-wales.org.uk) and South Wales Appendix B - [1 \(swrawp-wales.org.uk\)](https://www.swrawp-wales.org.uk) and Welsh Government RTS Clarification Letter – 11th November 2021

⁵⁷ Paragraph 5.14.16 – PPW 11 – February 2021

- 5.97 The Deposit Plan will also set out detailed considerations for mineral planning including the criteria against which mineral applications will be assessed and the protection of buffer zones.

Links to Wider Policy Framework	
RLDP Objectives	Objective 1 – Economic Growth/Employment Objective 5 – Minerals and Waste Objective 6 – Land Objective 7 – Natural Resources Objective 14 - Infrastructure Objective 17 – Climate Change
Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (WG, February 2021)	Policy 19 – Strategic Policies for Regional Planning, identifies policy areas which cut across local planning authorities and require a regional, co-ordinated planning response through the preparation of a Strategic Development Plan, including mineral extraction.
Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (WG, February 2021)	Productive and Enterprising Places Theme (Chapter 5) - Minerals
Building Better Places (WG, July 2020)	Priorities and Actions for Places - Post Covid-19 Considerations: Climate Change and Decarbonisation: take forward measures to embed the principles of the sustainable management of mineral resources (page 11).
Well-being of Future Generations Act (WBFGA) (WG, 2015)	A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Globally Responsible Wales
Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan (MWBP) (February 2018)	• Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change. • Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.
Monmouthshire draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022	This policy supports the draft Community and Corporate Plan goal of ensuring Monmouthshire is a green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions, making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency.
Key Evidence	Minerals Technical Advice Note 1: Aggregate (2004) (MTAN1) RTS 2 nd Review published in September 2020 and endorsed by the Minister for Energy, Planning & Rural Affairs March 2021 and Welsh Government RTS Clarification Letter – 11 th November 2021 National Minerals Resource Maps National Aggregates Safeguarding Maps for Wales
Monitoring	TBC
Detailed Policies	TBC in Deposit RLDP

DISTINCTIVE & NATURAL PLACES

- 5.98 Monmouthshire has significant Green Infrastructure, landscape, biodiversity and nature conservation resources, a number of which are of international or national importance.
- 5.99 Reflecting the vision, the Distinctive & Natural Places section seeks to protect, enhance and manage Monmouthshire's Green Infrastructure assets including its; natural heritage, high quality open spaces, distinctive landscapes, protected sites, habitats and species and other biodiversity interests and the ecological connectivity between them. The recent Covid-19 pandemic has emphasised the value and importance of placemaking and of the provision of locally accessible open/green spaces for health and well-being and recreation. This is an essential component of placemaking and links to the draft Community and Corporate Plan goal of ensuring Monmouthshire is a green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions, making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency.
- 5.100 The need to protect and enhance these resources is a key focus of the RLDP. A fundamental element of the RLDP Vision is to protect and enhance the distinctive character of Monmouthshire's Green Infrastructure assets. This will be achieved by preserving and enhancing the best of its high quality natural environment, distinctive character and delivering a placemaking approach.
- 5.101 Future Wales 2040 sets out a commitment to protect and enhance natural resources whereby Policy 9 'Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure' sets out that RLDPs should identify areas to be protected and identify opportunities where Green Infrastructure can be maximised. There is also a required emphasis on biodiversity gain (net benefit) to ensure that growth is sustainable.
- 5.102 Policy 15 of Future Wales 'National Forest' also commits to the need to identify national forest sites in order to increase woodland cover throughout Wales and help build the resilience of our ecosystems. The protection and enhancement of our natural places is further reinforced in the recent Welsh Government's Building Better Places, which emphasises the importance of access to and provision of Green Infrastructure in aiding health benefits and well-being of people in the Covid-19 recovery. In addition to this Future Generations Report: Welsh Government Policy Recommendations sets out a commitment to large scale habitat restoration, creativity and connectivity as a top policy priority⁵⁸. The RLDP will provide a positive planning policy framework to support and enable this policy approach through the provision of

⁵⁸ Future Generations Report: Welsh Government Policy Recommendations
<https://www.futuregenerations.wales/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Welsh-Government-Recommendations.pdf>

locally accessible open green space and the protection and enhancement of our natural environment.

Green Infrastructure, Landscape and Nature Conservation

Strategic Policy S17 – Green Infrastructure, Landscape and Nature Conservation

Development proposals will embrace the placemaking approach and incorporate Green Infrastructure assets and opportunities that are assessed, designed and managed to deliver a multifunctional resource; capable of delivering a wide range of social, economic, environmental and health and well-being benefits for local communities and the County as a whole, including climate change action, biodiversity action, mitigation and net gain.

Development proposals must:

Maintain, protect and enhance the integrity and connectivity of Monmouthshire's green infrastructure, landscapes, biodiversity, public rights of ways and heritage assets through the following key functions:

- (i) Landscape setting and quality of place, by identifying, assessing, protecting and enhancing the distinctive landscape, historical, cultural, ecological and geological heritage, including natural and man-made elements associated with existing landscape character;**
- (ii) Biodiversity and resilient ecosystems by protecting, assessing, positively managing and enhancing biodiversity and geological interests, including designated and non-designated sites, protected and priority species and their habitats, and the ecological connectivity between them;**
- (iii) Greenspace provision, connectivity and enjoyment by ensuring the creation of accessible multifunctional interconnected spaces that offer opportunities for recreation and health and well-being;**
- (iv) Sustainable energy use;**
- (v) Local food production; and**
- (vi) Flood attenuation and water resource management.**

Green Infrastructure

5.103 Green Infrastructure (GI) as defined by PPW11 “is the network of natural and semi-natural features, green spaces, rivers and lakes that intersperse and connect places”⁵⁹. The importance of protecting and enhancing Green Infrastructure is a key policy theme within PPW11, recognising the multi-functional roles it has in delivering the

⁵⁹ Paragraph 6.2.1 – PPW – Ed11 – February 2021

goals and objectives of the Future Generation and Wellbeing Act through; active travel, placemaking, ecosystem services, improving ecosystem resilience, climate change mitigation and improving general health and well-being.

- 5.104 Investment in Green Infrastructure underpins the County's ongoing economic, social and environmental success by supporting sustainable growth, improving quality of life and place, delivering ecosystem services and tackling climate change and poor water quality. Monmouthshire is a green and healthy place to live, with numerous green infrastructure assets including parks, open spaces, playing fields, trees/woodlands, hedgerows, allotments, biological and geological conservation sites, landscape and heritage features, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), World Heritage Site (WHS), canals, rivers, water courses, tidal coastline, cycleways, bridleways, public rights of way and open access land.
- 5.105 The common aim of spaces and other environmental features is to embrace a placemaking approach. This should help to create a strategically planned and delivered network of green infrastructure assets that should be designed and managed as a multifunctional resource; capable of delivering a wide range of social, economic, environmental, transport and health and well-being benefits for local communities that include:
- Avoiding damage of Green Infrastructure, biodiversity and ecological network;
 - Assessing, maintaining and improving public rights of way and countryside sites;
 - Tackling deprivation and disadvantage by removing barriers to active travel and to enable more participation in recreation and access to the natural environment and green space;
 - Mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change;
 - Improving health and well-being through a Green Infrastructure approach and through the approach in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan;
 - Supporting and providing opportunities for community cohesion and social engagement;
 - Delivering placemaking and embracing local distinctiveness; and
 - Supporting the local economy through placemaking and a Green Infrastructure-led approach.
- 5.106 The Council recognise the role Green Infrastructure can play in sustainable energy use through efficient building and site design and construction. Concepts such as green roofs and planting of particular species to facilitate appropriate shading and cooling reinforce the role GI can play in reducing carbon emissions and providing opportunities for climate change adaptation such as flood attenuation and water resources management. The Council's Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan also recognises Green Infrastructure as a mechanism for addressing climate change action and mitigation and is also addressed in Strategic Policy S4 – Climate Change.

- 5.107 Monmouthshire has a strong rural and agricultural economy, and the contribution Green Infrastructure can play in supporting and enhancing this function, should be explored through local food production and rural diversification opportunities. This could include allotment provision, minimum garden sizes standards, the design and management of food production, planting in public realm spaces and supporting pollinating insects through enhancement of biodiversity and plant species.

Area Statements

- 5.108 The Environment Act (Wales) 2016 introduced a requirement to produce an Area Statement for South East Wales, which Natural Resources Wales published in March 2020. The overarching focus for the Area Statement is to review the way in which natural resources are managed and used, support ecosystem services and build resilience. Green Infrastructure provision has been recognised as a key contributor to both maintaining and enhancing the delivery of ecosystem services as well supporting the resilience of natural resources and therefore its protection and enhancement is a key mechanism in delivering national and local sustainability objectives. The RLDP will have regard to the Area Statement.
- 5.109 The Monmouthshire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2019 has informed the evidence base of the SE Wales Area Statement. The Strategy provides an overarching framework for positive actions by all stakeholders involved in the future protection, management and enhancement of Green Infrastructure in Monmouthshire and sets out key strategic objectives and priorities for guiding the planning management and delivery of GI in Monmouthshire. It also forms part of the baseline evidence to help inform the Strategic Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy for the Gwent Green Grid Partnership. The Adopted SPG⁶⁰ on Green Infrastructure will be reviewed as part of the RLDP process.
- 5.110 The Council has produced a Countryside Access Improvement Plan 2020-2030⁶¹ (also known as Rights of Way Improvement Plan) which provides a 10-year plan to manage, promote and improve access, providing for the needs of the public both now and in the future.

Landscape Character

- 5.111 Monmouthshire benefits from major landscape resources and areas of visual quality and is home to internationally and nationally designated landscapes. The County's key landscape attributes range from exposed upland moorlands in the northwest, to well-wooded central lowlands interspersed with good quality agricultural land,

⁶⁰ Green Infrastructure SPG April 2015 <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2015/07/GI-April-2015.pdf>

⁶¹ Monmouthshire Countryside Access Improvement Plan 2020- 2030 can be viewed via: <https://www.monlife.co.uk/outdoor/countryside-access/rights-of-way-improvement-plan/>

dissected by three rivers, and the historically and ecologically unique coastal landscape to the south. These provide significant environmental, economic and social benefits and help to create a sense of place.

- 5.112 Criterion (i) of Policy S17 seeks to protect, maintain and enhance the character and quality of Monmouthshire's landscape. Development Management policies in the RLDP will specifically protect the internationally designated Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site and the national landscape designations, the Brecon Beacons National Park, which is also a Dark Skies Reserve⁶², and the Wye Valley AONB. Other landscape features which contribute to the County's distinctive character will also be afforded appropriate levels of protection and their significance highlighted using the LANDMAP process.
- 5.113 A review of the Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) designations was undertaken as part of the evidence base for the Adopted LDP. This identified five areas that justified designation as SLAs, effectively covering the majority of Monmouthshire. It was concluded that the designation of the majority of the County as SLA may undermine the intention of the policy to protect those more special landscapes, as reflected in PPW11. Therefore, the Adopted LDP does not contain SLA designations and instead adopted a policy approach to landscape protection and management underpinned by LANDMAP. This approach is to be taken forward in the RLDP and a Landscape Character Assessment SPG for Monmouthshire will be prepared to support the RLDP landscape policies.
- 5.114 The Council has commissioned an update of the existing Landscape and Sensitivity Capacity Assessment which was prepared by Simon White Associates in 2008/2009 to inform the Adopted LDP. The update takes account of Adopted LDP allocations, development that has occurred since the adoption of the current LDP and assesses key areas submitted at the Stage 1 Call for Candidate Sites. This work focuses on the Primary, Severnside and Secondary settlements and provides an opinion on the least sensitive areas in terms of landscape in these settlements for residential growth potential. The assessment takes account of the underlying ecosystem service and resilience assets together with a range of designations.
- 5.115 The information contained within the LANDMAP Landscape Character Assessments and the Landscape Sensitivity Update Study (October 2020)⁶³ should be used to ensure that development proposals reflect the distinctiveness, qualities and sensitivities of the County's landscape.

Natural Environment/Biodiversity and Ecosystem resilience

⁶² BBNP Dark Skies <https://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/communities/sustainability-2/subsustainable-development-fund/sdf-supported-projects/social-inclusion-education-conservation/dark-skies/>

⁶³ Landscape Sensitivity Update Study October 2020 <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/candidate-sites/landscape-sensitivity-study/>

- 5.116 Monmouthshire is rich in biological and geological diversity, which is reflected in the range of international, national and local designations within the plan area, which include:
- Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Areas for Conservation (SACs), Ramsar [international]
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs) [national]
 - Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) [local]
- 5.117 The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduced an enhanced Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty (Section 6 Duty) on public authorities in Wales. This places a duty on the Council to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity by ensuring development does not cause any significant loss of habitats or populations of species and must provide a net benefit for biodiversity. PPW11 notes that the broad framework for implementing the Section 6 Duty and building resilience through the planning system will include addressing five key themes of ecosystem resilience: Diversity, Extent, Condition, Connectivity and Adaptability to Change. Section 7 habitats and species are identified by the Welsh Ministers as those they consider are of key significance to sustain and improve biodiversity in relation to Wales.
- 5.118 The RLDP will seek to maintain and improve the biodiversity and geology of the County through the assessment, protection, restoration and enhancement of valuable ecological habitats, wildlife networks and corridors, as well as the creation of new habitats and reducing the spread and impact of invasive non-native species (INNS). This applies to both direct and indirect effects as development outside an important site can still have a damaging impact.
- 5.119 PPW11 and Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning, provide for the tiered protection of designated sites and set a clear context for the relevant policy approach to these sites, with those of international and national importance being afforded more protection than those of local importance.
- 5.120 Natura 2000 sites are classified under EU Directives and as such enjoy statutory protection under European legislation. The Habitats Directive requires that development proposals likely to have a significant effect on a European site are subject to an Appropriate Assessment. National guidance and legislation is provided on this matter. A Habitats Regulations Assessment is being prepared as part of the RLDP process.
- 5.121 Development proposals affecting locally designated non-statutory sites, or undesignated sites that satisfy the relevant designation criteria, and Section 7 habitats/species of importance, will be assessed against the relevant Development Management Policies included in the Deposit Plan.

5.122 Following new evidence about the environmental impacts of phosphate in watercourses, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has adopted tighter targets for the water quality of watercourses and have assessed the nine riverine Special Areas of Conservation in Wales. Within Monmouthshire it was identified that within the River Usk 88% of the river's water bodies failed to meet the required target and within the River Wye 67% failed to meet the required target. As a result of this failure NRW has issued a Wales-wide river SAC phosphate compliance report⁶⁴ to ensure that the environmental capacity and water quality of the rivers does not deteriorate any further. Development proposals within the River Wye and River Usk phosphate sensitive catchment areas will have to satisfy NRW's planning guidance in relation to evidencing that the development can demonstrate phosphate neutrality and betterment in its design and and/or contribution to the water body.

Countryside Access

5.123 As noted above the Monmouthshire Countryside Access Improvement Plan has been produced after extensive consultation and assessments. The countryside access provision in Monmouthshire is extensive. There is over 2,100km of rights of way, of which over 500km is in the Brecon Beacons National Park. Only 11% of the network is either bridleways or restricted byways which can be used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders. This network is fragmented and limited, therefore it is Monmouthshire County Council's policy to increase access to cyclists and horse riders wherever possible. This will give more opportunities to access the outdoors near where residents live in line with the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act 2015 and complement the provisions of the Active Travel (Wales) Act and the Environment (Wales) Act. The recent Covid-19 pandemic has emphasised the value and importance of the provision of locally accessible open/green spaces for health, well-being and recreation.

Links to Wider Policy Framework		
RLDP Objectives		Objective 3 – Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Landscape Objective 4 – Flood risk Objective 6 – Land Objective 7 – Natural Resources Objective 8 – Health and Well-being Objective 11 – Place-making Objective 12 – Communities Objective 14 – Infrastructure Objective 17 – Climate Change
Future Wales: The National		Policy 9 – Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure

⁶⁴ NRW's Planning Interim Guidance <https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/water-reports/compliance-assessment-of-welsh-river-sacs-against-phosphorus-targets/?lang=en>

Plan 2040 (WG, February 2021)	Policy 15 – National Forest
Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (WG, February 2021)	Distinctive and Natural Places Theme (Chapter 6)
Building Better Places (WG July 2020)	Priorities and Actions for Places - Post Covid-19 Considerations: Green Infrastructure, health and well-being and ecological resilience (page 22) Improving air quality and soundscapes for better health and well-being (page 23)
Well-being of Future Generations Act (WBFGA) (WG, 2015)	A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A globally responsible Wales
Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan (MWBP) (February 2018)	• Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life. • Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change.
Monmouthshire draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022	This policy supports the draft Community and Corporate Plan goal of ensuring Monmouthshire is a green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions, making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency.
Key Evidence	TAN5: Nature Conservation and Planning Monmouthshire Landscape Sensitivity Update Study (White Consultants, October 2020) MCC Green Infrastructure Strategy 2019 Adopted Green Infrastructure SPG – April 2015 (to be reviewed as part of the RLDP process) Monmouthshire Countryside Access Improvement Plan 2020-2030 NRWs River SAC (phosphate) Compliance Report
Monitoring	TBC
Detailed Policies	TBC in Deposit RLDP

Next Steps

- 5.124 Following the consultation and stakeholder involvement on the Preferred Strategy, the Council will finalise the RLDP and place it on Deposit. Feedback from the Preferred Strategy consultation will be detailed in the Consultation Report on the Strategy. This report must accompany the RLDP ISA Report and the other supporting documents on Deposit, in accordance with Regulation 17 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended 2015). A summary of key issues raised through the consultation and the Preferred Strategy with any necessary amendments will be reported to Council in Spring 2023 to seek approval of the Preferred Strategy. The Deposit Plan will then be prepared and considered by Council prior to statutory consultation and engagement during Spring 2024.
- 5.125 Following consultation on the Deposit Plan and consideration of the issues raised, it will be submitted to the Welsh Government who will appoint an independent Inspector to examine the RLDP. Having regard to the evidence and representations received during the Deposit consultation, the Inspector must determine whether the RLDP accords with the 'tests of soundness' set out in the Development Plans Manual.
- 5.126 Following the examination, the Inspector will issue a report recommending any necessary changes to the RLDP. The Inspector's report will be binding and the Council must accept the changes and adopt the RLDP as amended. Once adopted, the RLDP will replace the existing Adopted LDP.

Appendix 1 – RLDP Key Stages

Key Stages	Timescales	Additional Details
Delivery Agreement – establishes timetable for key stages of the plan preparation and approach to community engagement.	4-week consultation 21 st March – 18 th April 2018.	
	First revision March 2020	Amended to reflect the delays incurred up to the Preferred Strategy stage as a result of the pre-election period preceding the December 2019 General Election, the additional time and work needed to inform the Preferred Strategy and delays associated with joint working with neighbouring local authorities on joint evidence base work.
	Second revision October 2020	Update to reflect unavoidable delays relating to the Covid-19 pandemic, the review of the Issues, Vision, Objectives and Evidence Base, and publication of 2018-based population projections.
	Third Revision December 2022	Updated to reflect revised timescales following the decision to embark on a new Preferred Strategy.
Issues, Vision & Objectives - Identifies the key issues, challenges and drivers facing the County and sets out the vision and objectives for the RLDP	Consultation January – February 2019	
	Reviewed and amended June 2019.	Updated to reflect relevant feedback from targeted engagement process and the Council's declaration of a climate emergency in May 2019.
	Review undertaken in June 2020 incorporated into the RLDP Review of Issues, Vision and Objectives and Evidence Base in light of Covid 19 (September 2020 approved by Council October 2020).	Review concluded that a number of issues and objectives are now considered to have increased emphasis and importance in light of Covid-19, consistent with the priorities identified in the Welsh Government Building Better Places document published in July 2020.
	Updated December 2022	Minor updates to reflect latest position.

Growth and Spatial Options – sets out a number of alternative growth and spatial strategy options for the RLDP having regard to the Plan’s evidence base and policy aspirations.	Non-statutory consultation for four-week period July – August 2019.	Undertaken based on WG 2014-based population and household projections.
	Growth & Spatial Options (December 2020) - Non-statutory consultation on updated options paper January – February 2021	Updated to take account of the 2018-based population and household projections.
	Progressing Monmouthshire’s RLDP Council Report – 27th September 2022	Approval of the proposed growth and spatial options for progressing the RLDP, having regard to a number of challenges that have arisen including the Welsh Government objection to the Preferred Strategy (June 2021) and phosphate water quality issues in the Rivers Wye and Usk.
Preferred Strategy (alongside the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) – first of the statutory consultation stages, providing the strategic direction for the development and use of land for the Plan period 2018-2033. It also identifies how much growth is needed and the broad locations of where this growth is likely to be.	Preferred Strategy (March 2020) – Issued for six-week consultation 9th March 2020 – 22nd April 2020.	
	20th July 2020 – notice of cessation of the Preferred Strategy Consultation due to Covid-19.	Following advice issued in a letter from the Minister for Housing and Local Government (7th July 2020), the decision was made to cease the RLDP Preferred Strategy consultation. The letter also required Local Planning Authorities to undertake an assessment of the RLDP evidence base, strategy and policies in terms of sensitivity to the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic before progressing with Plan preparation.
	Preferred Strategy (June 2021) – Issued for eight-week consultation 5th July 2021 – 31st August 2021.	Updated to take account of 2018 population projections and reviewed in light of Covid-19.

	Preferred Strategy (Dec 2022)	Updated to have regard to the Welsh Government objection on the Preferred Strategy June 2021 and phosphate water quality issues in the Rivers Wye and Usk.

Appendix 2 – RLDP Supporting Documents

Several additional supporting background documents have been prepared to inform the Preferred Strategy. These are listed below and should be read alongside the Preferred Strategy as only their main findings are highlighted in this document given the significant amount of data/information they contain. The documents are available on the Planning Policy page of the Council's website⁶⁵. Other documents will follow as the Plan progresses.

Supporting Document	Purpose
RLDP Documents	
The Adopted LDP Review Report (approved by Council March 2018)	Evaluates the extent to which the Adopted LDP is functioning effectively.
RLDP Revised Delivery Agreement December 2022 ⁶⁶ .	The Delivery Agreement sets out how the RLDP is to be prepared and provides a timetable for Plan preparation along with a Community Involvement Scheme which outlines the Council's principles of community engagement.
Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper (Updated December 2022)	Sets out the key issues, challenges and opportunities facing the County along with the RLDP vision and objectives to address the issues, challenges and opportunities identified.
Review of RLDP Issues, Vision and Objectives and Evidence base in light of Covid-19 (September 2020, approved by Council October 2020)	This report provides an update and review on the preparation of the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and in response to publication of a letter from the Minister for Housing and Local Government on 7 th July 2020 ⁶⁷ . The letter requires local planning authorities to undertake an assessment of the RLDP evidence base, strategy and policies in terms of sensitivity to the consequences of the current pandemic before progressing with plan preparation.

⁶⁵ Supporting Background Papers can be viewed via: <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/development-of-an-evidence-base/>

⁶⁶ Original Delivery Agreement was approved by Council and agreed by Welsh Government May 2018. Subsequent revisions to the Delivery Agreement were approved by Council and agreed by Welsh Government in March 2020 and October 2020.

⁶⁷ Minister for Housing and Local Government Letter to Local Authority Leaders and Chief Executives National Park Authority Chief Executives – Planning System and Covid-19, 7th July 2020

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Related Documents	
Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) Scoping Report (Updated November 2022)	Updated to take account of responses from a targeted consultation, this sets out the background for the ISA/SEA process that will be followed throughout the RLDP process and considers the characteristics of the RLDP area through a review of relevant plans, policies and programmes, and baseline information.
Initial Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report (December 2018)	Updated to take account of responses from a targeted consultation, this outlines the requirement to undertake a HRA in respect of the RLDP and identifies the relevant European sites for consideration within the HRA process.
Initial ISA Report (AECOM, November 2022)	The Initial ISA Report is the second stage of the ISA process and appraises the social, economic, environmental and cultural effects of the RLDP Preferred Strategy. This includes the Vision, Strategic Objectives, Growth and Spatial Options and Preferred Strategy, including the Strategic Policies.
HRA of the Monmouthshire RLDP – Preferred Strategy (AECOM, November 2022)	The HRA Report provides a high level, preliminary assessment of the RLDP Preferred Strategy. At this stage, the aim of the report is to identify European sites which have the potential to be impacted by the RLDP, and to identify potential likely significant effects that the RLDP may have. It also identifies other plans, programmes and projects that may have ‘in-combination’ effects when considered alongside the effects of the RLDP.
Supporting Evidence and Background Papers	
Monmouthshire RLDP Updated Demographic Evidence Report produced by Edge Analytics (November 2021)	Edge Analytics was commissioned to prepare a range of up-dated demographic, dwelling and employment growth scenarios using the 2018-based projections as the starting point, updated to take account of the ONS 2020 MYE and housing completion figures up to 2021. The Report applies a range of sensitivity assumptions to address key issues and challenges, to provide a range of growth scenarios for the County. The potential employment growth that could be supported by the demographic and dwelling-led scenarios is also set out using key assumptions on economic activity, unemployment rates and commuting ratio linked demographic and economic change. The report provides a suite of population, housing and economic growth outcomes to consider in the formulation of the RLDP.
Sustainable Settlements Appraisal (Updated December 2022)	Assesses and identifies settlements within Monmouthshire, which are potentially suitable to accommodate future growth in terms of their location, size, role and function and sets out an initial settlement hierarchy arising from the appraisal to inform the Preferred Strategy.

Growth and Spatial Options Paper (September 2022)	Provides the background to the growth and spatial option for the Preferred Strategy together with a review of the extent to which they will achieve the RLDP objectives.
Housing Background Paper (December 2022)	This paper analyses each component of housing supply in more detail before arriving at a new housing allocations provision based on the methodology detailed within the Welsh Government Development Plans Manual Edition 3 (March 2020). It incorporates a Housing Potential Study which aims to identify where windfall sites could potentially be located within the existing settlement areas of Monmouthshire.
Local Housing Market Assessment (2020)	Provides a detailed insight into the local housing markets across the County. It includes a quantitative assessment of housing need that will be used to inform the housing policies of the RLDP in terms of affordable housing provision, tenures and types of accommodation required. An updated LHMA is being prepared using the new Welsh Government template.
Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment – January 2021.	Report assessing the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller families and establish the number of pitches required to meet the identified need. Submitted to Welsh Government following Cabinet approval January 2021 – awaiting approval from Welsh Government.
Monmouthshire Employment Land Review, BE Group (October 2022)	Evidence base undertaken in line with Welsh Government Guidance. The ELR provides an assessment of the supply and demand for employment land in the County, looking at the available employment allocations and existing employment areas and reviews the property market, consults with local stakeholders and forecasts employment growth to understand employment demand requirements for the Plan period.
Regional Employment Study – Larger Than Local Study, BE Group (March 2020)	The report addresses the issues of employment land on a regional basis and covers five local authorities: - Monmouthshire, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Caerphilly and Newport. It provides an economic evidence base, reviews the property and employment land market and recommends employment sites of regional significance for consideration in each of the constituent local authority areas.
MCC Economies of the Future Reports, BE Group (2018)	The MCC Economies of the Future Reports informed the development of the revised Economic Growth and Inward Investment Strategy for the Council. The analysis is also a fundamental piece of work that provides evidence to support the Monmouthshire RLDP.

Monmouthshire 2040: Our Economic Growth and Ambition Statement (November 2019)	The Economic Growth and Ambition Statement sets out the economic ambition for the County and will work alongside the RLDP in identifying suitable employment sites and premises, to enable existing businesses to grow and to attract inward investment from new businesses in key growth sectors.
Inward Investment Prospectus 2020: Growing your Business in Monmouthshire (March 2020)	This document supports the Monmouthshire 2040: Our Economic Growth and Ambition Statement (Nov 2019) noted above. The prospectus sets our aspirations to raise the economic profile of Monmouthshire with priorities to explore business opportunities and attract funding, while being sensitive to Monmouthshire's landscape.
Monmouthshire Landscape Sensitivity Update Study (White Consultants, October 2020)	An update to the Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study carried out in 2009 setting out detailed assessments and sensitivity evaluations of local landscape character areas and strategic candidate sites, with a view to establishing the least sensitive areas in terms of landscape for housing growth potential. The study area includes areas and defined candidate sites around primary and secondary settlements and Severnside.
Retail Background Paper (August 2022)	Provides an annual retail 'health check' of our five main towns (i.e. Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow, Monmouth and Usk).
Employment Land Background Paper (May 2022)	Provides an annual assessment of employment land take up across allocated and protected employment sites as identified in the Adopted LDP.
Minerals Regional Technical Statement – 2 nd Review for South Wales (September 2020) & Welsh Government RTS Clarification Letter – 11 th November 2021	Minerals Technical Advice Note 1 (2004) requires the preparation of Regional Technical Statements (RTS) for the areas covered by both the South Wales and North Wales Regional Aggregates Working Parties (RAWPs). A revised RTS – 2 nd Review for South Wales was published in September 2020 with an accompanying Welsh Government Clarification Letter published November 2021. These make recommendations for the apportionments necessary to ensure an adequate supply of crushed rock, including the nationally recommended minimum provision of 7 and 10 years, are available for the entire duration of the RLDP.
The South East Wales Waste Planning Report – April 2016	PPW11 and TAN 21: Waste, establish regional monitoring arrangements to inform the preparation of LDPs and assist in the determination of planning applications. The report assesses the need for additional landfill capacity and waste management facilities at a regional level.
Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Assessment October 2020	Evidence base to inform the development of renewable and low carbon energy policies for inclusion in the RLDP, undertaken in accordance with the Welsh Government's <i>Practice</i>

	<i>Guidance: Planning for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy – A Toolkit for Planners, September 2015.</i> The assessment aims to estimate the scale of renewable energy resource within Monmouthshire in order to provide some focus for setting local spatial policy and targets. Building on the findings of the 2020 report further work will be undertaken with the Carbon Trust to identify Local Search Areas and targets for renewable energy generation for inclusion in the Deposit Plan. These will be informed by industry engagement interviews, stakeholder workshops and further landscape sensitivity assessments.
Self-Assessment of the Preferred Strategy against the Tests of Soundness (December 2022)	This sets out an assessment of the Preferred Strategy against the Tests of Soundness, together with the Strategy's general conformity with Future Wales 2040; the National Plan.
Candidate Sites	
Candidate Site Register (February 2022)	Provides a log of the Candidate Sites submitted during the second call for sites, to be considered for inclusion for development, redevelopment and/or protection in the RLDP.
Candidate Sites High-level Assessment (December 2022)	Sets out a high-level assessment of Candidate sites submitted during the Second Call for Candidate Sites, based on a site's compatibility with the Preferred Strategy, insurmountable constraints to development of a site, site size threshold and site viability.

Appendix 3 – Legislative and Policy Context

The Preferred Strategy has been prepared in the context of relevant national legislation and plans, policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, details of which are set out below.

Legislative Context	
Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015	Sets the framework for improving the well-being of Wales by ensuring that sustainable development is at the heart of government and public bodies. The Act is underpinned by seven well-being goals and sets out five ways of working needed for public bodies to achieve these goals.
Planning (Wales) Act 2015	Sets out a series of legislative changes to deliver reform of the planning system in Wales, including strengthening the Plan-led approach to planning. The Act also introduces a legal basis for the preparation of a National Development Framework (NDF) and Strategic Development Plans (SDP).
Environment (Wales) Act 2016	Provides the legislation needed to plan and manage Wales' natural resources in a more proactive, sustainable and joined up way, providing an iterative framework which ensures that managing Wales' natural resources sustainably will be a core consideration in decision-making.
Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013	Seeks to instil a lasting transformation of how developments are planned to incorporate walking and cycling infrastructure from the outset as well as encouraging long term behavioural change. Makes provision for the mapping of active travel routes and related facilities in connection with Active Travel Network Maps.
A More Equal Wales - The Socio-economic Duty Equality Act 2010 (2021)	Supports the common purpose and ways of working put in place through the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015. Requires specified public bodies to consider how their decisions might help to reduce the inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage.
Policy Context	
Future Wales – The National Plan 2040 (Welsh Government, February 2021)	Sets out 11 outcomes which collectively are a statement of where the Welsh Government want Wales to be in 20 years' time. The outcomes are intended to be inter-related and inter-dependent and are proposed to improve places and well-being across Wales. It notes growth and new development must be in the right place, undertaken in the right way and make efficient use of resources to achieve the Future Wales outcomes.
Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (2021)	Sets out the land use planning policies and overarching sustainable development goals for Wales. PPW11 secures a presumption in favour of sustainable development and considers a Plan-led approach to be the

	most effective means of securing sustainable development through the planning system. A strong focus on promoting placemaking is considered instrumental to achieving sustainable places, delivering socially inclusive development and promoting more cohesive communities.
Strategic Development Plan for South East Wales	The preparation of Strategic Development Plans (SDP) is intended to provide a regional spatial framework for the future development and use of land within a defined region. This will allow larger than local issues such as housing demand, search areas for strategic employment sites and supporting transport infrastructure, which cut across a number of local planning authorities, to be considered and planned for in an integrated and comprehensive way. Monmouthshire is part of the South East Wales region. Formal commencement is awaiting resolution of a number of outstanding issues regarding the establishment of CJs.
Building Better Places - The Planning System Delivering Resilient and Brighter Futures: Placemaking and the Covid-19 recovery (WG, July 2020)	Sets out the Welsh Government's planning policy priorities to assist in taking action in the recovery period after the Covid-19 pandemic. It highlights the key existing planning policies and tools which should be used by all sectors in the environmental, social, cultural and economic recovery of Wales.
Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales (2019)	Sets the foundations for Wales to transition to a low carbon nation; setting out the Welsh Government's approach to increasing efficiency and cutting emissions of greenhouse gasses by at least 80% by 2050. All Development Plans must ultimately support the strategic decarbonisation goals to facilitate clean energy and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.
Welsh National Marine Plan (2019)	Sits alongside Future Wales in identifying opportunities and guiding development both inshore and offshore. Contains plans and policies which will support the Welsh Government vision for clean, healthy, safe and diverse seas, guide future sustainable development and support the growth of marine space and natural resources ('blue growth'). Ensuring that coastal areas are planned in a socially, environmentally, culturally and economically sustainable way.
Llwybr Newydd: the Wales transport strategy 2021	Sets out the vision for how the transport system can help deliver the priorities for Wales and create a more prosperous, green and equal society. To achieve this vision it sets out three priorities that will improve health, tackle poverty and open the transport system to all, in particular for those without access to a car and those living in rural areas. This is supported by nine mini-plans explaining how these priorities will be delivered for different transport modes and sectors.

Regional Context	
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	Comprises ten local authorities across the South East Wales region, including Monmouthshire, who are working collaboratively on projects and plans for the area to seek to tackle issues that affect the whole of the region, such as worklessness and poor transportation links. The authorities have entered into a City Deal to fund projects aimed at boosting the competitiveness of the region over the next 20 years.
South East Wales Metro	To grow its economy, there is widespread recognition that the Cardiff Capital Region needs major investment in its infrastructure to help it play a bigger role in the UK economy. A regional approach, underpinned by a transformation in public transport, will help to fulfil this ambition, enabling the region to raise its international profile and compete more effectively on the world stage.
Gwent Public Services Board (PSB) Consultation Draft Well-being Plan for Gwent (2022)	The five separate PSBs in the Gwent region began work to undertake a Gwent wide well-being assessment with local assessments for each local authority area in 2021. This was published in May 2022 and has been used to develop the consultation draft Gwent Well-being Plan. The draft Well-being Plan sets out what the PSB could do over the next five years to tackle the social, economic, environmental and cultural issues which can affect well-being in Gwent. The Plan contains three draft objectives; to create a fair and equitable Gwent for all, to create a Gwent that has friendly, safe and confident communities and to create a Gwent where the natural environment is protected and enhanced. The final Well-being Plan for Gwent will be published in May 2023.
Neighbouring Local Planning Authorities: Joint Working and Collaboration	As a border County adjoins both Welsh and English Local Authorities. Monmouthshire is committed to working collaboratively with its neighbouring authorities. As part of collaboration with neighbouring authorities, regard has been given to national guidance which requires consideration of a collaborative approach to the site selection process to promote the development of previously developed land and to the development of a joint evidence base.
Local Context	
The Monmouthshire Well-being Plan (Public Service Board) February 2018	The Monmouthshire Well-being Plan was prepared by the Public Service Board (PSB). While carried out on behalf of the Public Service Board rather than Monmouthshire County Council specifically, it identifies important issues for the County as a whole that must be considered.

The draft Monmouthshire Community and Corporate Plan 2022	The draft Community and Corporate Plan ⁶⁸ is produced by Monmouthshire County Council: our core purpose is to become a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life. It sets out the Council's four Well-being Objectives. The RLDP will be an integral means of enabling the well-being of Monmouthshire's communities and achieving these objectives.
Monmouthshire Climate and Nature Emergency	The Council declared a climate emergency in May 2019. More recently, this has been broadened to incorporate a strengthened emphasis on nature recovery in recognition of the Welsh Government declaration of a nature emergency and the relationship between the two. The RLDP will provide the land use policy framework to address the climate and nature emergency together, seeking outcomes that recognise the role resilient ecosystems can play in tackling carbon emissions and mitigating the impact of climate change.
Motion for Rivers and Ocean (March 2022) & Motion for Rivers and Ocean Action Plan (September 2022)	The health of our rivers and ocean is inextricably linked to climate and human health, the motion acknowledges the Council's concerns about the declining state of the Rivers Wye and Usk and the multiple sources of phosphate and other pollutants including those originating upstream outside of the County, which are threatening biodiversity and wildlife. The Action Plan pulls together the work that is going on across many different council services in a co-ordinated way and addresses areas where the council could be doing more to protect our rivers and coast.
Vision Monmouthshire 2040: Our Economic Growth and Ambition Statement (November 2019) and Inward Investment Prospectus 2020: Growing your Business in Monmouthshire	The statement considers the kind of future the Council wishes to create, including consideration of the demographic changes, infrastructure and skills needed to support this while at the same time ensuring environmental impact is limited. A key aim is to attract investment and funding which will generate the right conditions for an 'inclusive economy' - one that is equitable, sustainable, stable, participatory and growing.
Monmouthshire Local Transport Plan	A new Local Transport Plan (LTP) is being produced to accompany the RLDP. It will identify the key transport issues relevant to the County, the high level interventions needed to address these and the specific priorities for Monmouthshire. Its aim is to facilitate and support the development of a modern, accessible, integrated and sustainable transport system, which increases opportunity, promotes

⁶⁸ The draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022 sets out the Council's core purpose, principles, and priorities. It was endorsed by Cabinet on 19th October 2022 and a developed version will be reported to Council in January 2023.

	prosperity for all and protects the environment; where walking, cycling, public transport and sustainable freight provide real travel alternatives.

Appendix 4 – RLDP Issues

Full details are set out in the Issues, Visions and Objectives Paper (Updated December 2022)⁶⁹. The table below provides an extract of the issues facing the County and how the RLDP can influence these issues. The RLDP issues were reviewed in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and endorsed by Cabinet on 17th June 2020 and Council on 22nd October 2020 as remaining relevant. A number of issues were found to have increased emphasis and importance in light of Covid-19, these are indicated in the table below using an asterisk against both the headline and relevant individual Issues. An additional section has also been included within the table to provide further detail on how the RLDP can support such issues given their increased emphasis in light of Covid-19. The latest update relates to minor amendments only. The issues have been grouped in accordance with the seven well-being goals as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to ensure that they are framed within this context. This allows for the appreciation of social, economic and environmental matters to be embedded into the Plan.

A Prosperous Wales (Well-being Goal 1)	
Employment & Economy*	
Issue	
Issue 1*	- There has been a slow uptake of employment land in the past. There is subsequently a need to consider whether existing available land is suitably located and fit for purpose for appropriate growth sectors. There is also a need to consider potential future demand for employment land along with Council aspirations for innovation across Monmouthshire in light of the ambitions and opportunities associated with the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRC) and Bristol region.
Issue 2*	- While unemployment is low there is a net-outflow of commuters, both levels of out commuting and distances travelled to work are relatively high. There is a need to provide support for inward investment and local employment growth/opportunities to reduce the need to travel to work.
Issue 3*	- Wage levels available for local jobs are lower than the average for Wales and the UK. Evidence continues to suggest that the income for economically active women who both live and work within the County is significantly lower than that of men within the same category. This coupled with high property prices makes it difficult for young people and future generations to live and work locally. Additional employment opportunities for young people are required to help reduce the numbers of this age group leaving the County.
Issue 4*	- Monmouthshire has a dual economy. The qualifications, skills and earnings of the residents are above the regional and national average, however, for those working in the area earnings are lower and employment is relatively less skilled.

⁶⁹ The Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper can be viewed via the following link: <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/plan-preparation/issues-vision-and-objectives/>

Issue 5* - The increasingly ageing population and shrinking working age population (the relative absence of 20-40 year olds and our median age of 48 years, compared to a median age of 34 years in Cardiff) is limiting employment growth within Monmouthshire and social sustainability of communities. This is exacerbated by limited job opportunities and affordable housing availability.

Issue 6* - There is a need to sustain and regenerate the County's rural economy. There is current uncertainty regarding the impact of Brexit on agricultural subsidies.

Issue 7* - Higher levels of those in employment work at home compared to the Welsh average (2011 Census). Efficient digital infrastructure is essential to support home working and the general connectivity of the County's rural areas and to support economic growth⁷⁰.

Issue 8* - The role of high streets is changing due to out of town retail such as Cribbs Causeway, the increase in internet shopping, changing shopping habits (e.g. top-up grocery shopping), austerity, business rates and the cost of living crisis. As a result, vacancy rates in some of the County's town centres have increased. There is a leakage of expenditure out of the County and a need to protect and restore the vitality and viability of the County's town and local centres.

Issue 9* - Tourism plays a significant part in the Monmouthshire economy particularly in assisting in the diversification of the rural economy and in sustaining the County's historic town centres. In 2019 2.28 million visitors came to Monmouthshire, having an overall economic impact of £244 million. Staying visitors generate a higher economic impact than day visitors at £185million compared to £59 million in 2019 (Monmouthshire STEAM Report 2019) highlighting the continued need for visitor accommodation. The covid-19 pandemic has provided an opportunity to promote staycations. Changes relating to second homes and proposals for a tourist tax in Wales could affect this sector.

How can the RLDP Influence these Issues?

A(i) The RLDP can encourage a vibrant economy within the County, specifically by ensuring that sufficient employment sites are suitably located in attractive, accessible and sustainable locations and are of an appropriate size and type to meet the needs of the market/key employment/growth sectors, including, through support of start-up and growing businesses to help diversify the economy.

A(ii) The RLDP can aim to ensure that there is a portfolio of sites available which is appropriate to market conditions and the needs of the Monmouthshire economy along with the wider Cardiff Capital Region. Consideration can be given to using CPO powers to ensure sites come forward.

A(iii) The RLDP can ensure that, wherever possible, jobs and homes are located in close proximity to each other to provide greater opportunity for people to work and live locally. The Replacement LDP can also ensure a range and choice of homes are available, in new developments, particularly where there is a need for affordable housing, to assist in regaining a balanced population.

⁷⁰ The current situational analysis of Superfast Broadband Next Generation Access (NGA) coverage in the Cardiff Capital Region, based on the OMR/SAPC undertaken prior to the Superfast Cymru Phase 2 (SFC2) Procurement, paints a stark picture in terms of the current lack of coverage in Monmouthshire in comparison to our other nine Local Authority partners - currently 12.56% of premises in Monmouthshire are NOT covered in comparison to 3-4% in the other nine Local Authorities within the region.

A(iv) The RLDP needs to take a role in strengthening the local economy, ensuring an appropriate economic base to enable people to live and work in the County.

A(v) The RLDP can contain policies that support the diversification of the rural economy.

A(vi) The RLDP can help to address digital exclusion by seeking to support the improvement of rural broadband and delivery of high speed connections.

A(vii) The RLDP must contain policies that protect the vitality and viability of existing town centres, providing additional retail opportunities where appropriate, including in relation to the regeneration of Caldicot and Usk, and ensure that the distribution of development supports these main centres in order to retain retail expenditure.

A(viii) The RLDP will enable a review of the towns' primary shopping frontages (PSF) and related policies to have regard to the evolving role of the high street as a centre for a variety of retail, leisure and community uses. Sustainably located and well-connected development can support town centres.

A(ix) The RLDP can contain policies that encourage tourism development while at the same time ensuring that the natural and built heritage that attracts visitors to the area is preserved and enhanced.

How can the RLDP support these Issues given increased emphasis in light of Covid-19

The RLDP will provide a positive planning policy framework to support and enable sustainable economic growth, including in relation to our high streets and tourism sector, over the Plan period, making our towns attractive places for residents and visitors to spend time and money.

A Resilient Wales (Well-being Goal 2)

Air

Issue

Issue 10 - While air pollution is not a major problem throughout Monmouthshire, it can cause significant problems for people's health and there are localised problems in Chepstow and Usk, each having an Air Quality Management Area. The greatest problems associated with air quality in the County are caused by vehicle emissions.

How can the RLDP Influence these Issues?

B(i) The RLDP can seek to minimise any polluting effects that might arise from new development in the County by ensuring it is sustainably located and well-connected to amenities. This can support modal shift to reduce the usage of private vehicles and to allow for increased walking, cycling and use of public transport. It can also take measures to ensure that the location of new development does not worsen conditions in existing Air Quality Management Areas or result in new ones. It can support the provision of ultra-low emission vehicle charging infrastructure.

Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity & Landscape*
Issue
Issue 11* - Monmouthshire is renowned for its beautiful landscapes and major biodiversity resources including River SACs. The best of these assets should be protected, managed and enhanced for future generations. Issue 12* - There is a need to improve connectivity within the landscape through protecting and improving existing wildlife networks and corridors, including both green and blue infrastructure, and creating new linkages to allow species to move and adapt to climate change impacts. GI is also beneficial to human well-being.
How can the RLDP Influence these Issues?
C(i) The RLDP should ensure that new development is sustainable, does not cause harm to international, national and locally protected sites and species and, that where appropriate, necessary mitigation measures are taken to avoid any such adverse effects. The River Wye and River Usk water bodies within the County are currently experiencing water quality issues, specifically in relation to phosphate levels. There is no identified strategic solution for phosphate mitigation at the Monmouth WwTW (upper River Wye Catchment) at this time. Without an identified strategic solution new site allocations cannot be included in the RLDP in the upper River Wye Catchment. The RLDP must also ensure development in the River Usk catchment area does not contribute to or increase phosphate levels. C(ii) The RLDP must ensure biodiversity is considered in any development in order to protect any interest on the site and encourage biodiversity enhancements. C(iii) It will be necessary to undertake a Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) Scoping Report (Updated November 2022)s Regulations Assessment of the RLDP to ensure that any cumulative effects of development in Monmouthshire and adjoining areas does not result in harm to internationally designated nature conservation sites. C(iv) The RLDP can contain policies to protect and enhance the green and blue infrastructure networks across the County.
How can the RLDP support these Issues given increased emphasis in light of Covid-19
The RLDP will provide a positive planning policy framework to support and enable placemaking and the provision of locally accessible open /green space and to protect/enhance our natural environment and biodiversity.
Flooding
Issue
Issue 13 - Parts of the County are vulnerable to flooding. Climate change is likely to increase the risk of flooding, so mitigating climate change and ensuring building resilience is crucial.
How can the RLDP Influence these Issues?

D(ii) The RLDP must ensure new built development is located away from flood risk areas and has a role to play in terms of reducing the risk from present day flood risk, as well as in relation to climate change adaptation and resilience. The provision of green open spaces and SUDs drainage features help reduce the risk of flooding.
Minerals & Waste
Issue
Issue 14 - Monmouthshire has made good progress in the promotion of the recycling and composting of waste, and the elimination of waste to landfill. Monmouthshire also has to make an appropriate contribution to the regional requirement for waste management. Issue 15 - Mineral extraction plays a limited role in Monmouthshire's economy but there is a need to safeguard the County's resources in order to make an appropriate contribution to the sustainable supply of aggregates to the South Wales economy as a whole.
How can the RLDP Influence these Issues?
E(i) The RLDP can identify sites that are appropriate for waste management or disposal facilities to meet local or regional requirements. E(ii) The RLDP can ensure that mineral resources are safeguarded and exploited in a sustainable fashion that also enables Monmouthshire to meet its obligation to make a contribution to the requirements of the South Wales region.
Land
Issue
Issue 16 - There are limited opportunities for brownfield development within the County's existing urban areas. Issue 17 - Monmouthshire has a significantly high percentage of best and most versatile agricultural land (i.e. Grade 1, 2 or 3a). While there is a need to conserve these resources, there are limited opportunities within the County for brownfield development and development on lower grades of agricultural land (i.e. Grade 3b, 4 and 5). Recent Welsh Government clarification of policy priorities of protecting BMV land over renewable energy development has implications for the findings of the Renewable Energy Assessment and for MCC's requirements to become carbon neutral by 2030.
How can the RLDP Influence these Issues?
F(i) The RLDP will seek to prioritise the use of previously developed land where opportunities arise. F(ii) The RLDP should seek to protect best and most versatile agricultural land whilst at the same time recognising that this will not always be possible where there is an overriding need for development.
A Healthier Wales (Well-being Goal 3)
Human Health*
Issue

Issue 18* - While Monmouthshire performs relatively well on indicators relating to health, there is a need to promote opportunities for healthy living particularly in the context of an ageing population. Issue 19* - While an ageing population brings many opportunities, it also brings challenges and increases in the number of people living with long term conditions can create pressures on existing health care provision. Issue 20* - On the whole Monmouthshire's residents have good access to public open space, however, there are deficiencies in many of the County's communities in relation to community and recreational facilities. This can contribute to rural isolation in certain areas. Issue 21* - Obesity is a growing problem throughout Wales. Although obesity rates in Monmouthshire are below the Welsh average consideration should be given to promoting healthy lifestyles.
How can the RLDP Influence these Issues?
G(i) The RLDP can assist in creating a healthier Monmouthshire by ensuring sufficient policies are in place to support the provision of blue and green infrastructure and retention and/or improvement of the existing resource. G(ii) The RLDP can provide policies to ensure health care provision is supported. G(iii) The RLDP can affect the provision of public open space and recreation by protecting, where necessary, existing open space and facilities as well as requiring new development to make a contribution to the provision of additional facilities.
How can the RLDP support these Issues given increased emphasis in light of Covid-19
The RLDP will provide a positive planning policy framework to support and enable placemaking and the provision of locally accessible open /green space, leisure and healthcare provision and to protect/enhance our natural environment.
A More Equal Wales (Well-being Goal 4)
Population*
Issue
Issue 22* - Monmouthshire is a predominantly rural county with almost half (47%) of the total population living in wards defined as being in rural areas (i.e. with a population of less than 10,000). Issue 23* - The population of Monmouthshire has shown a steady increase over a ten year period to 2011, although more recently the rate of growth has slowed. This growth is being fuelled by in-migration. Issue 24* - Monmouthshire has a significantly higher proportion of older age groups (65+) and lower proportion of young adults (16 – 44) compared to the Welsh average, the sharpest decline of which is in the working age population. The relative absence of young adults is often linked to the affordability of housing across the County and has an impact on future prospects of economic growth.
How can the RLDP Influence these Issues?

H(i) The RLDP must decide on the level of growth appropriate for Monmouthshire and the spatial distribution of this growth between different urban and rural communities to address the challenges we face (including demography and affordability), balancing the greater sustainability of urban settlements with the difficulties of maintaining services in rural areas.

H(ii) There is a need to achieve a more balanced population structure to ensure there is a sufficient population of working aged people to support the Monmouthshire economy and to provide more opportunities for young people to both to stay within and move to the area. Due to the County's population shrinking due to more deaths than births, inward migration is essential to ensure communities are socially and economically sustainable. The RLDP needs to take a role in strengthening the local economy, ensuring an appropriate economic base to enable people to live and work in the County and ensuring that demand for homes is satisfied by providing good quality affordable homes for those who need them.

H(iii) The RLDP can help to address issues surrounding the ageing population through facilitating the provision of accessible services supported by connective infrastructure to meet local population growth needs.

How can the RLDP support these Issues given increased emphasis in light of Covid-19

The RLDP growth levels will deliver positive demographic change over the Plan period that is essential to support and enable the provision of balanced communities throughout the County.

A Wales of Cohesive Communities (Well-being Goal 5)

Housing*

Issue

Issue 25* - Average house prices in the County are high at £398,859 when compared to the Welsh average of £236,439 (Hometrack, November 2022)⁷¹. The most significant increases have been experienced in recent years. There is a need to consider the potential impact on house prices arising from the removal of the Severn Bridge Tolls in 2018, the ambitions and opportunities associated with the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and the South East Wales Metro, together with the economic growth of the Bristol/SW region and the opportunities for Monmouthshire as a border county and its location between Bristol and Newport and Cardiff, the 'Great Western Cities'.

Issue 26* - House prices are also high in relation to earnings and there is a pressing need for additional affordable housing in the County in both urban and rural areas to assist in ensuring a balanced population.

Issue 27* - A range and choice of housing is needed to both meet the needs of an ageing population and to attract and retain the younger age groups.

⁷¹ Based on sales and valuations over six month period March 2022 – August 2022. Sales only over same period related to £351,643 for Monmouthshire and £224,101 for Wales. Data accessed on 02/11/2022.

Issue 28* - There is limited scope for significant or long-term expansion of the existing urban areas within the County due to a mix of physical, environmental and policy constraints.
How can the RLDP Influence these Issues?
I(i) The RLDP will affect the amount of housing to be provided by both deciding on overall levels of growth/spatial options and by setting thresholds and proportions to determine the amount of this residential development that is affordable. It can also ensure a range and choice of homes are available in new developments and influence the type, tenure and nature of housing built within the County. I(ii) The RLDP will have to resolve the amount of housing to be built in rural areas, balancing the need to sustain rural settlements by supporting services and enabling people to remain in their communities with the need to protect the countryside and ensure sustainable patterns of development. I(iii) The RLDP can provide urgently needed affordable housing within exemplar, mixed, sustainable and well-connected places.
How can the RLDP support these Issues given increased emphasis in light of Covid-19
The RLDP will ensure /enable a range and choice of homes (housing mix) in future housing developments to address affordability issues and to build sustainable and resilient communities. The Preferred Strategy allows for a level of growth and for affordable housing-led sites: this remains critical to addressing the issues and objectives. The density of development can support placemaking and ensure open greenspaces are incorporated, benefitting wellbeing.
Infrastructure*
Issue
Issue 29* - Poor access to community facilities and declining local service provision is a particular issue for rural communities. Issue 30* - Limited public transport, particularly in rural areas, makes it harder to access jobs, services and facilities, which could be exacerbated by rising fuel prices. There are nevertheless future opportunities for investment in public transport through the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and advances in technology. Issue 31* - There is a need to ensure that adequate physical, digital and social infrastructure is provided to support new development. This includes: broadband infrastructure, the provision of sufficient water and sewerage infrastructure, transport infrastructure and active travel to support non-car modes of travel.
How can the RLDP Influence these Issues?
J(i) The RLDP can consider allocating land for housing and employment in rural areas in an attempt to sustain existing rural community facilities and services, weighing this against the need to avoid unsustainable travel patterns.

J(ii) The RLDP can help ensure adequate provision of infrastructure to serve new development and can contain support policies to enable improvements or enhancements for existing development, e.g. provision of electric vehicle (EV) charging, broadband connectivity and renewable energy. J(iii) The RLDP will contain allocations and policies to support the priorities of the emerging local transport plan and cycling strategy.
How can the RLDP support these Issues given increased emphasis in light of Covid-19
The RLDP will ensure digital and charging infrastructure provision is in place or can be provided to accommodate new development and will support active travel opportunities.
A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language (Well-being Goal 6)
Cultural Heritage
Issue
Issue 32 - Monmouthshire has a significant built heritage resource in terms of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Historic Parks and Gardens and Archaeologically Sensitive Areas that, together with their settings, require protection and enhancement. Issue 33 - There is a need to protect, promote and enhance the best of our landscape and heritage which are an important part of our culture and play a key role in tourism and economic growth, along with providing support for the Welsh Language to ensure it is safeguarded and supported. Issue 34 - The distinctive settlement pattern of Monmouthshire relates to historic towns and villages and their relationship with the surrounding rural areas. There has nevertheless been substantial suburban expansion in the South of the County, particularly adjacent to the M4 corridor. This area is likely to receive further pressure for growth due to the removal of the Severn Bridge Tolls in 2018 and the ambitions and opportunities associated with the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and the South East Wales Metro, together with the economic growth of the Bristol/SW region and the opportunities for Monmouthshire as a border county and its location between Bristol and Newport and Cardiff, the 'Great Western Cities'.
How can the RLDP Influence these Issues?
K(i) The RLDP can contain measures to preserve and enhance the built heritage and best of the historic environment of Monmouthshire. K(ii) The RLDP can help protect, promote and enhance the best of our landscape and heritage which are an important part of our culture and play a key role in tourism and economic growth, along with providing support for the Welsh Language to ensure it is safeguarded and supported. K(iii) Community involvement provides an opportunity to seek views on how Welsh language and culture interact with RLDP policies and proposals. The future of the Welsh language depends on a range of factors beyond the planning system, particularly education, demographic change, community activities and a sound economic base to maintain thriving sustainable communities. The planning system can contribute

to the future well-being of the Welsh language by creating conditions for well-paid employment opportunities and a range of quality housing options resulting in sustainable communities. Planning policies must not seek to control housing occupancy on linguistic grounds⁷².

K(iv) The RLDP can play a key role in promoting good quality sustainable design that will enable new development and future growth to respect and enhance the existing distinctive character of Monmouthshire.

Landscape

Issue

Issue 35 - Monmouthshire has a rich and diverse landscape that brings wider benefits to the local economy particularly through tourism and health and well-being. Monmouthshire as a whole incorporates parts of the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Brecon Beacons National Park and the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site.

How can the RLDP Influence these Issues?

L(i) The RLDP must seek to protect high quality landscapes throughout the County, paying particular attention to those contained in the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Blaenavon World Heritage Site and in the setting of the Brecon Beacons National Park.

A Globally Responsible Wales (Well-being Goal 7)

Climatic Factors*

Issue

Issue 36* - The volume of traffic in the County has continued to increase, up nearly 19% in the nine years to 2019 (StatsWales, April 2019). There is a pattern of relatively long travel to work distances, high levels of car ownership and reliance on the private car.

Issue 37* - Small Scale and Local Authority wide Renewable Energy schemes are generally supported across Monmouthshire, however, a more proactive approach should be undertaken for schemes of a local authority scale (i.e. 5MW - 25MW).

Issue 38* - Monmouthshire's rurality, limited public transport, high levels of car ownership and the subsequent reliance on the private car, combined with high energy consumption and waste management can all contribute to carbon emissions. MCC recognises that we are in a climate and nature emergency and has committed to strive to limit the increase in global temperatures to 1.5°C.

How can the RLDP Influence these Issues?

⁷² Technical Advice Note 20 paragraphs 1.7.3, 2.2 and 2.6.4

M(i) Concerns about climate change require that efforts are made to reduce the reliance on the private car and the consequent impact of carbon dioxide emissions. The RLDP needs to consider appropriate patterns of development that promote a safe, efficient, accessible and sustainable transport system that provides opportunities for walking and cycling and encourages active travel in order to support carbon reduction. The RLDP will provide a mix of employment and housing allocations with the aim of reducing the need to travel, acknowledging however that the reasons why people live where they do is complex.

M(ii) A renewable energy assessment is in progress to identify areas of potential for local authority and strategic renewable energy development.

M(iii) The RLDP will consider ways to support carbon reduction through a variety of measures including the use of renewable energy, the design and location of new development, encouraging balanced job and population growth to reduce out-commuting, the provision of broadband connectivity to reduce the need to travel, the provision of ultra-low emission vehicle charging infrastructure to reduce emissions and improve air quality, and the provision of quality Green Infrastructure. Proposals will be considered against our commitment to strive to limit the increase in global temperatures to 1.5°C.

How can the RLDP support these Issues given increased emphasis in light of Covid-19

The RLDP policy framework will support and enable renewable energy generation and provide opportunities for active travel and integrated sustainable transport solutions.

** indicates the Issue has increased emphasis and importance in light of Covid-19*

Appendix 5: Preferred Strategic Site Allocations

- A.5.1 Strategic Policy S7 identifies Preferred Strategic Site Allocations for the Primary Settlements of Abergavenny (including Llanfoist), Chepstow and Caldicot (including the Severnside Area comprising of: Caerwent, Crick, Magor, Undy, Portskewett, Rogiet and Sudbrook). The Preferred Strategic Site Allocations have been selected from a total of 13 Strategic Growth Options located across Abergavenny, Chepstow, Monmouth and Severnside that were previously consulted on in the 2021 Preferred Strategy. Site selection has been informed by the assessment of candidate sites and the consultation responses received on the 2021 Preferred Strategy.
- A.5.2 As part of the consultation in July 2021, preferences were cast by members of the public using 'Placecheck'. Although it was made clear at that time that this was not part of the formal consultation, the results provide a helpful indication of public opinion. A total of 3,179 preferences were cast in the process. Table 6 below provides further detail. The three Preferred Strategic Site Allocations identified in the new Preferred Strategy are highlighted.

Table 6: Preferences cast on Strategic Site Options at time of 2021 Preferred Strategy consultation.

Strategic Growth Area		Up Votes	Down Votes
Abergavenny A	Land north of Abergavenny	54	184
Abergavenny B	Land to the east of the A465	191	23
Abergavenny C	Land between the B4246	107	47
Chepstow D	Land north of the Bayfield Estate	51	132
Chepstow E	Land between the Bayfield Estate and A48	43	143
Chepstow F*	Land between the A48 and M48	60	143
Monmouth G	Land west of Monmouth	270	175
Monmouth H	Land central Monmouth	255	189
Monmouth I	Land north east Monmouth	318	248
Severnside J	Land north east of Caldicot	74	72
Severnside K	Land north west of Caldicot	48	85
Severnside L	Land west of Caldicot/ east of Rogiet	57	100
Severnside M	Land east of Caerwent	59	51

* Site F is no longer being put forward for development by the site promoter

Consideration of Brownfield Land

- A.5.3 Planning Policy Wales emphasises the importance of re-using brownfield sites, however, there are limited opportunities for further significant brownfield development in Monmouthshire with the two main sites (Sudbrook Paper Mill and Fairfield Mabey, Chepstow) being redeveloped via the current LDP. The RLDP objective is therefore to achieve sustainably located urban extensions that can be well-connected to town centres and public transport. The RLDP will allocate those sites that are the best connected, most sustainable sites that best deliver placemaking and are least harmful. This will require balanced consideration and trade-offs at Deposit Plan stage. The same approach has been taken in identifying the Preferred Strategic Site Allocation for each primary settlement.

Consideration of the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

- A.5.4 There is a need to protect Monmouthshire's Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land. PPW11 Paragraphs 3.58 and 3.59 clearly sets out that *'...agricultural land of grades 1, 2 and 3a is the best and most versatile and should be conserved as a finite resource for the future.'* PPW11 further states that in development plans *'...considerable weight should be given to protecting such land from development, because of its special importance. Land in grades 1, 2 and 3a should only be developed if there is an overriding need for the development, and either previously developed land or land in lower agricultural grades is unavailable, or available lower grade land has an environmental value recognised by a landscape, wildlife, historic or archaeological designation which outweighs the agricultural considerations. If land in grades 1, 2 or 3a does need to be developed, and there is a choice between sites of different grades, development should be directed to land of the lowest grade.'*
- A.5.5 Monmouthshire is a predominantly rural County and one of the key issues that has been identified (Issue 17) is that *'...there is a significant high percentage of BMV agricultural land with limited Brownfield land development opportunities'*. Moreover, many areas of lower agricultural quality are floodplain and therefore are ruled out for that reason. The preparation of Monmouthshire's RLDP therefore needs to set out an approach to protect BMV land and minimise its loss as far as possible through its growth and spatial strategy but recognising that is unlikely to be possible in all cases.
- A.5.6 A sequential approach to assessing the loss of BMV agricultural land, as set out by PPW11, has been undertaken in the assessment of all Candidate Sites. It is anticipated however, that due to the significant amount of BMV agricultural land throughout Monmouthshire it will be difficult to apply this sequential test in practice. Furthermore, at this stage the indicative grades of BMV agricultural land are primarily based on the high level predictive map and are therefore likely to be subject to change following detailed surveys. The aim at the outset nevertheless, will be to protect the higher grades of BMV land and to avoid/or minimise the loss of BMV land. The following pragmatic approach has been undertaken to date:

- A desktop assessment using the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Predictive Map for Wales (Version 2 2019), this provides a broad overview of the ALC for a particular area; however, it is not a detailed site assessment.
- The Second Call for Sites form included a specific question on ALC in order to gather information regarding the quality of, and potential loss of, agricultural land direct from site promoters.
- Detailed ALC field surveys have been provided for the majority of sites but further information will be required for any sites allocated in the Deposit RLDP in order to further ascertain the precise ALC and quality of the land.
- Consultation has been undertaken with relevant stakeholders/consultees including the Welsh Government Agricultural Land Use Unit.

A.5.7 It is important to note that protection of BMV agricultural land must be balanced with other considerations. For example, lower quality agricultural land is typically found in floodplains, but these areas cannot be developed for other policy reasons. Consideration must also be given to proximity to amenities and infrastructure, landscape impact, ecology and site deliverability.

A.5.8 An Agricultural Land Classification Background Paper will be produced at Deposit Plan stage. This will clearly set out the above methodology and the outcomes from the BMV land assessment.

Abergavenny including Llanfoist

A.5.9 Abergavenny is identified as a Primary Settlement in the RLDP settlement hierarchy. It has public transport links by rail and bus to Cwmbran, Newport, Cardiff and the Midlands, and road links to Cwmbran, Newport, Monmouth and the motorway system. It has a particularly important strategic role on the Heads of the Valleys road through its links to Brecon, Mid Wales and the wider Cardiff Capital Region. The A465 separates the town from Llanfoist to the south, and partly defines the town edge to the east. The built-up area to the north and west extends close to the Brecon Beacons National Park boundary, and Llanfoist adjoins the Blaenavon World Heritage Site.

A.5.10 Facilities and services score well within the Sustainable Settlement Appraisal, as the town centre has a relatively large number and range of shops and restaurants, a theatre, cinema, and museum, and is a vibrant focus for the surrounding area. It is also one of the most self-sufficient settlements in terms of employment with a variety of employment sites within the town.

A.5.11 Future growth of the town is constrained by a number of factors. Abergavenny's landscape sensitivity to residential development⁷³ is high and high/medium, with an area of medium sensitivity to the south of Llanfoist.⁷⁴ The areas immediately north

⁷³ A standard methodology relating to the landscape sensitivity to housing development has been applied to the assessment of candidate sites in the Landscape Sensitivity Update Study – October 2020.

⁷⁴ Monmouthshire Landscape Sensitivity Update Study – October 2020 can be viewed via:
<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/candidate-sites/landscape-sensitivity-study/>

and west of the town adjoin the Brecon Beacons National Park, and the town centre itself is a Conservation Area. The floodplain of the River Usk is a further constraint on development to the south of the town and in parts of Llanfoist.

- A.5.12 Abergavenny sits within the River Usk Special Area Conservation (SAC) catchment area. The Strategic Site allocation will therefore need demonstrate phosphate neutrality or betterment in its design and/or its contribution to the water body. A strategic solution has been identified by Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water for implementation during AMP7 (by 2025).

Abergavenny East

- A.5.13 The preferred strategic site allocation is a sustainably located edge of settlement site. Development here would expand the built-up area of the town beyond the A465 which currently forms a hard development boundary to the town. The site has the potential to form a well-connected urban extension to Abergavenny and provides the opportunity to provide a mixed-use development, containing a mix of residential uses alongside employment/commercial uses, facilities and services.
- A.5.14 The proximity of the area to Abergavenny Railway Station (currently an approximately 10 minute walk, 0.5 miles) offers significant benefits to maximise opportunities for a modal shift to more sustainable forms of transport and offers an opportunity for transit-oriented development. The site is just an approximate 16 minute walking distance from the town centre (0.7 miles). Vehicular access would be required from the A465 trunk road. The site has potential to offer park and ride facilities for Abergavenny train station, helping address an existing problem and supporting future modal shift alongside the increased train service frequency proposed as part of the South Wales Metro proposals.
- A.5.15 The land is categorised as having high/medium landscape sensitivity to residential development in the Landscape Sensitivity Update⁷⁵. The site is mostly located on an area of predictive grade 2/3a BMV agricultural land. However, when considering the search sequence recommended in PPW11 it is noted that most of the land surrounding Abergavenny is either of BMV status or within floodplain. Moreover, the County's primary settlements are surrounded by either BMV land or flood plain meaning an alternative spatial strategy would not avoid allocating BMV land for development. Development will need demonstrate phosphate neutrality or betterment in its design and/or its contribution to the water body of the River Usk SAC catchment area.

⁷⁵ Monmouthshire Landscape Sensitivity Update – October 2020 can be viewed via:
<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/candidate-sites/landscape-sensitivity-study/>

A.5.16 Taking into account the delay with the RLDP, the time needed to open up the site (including the provision of significant infrastructure namely a cycle footway bridge over the A465 and railway) and a realistic completion rate, the size of the candidate site means development would extend beyond the Plan period. However, its allocation could helpfully identify the long-term direction of growth for the town. This longer-term potential is advantageous.

Chepstow

A.5.17 Chepstow is identified as a Primary Settlement in the RLDP settlement hierarchy. Chepstow is well placed on the M4 corridor at the entrance to Wales to capitalise on its strategic road and rail links to the Cardiff Capital Region and South West England and associated economic opportunities.

A.5.18 Facilities and services score well within the Sustainable Settlement Appraisal, as the town centre has a relatively large number and good range of shops and restaurants and is a vibrant focus for the surrounding area. The town is also one of the main focuses of employment within the County. Chepstow has a good range of employment sites within the town, with the largest being the Newhouse Farm Industrial Estate located to the south of the town on the motorway junction with the M48.

A.5.19 Future growth of the town, however, is heavily constrained due to a range of local and national environmental and heritage designations and its location on the River Wye and border with England. Chepstow's landscape sensitivity to residential development is high and high/medium to the north and south of Chepstow with medium sensitivity recorded for an area of land to west of Chepstow, however there are various other constraints to the west. The area immediately north of the town lies within the Wye Valley AONB⁷⁶. Some parts of the historic centre benefit from flood relief measures, but other areas close to the River Wye remain at risk of flooding. The town centre itself is a Conservation Area. Land to the west of the A466 is currently protected in the Adopted LDP by a "green wedge" policy to ensure the town's physical separation from Pwllmeyric and Mathern. Current green wedge designations will be reviewed as part of the RLDP process. South of the A48, the undeveloped land is also within a Conservation Area and, in part, within a designated Historic Park and Garden.

A.5.20 There are highway capacity issues which will need to be addressed as part of any future development proposals. A section of the A48 on Hardwick Hill is designated as an Air Quality Management Area: the A48 trunk road passes through the town and provides the main link between the southern part of the Forest of Dean and the motorway network, including the main route from parts of Gloucestershire to Bristol via the Severn Bridge. MCC recently responded to the Forest of Dean Council expressing concerns regarding the potential impacts of proposed growth in the Forest without suitable investment in transport improvements.

⁷⁶ Monmouthshire Landscape Sensitivity Update Study – October 2020 can be viewed via:
<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/candidate-sites/landscape-sensitivity-study/>

A.5.21 Policy 34 - Green Belts in the South East - of Future Wales indicates a green belt on land to the north of Chepstow. In assessing Candidate Sites and their relationship to Policy 34 of Future Wales consideration has been given to paragraph 3.72 of PPW11 which states that when considering a Green Belt designation, a sufficient range of development land which is suitably located in relation to the existing urban edge should be made available, having regard to the longer term need for development land, the effects of development pressures in areas beyond the Green Belt and the need to minimise demand for travel. This may require land to be safeguarded, and boundaries of proposed Green Belts must be carefully defined to achieve this. A Green Belt Study has been commissioned on a sub-regional basis to inform the evidence base of RLDPs and the South East Wales SDP.

Bayfield, Chepstow

A 5.22 The preferred strategic site allocation is a sustainably located edge of settlement site. Development here would expand the existing built up area west of the A466, south of the Usk road (B4235). The site adjoins the AONB and is in close proximity to Chepstow Racecourse. PPW11 gives National Parks and AONBs equal status in terms of landscape and scenic beauty and requires that both be afforded the highest status of protection from inappropriate developments. Development in this location would need to be carefully designed to ensure that any effects on the setting of the AONB are acceptable. The land is categorised as being of medium landscape sensitivity to residential development⁷⁷.

A.5.23 The site is approximately a mile or an approximate 15 minute walking distance from the town centre, half a mile (approximately 9 minute walk) from Chepstow Comprehensive School and Leisure Centre, and 1.1 miles (approximately 21 minutes walk) from Chepstow railway station. As outlined above, careful consideration will be required regarding the cumulative impact of development on the A466, A48 and Highbeech roundabout.

A.5.24 The land is predictive grade 3a BMV agricultural land. However, when considering the search sequence recommended in PPW11 it is noted that most of the land surrounding Chepstow is either of BMV status or affected by other constraints. The alternative Strategic Development Site option is on higher quality BMV land. Moreover, the County's primary settlements are surrounded by either BMV land or flood plain meaning an alternative spatial strategy would not avoid allocating BMV land for development. Another consideration will include its location in the limestone minerals safeguarding area.

⁷⁷ Monmouthshire Landscape Sensitivity Update – October 2020 can be viewed via:
<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/candidate-sites/landscape-sensitivity-study/>

Caldicot (including the Severnside area)

- A.5.25 The Primary Settlement of Caldicot has functional geographic and transport links with the settlements of Magor, Undy, Rogiet, Caerwent, Portskewett, Sudbrook and Crick, which together are considered to share social, economic and environmental characteristics to make up the identifiable group of Severnside. The Severnside area, has an important role as the 'Gateway to Wales', with the area immediately adjacent to the Second Severn Bridge (Prince of Wales Bridge) crossing, and as a whole is well located for the nearby employment markets of Newport, Cardiff and Bristol. There are key rail links to these employment markets with stations at Severn Tunnel Junction and Caldicot connecting with the key settlements of Cardiff in the West and Bristol /Cheltenham/Midlands in the East, with enhancements to Severn Tunnel Junction recommended in the South East Wales Transport Commission Final Recommendation Plan (November 2020). There are also good road links to the M4 and M48 motorways, with the M4 Junction at Magor and Undy. The A48 also runs across the north of the Severnside region connecting settlements along the A48 with settlements in Newport to the west, and Chepstow to the east.
- A.5.26 The future growth of the Severnside area is constrained by flood plain on land to the south of the settlements of Caldicot, Magor and Undy, Rogiet and Portskewett. South of these settlements also lies the historic and archaeologically sensitive Gwent levels, which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Furthermore, the area beyond the Severn Estuary is subject to significant environmental designations including a designated SSSI as well as a Special Area for Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site (Wetland of international importance). A large proportion of the Severnside area is also located in a Limestone Mineral Safeguarding Area.
- A.5.27 In addition to these, Policy 34 - Green Belts in the South East - of Future Wales indicates a green belt to the north of the M48⁷⁸ within the Severnside area. In assessing candidate sites and their relationship to Policy 34 of Future Wales consideration has been given to paragraph 3.72 of PPW11 which states that when considering a Green Belt designation, a sufficient range of development land which is suitably located in relation to the existing urban edge should be made available, having regard to the longer term need for development land, the effects of development pressures in areas beyond the Green Belt and the need to minimise demand for travel. This may require land to be safeguarded, and boundaries of proposed Green Belts must be carefully defined to achieve this. A Green Belt Study has been commissioned on a sub-regional basis to inform the evidence base of RLDPs and the South East Wales SDP.

⁷⁸ Ministerial letter from Julie James AM, Minister for Housing and Local Government dated 11/10/2019 refers to the M4 and M48 providing a logical, robust and defensible southern boundary for the Green Belt.

Caldicot

A.5.28 Caldicot achieves a high weighted score in terms of sustainability within the Sustainable Settlement Appraisal. It has the largest physical urban area and population within the Severnside cluster. Caldicot is served by two rail stations: Caldicot station is on the Chepstow/Gloucester line and Severn Tunnel Junction is also on the London to Carmarthen line. It is well placed on the road network with the M4 located south of the settlement and the M48 running adjacent to the north of the settlement, although the junction is currently at Magor for the M4 and at Chepstow for the M48. Caldicot is served by a town centre, currently undergoing regeneration, and has numerous educational facilities. Severnside Industrial Estate and Castlegate Business Park are located to the east of the settlement, which is a significant employment base and adjoins the neighbouring settlement of Portskewett. To the west of the settlement is land currently protected by a 'Green Wedge' in the Adopted LDP, which is in place to separate Caldicot from the neighbouring settlement of Rogiet. Green Wedge designations will be reviewed as part of the evidence base of the Deposit Plan. South of the settlement, the land is constrained by flood plain. Growth in recent years has been to the north east of the settlement.

Caldicot East

A.5.29 The preferred strategic site allocation is a sustainably located edge of settlement site. Development here would extend the settlement of Caldicot to the north east, towards the settlement of Crick and adjacent to the adopted LDP Crick Road, Portskewett site. The site is north of the Caldicot Castle Country Park, a Conservation Area and an area currently designated as an Area of Amenity Importance under the Adopted LDP.

A.5.30 A small part of the candidate site adjacent to the former railway line is located in floodplain: built development would not be permitted within this part of the site. Part of the site includes previously developed land comprising a commercial equestrian centre, with much of the remainder being on Council-owned land. The inclusion of such suitable land is supported by Future Wales Policy 3 which supports public leadership and the use of public land to deliver on ambitious affordable housing targets.

A.5.31 In terms of agricultural land, the site contains a small area of grade 1 agricultural land, most of which is within a floodplain so would not be built on. The remaining area is classified predominantly as grade 2 agricultural land. However, when considering the search sequence recommended in PPW11 it is noted that most of the land surrounding Caldicot is either of BMV status or floodplain. Moreover, the County's primary settlements are surrounded by either BMV land or flood plain meaning an alternative spatial strategy would not avoid allocating BMV land for development.

A.5.32 In terms of distance from Caldicot town centre, it is approximately 1.2 miles (from a central point of the growth area) and approximately 22 minutes walking distance. It is

approximately a 33 minute walk from Caldicot railway station. The former railway line has recently been purchased by MCC and is being turned into an active travel route, offering a significant benefit in terms of modal shift and leisure provision. Landscape sensitivity to residential development is high/medium⁷⁹. Part of this site is within the limestone minerals safeguarding area.

A.5.33 Taking into account the delay with the RLDP, the time needed to open up the sites and a realistic completion rate, the size of the candidate sites means development would extend beyond the Plan period. However, its allocation could helpfully identify the long-term direction of growth for the town. This longer-term potential is advantageous.

⁷⁹ Monmouthshire Landscape Sensitivity Update – October 2020 can be viewed via:
<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/candidate-sites/landscape-sensitivity-study/>

Appendix 6 – Housing Supply Components

Housing Land Supply Components

- A.6.1 The provision of 5,940 homes will be delivered through a number of different housing land supply components. A detailed description of each component is set out in the Housing Background Paper⁸⁰, with a brief summary set out below.
- A.6.2 The housing land supply /landbank comprises:
- Existing Commitments i.e. Dwelling completions made in the first four years of the Plan period (2018 – 2022), and sites under construction or sites with planning permission as of 1st April 2022 that will realistically be delivered and LDP ‘Rollover Allocations’, where the site does not benefit from planning permission, but progress can be evidenced.
 - Allowances i.e. Small site allowance (1-9 dwellings) and windfall allowance (10+ dwellings). Details of where windfall sites could potentially come from are set out in a Housing Potential Study (HPS). Potential sources include possible regeneration schemes within settlements and empty homes and upper floors within town centres.
- A.6.3 Once existing land supply commitments and allowances for windfall/infill sites have been taken into account, the RLDP will need to make provision for new site allocations to deliver 2,200⁸¹ homes over and above the existing commitments. Sites will be allocated to deliver this residual requirement with growth focused in our most sustainable settlements of Abergavenny, Chepstow and Caldicot including Severnside, in accordance with the sustainable settlement hierarchy set out in Policy S2.
- A.6.4 An indicative housing balance table is set out below and shows how the Plan’s housing provision figure is to be met through a mix of commitments, completions to date, allowances for small sites and windfalls, and new allocations. This is indicative and will be refined as the Plan progresses.

⁸⁰ The Housing Background Paper can be viewed via <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/development-of-an-evidence-base/>

⁸¹ The new site allocations figure takes account of completions and windfall and small sites allowances as of 01/04/2022 and the application of the 10% flexibility allowance. Further information with regards to this can be found in the Housing Background Paper which can be viewed via <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/development-of-an-evidence-base/>

Table 7: Breakdown of Housing Supply

Element	Number of Homes	Notes
Housing Provision	5,940	Housing requirement under the population-led RLDP Preferred Strategy for 2018-2033 = 5,400 + 10% flexibility allowance, to be considered further in the Deposit Plan
Less Commitments:		
2018-22 Completions	1,579	Comprises 1,265 homes on large sites and 314 homes on small sites
Existing Land Supply Commitments	1,261	Sites have only been included if construction is already underway or they have planning permission or have planning permission subject to the signing of a S106 agreement as at 01/04/22, and they are expected to come forward over the Plan period. Three sites have been discounted from this element of supply due to non-delivery. *
Less Allocations:		
LDP 'Rollover Allocations'	0	Rollover Allocations are adopted LDP large site allocations which do not currently benefit from a planning permission. There are 3 sites which meet this definition, however these sites cannot proceed due to phosphate issues and do not align with the new Spatial Strategy, being located in the upper Wye catchment. *
Revised Provision	3,100	
Less Allowances:		
Windfall Allowance (>10 homes)	210	The windfall allowance is based on the number of homes estimated to be achievable on sites included within the Housing Potential Study. This excludes any settlements within the Upper River Wye Catchment Area. An allowance of 210 homes (35 homes per annum) is included for the last 6 years of the Plan period (2027 – 2033). Windfalls for the first 4 years of the plan period (2018-2022) are included within the completions. Windfall sites

Element	Number of Homes	Notes
		with current permission are included within the existing commitments. To avoid double counting the first 5 years of the remaining Plan period are excluded from the calculation (2022 – 2027).
Small Site Allowance (<10 homes)	690	If the small site allowance is calculated on the basis of the remaining 11 years of the Plan period (2022-2033), an allowance of 902 homes (82 homes per annum) would need to be included based on an average of small site completions over the past 10 years (2012-2022). Due to the impact of phosphates on the ability of small sites to come forward in settlements in the Upper Wye Valley Catchment if these are excluded from the future extrapolation rate this results in a small site allowance of 720 homes (65 homes per annum). Following an appraisal of small site opportunities, the allowance for sites of less than 5 homes in rural settlements has been discounted by 20%*. This results in a small site allowance of 690 homes (63 homes per annum)
Total New Allocations Provision	2,200	

*Further information can be found in the Housing Background Paper (December 2022)

Appendix 7 – Review of Adopted Local Development Plan Policies

The purpose of this assessment is to identify if the existing Adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) Development Management Policies are functioning effectively, whether any changes are likely to be required and if it is appropriate to carry forward the policies in the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP). It should be treated as indicative at this stage as new evidence, guidance or local factors may emerge as the Plan process progresses to justify a different approach to the one noted below. The policies will also need to be regrouped/reordered to reflect the strategic themes set out in PPW11 and Strategic Policies section of the RLDP. The assessment is outlined in the table below.

	Indicates that the Development Management policy will be carried forward possibly with minor amendments.
	Indicates that the Development Management will be carried forward as a Development Management policy with amendments to reflect updated evidence, updated national planning policy guidance or Officer Working Group comments.
	Indicates that consideration is being given to deleting the policy either in its entirety or through the combination/inclusion of the policy objective with another policy.

Existing Development Management Policies		Commentary	Recommendation
H1	Residential Development in Main Towns, Severnside Settlements and Rural Secondary Settlements	Functioning effectively – slight amendment required to refer to the correct Strategic Policy and settlement hierarchy name amendments.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP.
H2	Residential Development in Main Villages	Functioning effectively – slight amendment required to refer to the correct Strategic Policy and settlement hierarchy name amendments.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP.

Existing Development Management Policies		Commentary	Recommendation
H3	Residential Development in Minor Villages	Main thrust of policy is functioning effectively - amendments required in response to Officer Working Group* comments relating to a maximum of 4 dwellings, along with settlement hierarchy name amendments.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments to reflect Officer Working Group comments.
H4	Conversion / Rehabilitation of Buildings in the Open Countryside for Residential Use	Amendments required in response to Officer Working Group comments to improve clarity. Further clarity is provided in the Adopted Rural Conversions to a Residential or Tourism Use SPG, which will be amended accordingly and readopted to accompany the RLDP.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments to reflect Officer Working Group comments.
H5	Replacement Dwellings in the Open Countryside	Amendments required in response to Officer Working Group comments. Further clarity is provided in the LDP Policies H5 and H6 Replacement Dwellings in the Open Countryside and Extension of Rural Dwellings SPG which will be amended accordingly and readopted to accompany the RLDP.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments to reflect Officer Working Group comments.
H6	Extension of Rural Dwellings	Policy functioning effectively. Further clarity is provided in the LDP Policies H5 and H6 Replacement Dwellings in the Open Countryside and Extension of Rural Dwellings SPG which will be amended accordingly and readopted to accompany the RLDP	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP.
H7	Affordable Housing Rural Exceptions	Policy functioning effectively. Amendments required to reflect Officer Working Group comments and PPW11 guidance on Affordable Housing Exception sites being within or	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments to reflect Officer Working Group comments and national policy guidance.

Existing Development Management Policies		Commentary	Recommendation
		adjoining existing settlement boundaries. These changes would expand the scope of the policy.	
H8	Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites	Policy functioning effectively. Minor amendments may be required to reflect Officer Working Group comments and to align with national guidance.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with minor amendments.
H9	Flat Conversions	Policy functioning effectively. Minor amendments may be required to reflect Officer Working Group comments.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with minor amendments.
CRF1	Retention of Existing Community Facilities	Amendments required to reflect Officer Working Group comments.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments to reflect Officer Working Group comments.
CRF2	Outdoor Recreation / Public Open Space and Allotment Standards	Policy functioning effectively. Amendments may be required to reflect updated national planning policy on standards and Officer Working Group comments. The Fields in Trust standards are currently under national review.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments to the standards.
CRF3	Safeguarding Existing Recreational Facilities and Public Open Space	Policy functioning effectively.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP.
RET1	Primary Shopping Frontages	Principle of policy remains relevant. Amendments may be necessary to policy thresholds and Primary Shopping Frontages to reflect evidence, updated national planning policy and Officer Working Group comments.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments to reflect updated evidence.
RET2	Central Shopping Areas	Principle of policy remains relevant. Amendments may be necessary to policy wording and Central Shopping Areas boundaries	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments to reflect updated evidence.

Existing Development Management Policies		Commentary	Recommendation
		to reflect evidence, updated national planning policy and Officer Working Group comments.	
RET3	Neighbourhood Centres	Policy functioning effectively. Minor amendments may be required to reflect Officer Working Group comments.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with minor amendments.
RET4	New Retail Proposals	Policy functioning effectively. Minor amendments may be required to reflect updated national guidance and Officer Working Group comments.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with minor amendments.
E1	Protection of Existing Employment Land	Principle of policy remains relevant. Amendments may be necessary to reflect the findings of the Employment Land Review and Officer Working Group comments.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments to reflect updated evidence.
E2	Non-allocated Employment Sites	Amendments required to reflect Officer Working Group comments and limitations of current policy restricted to single user only or large employers.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments.
E3	Working from Home	Delete policy as considered unnecessary and sufficiently covered by other policies.	Delete policy from the RLDP.
RE1	Employment within Villages	Policy is functioning effectively. Amendments may be necessary to reflect the findings of the Sustainable Settlement Appraisal and the findings of the Officer Working Group comments.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with minor amendments to reflect updated evidence.
RE2	Conversion/Rehabilitation of Buildings in the Open Countryside for Employment Use	Policy is functioning effectively. Minor amendments may be necessary to reflect Officer Working Group comments.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with minor amendments.

Existing Development Management Policies		Commentary	Recommendation
RE3	Agricultural Diversification	Policy is functioning effectively. Minor amendments may be necessary to reflect Officer Working Group comments.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with minor amendments.
RE4	New Agricultural and Forestry Buildings	Policy is functioning effectively.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP.
RE5	Intensive Livestock and Free Range Poultry Units	Amendments needed to reflect Phosphate issues in the River Usk and River Wye Catchment Areas. Amendments may be necessary to reflect Officer Working Group comments and updated Welsh Government guidance set out in Chief Planning Officer letter of 12 th June 2018.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments to reflect phosphate issues in the River Usk and River Wye Catchment Areas, Officer Working Group comments and updated national policy guidance.
RE6	Provision of Recreation, Tourism and Leisure Facilities in the Open Countryside	Amendments necessary to reflect update national planning policy and Officer Working Group comments and amendments to address the lack of clarity identified by the former Economy and Development Select Committee which the Sustainable Tourism SPG has sought to resolve.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments to reflect Officer Working Group comments and updated national policy guidance and to address the lack of clarity identified by Economy and Development Select Committee which the Sustainable Tourism SPG has sought to resolve.
T1	Touring Caravan and Tented Camping Sites	Amendments necessary to reflect update national planning policy and Officer Working Group comments and amendments to address the lack of clarity identified by the former Economy and Development Select Committee which the Sustainable Tourism SPG has sought to resolve.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments to reflect Officer Working Group comments and updated national policy guidance and to address the lack of clarity identified by Economy and Development Select Committee which the Sustainable Tourism SPG has sought to resolve.
T2	Visitor Accommodation Outside Settlements	Amendments necessary to reflect update national planning policy and Officer Working	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments to reflect

Existing Development Management Policies		Commentary	Recommendation
		Group comments and amendments to address the lack of clarity identified by the former Economy and Development Select Committee which the Sustainable Tourism SPG has sought to resolve.	Officer Working Group comments and updated national policy guidance and to address the lack of clarity identified by Economy and Development Select Committee which the Sustainable Tourism SPG has sought to resolve.
T3	Golf Courses	Amendments necessary to reflect update national planning policy and Officer Working Group comments and amendments to address the lack of clarity identified by the former Economy and Development Select Committee which the Sustainable Tourism SPG has sought to resolve.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments to reflect Officer Working Group comments and updated national policy guidance and to address the lack of clarity identified by Economy and Development Select Committee which the Sustainable Tourism SPG has sought to resolve.
SD1	Renewable Energy	Policy is functioning effectively. Amendments will be necessary to reflect updated national planning policy guidance and the outcome of the Renewable Energy Assessment.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments to reflect updated national planning policy guidance and evidence.
SD2	Sustainable Construction and Energy Efficiency	Policy is functioning effectively. Amendments may be necessary to reflect updated national planning policy guidance.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments to reflect contextual changes and updated national planning policy guidance.
SD3	Flood Risk	Review report recommends to delete this policy as flood risk considerations are covered by national planning policy.	Delete policy from the RLDP.
SD4	Sustainable Drainage	Policy is functioning effectively. Amendments may be necessary to reflect updated national planning policy guidance and legislation on this issue.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments to reflect updated national planning policy guidance and legislation.

Existing Development Management Policies		Commentary	Recommendation
LC1	New Built Development in the Open Countryside	Policy is functioning effectively. Minor amendments may be necessary to reflect Officer Working Group comments.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with minor amendments.
LC2	Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site	Policy is functioning effectively. Minor amendments may be necessary to reflect Officer Working comments.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with minor amendments.
LC3	Brecon Beacons National Park	Policy is functioning effectively. Minor amendments may be necessary to reflect Officer Working Group comments.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with minor amendments.
LC4	Wye Valley AONB	Policy is functioning effectively. Minor amendments may be necessary to reflect Officer Working Group comments.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with minor amendments.
LC5	Protection and Enhancement of Landscape Character	Policy is functioning effectively. Minor amendments may necessary to reflect Officer Working Group comments.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with minor amendments.
LC6	Green Wedges	This policy and associated boundaries will be amended as necessary to reflect a review of the Green Wedges which will be completed in time for the Deposit Plan to ensure designations are justified and consistent with updated planning policy guidance. An additional policy on South East Wales Green Belt will also be required.	Policy and associated boundaries will be amended and to reflect a review of the Green Wedges and updated planning policy guidance.
GI1	Green Infrastructure	Policy is functioning effectively. Minor amendments may be necessary to reflect updated national planning policy guidance and Officer Working Group Comments. The Adopted Green Infrastructure SPG provides further clarity on the implementation of the	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with minor amendments.

Existing Development Management Policies		Commentary	Recommendation
		policy which will be amended accordingly and readopted to accompany the RLDP.	
NE1	Nature Conservation and Development	Policy is functioning effectively. Minor amendments may be necessary to reflect changes to the legislative framework, national planning policy guidance and Officer Working Group comments.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with minor amendments.
EP1	Amenity and Environmental Protection	Policy functioning effectively. Minor amendments may be necessary to reflect updated national planning policy guidance.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with minor amendments.
EP2	Protection of Water Sources and Water Environment	Policy is functioning effectively and continues to work well in the context of the recently arising phosphate water quality issue. Minor amendments may be necessary to reflect updated national planning policy guidance.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with minor amendments.
EP3	Lighting	Policy is functioning effectively. Minor amendments may be necessary to reflect Officer Working Group comments.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with minor amendments.
EP4	Telecommunications	Policy is functioning effectively. Minor amendments may be required to reflect legislative framework and updated national planning policy guidance.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with minor amendments.
EP5	Foul Sewage Disposal	Policy is to be reviewed. Amendments needed to reflect Phosphate issues in the River Usk and River Wye Catchment Areas.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments to reflect up to date evidence and phosphate issues in the River Usk and River Wye Catchment Areas.

Existing Development Management Policies		Commentary	Recommendation
W1	Waste Reduction	Limited application. Review Report notes the need to consider whether the policy is required. Policy has strong links to the circular economy objectives. Amendments may be required to reflect updated national planning policy guidance and MCC's climate change agenda.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments to reflect contextual and national planning policy guidance.
W2	Waste Recovery Facilities: Household	Limited application. Review Report notes the need to consider whether the policy is required. Principle of policy is considered relevant and necessary, but is adequately covered by the draft Strategic Policy S15 – Sustainable Waste Management set out in the Preferred Strategy (December 2022)	Delete policy as policy objectives are addressed by the draft Strategic Policy S15 – Sustainable Waste Management as set out in the Preferred Strategy (June 2021).
W3	Waste Management Facilities	Policy is functioning effectively. Amendments are required to replace the overarching acceptability of waste management facilities on B2 sites, to list specific sites and reduce the scope of the existing policy.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments to replace the overarching acceptance of B2 industrial sites for waste management facilities with a list of specific sites and reduce the scope of the existing policy.
W4	Rural Composting	Policy is functioning effectively.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP.
W5	Waste Disposal by Landfill or Landraising	Policy functioning effectively. Minor amendments may be required to reflect national planning policy guidance.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP.
W6	Waste Deposition on Agricultural Land for Agricultural Improvement Purposes	Policy is functioning effectively.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP.

Existing Development Management Policies		Commentary	Recommendation
M1	Local Building and Walling Stone	Policy is functioning effectively.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP.
M2	Minerals Safeguarding Areas	Policy is functioning effectively. Minor amendments may be required to reflect the findings of the Regional Technical Statement – 2 nd Revision and associated Mineral Safeguarding Maps.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with minor amendments necessary to reflect the updated Regional Technical Statement – 2 nd Revision.
M3	Mineral Site Buffer Zones	Policy is functioning effectively. Amendments may be necessary to reflect the findings of the Regional Technical Statement – 2 nd Revision. Buffer Zone for Livox Quarry requires deletion following a refusal of planning permission to continue mineral extraction.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments necessary to reflect the updated Regional Technical Statement 2 nd Revision and planning status changes.
MV1	Proposed Developments and Highway Considerations	Policy is functioning effectively. Amendments may be required to reflect updated national planning policy guidance and to incorporate elements of Policy MV7 – Rear Access/Service Areas, which is recommended to be deleted.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments necessary to reflect updated national planning policy guidance and incorporate elements of policy MV7 – Rear Access/Service Areas, which is proposed to be deleted.
MV2	Sustainable Transport Access	Policy is functioning effectively. Amendments may be required to reflect updated national planning policy guidance.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments necessary to reflect updated national planning policy guidance.
MV3	Public Rights of Way	Policy is functioning effectively. Minor amendments may be required to reflect the Monmouthshire Countryside Access Draft Improvement Plan – July 2019.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with minor amendments to reflect contextual changes.
MV4	Cycleways	Policy is functioning effectively.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP.

Existing Development Management Policies		Commentary	Recommendation
MV5	Improvements to Public Transport Interchanges and Facilities	Policy has had limited use to date, but the principles remain relevant.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP.
MV6	Canals and Redundant Rail Routes	Policy principle remains relevant, but has had limited use. Consideration will be given to amendments or combination with another suitable policy.	Carry forward the policy principle, but with consideration to amendments or combination with another suitable policy.
MV7	Rear Access / Service Areas	Policy is functioning effectively but has limited applicability. Consideration will be given to the deletion of the policy and inclusion of its objective to Policy MV1.	Consider deletion of the policy with amendments to Policy MV1 to ensure policy objectives are addressed.
MV8	Rail Freight	Policy principle remains relevant, but has had limited applicability. Consideration will be given to combining policy objectives with another Movement related policy.	Carry forward policy principle, but with consideration to combining with another suitable policy.
MV9	Road Hierarchy	Policy is functioning effectively, but has had limited applicability. Consideration will be given to whether the policy is still required.	Consider deletion of the policy.
MV10	Transport Routes and Schemes	Policy is functioning effectively. Amendments are required to reflect updated Local Transport Plan and Active Travel Act and associated schemes including deleting reference to the M4 relief road protected route and B4245 Magor/Undy bypass.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy with amendments to reflect the updated Local Travel Plan and Active Travel Act.
DES1	General Design Considerations	Policy is functioning effectively. Amendments are required to reflect contextual changes, updated national planning policy guidance, Officer Working Group comments and	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy with amendments to reflect contextual changes, updated national planning policy guidance, Officer Working Group comments and

Existing Development Management Policies		Commentary	Recommendation
		consideration of the suggestions from Abergavenny Civic Society.	consideration of the suggestions from Abergavenny Civic Society.
DES2	Areas of Amenity Importance	Policy is functioning effectively. Amendments are required to reflect the review of Areas of Amenity Importance which will be completed in time for the Deposit Plan, updated national planning policy guidance on associated standards and associated changes to policy CRF2.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy with amendments to reflect updated Areas of Amenity Importance Survey and national planning policy guidance.
DES3	Advertisements	Policy is functioning effectively. Amendments may be required to reflect Officer Working Group comments.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with amendments and merge with Policy DES4.
DES4	Advance Tourism Signs	Policy is functioning effectively but should be merged with Policy DES3.	Merge with Policy DES3.
HE1**	Development in Conservation Areas	Policy is functioning effectively. Minor amendments may be necessary to reflect Officer Working Group comments.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with minor amendments.
HE2**	Alterations to Unlisted Buildings in Conservation Areas	Policy is functioning effectively. Minor amendments may be necessary to reflect Officer Working Group comments.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP with minor amendments.
HE3**	Design of Shop Fronts in Conservation Areas	Policy is functioning effectively.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP.
HE4**	Roman Town of Caerwent	Policy is functioning effectively.	Carry forward as a Development Management Policy in the RLDP.

*Officer Working Group discussions refers to issues raised during a series of internal workshops with MCC Officers covering different topic areas. The findings of the workshops fed into the LDP Review Report (March 2018), including Table 2: Review of Development Management Policies.

**Historic Environment Policies to be further reviewed in light of the Historic Environment Act and consideration given to the need for new or amended policies particularly with regard to Buildings of Local Interest and Historic Landscapes.

This page is intentionally left blank

Monmouthshire Replacement Local Development Plan

Summary Preferred Strategy

December 2022



monmouthshire
sir fynwy



Monmouthshire County Council Replacement Local Development Plan

Summary Preferred Strategy

December 2022

Planning Policy Service

Monmouthshire County Council

County Hall, Rhadyr, Usk, Monmouthshire NP15 1GA

Tel: 01633 644429

Email: planningpolicy@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Replacement Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy – Summary

Introduction

- i. Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) is preparing a Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) for the County (excluding the area within the Brecon Beacons National Park), covering the period 2018-2033. When adopted, it will be the statutory land use plan to support delivery of the Council's core purpose of becoming a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life¹. The RLDP will set out land use development proposals for the County and will identify how much new development will take place to 2033 and where this will be located. It will also identify areas to be protected from development and provide policies against which future planning applications will be assessed.
- ii. The RLDP will deliver the Council's objectives and address the core issues of delivering essential affordable homes at pace and scale, responding to the climate and nature emergency by delivering net zero carbon ready new homes in exemplar places, and ensuring our communities are socially and economically sustainable by attracting and retaining younger people to rebalance our ageing demographic.
- iii. From 5th December 2022 to 30th January 2023, we're seeking your views on the proposed Preferred Strategy. Details of [how to get involved](#) can be found on our website.

What is the Preferred Strategy?

- iv. The Preferred Strategy provides the strategic direction for the development and use of land in Monmouthshire (excluding the area within the Brecon Beacons National Park) over the Plan period 2018 to 2033. The Preferred Strategy:
 - identifies key issues, challenges and opportunities for the County (see Section 3 of the Preferred Strategy);
 - develops a vision and objectives for the RLDP that respond to the key issues, challenges and opportunities (see Section 4);
 - sets out the scale of future growth in population, housing and jobs and establish the spatial distribution of growth (see Section 4); and
 - sets out the Preferred Strategic Site Allocations and strategic policies to deliver/implement the strategy (see Section 5).
- v. This document provides a summary version of the Preferred Strategy in an attempt to make the information more accessible to a wider audience. The consultation questions refer to the paragraph numbers in the full version of the Preferred Strategy.
- vi. Figure 1 below shows how the Preferred Strategy fits into the Plan making process.

¹ The draft Community and Corporate Plan 2022 sets out the Council's core purpose, principles, and priorities. It was endorsed by [Cabinet on 19th October 2022](#) and a developed version will be reported to Council in January 2023.

Figure 1: Replacement Local Development Plan Process



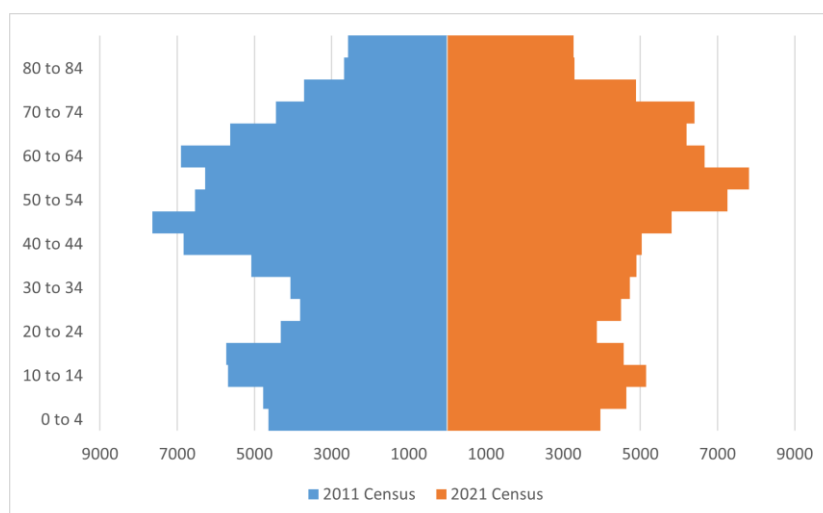
Supporting Documents

- vii. The Preferred Strategy has been subject to an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Well-being of Future Generations Assessment (WBFGA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) and Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA). The ISA assesses the extent to which the emerging proposals and policies will help to achieve the wider environmental, economic, social and cultural objectives of the RLDP. The Preferred Strategy has also been subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- viii. The [Initial Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report](#) and [Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Preferred Strategy](#) are published alongside the Preferred Strategy. The ISA and HRA are iterative processes and will be updated as the RLDP progresses towards adoption.
- ix. The RLDP will be accompanied by an Infrastructure Plan, setting out what infrastructure is needed to support the development of the allocated sites, and will sit alongside an updated Local Transport Plan and an Economic Development Strategy. Together, these Plans will seek to deliver on the Council's economic ambition and its core purpose of becoming a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life. The RLDP is based on a wide-ranging [evidence base](#) which can be found on our website.
- x. Section 2 of the Preferred Strategy sets out a profile of Monmouthshire, and Section 3 identifies the issues, challenges and opportunities facing our communities to help inform the Plan priorities and objectives.

Context

- xi. A high level summary of the County's profile (Section 2 of the Preferred Strategy) is provided below. Monmouthshire:
- occupies a strategic location at the gateway to Wales, easily accessible by rail and road from the major centres in South Wales, the South West of England, London and the Midlands;
 - has a land area of approximately 88,000 hectares (880 square kilometres), of which 3% is defined as 'built on'²;
 - has an estimated population of 92,961³ of which:
 - i. 52% live within the four primary settlements of Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow and Monmouth;
 - ii. the median age is 49 years compared to 34 years in Cardiff, and there is a significantly higher proportion of older age groups (65+) and a lower proportion of young adults (16-44) compared to the Welsh average. The proportion of our population aged 65+ and 85+ is increasing well in excess of the Welsh average. The 2021 Census shows that the population aged 65+ has increased by 26% this compares to a Welsh average of 18%. For the County as a whole, the 2021 Census identifies that nearly 26% of the population is over 65 (compared to 21% in Wales), with 16% under 16 (18% in Wales) and just over 58% in the working age population group (16-64) (61% in Wales). The change in the population profile of Monmouthshire in the past 10 years is shown clearly in the population pyramid below. The continuing trend for an ageing demographic is one of the key issues that Monmouthshire is facing.

Change in Population Profile between the 2011 and 2021 Census

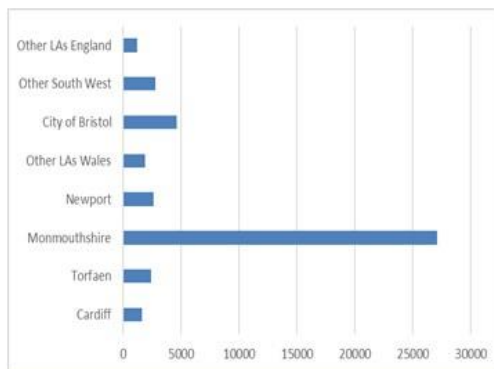


² Corine Landcover Inventory

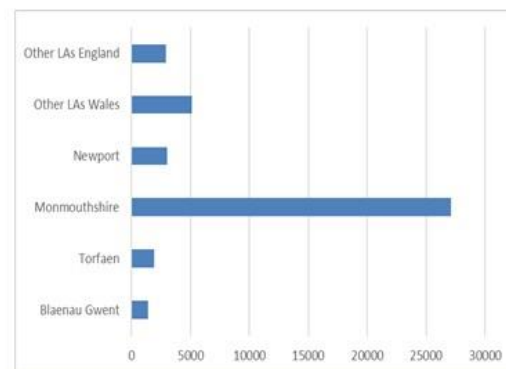
³ 2021 Census

- iii. nearly 80% (79.7%) of the working-age population were economically active, higher than the figure for Wales (76.5%), with a lower proportion of working age people unemployed (2.9% in Monmouthshire compared to 3.8% in Wales)⁴;
- has a net out-commute of approximately 2,800 residents. 61% of residents who are employed work within the County. Of those commuting out for employment nearly 27% were commuting to the City of Bristol and a further 23% to other areas in England⁵:

Where residents of Monmouthshire Work



Where those who work in Monmouthshire live



- has a distinctive identity arising from its location in the borderlands between England and the industrial heartland of South Wales, with historic market towns and a rich built heritage that includes 31 Conservation Areas, 45 Historic Parks and Gardens, three Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest, approximately 164 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and 2,149 Listed Buildings;
- has a diverse landscape stretching from the Gwent Levels in the south to the uplands of the Brecon Beacons National Park and Blaenavon Industrial World Heritage Site in the north-west to the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the east;
- is home to significant environmental designations including four Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) (the River Wye, the River Usk, the Wye Valley Woodlands and the Wye Valley Bat Sites), nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and non-statutory locally identified Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs);
- has a strong core of agri-food, tourism, manufacturing, digital and tech businesses; According to tourism economic indicator STEAM report 2019⁶. (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor) data, the tourism sector brought £245m into Monmouthshire in 2019 (latest figures available) and supported the equivalent of 3,119 full-time jobs.

⁴ April 2021 – March 2022 ONS Annual Population Survey

⁵ ONS 2021 Annual Population Survey

⁶ STEAM Trend Report 10-2019

<https://www.visitmonmouthshire.com/dbimgs/STEAM%20Report%20MOM%202021.pdf>

- xii. The Preferred Strategy has been prepared in the context of relevant legislation and plans, policies and strategies at the national, regional and local levels, details of which are set out in Appendix 3 of the Preferred Strategy.

Key Issues, Challenges and Opportunities

- xiii. The key issues, challenges and opportunities/drivers facing the County (economic, environmental, social and cultural) are set out in the RLDP Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper⁷ (updated December 2022) and in Appendix 4 of the Preferred Strategy. The issues have been grouped to align with the Seven Well-being Goals as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to ensure that they are framed within this context. A high-level summary of the issues is provided below:

Access to housing:

- xiv. Average house prices in the County are the highest in Wales at £398,859 compared to the Welsh average of £236,439 (Hometrack, November 2022)⁸. In contrast, median wages are low for those working within the County, with gender inequality evident in median wages. This means a large proportion of younger people cannot afford to buy a home so either leave the County or have to live with their parents or in shared housing for longer. The 2021 Census shows a 14% increase in households with non-dependent children. We have 2,200 households identified as being in need of affordable housing⁹. The unaffordability of housing directly relates to our ageing demographic profile.
- xv. Future Wales 2040 Policy 7 *Delivering Affordable Homes* provides the framework to address this issue through affordable housing led developments. Policy 3 *Supporting Urban Growth and Regeneration - Public Sector Leadership* sets out that Welsh Government will play an active role in the delivery of growth and urban regeneration, working with local authorities to unlock the potential of public land and support local authorities to take an increased development role. These policies have shaped the RLDP requirement for 50% affordable housing provision on new site allocations, as well as influencing the spatial strategy and choice of the preferred direction for strategic sites in each principal town.

An ageing demographic

- xvi. By 2033 we will have more old people living in the County but fewer young people (see para xi above). An older population changes the kind of services our communities will need, but also reduces the economically active population making Monmouthshire a less attractive place for businesses to locate. This impacts on our future economic prospects. The Preferred Strategy seeks to ensure younger people are able to remain in or relocate to the County to live and work.

⁷ The Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper can be viewed via <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/development-of-an-evidence-base/>

⁸ Based on sales and valuations over six month period March 2022 – August 2022. Sales only over same period related to £351,643 for Monmouthshire and £224,101 for Wales. Data accessed on 02/11/2022.

⁹ MCC Affordable Housing Prospectus 2022

Sustaining rural communities

- xvii. There are challenges of rural isolation and sustaining rural communities, including regenerating the rural economy. The recent pandemic has emphasised the importance of locally accessible services and facilities. Policy 4 *Supporting Rural Communities* and Policy 5 *Supporting the Rural Economy* of Future Wales 2040 provide the policy framework to consider how age-balanced communities can be achieved, where depopulation should be reversed and allowing for sustainable, appropriate and proportionate economic growth. The RLDP will allow for a modest level of growth to main villages to enable the provision of essential affordable homes, as well as supporting rural diversification and sustainable tourism.

The climate and nature emergency

- xviii. The RLDP will enable renewable energy generation and will require net zero carbon ready developments. The Carbon Trust is completing a renewable energy assessment and this will accompany the Deposit Plan. Development will be located to reduce the need to travel and support modal shift in accordance with *Llwybr Newydd – The Wales Transport Strategy 2021*, will be located to avoid flood risk in accordance with national planning policy, and will recognise the role resilient ecosystems can play in tackling carbon emissions and mitigating the impact of climate change. Policies will protect sites designated for biodiversity, habitats and species and require net biodiversity benefit in accordance with Section 6 of the Environment Act.
- xix. Significant investment in Active Travel is ongoing using Welsh Government funding supported by match funding. The [Active Travel Network Maps](#) reflect the June 2021 options for strategic growth around each principal settlement to consider how modal shift and behaviour change can be integrated from the outset. The Council is implementing an ambitious programme of 20mph speed limits beyond and in advance of the legislative change in September 2023. The Burns Commission and South Wales Metro projects propose public transport improvements in Monmouthshire including increased train service frequency at Abergavenny, Chepstow and Severn Tunnel Junction stations, improved inter-modal connectivity and coordination, streamlined ticketing, improved bus services and a new walkway station at Magor.

Water quality

- xx. Following new evidence about the environmental impacts of phosphates in watercourses, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has adopted tighter targets for river water quality and has assessed the nine riverine Special Areas of Conservation in Wales. Within Monmouthshire, 88% of the River Usk's water bodies and 67% of the River Wye's water bodies failed to meet the required target. NRW has issued [detailed planning guidance](#) to ensure that the environmental capacity of the rivers does not deteriorate any further. A [plan of the affected catchment area of the rivers](#) can be found on the Council's website.
- xxi. A Motion for Rivers and Ocean was declared by Council in March 2022 with an [action plan](#) agreed by Council in September 2022 to outline steps the Council will take to protect our rivers and ocean.

- xxii. The Council is working closely with stakeholders, in particular Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water and Natural Resources Wales, neighbouring Local Authorities, the Wye Nutrient Management Board and the Usk Catchment Partnership, to identify and implement options for delivering improvements in water quality. A deliverable solution has been identified for the upper River Usk catchment to facilitate growth via improvements to the Llanfoist Wastewater Treatment Works. No such strategic solution is currently deliverable for the upper River Wye catchment: consequently, the spatial strategy proposes no new site allocations in this area. This environmental constraint means the Council cannot address its social and economic objectives in the upper River Wye catchment. This is considered further at paragraph xxxvi.

Economic development

- xxiii. A range of suitably located and deliverable employment sites and supportive policies are needed to enable existing businesses to remain and to attract appropriate growth sectors. The potential increase in agile and home working in some sectors affects employment land demand/requirements and location choices and places a greater emphasis on quality of environment than travel distance. This increases Monmouthshire's attractiveness to inward investors.
- xxiv. There are opportunities associated with growth from both the Cardiff Capital Region and Bristol region. The overarching economic objectives of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal are to create 25,000 new jobs and leverage £4 billion in private sector investment across the region. The key strategic themes present opportunities for the RLDP including:
- Connecting the Region: a Digital Strategy to create a smart region, drive innovation and attract private sector partnership and investment, improve connectivity via mobile 5G access and maximise open data.
 - Regeneration and Infrastructure: the Housing and Investment Fund supports the delivery of more homes across the region and will support SMEs with loan development finance and a Customer Build Scheme releasing smaller plots of public sector land;
 - Skills and Employment: the Skills for the Future Project provides careers advice, support for businesses to address barriers of participation and a commitment to support delivery of over 10,000 additional apprenticeships, graduate internships and upskilled employees in the private sector;
- xxv. The Council's Economic Growth and Ambition Statement and Prospectus set out the aspirations to raise the profile of Monmouthshire as a dynamic place to do business, a credible place to invest and an incredible place to live, visit and stay. It recognises that Monmouthshire's economy needs to grow to help build sustainable and resilient communities and sets out the priorities and aims to achieve this vision.

Town centres first

- xxvi. Vacancy rates in some of the County's town centres have increased due to changing shopping habits including internet shopping and economic factors such as high business rates and the cost of living crisis. The RLDP will support a town centre first

approach, will review policies to ensure they suit future High Streets, and will promote connected communities and 20 minute neighbourhoods. The three Preferred Strategic Site Allocations will be supported by active travel improvements to connect them to town centres and public transport hubs.

Landscape, food supply and tourism

- xxvii. The approach to selecting sites for allocation in the Deposit Plan will follow the Site Search Sequence outlined in PPW11, which prioritises the use of suitable and sustainably located previously developed land before considering greenfield sites. However, it is acknowledged that Monmouthshire has few brownfield sites.
- xxviii. A key consideration in assessing the Candidate Sites will be the high percentage of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land within Monmouthshire. The Council's anticipated approach to protecting BMV land and minimising loss is set out in Appendix 5 of the Preferred Strategy. All four of our primary settlements are surrounded by BMV agricultural land, so it is not possible to avoid the development of such land via a different spatial strategy.
- xxix. We want to protect the landscapes and heritage that make Monmouthshire a unique and attractive place to live. The RLDP recognises the value and importance of placemaking and the provision of locally accessible open/spaces for health and well-being and recreation.
- xxx. Tourism plays a significant part in the Monmouthshire economy particularly in assisting in the diversification of the rural economy and in sustaining the County's historic town centres. The RLDP will support such development.
- xxxi. Policy 34 of Future Wales 2040 requires the South East Wales Strategic Development Plan (SDP) to identify a green belt to the north of Cardiff, Newport and the eastern part of the region to manage urban form and growth. An indicative plan is provided at page 163 of Future Wales 2040. While the County's main towns are situated outside of Future Wales' indicative green belt, in assessing candidate sites and their relationship to Policy 34 of Future Wales, consideration will be given to paragraph 3.72 of PPW11 which states that a proposed Green Belt designation should have regard to the longer term need for development land, the effects of development pressures in areas beyond the Green Belt and the need to minimise demand for travel. A Green Belt Study has been commissioned on a sub-regional basis to inform the evidence base of RLDPs and the South East Wales SDP.

RLDP Vision (2018-2033)

- xxxi. The Vision clarifies the core purpose of the RLDP and provides a framework for developing the Preferred Strategy and future detailed policies.

By 2033 Monmouthshire will be a place where:

- (1) **People are living in sustainable, resilient communities that support the well-being of current and future generations and are more inclusive, equal, safe, cohesive, prosperous, vibrant and balanced demographically. Both urban**

and rural communities are well-connected with better access to local services and facilities, open space and employment opportunities.

- (2) Communities and businesses are part of an economically thriving, ambitious and well-connected County.
- (3) The best of the County's built heritage, countryside, biodiversity, landscape and environmental assets have been protected and enhanced to retain its distinctive character.
- (4) People enjoy healthier, more sustainable lifestyles with improved access to public transport and active travel opportunities and have a minimised impact on the global environment, supporting our ambitions for a zero carbon county.

The implications of achieving this Vision will be that by 2033 Monmouthshire will be home to well-connected exemplar, affordable housing-led, net zero carbon ready places that provide employment and support demographically balanced sustainable and resilient communities for all.

RLDP Objectives (2018-2033): Delivering the Vision

xxxiii.

In order to address the key issues and challenges and deliver the Vision, seventeen Objectives have been developed. The Objectives are sufficiently aspirational yet achievable. They have been grouped to align with the seven well-being goals as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: they are not listed in priority order.

Figure 2 – RLDP Objectives

RLDP Objective Number	Headline	RLDP Objective
A Prosperous Wales (Well-being Goal 1)		
Objective 1	Economic Growth/ Employment*	To support a thriving, well-connected, diverse economy, which provides a range of good quality employment opportunities to enable and encourage indigenous business growth and attract inward investment and competitive innovative businesses in appropriate growth sectors, including through the provision of start-ups and grow on spaces.
Objective 2	Town and Local Centres*	To sustain and enhance the County's market towns of Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow, Monmouth, and local centres of Magor, Raglan and Usk as vibrant and attractive centres serving the needs of their population and those of their surrounding hinterlands, and supporting adaptation to meet the needs of the evolving role of the high street.
A Resilient Wales (Well-being Goal 2)		
Objective 3	Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Landscape*	To protect, enhance and manage the resilience of Monmouthshire's natural environment, biodiversity and ecosystems and the connectivity between them, while at the same time maximising benefits for the economy, tourism, health and well-being. This includes the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the County's other high quality and distinctive landscapes, protected sites, protected species and other biodiversity interests.
Objective 4	Flood risk	To ensure that new development takes account of the risk of flooding, both existing and in the future, including the need to avoid inappropriate development in areas that are at risk from flooding or that may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere and the need to design development, including the use of natural flood management measures to appropriately manage flood risk and surface water run-off.
Objective 5	Minerals and Waste	To meet the County's regional and local obligations to manage and dispose of its waste and to safeguard and exploit its mineral resource in a sustainable fashion.

RLDP Objective Number	Headline	RLDP Objective
Objective 6	Land	To promote the efficient use of land, including the need to: • maximise opportunities for development on previously developed land, whilst recognising that brownfield opportunities are limited in Monmouthshire. • protect the best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land whilst at the same time recognising that this will not always be possible given high proportion of BMV land in the County and the limited opportunities for brownfield development. • support the adaptation and re-use of existing sustainably located buildings.
Objective 7	Natural resources	To promote the efficient use of natural resources including providing increased opportunities for water efficiency, energy efficiency, renewable energy, recycling and waste reduction.
A Healthier Wales (Well-being Goal 3)		
Objective 8	Health and Well-being*	To improve access for all to recreation, sport, leisure activities, open space and the countryside and to enable healthier lifestyles. To support the Health Board to improve health infrastructure to meet community needs.
A More Equal Wales (Well-being Goal 4)		
Objective 9	Demography*	To increase opportunities for the younger population to both live and work within Monmouthshire, creating a more balanced demography and socially and economically sustainable communities.
A Wales of Cohesive Communities (Well-being Goal 5)		
Objective 10	Housing*	To provide urgently needed affordable housing within exemplar, mixed, sustainable and well-connected places both for existing and future residents
Objective 11	Placemaking	To create exemplar sustainable places through design, layout and mix of uses that enhance the character and identity of Monmouthshire's settlements and landscape; create attractive, safe and

RLDP Objective Number	Headline	RLDP Objective
		accessible places to live, work and visit; and promote people's prosperity, health, happiness and well-being.
Objective 12	Communities	To build sustainable resilient communities where people have good access to employment, shops, housing, public transport, active travel, healthcare, community and cultural facilities.
Objective 13	Rural Communities	To sustain existing rural communities as far as possible by providing affordable homes and development opportunities of an appropriate scale and location in rural areas in order to assist in building sustainable rural communities and strengthening the rural economy.
Objective 14	Infrastructure*	To ensure that appropriate physical and digital infrastructure (including community and recreational facilities, sewerage, water, transport, schools, health care and broadband etc.) is in place or can be provided to accommodate new development.
Objective 15	Accessibility	To seek to reduce the need to travel by promoting a mix of land use allocations and improved internet connectivity, and where travel is required, to provide opportunities for active travel and integrated sustainable transport above use of the private car.
A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language (Well-being Goal 6)		
Objective 16	Culture, Heritage and Welsh Language	To protect and enhance the built environment, culture and heritage of Monmouthshire for the future while maximising benefits for the economy, tourism and social well-being, including supporting and safeguarding the Welsh Language.
A Globally Responsible Wales (Well-being Goal 7)		
Objective 17	Climate and Nature Emergency *	To strive to limit the increase in global temperatures to 1.5°C, supporting carbon reduction through a variety of adaptation measures including facilitating resilient ecosystems and nature recovery, the use of renewable energy, net zero ready homes, the design and location of new development, encouraging balanced job and population growth to reduce out-commuting, the

RLDP Objective Number	Headline	RLDP Objective
		provision of broadband connectivity to reduce the need to travel, the provision of ultra-low emission vehicle charging infrastructure to reduce emissions and improve air quality, and the provision of quality Green Infrastructure.

** indicates the Objective has increased emphasis and importance in light of the Covid-19 pandemic*

Preferred Strategy

- xxxiv. The Preferred Strategy strikes a compromise between achieving our local evidence-based objectives that underpinned the June 2021 Preferred Strategy and the Welsh Government's response that objected to the level of growth proposed at that time. The spatial strategy takes account of the water quality constraint in the upper River Wye catchment.
- xxxv. The Preferred Strategy:
- **Makes provision for approximately 5,400 - 5,940 homes over the Plan period 2018-2033¹⁰** (Strategic Policy S1). This includes approximately 1,580 - 1,850 affordable homes (Strategic Policy S6). As there are currently approximately 3,740 homes in the housing landbank¹¹, **land will be allocated for approximately 1,660 - 2,200 new homes**, including 830 - 1,100 new affordable homes.
 - Sets out the planning policy framework to **enable the provision of approximately 6,240 additional jobs** (Strategic Policy S1) **by allocating sufficient employment land and by including policies to facilitate economic growth** (Strategic Policy S12). The RLDP will be supported by an Economic Development Strategy.
 - **Focuses growth in the County's most sustainable settlements of Abergavenny, Chepstow and Caldicot (including Severnside)** (Strategic Policy S2). Due to the lack of an identified strategic solution to the treatment of phosphates at the Monmouth Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) within the Plan period, **no new site allocations are proposed in the primary settlement of Monmouth** or within the upper River Wye catchment area north of Bigsweir Bridge.
 - Identifies **Preferred Strategic Site Allocations** in the primary settlements of Abergavenny, Chepstow and Caldicot (Strategic Policy S7). Other detailed site allocations will be set out in the Deposit RLDP.
 - Limits the impact of climate change by ensuring **new homes are net zero carbon ready and well connected with existing settlements**, providing attractive and accessible places to live and work.
 - **Sets out strategic policies** on a range of topic areas, reflecting the four placemaking themes in Planning Policy Wales (PPW)¹².
- xxxvi. It is recognised that the Preferred Strategy is unable to deliver the Council's objectives, including the delivery of new affordable homes, in those settlements in the phosphate affected upper River Wye catchment. As there are currently no identified strategic solutions to the treatment of water quality in the upper River Wye catchment area

¹⁰ In accordance with the Development Plans Manual (WG, March 2020) an allowance is provisionally made for a 10% flexibility allowance to factor in sites that may not come forward, unforeseen issues or to meet higher aspirations for the County to enable the provision/delivery of additional sites if all sites are delivered. The flexibility allowance will be given further consideration and refined at Deposit stage.

¹¹ As the Plan period has already begun (2018) some of the homes in the landbank have been built, are under construction or have planning permission. The landbank figure also takes into account windfall sites and small sites.

¹² PPW edition 11, WG, February 2021.

during the Plan period, this shortcoming is unavoidable. In contrast, strategic solutions are being developed to enable the treatment of phosphates in the River Usk catchment area. This will enable sustainable growth within the most sustainable settlements within the River Usk catchment area over the Plan period. The southern part of the County where the rivers are tidal remain unaffected by this constraint.

xxxvii. If a strategic solution to water quality is secured in the Monmouth Wastewater Treatment Works during the Plan period, then windfall sites within settlement boundaries could be developed. In accordance with the Development Plans Manual, these will be considered as ‘bonus sites’ and will not count towards our housing figures. It is proposed to include the following sites within the settlement boundary for Monmouth:

- Current LDP allocation at Drewen Farm, off Wonastow Road (approximately 110 homes);
- Current LDP allocation at Tudor Road, Wyesham (approximately 35 homes);
- Site with planning permission at Rockfield Road (approximately 130 homes).

The above sites have been unable to proceed at present due to the water quality constraint. In contrast, all other allocated housing sites within the adopted LDP that have not been delivered will be de-allocated.

Preferred Level of Growth and Preferred Spatial Strategy

xxxviii. Strategic Policies S1 and S2 set out the RLDP’s preferred growth strategy and preferred spatial strategy respectively.

Strategic Policy S1 – Preferred Growth Strategy

In order to meet Monmouthshire’s core purpose of building sustainable and resilient communities for all, between 2018 and 2033 the Plan will make provision for:

- 5,940* homes to meet a housing requirement of 5,400 homes
- 6,240 new jobs

The focus of this growth will be on the County’s most sustainable settlements, as outlined in the sustainable settlement hierarchy set out in Policy S2.

*This figure includes an indicative 10% flexibility allowance, which will be subject to further consideration and refinement at Deposit Plan stage

xxxix. The Preferred Growth Strategy is based on a demographic-led scenario with added policy assumptions¹³. It provides a level of growth (homes and jobs) that maximises the extent to which we can address our local evidence-based issues and objectives in the south of the County and River Usk catchment area, including delivery of affordable homes, sustainable economic growth, rebalancing our demography by ensuring that

¹³ Demographic-led option for the LPA area (i.e. excludes the BBNP area within Monmouthshire) using ONS 2020 MYE base and applying assumptions in relation to migration, household membership rates and commuting ratio, as set out in the Housing Background Paper.

young people can choose to live in the County, and responding to the climate and nature emergency, whilst also having regard to Welsh Government officer concerns regarding alignment with Future Wales 2040, and the water quality constraint in the upper River Wye catchment.

Strategic Policy S2 – Spatial Distribution of Development – Settlement Hierarchy				
In order to deliver sustainable and resilient communities for all, the main focus for new development will be distributed based on the following settlement hierarchy:				
Settlement Hierarchy		Indicative Distribution of Residential Growth*		Distribution of Employment Growth
		Indicative % of distribution	Indicative No. of homes	This will be set out in the Deposit RLDP and will be consistent with the spatial strategy and commensurate to the level of housing growth.
Tier 1	Primary Settlements: - Abergavenny (inc. Llanfoist) - Chepstow - Monmouth (inc. Wyesham) - Caldicot (inc. Severnside Area comprising of: Caerwent, Crick, Magor Undy, Portskewett, Rogiet and Sudbrook)	24% 13% 5% 44% across Severnside Area	1,403 769 275 2,609 across Severnside Area	
Tier 2	Secondary Settlements: - Penperlleni - Raglan - Usk	6% across Secondary Settlements	380 across Secondary Settlements	
Tier 3	Main Rural Settlements: Devauden Dingestow Little Mill Llandogo Llanellen Llangybi Llanover Llanvair Discoed Mathern Pwllmeyric Shirenewton/ Mynyddbach St Arvans Tintern Trellech Werngifford/Pandy	8% across Main Rural and Minor Rural Settlements (Tiers 3 and 4)	504 across Main Rural and Minor Rural Settlements (Tiers 3 and 4)	
Tier 4	Minor Rural Settlements: Bettws Newydd			

	Broadstone /Catbrook Brynygwenin Coed y Paen Cross Ash Cuckoo's Row Great Oak Grosmont Gwehelog Llanarth Llanddewi Rhydderch Llandegveth Llandenny Llangwm Llanishen Llansoy Llantilio Crossenny Llantrisant Llanvair Kilgeddin Llanvapley Mitchel Troy Penallt Penpergwm The Bryn The Narth Tredunnock			

Development boundaries will be defined for Settlement Tiers 1 – 3, within which the principle of development is considered to be acceptable, subject to the detailed policy considerations to be set out in the RLDP.

Within Tier 4 – Minor Rural Settlements, minor infilling between existing buildings will be considered acceptable, subject to the detailed policy requirements to be set out in the RLDP.

Outside of Tiers 1 – 4, open countryside policies will apply where planning permission will only be allowed for the following types of development, subject to satisfying detailed planning criteria:

- Acceptable conversions of rural buildings
- Sub-division of existing dwellings
- Rural Enterprise Dwellings
- One Planet Development
- Rural diversification and rural enterprise uses
- Affordable housing exception sites adjoining settlement boundaries to meet local needs
- Gypsy and Traveller Sites

*Figures include an indicative 10% flexibility allowance which will be subject to further consideration and refinement at Deposit Plan stage. The spatial distribution figures should be treated as indicative as they may alter following detailed Candidate Site assessment work.

- xl. Policy S2 seeks to focus housing and a commensurate level of employment growth in the primary settlements of Abergavenny (including Llanfoist), Chepstow and Caldicot including the Severnside area. A lower level of growth is proposed in the most sustainable lower tier settlements to deliver much needed rural affordable homes, address rural inequality and rural isolation.
- xli. The exact distribution of development will be identified in the Deposit RLDP. Where growth cannot be met in an individual settlement, it will be directed toward a same tier or higher tier settlement within the same Housing Market Area. Further detail including a map of the Housing Market Areas is provided in the Housing Background Paper. The RLDP will seek to allocate those sites that are the best connected, most sustainable, best deliver placemaking and are least harmful, which will require balanced consideration and trade-offs at Deposit Plan stage. The same approach has been taken in identifying the Preferred Strategic Site Allocations for each primary settlement.
- xlii. The table below (Figure 3) sets out the indicative distribution of the proposed housing growth. A full breakdown of each component is set out in Table 10 of the Housing Background Paper. There are different components that contribute towards the 5,940 homes (5,400 plus 10% flexibility) including homes already built since 2018 (1,579 homes), sites with planning permission that will realistically be built (1,261 homes), small sites and windfalls (900 homes), and new site allocations (2,200 homes).

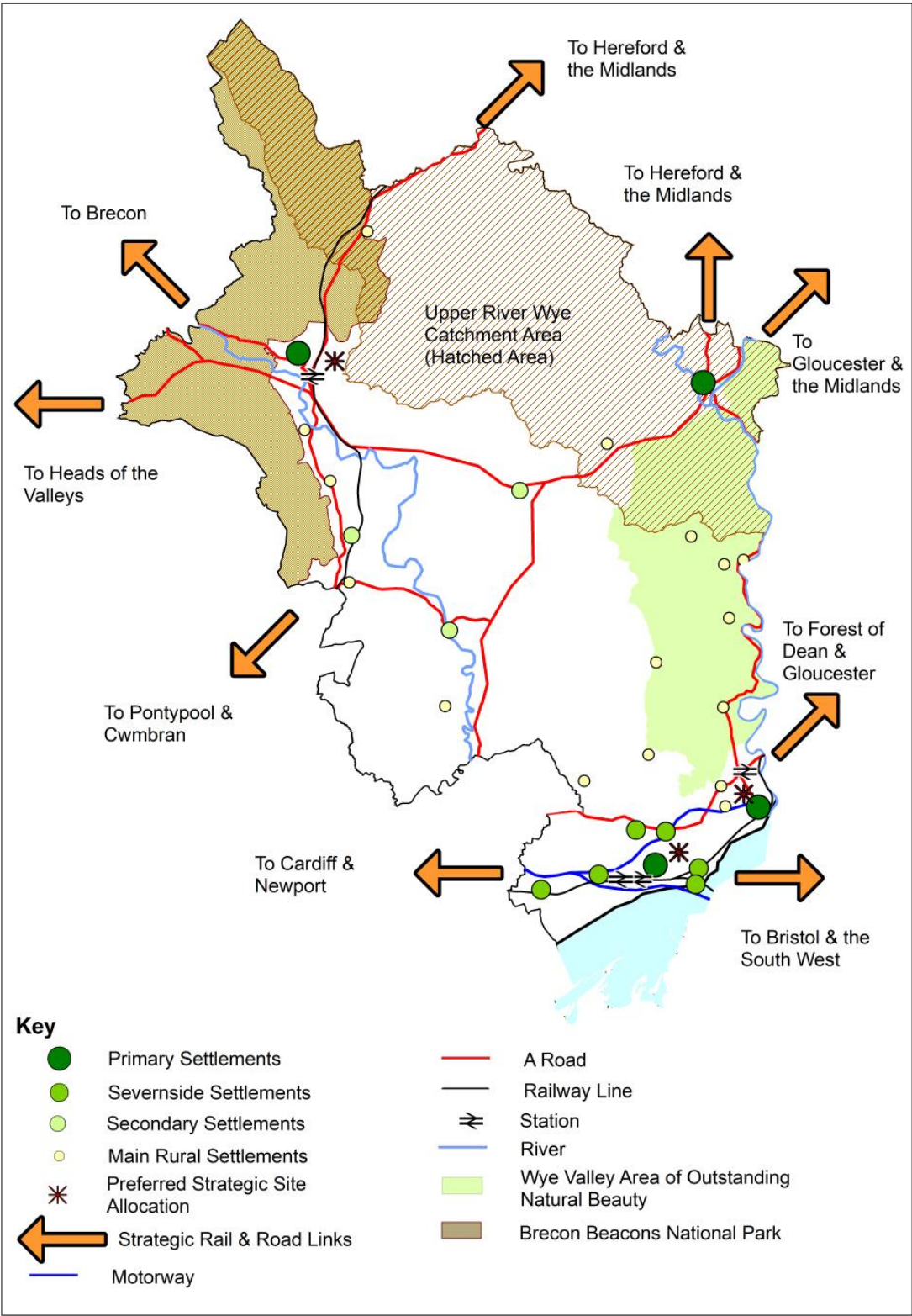
Figure 3: Summary of Indicative Spatial Distribution of Housing Provision*

Settlement	Total Commitments		Preferred Strategy		Total Housing Provision 2018-2033*
	Completions 2018-2021	Existing Commitments	Total Allowances (Small Sites; Windfalls)	RLDP New Housing Allocations (Dwellings)	
Abergavenny (incl. Llanfoist)	426	132	245	600	1,403
Chepstow	192	267	165	145	769
Monmouth (incl. Wyesham)	264	11	0	0	275
Caldicot (incl. Severnside)	466	723	220	1,200	2609
Secondary Settlements	100	45	80	155	380
Rural Settlements	131	83	190	100	504
Total	1,579	1,261	900	2,200	5,940

*Figures include an indicative 10% flexibility allowance which will be subject to further consideration and refinement at Deposit Plan stage. The spatial distribution figures should be treated as indicative as they may alter following the consideration of sites submitted as part of the second Call for Candidate Sites and detailed site assessment work.

xlili. The Preferred Strategy is illustrated in the Key Diagram below.

Figure 4: Key diagram of the Preferred Strategy



IMPLEMENTATION & DELIVERY - STRATEGIC POLICIES

- xliv. This section sets out the Strategic Policies which form the framework for implementing and delivering the Preferred Strategy as set out in Strategic Policies S1 and S2. The format and structure reflect PPW11's placemaking themes¹⁴ and the overarching aim of delivering sustainable development.

STRATEGIC & SPATIAL CHOICES

- xlv. These policies focus on setting out how Monmouthshire's preferred level and spatial distribution of growth will contribute to supporting sustainable and resilient communities for all. It is important that development contributes to the creation of sustainable places that focus on delivering placemaking and ensuring that Monmouthshire's communities are sustainable in the long-term and are attractive places to live, work and visit.

Sustainable Placemaking & High Quality Design

Strategic Policy S3 – Sustainable Placemaking & High Quality Design

Development will contribute to creating high quality, attractive and sustainable places that support the health and well-being of the community. In order to achieve this, development shall:

- i) Incorporate high quality, sustainable, safe and inclusive design that offers ease of access for all and provides connectivity between uses;**
- ii) Incorporate an appropriate mix of uses to minimise the need to travel and to maximise opportunities for active travel and public transport use;**
- iii) Incorporate a Green Infrastructure-led approach that respects local distinctiveness and the character of the site and its surroundings; and**
- iv) Protect and enhance the natural, historic and built environments and show an understanding of how these function together to contribute towards the quality of places.**

Climate Change

Strategic Policy S4 – Climate Change

All development proposals will be required to address the causes of, and adapt to the impacts of, climate change. Means of achieving this will include:

- i) Avoiding locating development in areas at risk of flooding, or where appropriate, minimising the risk of flooding including the incorporation of measures such as Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and flood resilient design;**

¹⁴ Figure 6 PPW11 – Page 20

- ii) Incorporating low/zero carbon energy requirements by reducing energy demand and promoting energy efficiency;
- iii) Supporting the development of renewable and low/zero carbon energy generation and a presumption against energy generation utilising fossil fuels, fracking and methods that are not low/zero carbon;
- iv) Utilising sustainable construction techniques and local supplies through the adoption of the circular economy principles;
- v) Incorporating water efficiency measures and minimising adverse impacts on water resources and quality;
- vi) Using land efficiently and co-locating uses to minimise the overall need to travel and maximise opportunities for active travel and public transport use;
- vii) Providing ultra-low emission vehicle charging infrastructure to reduce emissions and improve air quality; and
- viii) Supporting the resilience of development through Green Infrastructure solutions including: opportunities for biodiversity and resilient ecosystems, greenspace provision and connectivity, and water resource management.

Detailed targets and measures will follow in the Deposit RLDP policies and site allocations.

- xlvi. We recognise that the climate emergency and nature emergency are intrinsically linked and that the principles of sustainable development are wide-ranging and include such aspects as transport, green infrastructure, and the natural environment. These principles are dealt with in the Plan's other Strategic Policies, including S3 – Sustainable Placemaking & High Quality Design, S9– Sustainable Transport and S17 – Green Infrastructure, Landscape and Nature Conservation and are therefore not repeated in this policy. These policies should be considered as a whole.

Infrastructure Provision

Strategic Policy S5 – Infrastructure Provision

Where existing infrastructure is inadequate to serve the proposed development, new or improved infrastructure and facilities to remedy deficiencies must be provided as part of the proposed development. Where possible, infrastructure improvements should be provided prior to occupation. Where provision on-site is not appropriate, off-site provision, or a financial contribution towards it, will be sought.

Arrangements will be required towards the future management and maintenance of facilities provided, either in the form of initial support or in perpetuity.

Planning Obligations will be sought to secure improvements in infrastructure, facilities, services and related works, where they are necessary to make development acceptable. In identifying appropriate contributions, due regard will be paid to the overall development viability, including the cost of measures that are necessary to physically deliver a development and ensure that it is acceptable in planning terms. Such obligations may include:

- **Affordable Housing Provision**
- **Education Facilities**
- **Active Travel**
- **Sustainable Transport Measures**
- **Transport Infrastructure**
- **Recreation and Leisure Facilities including formal and informal open space**
- **Green Infrastructure**
- **Community and Cultural Facilities**
- **Ecological Mitigation and Enhancement**
- **Strategic utilities including; water and sewerage infrastructure**
- **Waste management facilities**
- **Health infrastructure**

In the event that viability considerations indicate that not all the identified contributions can be reasonably required, priority contributions will be determined on the basis of the individual circumstances of each case. In the case of housing developments, priority will be given to the affordable housing required by Policy S6 unless there is an overwhelming need for the available contribution, in whole or in part, to be allocated for some other necessary purpose/s.

ACTIVE & SOCIAL PLACES

- xlvi. The Active & Social Places theme aims to create well-connected and cohesive communities. The Strategic Policies contained within this section seek to deliver well connected, active and healthy communities that have access to good quality homes, services and community facilities. Detail relating to the required tenure split will be included in the Deposit RLDP based on the most up to date information contained in the Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA): the current LHMA identifies that 68% of affordable housing need is for social rent, 7% for intermediate rent and 25% for low cost home ownership. An updated LHMA is being prepared using the new Welsh Government template.

Affordable Homes

Strategic Policy S6 – Affordable Homes

The affordable homes target for the Plan period of 2018 – 2033 is 1,580 – 1,850 homes.

The Council is committed to ensuring the delivery of 50% affordable homes on all new site allocations.

Further detail relating to affordable housing thresholds will be included in the Deposit RLDP to reflect the outcomes of the emerging viability work.

Preferred Strategic Site Allocations

Strategic Policy S7 – Preferred Strategic Site Allocations

Strategic Sites will be allocated to contribute to the delivery of the housing and job growth rates set out in Policy S1. The following sites are identified as Preferred Strategic Site Allocations:

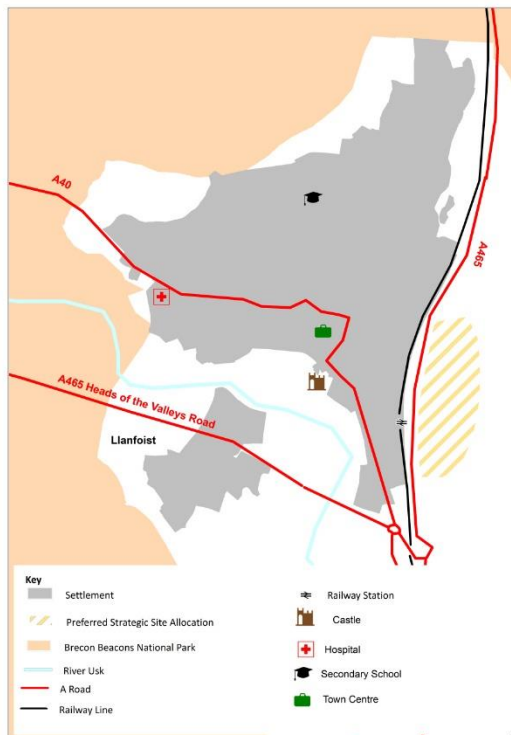
- a) Abergavenny East
- b) Bayfield, Chepstow
- c) Caldicot East

- xlvi. In order to implement the RLDP's Strategy, Preferred Strategic Site Allocations have been identified for the Primary Settlements of Abergavenny, Chepstow and Caldicot. These sites have been selected from a total of 13 strategic growth options located across Abergavenny, Chepstow, Monmouth and Severnside that were previously consulted on in the 2021 Preferred Strategy. Site selection has been informed by the consultation responses received on the 2021 Preferred Strategy. To inform these Preferred Strategic Site Allocations, a high-level assessment has been undertaken to identify those sites which could contribute to delivering the level of growth (housing and jobs) required to deliver the Preferred Strategy. These sites have provided sufficient evidence of viability and deliverability that will be built on as the Plan progresses. Two of the sites, namely Abergavenny East and Caldicot East, are anticipated to provide housing both within and beyond the RLDP plan period.
- xlvii. Following the consultation on the Preferred Strategy the Council will undertake a detailed assessment of all sites to ensure delivery of the Plan's Strategy, including the provision of:
- 50% affordable homes;
 - Net zero carbon ready homes;
 - Necessary supporting infrastructure;

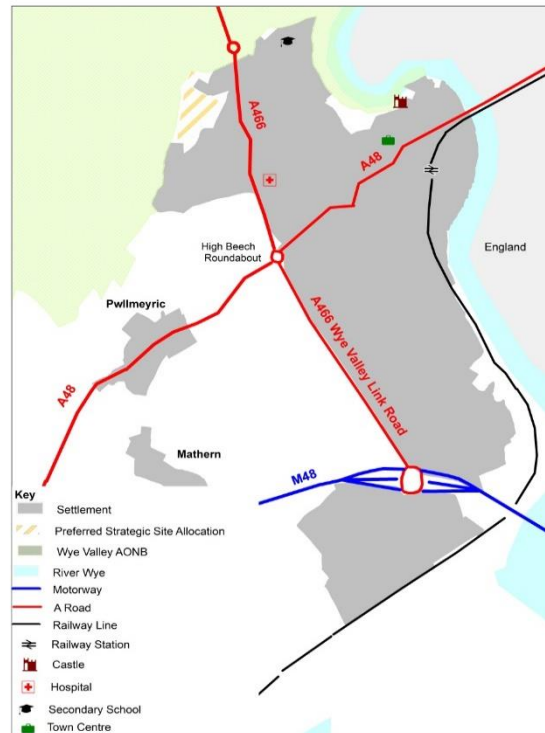
- A masterplanning process to ensure allocations create sustainable, cohesive, well-designed places delivered through a strong placemaking approach; and
- A financial viability assessment to ensure sites are deliverable within the Plan period.

Figure 5: Location of the Preferred Strategic Site Allocations

Abergavenny East



Bayfield Chepstow



Caldicot East

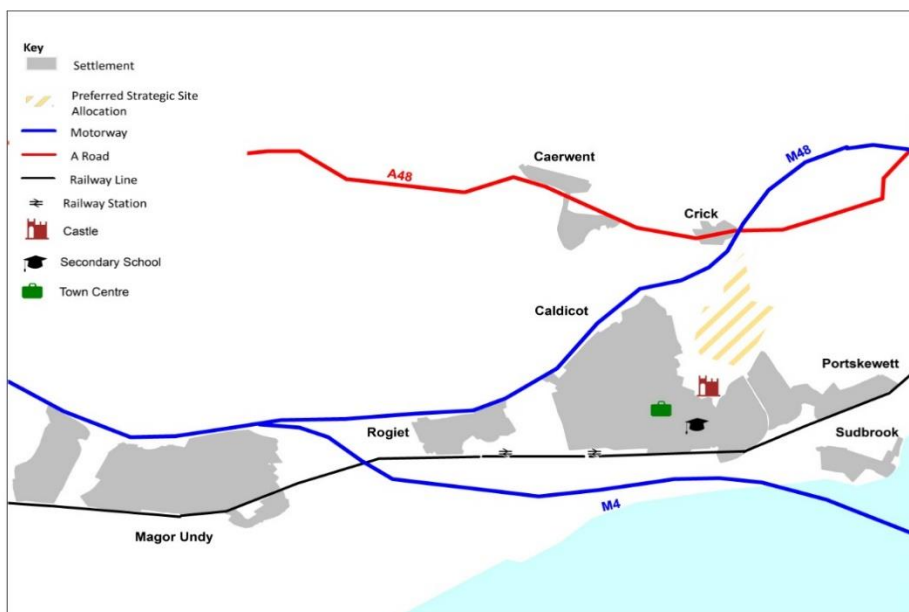


Figure 6: Details of the Preferred Strategic Site Allocations

Site Name	Candidate Site Reference	Size (Ha)	Proposed Use	No. of homes proposed in Candidate Site Submissions	Approximate No. of homes within Plan period
Abergavenny East	CS0213	24.75	Mixed Use: Residential, Employment, Retail, Leisure, Education and Community Use	635	500
Bayfield, Chepstow	CS0098	10.07	Residential	145	145
Caldicot East	CS0087 CS0251	67.67	Mixed Use: Residential, Employment, Retail, Leisure	1460	925

Gypsy and Travellers

Strategic Policy S8 – Gypsy and Travellers

Land will be made available to accommodate unmet Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs identified in the latest Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment.

- i. An updated Gypsy & Travellers Needs Assessment has been prepared and was submitted to Welsh Government for approval in January 2021¹⁵. This identified a need for nine residential pitches between the period 2020 – 2025 and a further four pitches for the remaining Plan period of 2026 – 2033, giving a total need of 13 pitches until the end of Plan period. The update did not identify a need for a transit pitch: this need is best considered on a regional basis through the SDP process.
- ii. Land will be identified to accommodate unmet Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need in the Deposit Plan. Specific criteria-based policies to assess proposals for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation that come forward during the Plan period will be considered within the Deposit RLDP.

¹⁵ Welsh Government approval is still awaited

Sustainable Transport

Strategic Policy S9 – Sustainable Transport

Development proposals must promote sustainable, low carbon, safe forms of transport which reduce the need to travel by car, increase provision for walking and cycling and improve public transport (rail and bus) provision in order to deliver significant health and well-being benefits through an increase in human physical activity, and environmental benefits through reduction of transport related air and noise pollution. This will be facilitated by:

- Development that accords with the Sustainable Transport Hierarchy (as set out in PPW, Future Wales and Llwybr Newydd) of reducing the need to travel by car, and promoting walking, cycling public transport and Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) above private motor vehicles;
- Promoting digital and innovative infrastructure in both urban and rural areas to enable remote working and reduction in a need to travel to the workplace on a day-by-day basis;
- Promoting Active Travel (walking and cycling) connectivity through safeguarding, enhancing and expanding on the Active Travel Network Maps (ATNMs);
- Locating development close to public transport facilities and designing developments to facilitate and improve public transport infrastructure, its connections and geographical reach to rural areas;
- Ensuring developments incorporate and/or enable the use of ULEVs by providing the necessary underlying infrastructure;
- Improving travel infrastructure safety;
- Ensuring developments are served by an appropriate level of parking provision depending on the nature and location of the proposal;
- Developing the role of Monmouthshire's Primary Settlements in accordance with the South East Wales Regional Plan and Monmouthshire's Local Transport Plan (LTP) around which low carbon sustainable transport opportunities can be developed and linked to the South East Wales Metro, and;
- Demonstrating how proposed development in rural areas enables solutions to rural transport problems, such as improvement of links to public transport, digital infrastructure, and innovative solutions, such as car sharing schemes.

The Deposit Plan will safeguard sites necessary to deliver the key transport measures and schemes identified in National, Regional and Local Transport Plans.

- lii. The spatial strategy of the RLDP focuses development in our most sustainable settlements of Abergavenny (including Llanfoist), Chepstow and Caldicot including Severnside. This provides opportunities for a reduction in travel and for improving sustainable transport, particularly walking and cycling (active travel) and public transport. In line with the Active Travel Act 2013 and Welsh Government Travel Act Guidance (2021)¹⁶, the Council has produced Active Travel Network Maps (ATMNs)¹⁷, identifying the walking and cycling routes required to create fully integrated networks for walking and cycling.
- liii. The RLDP will promote the concept of the '20 minute neighbourhood'¹⁸ whereby new development should be within a 20 minute walking distance of key everyday services, which in turn will promote physical activity and the health and well-being of our residents.

Town, Local and Neighbourhood Centres

Strategic Policy S10– Town, Local and Neighbourhood Centres	
All new or enhanced retail, commercial and social developments, including leisure, cultural and entertainment uses, will be focussed according to the hierarchy defined below. Developments should be consistent in scale and nature with the size and character of the centre and its role in the hierarchy.	
Proposals must maintain or enhance the vibrancy, vitality and attractiveness of the centre. Proposals which would undermine the vibrancy, vitality and attractiveness of the centre will not be permitted.	
Town Centres:	Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow, Monmouth
Local Centres:	Magor, Raglan, Usk
Neighbourhood Centres: <i>(These will be reviewed as part of the Deposit RLDP)</i>	Abergavenny - Hillcrest Road, Rother Avenue, The Mardy Caldicot – West End Chepstow – Bulwark, Thornwell Monmouth – Overmonnow, Wyesham, The Albion

¹⁶ Welsh Government Active Travel Act Guidance (July 2021)

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-01/active-travel-act-guidance.pdf>

¹⁷ Monmouthshire's Active Travel Network Maps can be viewed via

[Proposed Routes for Walking and Cycling - Monmouthshire](#)

¹⁸ Future Generations Commissioner for Wales (2020) Climate Week: How 20-minute neighbourhoods can help us fight the Climate Emergency and save our towns and cities

[Climate Week: How 20-minute neighbourhoods can help us fight the Climate Emergency and save our towns and cities – The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales](#)

- liv. Policy S10 adopts a ‘Town Centre First’ approach in accordance with Future Wales 2040 and PPW11. This puts the health and vibrancy of town centres as the starting point of locational decision-making. It also directs facilities and services to where intended users can easily walk, cycle and/or use public transport to access them. Developments of an appropriate scale within our town and local centres that maintain and/or enhance their vitality, attractiveness and viability will be supported in the RLDP. Inappropriate developments which would undermine the vitality, viability and attractiveness of the County’s town, local and neighbourhood centres such as out of centre retail will be strongly resisted.

Community & Recreation Facilities

Strategic Policy S11 – Community and Recreation Facilities

Where a town or local centre location is not available or appropriate, development proposals that provide and/or enhance community and recreation facilities will be permitted within or adjoining settlement boundaries subject to detailed planning considerations. Development proposals that result in the unjustified loss of community and recreation facilities will not be permitted.

- lv. For the purpose of this policy, community facilities are defined as facilities used by local communities for leisure, social, health, education and cultural purposes and include village halls and shops, schools, GP surgeries / health centres, leisure centres, public houses, places of worship, cemeteries, allotments, community food growing and libraries. Recreation facilities include formal sport, recreation and leisure pursuits such as team games, children’s play facilities, as well as more informal activities such as walking in the countryside.

PRODUCTIVE & ENTERPRISING PLACES

- lvi. Economic growth and resilience are key priorities for the Council, driven by the need to address the shrinking working age population and the high levels of out-commuting historically experienced. The Preferred Strategy aims to provide an appropriate balance of household and jobs growth. The RLDP policy framework will seek to attract and retain investment, create jobs, improve strategic infrastructure through the identification of sufficient employment land for traditional employment uses (B use class) and the promotion of other employment generators important to Monmouthshire’s economy. Job growth will also come via the growth and retention of existing Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and the formation of new ones, with supportive planning policies, marketing and other interventions as required to make this happen.

Employment Sites Provision

Strategic Policy S12 – Employment Sites Provision

Provision will be made for a minimum of 38 ha of land on a suitable range and choice of sites for industrial and business development (classes B1, B2 and B8 of the Town and Country Planning Use Classes Order 1987) in accordance with the Plan's Spatial Strategy.

Existing employment land and premises that continue to be required for employment purposes will be protected from alternative forms of development.

To ensure that a range of types and sizes of employment land and premises is provided, development for the following will be permitted, subject to detailed planning considerations:

- Small units and workshops for small businesses throughout the County to assist in providing regeneration opportunities, enabling SMEs to start up and grow, and ensuring sustainable economic growth;
- The integration of new employment opportunities in mixed-use developments.

- lvii. The Preferred Strategy provides the planning policy framework to enable the provision of 6,240 jobs over the Plan period (416 jobs per annum). This level of job growth aligns with the projected population and housing growth and takes account of adjustments to household membership rates for key younger age groups and a reduced level of commuting by retaining more of the resident workforce.
- lviii. The Council has commissioned an Employment Land Review (ELR)¹⁹ to assess employment forecasts and B-use class land requirements for the Plan period 2018 – 2033. The study recommends a minimum requirement of 38ha of employment land based on past take-up, including a five-year buffer to allow for choice and uncertainty in forecasting. The ELR breaks this down by individual land use types as follows:
- B1: 3.5ha
 - B2: 9.2ha
 - B8: 25.2ha
- lix. Providing for this level of jobs growth is part of a complex picture. A fundamental element will be the provision of a deliverable range of employment land supply, in appropriate locations and in the right quantities to attract new businesses in key growth sectors and enable our existing businesses to grow. Many of the County's businesses are SMEs and may not require new land allocations to grow. Moreover, there is an increased propensity for agile and home working in some sectors over the longer term, meaning demand for physical employment land or space is changing. Community-based remote working hubs support a hybrid way of working from home and remotely at a local hub, reducing the need to travel and supporting small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) needs which are a key sector in the County.

¹⁹ Employment Land Review (BE Group, October 2022)

Rural Enterprise

Strategic Policy S13 – Rural Enterprise

Development to enable rural enterprise uses and the diversification of the rural economy will be permitted outside settlement development boundaries where it is of a scale and type compatible with the surrounding area and will cause no unacceptable harm to the surrounding landscape, historic and cultural heritage, biodiversity or local amenity value. Development must re-use or adapt existing buildings where possible. The exceptional circumstances in which new buildings may be permitted outside the settlement boundaries to support the rural economy will be set out in the Deposit RLDP.

- ix. In allowing for an appropriate amount of diversification and enterprise in rural areas, the Plan seeks to sustain and enhance and, where appropriate, regenerate the County's rural settlements. The 'Monmouthshire 2040: Our Economic Growth and Ambition Statement'²⁰ aims to continue to support and promote rural businesses and services. Building on the work of the EU funded Rural Development Programme²¹, which ceased in September 2022, the Council secured £2.04M funding as part of the UK Government's Community Renewal Fund²² and has been awarded £7.16 million from the [Shared Prosperity Fund](#) over the next three years.

Visitor Economy

Strategic Policy S14 – Visitor Economy

Development proposals that provide and/or enhance sustainable forms of tourism will be permitted subject to detailed planning considerations.

Development proposals that would have an unacceptable adverse impact on features and areas of tourism interest and their settings, or that would result in the unjustified loss of tourism facilities will not be permitted.

²⁰ Monmouthshire 2040: Our Economic Growth and Ambition Statement can be viewed via: <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2020/03/Economic-Growth-and-Ambition-Statement-November-2019.pdf>

²¹ Details of the Rural Development Programme – 2014 – 2020 can be viewed via Monmouthshire's website at [Monmouthshire Business & Enterprise | Rural Innovation | Embracing innovation and enabling big things to happen in South Wales](#) and Welsh Government via <https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/wrn-support-unit/rural-development-programme-funding>

²² Details of the UK Community Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund can be viewed via <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus-2021-22>

Sustainable Waste Management

Strategic Policy S15 – Sustainable Waste Management

To facilitate the delivery of sustainable management of waste the Plan will:

- i) Ensure that proposals conform to the principles of the waste hierarchy supporting those that move waste up the hierarchy;
- ii) Support an integrated and adequate network of waste management installations that has regard to the nearest appropriate installation concept and self-sufficiency principles where necessary;
- iii) Identify suitable allocated and protected Class B2 industrial sites that are appropriate for in-building waste management treatment facilities, subject to detailed planning considerations;
- iv) Support the circular economy by encouraging the minimisation of the production of waste and the use of reused and recycled materials in the design, construction and demolition stages of development; and
- v) Ensure that provision is made for the sustainable management, sorting, storage and collection of waste in all new development.

- lxi. Local authorities are required to develop a sustainable approach to the management of waste and promote the waste hierarchy of re-use, recycling, recovery and finally disposal.
- lxii. Technical Advice Note (TAN) 21: Waste notes that many general employment sites and major industrial areas are likely to be suitable locations for waste facilities²³. Details of those employment land allocations considered suitable for waste management facilities will be provided in the Deposit Plan as well as the detailed criteria against which planning applications for waste management facilities will be assessed.

Minerals

Strategic Policy S16 – Minerals

The Council will sustainably manage its mineral resources by:

- i) Safeguarding known / potential land won sand and gravel and crushed rock resources for future possible use;
- ii) Maintaining a minimum 10-year land bank of crushed rock and 7 years land-based sand and gravel reserves throughout the Plan period in line with the requirements of the latest South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party Regional Technical Statement on Aggregates; and
- iii) Encouraging the efficient and appropriate use of high-quality minerals and maximising the potential for the use of secondary and recycled aggregates as an alternative to primary land won resources.

²³ Paragraph 3.19 of TAN 21: Waste (2014)

- lxiii. PPW11 and Minerals Technical Advice Note 1: Aggregate (2004) (MTAN1) require Local Planning Authorities to make provision for a minimum land bank of 10 years for crushed rock and 7 years for land-based sand and gravel throughout the full 15 years of a development plan period. A revised Regional Technical Statement – 2nd Review for South Wales²⁴ was published in September 2020 and endorsed by the Minister for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs in March 2021. The total apportionments required for Monmouthshire are zero for land-won sand and gravel and 6.05 million tonnes for crushed rock. These compare with existing landbanks (excluding dormant sites) of zero for sand and gravel, and 11.25 million tonnes for crushed rock (as of 31st December 2016), reflecting the significant unworked permitted reserves of Limestone at the quarry at Ifton. Consequently, no further allocations for future working are required to meet Monmouthshire’s needs. Collaborative working with neighbouring authorities will consider options for satisfying regional apportionments. The latest position will be included in the Deposit Plan.

DISTINCTIVE & NATURAL PLACES

- lxiv. Reflecting the vision, the Distinctive & Natural Places section seeks to protect, enhance and manage Monmouthshire’s Green Infrastructure assets including its natural heritage, high quality open spaces, distinctive landscapes, protected sites, habitats and species and other biodiversity interests and the ecological connectivity between them. This is an essential component of placemaking.

Green Infrastructure, Landscape and Nature Conservation

Strategic Policy S17 – Green Infrastructure, Landscape and Nature Conservation
Development proposals will embrace the placemaking approach and incorporate Green Infrastructure assets and opportunities that are assessed, designed and managed to deliver a multifunctional resource; capable of delivering a wide range of social, economic, environmental and health and well-being benefits for local communities and the County as a whole, including climate change action, biodiversity action, mitigation and net gain. Development proposals must: Maintain, protect and enhance the integrity and connectivity of Monmouthshire’s green infrastructure, landscapes, biodiversity, public rights of ways and heritage assets through the following key functions: (i) Landscape setting and quality of place, by identifying, assessing, protecting and enhancing the distinctive landscape, historical,

²⁴ Regional Technical Statement – Second Revision main report – Final September 2020 - [1 \(sdrawp-wales.org.uk\)](https://www.sdrawp-wales.org.uk) & South Wales Appendix B - [1 \(sdrawp-wales.org.uk\)](https://www.sdrawp-wales.org.uk) & Welsh Government RTS Clarification Letter – 11th November 2021

- cultural, ecological and geological heritage, including natural and man-made elements associated with existing landscape character;**
- (ii) Biodiversity and resilient ecosystems by protecting, assessing, positively managing and enhancing biodiversity and geological interests, including designated and non-designated sites, protected and priority species and their habitats, and the ecological connectivity between them;**
- (iii) Greenspace provision, connectivity and enjoyment by ensuring the creation of accessible multifunctional interconnected spaces that offer opportunities for recreation and health and well-being;**
- (iv) Sustainable energy use;**
- (v) Local food production; and**
- (vi) Flood attenuation and water resource management.**

Next Steps

- lxv. Following the consultation and stakeholder involvement on the Preferred Strategy, the Council will finalise the RLDP and place it on Deposit. Feedback from the Preferred Strategy consultation will be detailed in the Consultation Report on the Strategy. This report must accompany the RLDP ISA Report and the other supporting documents on Deposit, in accordance with Regulation 17 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended 2015). A summary of key issues raised through the consultation and the Preferred Strategy with any necessary amendments will be reported to Council in Spring 2023 to seek approval of the Preferred Strategy. The Deposit Plan will then be prepared and considered by Council prior to statutory consultation and engagement during Spring 2024.
- lxvi. Following consultation on the Deposit Plan and consideration of the issues raised, it will be submitted to the Welsh Government who will appoint an independent Inspector to examine the RLDP. Having regard to the evidence and representations received during the Deposit consultation, the Inspector must determine whether the RLDP accords with the 'tests of soundness' set out in the Development Plans Manual.
- lxvii. Following the examination, the Inspector will issue a report recommending any necessary changes to the RLDP. The Inspector's report will be binding and the Council must accept the changes and adopt the RLDP as amended. Once adopted, the RLDP will replace the existing Adopted LDP.

Monmouthshire

Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033

Preferred Strategy - Easy Read

December 2022



Page 231



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

What is the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP)?

Monmouthshire County Council is preparing a Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) for the period from 2018-2033. The RLDP will allocate land for sustainable development, designate land for protection and contain policies to provide the basis for decisions on planning applications. It will cover the whole County except for the part within the Brecon Beacons National Park.

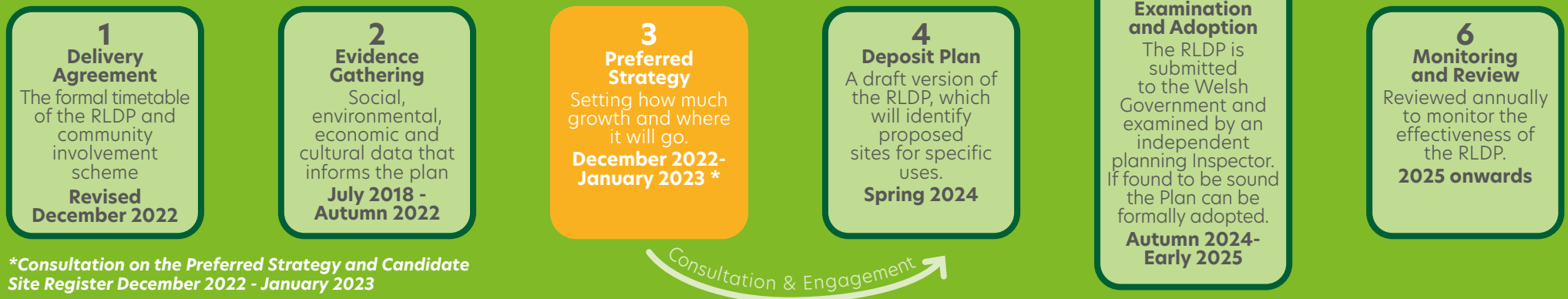
It aims to deliver the Council's core purpose of becoming a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life.

It will deliver the Council's objectives and address the core issues of delivering essential affordable homes at pace and scale, responding to the climate and nature emergency by delivering net zero carbon ready new homes in exemplar places, and ensuring our communities are socially and economically sustainable by attracting and retaining younger people to rebalance our ageing demographic.



The RLDP Process

Preparing the RLDP is a step by step process. We are currently at the Preferred Strategy stage of the process. The key steps for Monmouthshire's RLDP are:

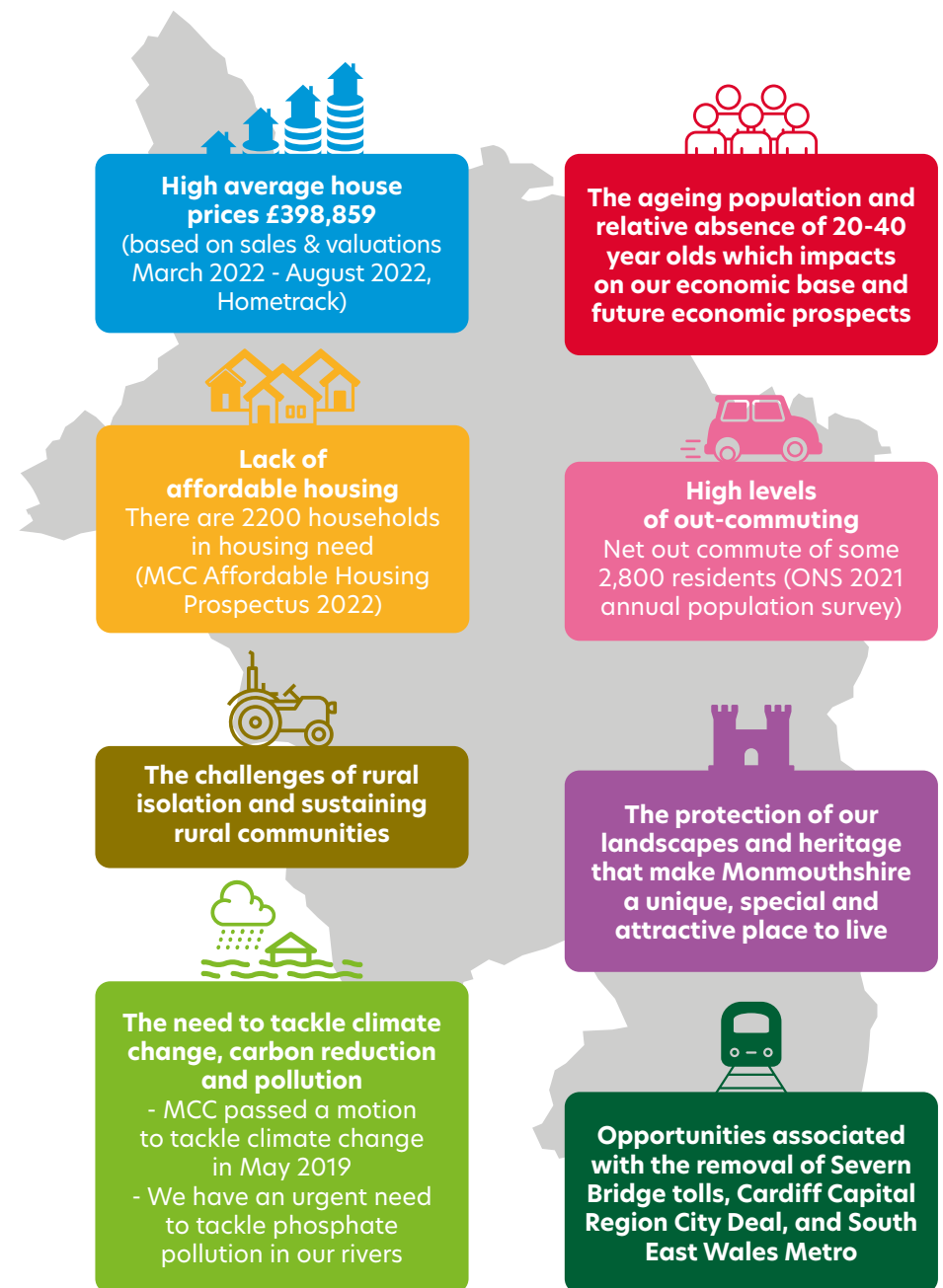


Our Key Issues , Challenges and Opportunities

In order to achieve the Council's core purpose of becoming a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life, a number of key issues and challenges have been identified.

- 1. Rebalancing the County's demography** by providing opportunities to retain and attract younger people. This will help to ensure that our communities are socially and economically sustainable.
- 2. Addressing inequality** by addressing the urgent need to increase the amount of affordable homes and provide a wider choice of homes where younger people can get onto the housing ladder.
- 3. Addressing the climate emergency** with policies requiring new development to be net zero carbon ready, incorporate renewable energy generation and technologies, sustainable travel infrastructure and provision of green space and local food production.
- 4. Addressing the nature emergency** with policies that will protect and enhance Monmouthshire's special environment and tackle phosphate pollution in our rivers.

These issues, challenges and opportunities have been informed by a range of evidence, in particular the public engagement underpinning Monmouthshire's Public Service Board Well-being Plan. They have been re-assessed in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and remain relevant.



Our Vision for Monmouthshire

By 2033 Monmouthshire will be a place where:



People are living in sustainable, resilient communities that support the well-being of current and future generations and are more inclusive, equal, safe, cohesive, prosperous, vibrant and balanced demographically. Both urban and rural communities are well-connected with better access to local services and facilities, open space and employment opportunities.



Communities and businesses are part of an economically thriving, ambitious and well-connected County.



The best of the County's built heritage, countryside, biodiversity, landscape and environmental assets have been protected and enhanced to retain its distinctive character.



People enjoy healthier, more sustainable lifestyles with improved access to public transport and active travel opportunities and have a minimised impact on the global environment, supporting our ambitions for a zero carbon county.



The implications of achieving this Vision will be that by 2033 Monmouthshire will be home to well-connected exemplar, affordable housing-led, net zero carbon ready places that provide employment and support demographically balanced sustainable and resilient communities for all.

What goals do we need to set to achieve Our Vision?

Aspirational yet achievable objectives for the RLDP have been set to meet our key issues and deliver the vision.

Our core underpinning objectives are:

Page 235

- 
- **Delivering essential affordable homes at pace and scale;**
 - **Responding to the climate and nature emergency by delivering net zero carbon ready new homes in exemplar places;**
 - **Ensuring our communities are economically sustainable by attracting and retaining younger people to rebalance our ageing demographic.**

Housing

To provide urgently needed affordable housing within exemplar, mixed, sustainable and well-connected places both for existing and future residents.

Demography

To increase opportunities for the younger population to both live and work within Monmouthshire, creating a more balanced demography and socially and economically sustainable communities.

Climate and Nature Emergency

To strive to limit the increase in global temperatures to 1.5°C, supporting carbon reduction through a variety of adaptation measures including facilitating resilient ecosystems and nature recovery, the use of renewable energy, net zero ready homes, the design and location of new development, encouraging balanced job and population growth to reduce out commuting, the provision of broadband connectivity to reduce the need to travel, the provision of ultra-low emission vehicle charging infrastructure to reduce emissions and improve air quality, and the provision of quality Green Infrastructure.

Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity & Landscape

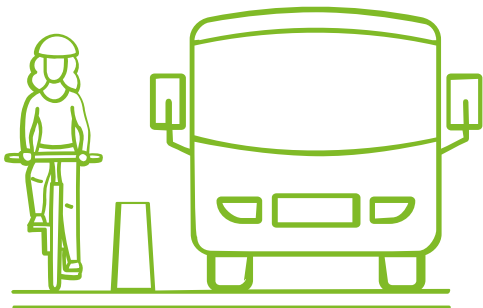
To protect, enhance and manage the resilience of Monmouthshire's natural environment, biodiversity and ecosystems and the connectivity between them, while at the same time maximising benefits for the economy, tourism, health and well-being. This includes the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the County's other high quality and distinctive landscapes, protected sites, protected species and other biodiversity interests.

Economic growth/employment

To support a thriving, well-connected, diverse economy, which provides a range of good quality employment opportunities to enable and encourage indigenous business growth and attract inward investment and competitive innovative businesses in appropriate growth sectors, including through the provision of start-ups and grow on spaces.

Placemaking

To create exemplar sustainable places through design, layout and mix of uses that enhance the character and identity of Monmouthshire's settlements and landscape; create attractive, safe and accessible places to live, work and visit; and promote people's prosperity, health, happiness and well-being.



Infrastructure

To ensure that appropriate physical and digital infrastructure (including community and recreational facilities, sewerage, water, transport, schools, health care and broadband etc.) is in place or can be provided to accommodate new development.

Accessibility

To seek to reduce the need to travel by promoting a mix of land use allocations in well-connected, sustainable locations and by improving internet connectivity, and where travel is required, to provide opportunities for active travel and integrated sustainable transport above use of the private car.

Communities

To build sustainable resilient communities where people have good access to employment, shops, housing, public transport, active travel, healthcare, community and cultural facilities.

Rural Communities

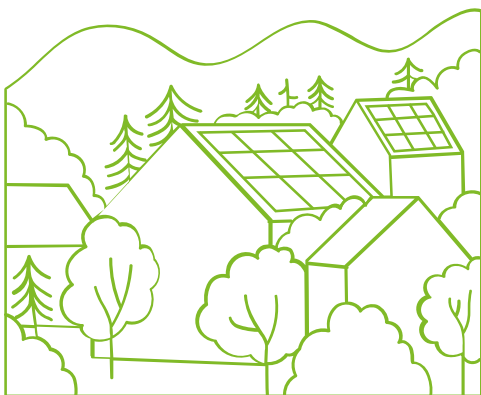
To sustain existing rural communities as far as possible by providing development opportunities of an appropriate scale and location in rural areas in order to assist in building sustainable rural communities and strengthening the rural economy.

Health and Well-being

Improve access for all to recreation, sport, leisure activities, open space and the countryside and to enable healthier lifestyles. To support the Health Board to improve health infrastructure to meet community needs.

Town and Local Centres

To sustain and enhance the County's towns of Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow, Monmouth, and local centres of Magor, Raglan and Usk as vibrant and attractive centres serving the needs of their population and those of their surrounding hinterlands, and supporting adaptation to meet the needs of the evolving role of the high street.



Culture, Heritage & Welsh Language

To protect and enhance the built environment, culture and heritage of Monmouthshire for the future while maximising benefits for the economy, tourism and social well-being, including supporting and safeguarding the Welsh Language.

Land

To promote the efficient use of land, including the need to:

- maximise opportunities for development on previously developed land, whilst recognising that brownfield opportunities are limited in Monmouthshire.
- protect the best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land whilst at the same time recognising that this will not always be possible given high proportion of BMV land in the County and the limited opportunities for brownfield development.
- support the adaptation and re-use of existing sustainably located buildings.

Natural Resources

To promote the efficient use of natural resources including providing increased opportunities for water efficiency, energy efficiency, renewable energy, recycling and waste reduction.

Flood Risk

To ensure that new development takes account of the risk of flooding, both existing and in the future, including the need to avoid inappropriate development in areas that are at risk from flooding or that may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere and the need to design development to appropriately manage surface water run-off.

Minerals & Waste

To meet the County's regional and local obligations to manage and dispose of its waste and to safeguard and exploit its mineral resource in a sustainable fashion.

The RLDP 2018-2033 Preferred Strategy

Our Key Issues, Vision and Objectives as well as community consultation and engagement sessions have informed how much growth (jobs and homes) is needed in the County over the Plan period and broadly where that growth could be located.

How much growth

Between 2018- 2033 the New Preferred Strategy aims to :

Grow Monmouthshire between 5,400 – 5,940 homes *

This includes the provision of approximately 1,580 – 1,850 affordable homes

Enable a level of job growth that supports our housing growth and grow Monmouthshire's economy by 6,240 jobs

There are currently approximately 3,740 homes in the landbank. This means that we will need to allocate land for 1,660-2,200 new homes, including 830 – 1,100 new affordable homes

Page 238

Because the plan period has already begun (2018) some of these homes in the landbank have already been built/ are under construction/ or already have planning permission. The housing growth figure also takes into account 'windfall housing' (unplanned housing that is predicted to be built within existing settlements between 2018-2033)



- Maximise affordable housing delivery with a commitment to deliver 50% affordable homes on new housing allocations which will help to tackle Monmouthshire's housing need, homelessness and social inequality. This approach may require Welsh Government policy position changes on use of Social Housing Grant or other public sector funding. Additional viability work will be required to demonstrate site viability and deliverability based on these policy requirements.
- We want to provide a wider choice of smaller homes to enable younger people to live and work in Monmouthshire.
- We want these homes to be designed and built to be 'net zero carbon ready' with a variety of renewable energy technologies and Green Infrastructure.
- The new homes and jobs will provide people with the opportunity to both live and work within the County with the aim of delivering sustainable and resilient communities for all.
- Although Monmouthshire is not within the national growth area identified in the Future Wales: the National Plan 2040, our evidence shows that the proposed level of growth is essential to meet our evidenced-based objectives and ensure the RLDP is sound. The proposed strategy is supported by FW2040 policies 3, 4, 5 and 7 in particular. The proposed growth will meet our objectives without harming or compromising Welsh Government's objectives for the wider region.
- Promoting job growth through supporting the delivery of the priorities and aims identified in the Council's Economic Growth and Ambition Statement, Investment Prospectus; maximising opportunities from Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, targeting growth in key economic sectors, facilitating home working and providing appropriate employment land in the right locations.

Where will the growth go?

The Preferred Strategy also looks at where this growth should go across the County.

We will focus growth in the County's most sustainable settlements of Abergavenny, Chepstow and Caldicot (including Severnside). This will limit the impact of climate change and ensure good placemaking principles of attractive, accessible places to live and work that reduce the need to travel, have access to sustainable transport links and reduce journeys by the car.

Due to the lack of an identified strategic solution to the treatment of phosphates at the Monmouth Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) within the Plan period, no new site allocations are proposed in the primary settlement of Monmouth or within the Upper River Wye catchment area north of Bigsweir Bridge.

Homes delivered:

Primary Settlements

Abergavenny (inc. Llanfoist): approximately **1,403 homes** of which **600** will be **new allocations**

Chepstow: approximately **769 homes** of which **145** will be **new allocations**

Caldicot (inc. Severnside): approximately **2,609 homes** of which **1,200** will be **new allocations**

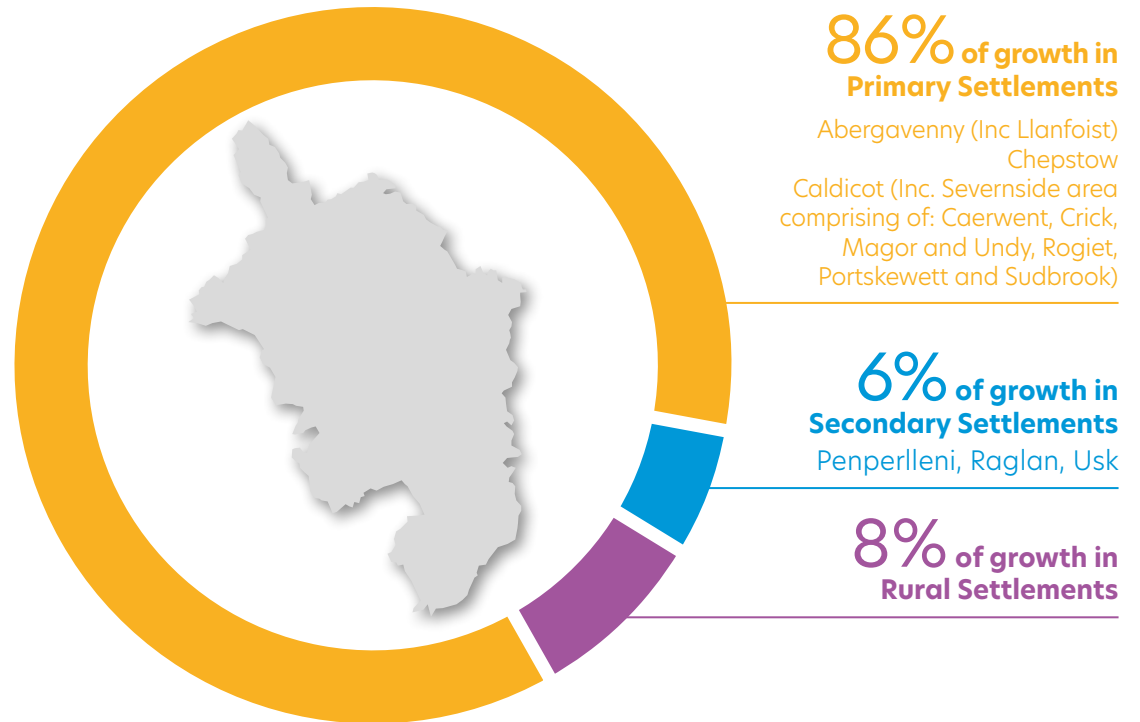
Monmouth: **275** homes already completed/committed since **2018. 0 new allocations**

Secondary Settlements

approximately **380 homes** of which **155** will be **new allocations**

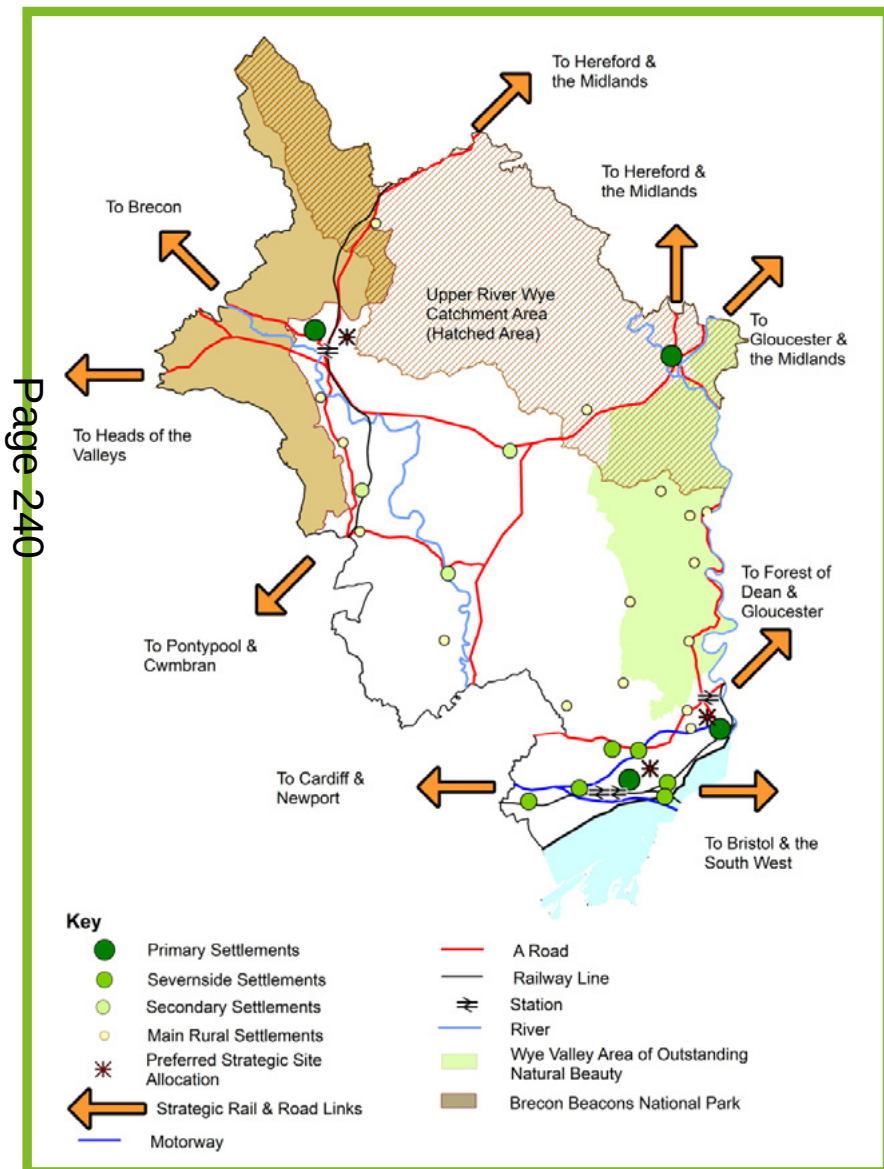
Rural settlements

approximately **504 homes** of which **100** will be **new allocations**



- If a strategic solution to the phosphate issue is developed in the Monmouth WwTW during the Plan period, then windfall sites within development boundaries could be developed. In accordance with the Development Plans Manual, these will be considered as 'bonus sites' and will not count towards our housing figures.
- The housing growth figures for each settlement area are indicative and the exact distribution of growth will be determined at the next key stage of the process – The Deposit Plan.
- The housing growth figures also include a 10% flexibility allowance as per Welsh Government guidance.

Preferred Strategy Key Diagram



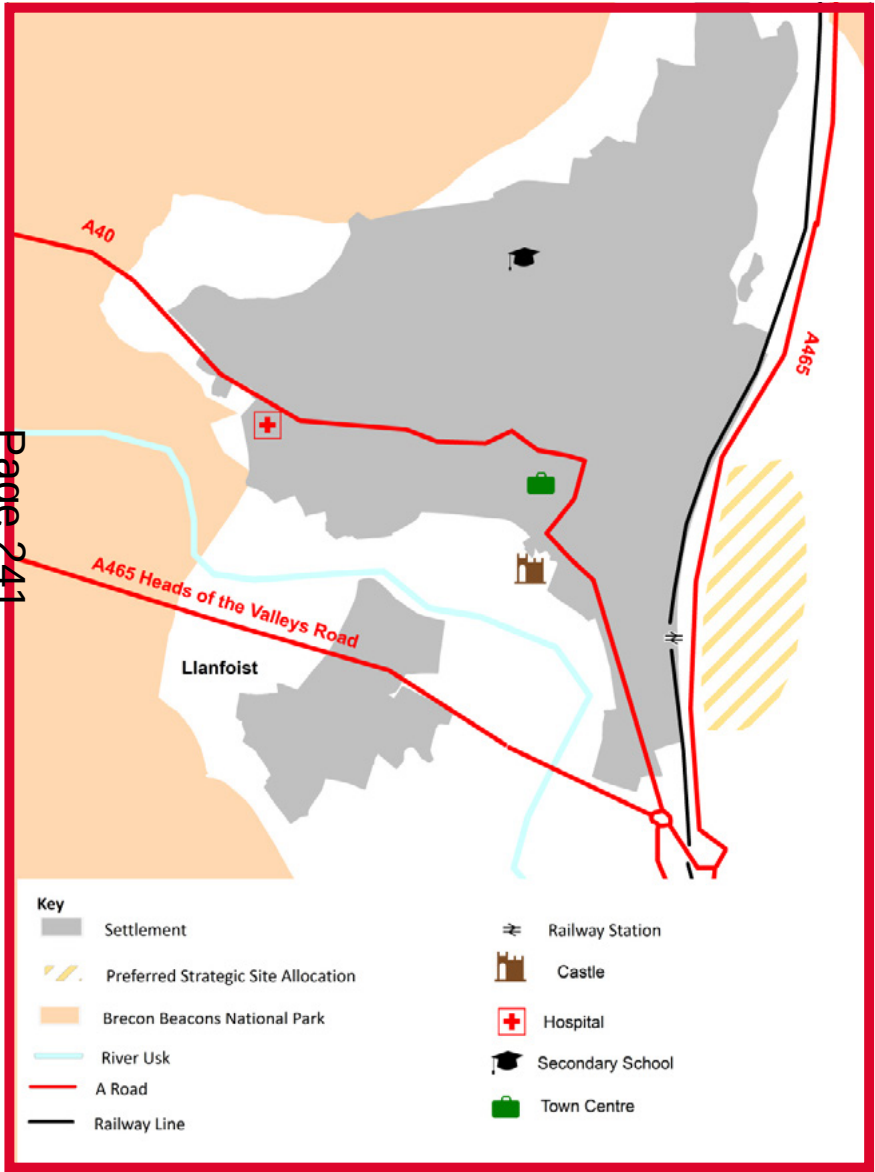
Preferred Strategic Site Allocations

We have identified Preferred Strategic sites in the Primary Settlements of Abergavenny, Chepstow and Caldicot.

- These sites have been selected from a total of 13 strategic growth options located across Abergavenny, Chepstow, Monmouth and Severnside that were previously consulted on in the 2021 Preferred Strategy.
- Site selection has been informed by the consultation responses on the 2021 Preferred Strategy and candidate site assessments that have been undertaken to identify those sites which could contribute to delivering the level of growth required to deliver the Preferred Strategy.
- These sites have provided sufficient evidence of viability and deliverability that will be built on as the Plan progresses.
- Two of the sites, namely Abergavenny East and Caldicot East, are anticipated to provide housing both within and beyond the Plan period.

Abergavenny East

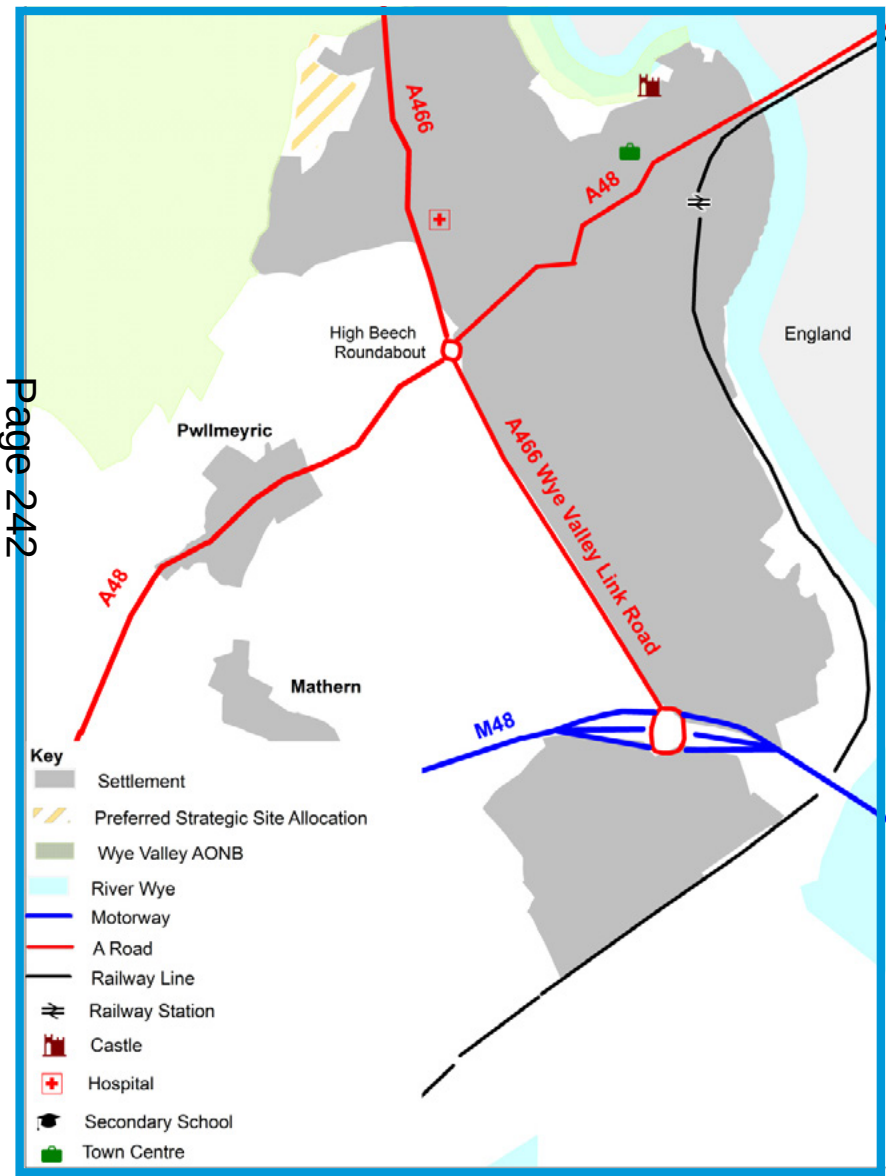
Indicative map for the future strategic growth of Abergavenny East



Site Name	Size (Ha)	CS Ref	Proposed Use
Abergavenny East	24.75	CS0213	Mixed Use: Residential, Employment, Retail, Leisure, Education and Community Use
No. of homes proposed in Candidate Site Submission		Approximate No. of homes within Plan period	
635		500	

Bayfield Chepstow

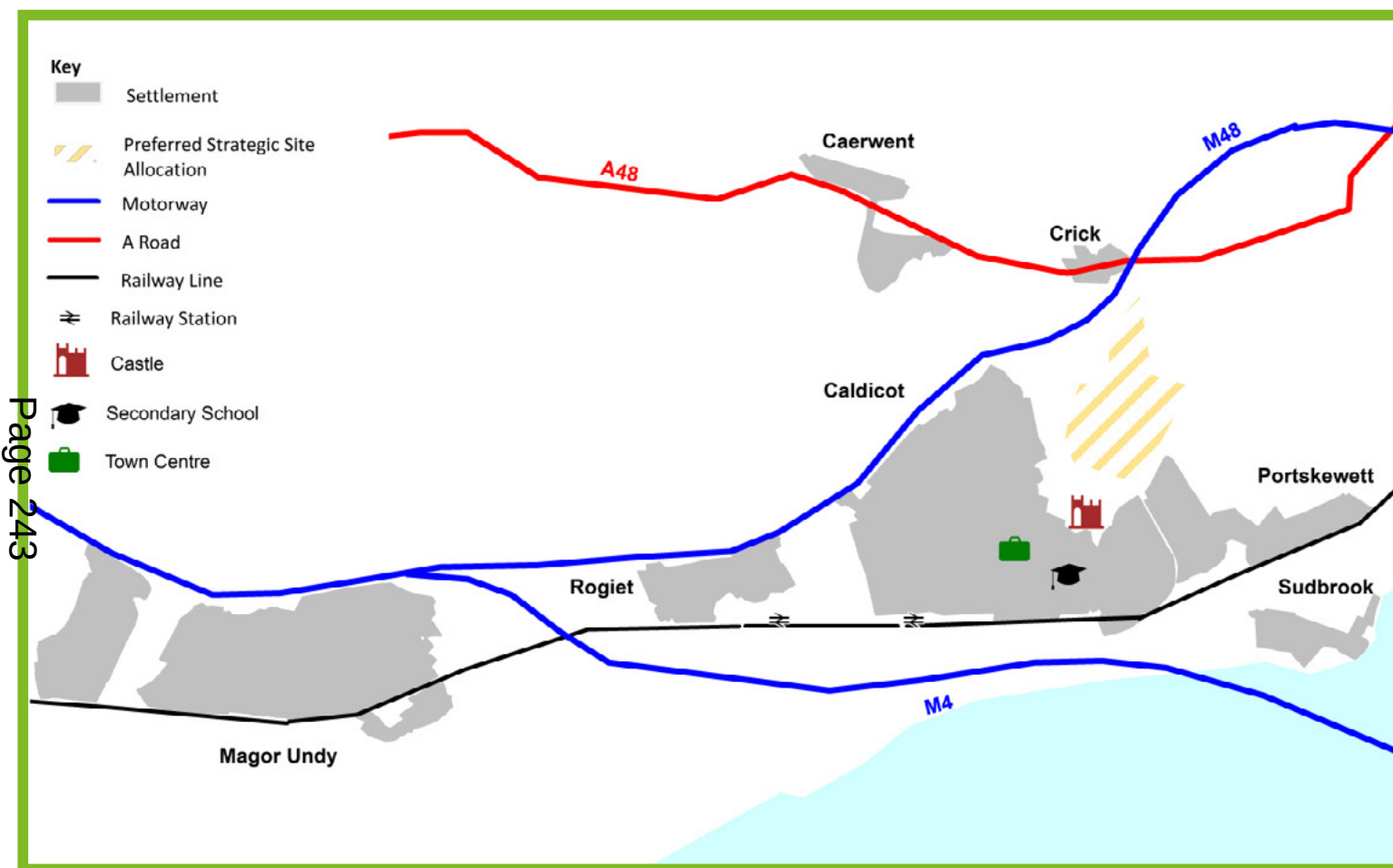
Indicative map for the future strategic growth of Bayfield Chepstow



Site Name	Size (Ha)	CS Ref	Proposed Use
Bayfield, Chepstow	10.07	CS0098	Residential
No. of homes proposed in Candidate Site Submission		Approximate No. of homes within Plan period	
145		145	

Caldicot East

Indicative map for the future strategic growth of Caldicot East



Site Name	Size (Ha)	CS Ref	Proposed Use	No. of homes proposed in Candidate Site Submission	Approximate No. of homes within Plan period
Caldicot East	67.67	CS0087 CS0251	Mixed Use: Residential, Employment, Retail, Leisure	1460	925

Strategic Policies

The Preferred Strategy also sets out Strategic Policies which cover a whole range of topic areas. These reflect the four placemaking themes in Planning Policy Wales (PPW) edition 11 set out below.

The Strategic Policies will provide the Planning Policy Framework to deliver affordable homes to reduce homelessness and inequalities, support job opportunities and growth of our economy, and promote high quality, carbon net zero ready homes and well connected places. The policies will draw together measures to ensure we are protecting Monmouthshire's unique and special environment and actively responding to the impacts of our climate and nature emergencies.



The RLDP will be supported by two independent assessments:

Integrated Sustainable Appraisal (ISA) - assesses the extent to which the Plan's strategy and policies will help achieve the wider environmental, economic, social and cultural objectives of the RLDP. The ISA also assesses the Plan's impact on health, equality and Welsh language.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) - demonstrates the Plan's proposals will not have a significant effect upon protected species and designated nature conservation sites, including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

The RLDP will also be accompanied by an **Infrastructure Plan** setting out what is needed to support the development of the allocated sites, and will sit alongside an updated **Local Transport Plan** and an **Economic Development Strategy**.

Consultation Process

An 8 week consultation will take place on the Preferred Strategy from **5th December 2022 until 30th January 2023**.

The consultation will give the public and interested parties an opportunity to submit their views in writing to the Council. All representations received during the consultation will be recorded and reported to the Council.

There will be two Virtual Engagement Sessions as well as drop-in sessions in various locations across the County.

For further information please visit the Planning Policy Website:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/news-and-consultations/>

Date	Venue	Time
8th Dec 2022	Virtual Engagement Session 	6pm to 7:30pm
12th Dec 2022	Abergavenny – Market Hall	2pm to 7pm
15th Dec 2022	Monmouth, Shire Hall	2pm to 7pm
19th Dec 2022	County Hall Usk	2pm to 7pm
10th Jan 2023	Virtual Engagement Session 	2pm to 3:30pm
11th Jan 2023	Magor, Baptist Church	2pm to 7pm
12th Jan 2023	Chepstow, Board School	2pm to 7pm
18th Jan 2023	Caldicot, Choir Hall	2pm to 7pm
19th Jan 2023	Raglan Village Hall	2pm to 7pm

Key Preferred Strategy Documents

Key documents for the Preferred Strategy are signposted. For further information in relation the Preferred Strategy please visit our website at : <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/plan-preparation/preferred-strategy/>

Next Steps

Feedback from the consultation on the Preferred strategy will be considered and set out in a 'Report of Consultation'. A summary consultation report of the Preferred Strategy with any necessary amendments will be reported to Council in Spring 2023 to seek approval of the Preferred Strategy.

The Deposit Plan will then be prepared and considered by Council prior to a statutory six-week consultation and engagement period in **Spring 2024**. The Deposit Plan will include more detailed policies , proposals and land allocations.

**Preferred Strategy
(December 2022)** [download >>](#)

**Growth & Spatial Options Background
Paper (September 2022)** [download >>](#)

**Sustainable Settlement Appraisal
(December 2022)** [download >>](#)

**Housing Background Paper
(December 2022)** [download >>](#)

**Initial Integrated Sustainability
Appraisal Report (ISAR)
(November 2022)** [download >>](#)

**Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)
of the Monmouthshire RLDP Preferred
Strategy (November 2022)** [download >>](#)



Monmouthshire Replacement Local Development Plan

Self-Assessment of the Preferred Strategy against the Tests of Soundness

December 2022



**Monmouthshire County Council
Replacement Local Development Plan**

**Self-Assessment of the
Preferred Strategy against the
Tests of Soundness**

December 2022

Planning Policy Service

Monmouthshire County Council

County Hall, Rhadyr, Usk, Monmouthshire NP15 1GA

Tel: 01633 644429

Email: planningpolicy@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Contents

	Page
1. Purpose of this Paper	1
2. Self-assessment of the Preferred Strategy against the Tests of Soundness	2
Appendix 1 - Monmouthshire RLDP Preferred Strategy – General Conformity with Future Wales The National Plan 2040 Assessment	19

1. Purpose of this Paper

- 1.1 This Background Paper has been published alongside the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Preferred Strategy¹. As part of the development plan process the Council needs to demonstrate that the Plan is 'sound'. The purpose of this paper is to assess the Preferred Strategy against the tests of soundness set out in the Development Plans Manual (Edition 3 – March 2020).
- 1.2 The self-assessment undertaken is considered to demonstrate that the Preferred Strategy and the stages undertaken and processes followed to reach this stage are 'sound'.
- 1.3 The soundness of the RLDP will continue to be assessed against the tests of soundness as the Plan progresses and eventually at an independent Examination by a Planning Inspector.
- 1.4 The Council's self-assessment of the Preferred Strategy is set out below.
- 1.5 One of the soundness tests relates to the Plan's general conformity with Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (Welsh Government, February 2021). An assessment of the Preferred Strategy against the policies of Future Wales has been undertaken and is attached at Appendix 1.

¹ <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-development-plan-revision/?preview=true>

2. Self-assessment of the Preferred Strategy against the Tests of Soundness

Development Plans Manual – Ed 3, March 2020	Response This self-assessment has been undertaken to monitor consistency with the Tests of Soundness at the Preferred Strategy stage of the Replacement Local Development Plan process. It has also helped identify future requirements as we work towards the preparation of the Deposit Plan.
Preparation Requirements: - Has preparation of the plan complied with legal and regulatory procedural requirements? (LDP Regulations, CIS, SEA Regulations, SA, HRA etc.?) - Is the plan in general conformity with the NDF (now referred to as Future Wales: The National Plan 2040) and/or SDP? (when published or adopted respectively)	- The Preferred Strategy has been prepared in accordance with the procedural requirements. Notable reference should be had to the publication of the Initial Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) (November 2022) and the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report (November 2022) which have been published as supporting documents to the Preferred Strategy. These build on the work undertaken to accompany earlier stages of the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) process – Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (December 2018) and Initial Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report (December 2018). - Scheduled consultation arrangements and documents are in accordance with the LDP Regulations (2005 as amended 2015). The scope and method of consultation is consistent with the Community Involvement Scheme, which includes engagement with a range of stakeholders including the public, elected members, developers and statutory consultees. Many of the consultation measures put in place during the Covid-19 pandemic have been retained to add to the methods of engagement. These provide communities and stakeholders the ability to engage with the RLDP consultation in a virtual manner through webinars and are scheduled alongside face to face ‘drop-in’ sessions. Full details of the consultation arrangements and documentation can be viewed in the consultation email and letter and the Council’s website. - Prior to this consultation on the new Preferred Strategy, significant non-statutory consultation has also been undertaken to gain an understanding of the issues and options relevant to the County, with a couple of stages revisited and reviewed due to updated evidence, the Covid-19 pandemic and consideration of comments received during consultation exercises. A summary of key RLDP stages undertaken is set out in Appendix 1 of the Preferred Strategy. - Full details of the consultation methods undertaken will be set out in the Initial Consultation Report prepared to accompany the Deposit Plan. - Welsh Government published Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 in February 2021. This establishes the national development framework, setting the direction for development in Wales to 2040 and provides the

policy framework for SDPs and LDPs, with a requirement for the lower tier plans to be in general conformity with Future Wales. The policy framework set out in the Preferred Strategy is considered to be in general conformity with this and does not preclude the objectives of Future Wales being met during the RLDP Plan period. The detailed boundaries associated with many of Future Wales' policies will be pursued through the preparation of the SDP, which has yet to commence. It provides the policy context for national and regional growth, with the RLDP providing the policy framework for growth to address and meet Monmouthshire's evidenced local issues and needs. An assessment of the Preferred Strategy against the policies of Future Wales is attached at Appendix 1.

- The level of growth set out in the Preferred Strategy is in general conformity with Future Wales' overall strategy. Although Monmouthshire is not within the national growth area identified in Future Wales 2040: the National Plan, our evidence shows that the proposed level of growth is essential to deliver on our local evidence-based issues and objectives and to ensure the RLDP is 'sound'. It is supported by policies 3, 4, 5 and 7 of FW, which support public leadership and the use of public land to deliver on ambitious affordable housing targets, demographically balanced rural communities, the rural economy and the delivery of affordable homes. The new growth strategy will assist in addressing our core issues without harming or compromising Welsh Government's objectives for wider South East Wales region by striking a compromise between achieving our local evidence-based objectives that underpinned the previous Preferred Strategy in June 2021 and the Welsh Government's response which objected to the level of growth proposed. The proposed level of housing and economic growth in the new Preferred Strategy will not undermine the prospects of surrounding local authorities or the ambitions for the National Growth Area of the Cardiff Capital Region. Conversely, a lower level of growth as set out in the Welsh Government's response to the previous June 2021 strategy would not address the local evidence-based issues and objectives and would therefore fail the tests of soundness.
- Spatially, the RLDP preparation process has reflected the policies of Future Wales having regard to the strategic nature of the Preferred Strategy document. Consideration of earlier spatial options for Dispersed Growth and New Settlement and New Settlement with Limited Growth in Primary Settlements, Secondary Settlements and Severnside only, which formed part of the initial Growth and Spatial Options Consultation Paper (June 2019), have been ruled out for the RLDP on the basis that Welsh Government officials have stated that a New Settlement cannot be pursued outside of the Strategic Development Plan or joint LDP processes. Such changes are considered to demonstrate actions taken to ensure general conformity with Future Wales and SDP processes.

- A further issue of relevance to Monmouthshire is the requirement of Policy 34 for the Strategic Development Plan to identify a green belt to the north of Cardiff, Newport and the eastern part of the region. The South East Wales Regional Strategic Diagram (page 163 of Future Wales) provides an indicative plan of the area for consideration with the detailed boundary to be defined through the preparation of the SDP. In advance of an SDP, the area shown for consideration in Future Wales should be treated as a designated Green Belt. In assessing the spatial strategy for distributing growth within the County consideration has been given to paragraph 3.72 of PPW11 which states that:

“when considering a Green Belt designation, a sufficient range of development land which is suitably located in relation to the existing urban edge should be made available, having regard to the longer term need for development land, the effects of development pressures in areas beyond the Green Belt and the need to minimise demand for travel. This may require land to be safeguarded, and boundaries of proposed Green Belts must be carefully defined to achieve this”.

Such an approach is essential to address the Council’s significant concerns regarding the long-term policy implications of the permanency of a Green Belt designation on future growth and prosperity in Monmouthshire.

- In this respect, the Preferred Strategy is considered to facilitate the identification of a Green Belt in southern Monmouthshire with the primary settlements situated outside the broad coverage, consistent with the indicative plan and meeting the aims of Policy 34 but allowing for an appropriate level of growth in Monmouthshire to address its local challenges and issues. A Green Belt and Green Wedge Review has been commissioned on a sub-regional basis to inform the evidence base of the RLDPs and the South East Wales SDP.
- More generally, the overarching policy framework of the Preferred Strategy is considered to align with the policy aims of the Future Wales, with many common policy themes running through both. Examples of this include placemaking (Policy 2), active travel (Policy 12), town centre first (Policy 6) and creating resilient ecological networks and enhancing green infrastructure provision (Policy 9). Particularly relevant in a Monmouthshire context is the policy focus on supporting rural communities (Policy 4) and the rural economy (Policy 5) and delivering affordable homes (Policy 7) which are key challenges for the County. In this respect the Preferred Strategy is considered to set the strategic framework for delivering the policy

	objectives of Future Wales at a local level. The proposed Strategy provides an opportunity for public sector leadership (Policy 3), with the Caldicot East Strategic Development Site including Council-owned land, allowing for different approaches to affordable housing delivery to be explored. Further details of alignment with FW2040 are set out in Appendix 1.
Test 1: Does the plan fit? (Is it clear that the LDP is consistent with other plans?) Questions • Does it have regard to national policy (PPW) and Future Wales? • Does it have regard to Well-being Goals? • Does it have regard the Welsh National Marine Plan? • Does it have regard to the relevant Area Statement? Is the plan in general conformity with the NDF? Is the plan in general conformity with relevant SDP (when adopted)? • Is it consistent with regional plans, strategies and utility programmes? • Is it compatible with the plans of neighbouring LPAs? • Does it reflect the Single Integrated Plan (SIP) Well-being Plan or the National Park Management Plan (NPMP)? • Has the LPA demonstrated it has exhausted all opportunities for joint working and collaboration on both plan preparation and the evidence base?	The formulation of the Preferred Strategy has been prepared with full regard to the relevant plans and strategies, whilst recognising that it will need to respond and develop as it progresses through its preparatory process. The national, regional and local plans are where relevant identified within the Preferred Strategy but also within the background and supporting documents and within the in-combination considerations of the ISA and HRA Reports. The ISA process reviews the relevant policies, plans and programmes and considers their implications in relation to the growth levels and spatial options considered and have subsequently informed the new Preferred Strategy and associated Strategic Policies. Each of the Test 1 questions is discussed in turn: National Policy (PPW11) and Future Wales ▪ The Preferred Strategy has regard to national policies and guidance as set out in PPW11 and associated Technical Advice Notes (TANs). The Preferred Strategy and supporting documents refer to relevant sections of PPW11 specific to the issue being discussed and the policy requirements of PPW11 have been considered and incorporated where relevant in the preparation of the Strategic Policies. The supporting text adds further commentary on the links to national guidance, including the identification of further work to be undertaken in the preparation of the Deposit Plan. Each of the Strategic Policies is supported by a policy context section which sets out links to the wider policy framework including PPW11 and TANs and are grouped by the overarching policy themes of PPW11. The relationship between the Preferred Strategy and Future Wales is discussed above and in Appendix 1. Reference has also been made to Welsh Government's <i>Building Better Places</i> (July 2020) which sets out its response to the Covid-19 pandemic and <i>Llwybr Newydd</i> (March 2021). The RLDP and Preferred Strategy are recognised as a key mechanism in delivering the planning policy priorities identified in national policy. Well-Being Goals ▪ The Preferred Strategy has full regard to the provisions of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and the well-being goals, as well as the five ways of working as demonstrated by the additional non-statutory consultation and engagement undertaken on the Issues, Vision and Objectives and the Growth

and Spatial Options Papers. The promotion and recognition of well-being has been a consideration from the outset of the Plan preparation process. The links between the RLDP objectives and the Well-being Goals is clearly set out in the Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper (updated December 2022), which relates and groups the issues and opportunities under the well-being goals themes. Each Strategic Policy provides a table setting out its links to the wider policy framework and which of the well-being goals it will contribute to.

Welsh National Marine Plan

- The Strategic Policies cover a number of issues and policy areas which complement the aims and objectives of the Marine Plan. In particular, Strategic Policies S3 – Sustainable Place Making and High Quality Design, S4 – Climate Change and S17 – Green Infrastructure, Landscape and Nature Conservation complement the Marine Plan by directing development away from areas of flood risk, protecting and enhancing green infrastructure and networks and recognising the challenges posed by climate change. The relationship with the Marine Plan will be enhanced further through the preparation of detailed policies in the Deposit Plan. The spatial strategy avoids new site allocations in the upper Wye river catchment due to the absence of an identified strategic solution to river water quality issues with particular regard to phosphates. In doing so, the Preferred Strategy seeks to safeguard the river ecosystem, which flows into the Severn Estuary and National Marine Plan area.

Area Statement

- Monmouthshire forms part of the South East Wales Area Statement along with Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Newport and Torfaen, which was published by NRW in March 2020. The Preferred Strategy has regard to the Area Statement's strategic themes of Linking Our Landscape; Climate Ready Gwent; Healthy Active Connected; and Ways of Working and through the Strategic Policies seeks to achieve many of the outcomes associated with each theme. Examples of this include Strategic Policy S17 – Green Infrastructure, Landscape and Nature Conservation which is consistent with many of the outcomes sought from the Area Statement including improved resilience of our ecosystems across Gwent and the need to safeguard and enhance core habitat networks and support ecological connectivity on and between our best sites across Gwent. Similarly, Strategic Policies S3 – Sustainable Placemaking and High Quality Design and S4 – Climate Change are consistent in their aims as many of the outcomes associated with Climate Ready Gwent and Healthy Active Connected. Consequently, the Preferred Strategy is considered to be consistent with the key themes and aims of the South East Wales Area Statement.

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (February 2021)

- Conformity with Future Wales is discussed above and in Appendix 1.

Strategic Development Plan (SDP)

- The preparation of an SDP has not yet formally commenced for the region due to outstanding legal and taxation issues with establishing the CJC. However, Monmouthshire County Council has been actively involved in the discussions and agreements put in place to date and Council has formally resolved to be part of the SDP.

Regional plans, strategies and utility programmes

- The Preferred Strategy has been prepared within the context of the relevant regional plans, strategies and utility provider programmes, with Appendix 2 of the Preferred Strategy, associated background papers and the supporting commentary of the Strategic Policies providing details of the documents that have been considered. Specific reference is made to the Cardiff Capital Region and the role Monmouthshire can play in contributing to its main objectives and programmes. The Initial Sustainability Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment also consider the in-combination effects of the Preferred Strategy along with other plans and strategies in the region and conclude that the Strategy is in line with both regional and local environmental protection objectives.
- The preparation of the Preferred Strategy has involved a regional and coordinated approach to the collection of evidence, including population projection modelling, regional employment study, and Integrated Sustainability Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment. This has provided a consistent and comparable approach to methodologies and a basis to consider the evidence and any implications on a more regional basis as well as at a local level. This approach will continue through the preparation of the Deposit Plan, with a number of jointly commissioned pieces of evidence already in progress including a Development Viability Model, Renewable Energy Assessment, Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment and Green Belt and Green Wedge Review. Long standing regional working methods associated with areas such as waste and minerals are continued and are reflected in the Preferred Strategy.
- Utility companies have been involved from an early stage in the development of the Preferred Strategy to ensure consistency with their programmes. For example, extensive discussions have taken place between the Council and Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water to identify solutions to the phosphates constraints affecting the County, as well as other utility companies such as Western Power to understand capacity for growth and for renewable energy. In terms of riverine water quality, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water has committed £60m to addressing the phosphate water quality issues in Welsh SAC rivers, including committed investment in the

Usk (Brecon and Llanfoist) and Wye (Monmouth) Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTWs). Capacity and phosphate stripping improvements are nearing completion in Brecon, and a strategic solution has been identified to address phosphate levels at the Llanfoist WwTW. This solution requires detailed design and Natural Resources Wales' approval, but is scheduled to be delivered alongside DCWW's Asset Management Plan 7 2020-2025. In combination, these investments provide headroom for development within the upper Usk catchment. In contrast, there is not yet a strategic phosphate solution identified for the upper Wye catchment. Although DCWW has committed to investment at the Monmouth WwTW, there are two complicating factors. Firstly, recently completed capacity improvements require monitoring prior to further works or alterations. Secondly, naturally elevated iron levels in the river Wye catchment mean a different phosphate stripping solution is required. These issues have directly influenced the new spatial strategy. Further detailed discussions with utility providers will follow as part of the assessment on candidate sites and the preparation of the Deposit Plan.

Plans of Neighbouring Authorities (LPAs)

- The Preferred Strategy takes into account cross-border issues and the plans of neighbouring authorities and reflects the discussions and agreements reached relating to cross-border issues. Examples include agreement on the approach to the housing numbers attributed to growth in the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority area, growth levels in Torfaen, consideration of Newport's capacity to accommodate an element of Monmouthshire's growth on previously developed land, and discussion with the Forest of Dean regarding their issues and objectives and growth strategy with particular reference to infrastructure impact on Chepstow. Further details of joint working and collaboration are set out in Appendix 3 of the Preferred Strategy.
- As noted above, in recognition of the value of working with neighbouring authorities, and in response to PPW11 and the Development Plans Manual (Ed 3, March 2020) emphasis on collaborative working, we have worked on or are working on a number of pieces of evidence together. These include: a Larger than Local Employment Study, Population and Household Projections, Integrated Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulation Assessment, Development Viability Model, Renewable Energy Assessment and Green Belt and Green Wedge Review. The nature of the co-operation with authorities and sharing of approaches including comparable thematic policy areas will be developed as the Plan's preparatory process continues. This will build on work undertaken by SEWSPG and topic-based Pathfinder groups, which have helped establish a common approach to a number of Plan preparation tasks including candidate sites assessments, sustainable settlement appraisals and retail and employment land monitoring.

- Regard will continue to be had to the emphasis on regional working in light of future provisions around Strategic Development Plans and Future Wales.

Single Integrated Plan (SIP), Well-being Plan or the National Park Management Plan (NPMP)

- The Monmouthshire Well-being Plan was prepared by the Public Service Board and endorsed in February 2018. The RLDP Issues, Vision and Objectives are heavily drawn from and reflect the PSB Well-being Plan which was extensively consulted upon by the Public Service Board in 2017 and resulted in contributions from more than 1,400 people. This approach reflects Welsh Government guidance which recognises the significance of local well-being plans as a key evidence source for LDP preparation (paragraphs 1.6 and 1.21, PPW11). In this respect, the Well-being Plan has been an integral part of the Preferred Strategy preparation ensuring it seeks to address key issues identified for Monmouthshire. The Strategic Policies also set out which of the Well-being Plan objectives it has a particular link to. The Council is now working on the Gwent Public Services Board Well-being Plan.
- The new Preferred Strategy is informed by the new Administration's draft Community and Corporate Plan.
- The area of Brecon Beacons National Park that sits within Monmouthshire County Council's administrative area is excluded from the extent of the RLDP's geographical area and does not form part of Monmouthshire's Planning Authority remit. The relationship and impact on the Brecon Beacons National Park, does, however, remain a significant consideration for the preparation of the RLDP. The Preferred Strategy is considered to reflect the aims of the 'A Management Plan for the Brecon Beacons National Park' (2015-2020), particularly its themes aiming to 'Manage the Parks Landscape' and 'Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity'. Strategic Policy SP17 – Green Infrastructure, Landscaping and Nature Conservation is of particular relevance to achieving the aims of the Management Plan. The Green Belt and Green Wedge Review will carefully consider the setting of the National Park, noting the Candidate Site submissions for both development and protection as a Green Wedge of the foothills to the north west of Abergavenny.

Joint Working and Collaboration on both plan preparation and the evidence base

- As demonstrated above, a significant amount of the evidence base has been commissioned on a joint basis with Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen and on a sub-regional basis with Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Caerphilly and Newport. We have held regular joint meetings to ensure there is a consistency of approach. Further details of joint working and collaboration are set out in Appendix 3 of the Preferred Strategy and specific examples referenced throughout the Preferred Strategy in relation to the Strategic Policies.

	On-going meetings and collaboration are pursued through the longstanding South East Wales Strategic Planning Group (SEWSPG), the Planning Officers South Wales (POSW) and the South East Wales Planning Officer Society (SEWPOS).
Test 2: Is the plan appropriate? (Is the plan appropriate for the area in the light of the evidence?) Questions - Is it locally specific? - Does it address the key issues? - Is it supported by robust, proportionate and credible evidence? - Can the rationale behind plan policies be demonstrated? - Does it seek to meet assessed needs and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development? - Are the vision and the strategy positive and sufficiently aspirational? - Have the 'real' alternatives been properly considered? - Is it logical, reasonable and balanced? - Is it coherent and consistent? - Is it clear and focused?	Is it Locally Specific? - The Preferred Strategy builds upon the objectives of the Well-being Plan, having regard to the outcomes of the consultation undertaken in its preparation and the embodying principles of the draft Community and Corporate Plan of tackling inequality, protecting our environment and adapting to a world being reshaped by climate change. The formulation of the Preferred Strategy is underpinned by this locally specific evidence base. Building on this and the extensive non-statutory consultation that has been undertaken to date (see Appendix 1 of the Preferred Strategy for a summary) the Preferred Strategy has emerged as a direct result of a number of very locally specific issues, with three core objectives becoming apparent as the Plan has progressed: delivering affordable housing to help address inequality, rebalancing the County's demography to ensure communities are socially and economically sustainable, and responding to the climate and nature emergency to ensure proposals are environmentally sustainable. The Preferred Strategy also responds to a number of challenges that have arisen following stakeholder consultation and engagement on the earlier non-statutory stages and the previous Preferred Strategy (June 2021). Of note is the Welsh Government objection to the level of growth set out in that previous Preferred Strategy and the new issue of phosphate water quality issues in the River Wye and River Usk. - The Preferred Strategy proposes a level and distribution of growth that has regard to these locally specific issues, whilst also ensuring that the RLDP delivers on our objectives and addresses our core issues of delivering affordable homes, responding the climate and nature emergency by delivering net zero carbon ready homes and ensuring our communities are socially and economically sustainable be attracting and retaining younger people to rebalance our ageing demographic. Does it address key issues? - Each Strategic Policy highlights the links to the RLDP objectives and Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan objectives. The locally specific, key issues are referenced extensively throughout the Preferred Strategy and have formed the principal rationale for choosing the policy approach taken. Key issues addressed by the Preferred Strategy include: - Delivering a level of growth (homes and jobs) that address our local issues, having regard to the phosphate constraints and Welsh Government's concerns regarding alignment with Future Wales: the National Plan 2040.

- Maximising affordable housing delivery on new housing allocations, reflecting the Council's commitment to deliver 50% affordable homes on new housing sites.
 - Requiring new homes to be net zero carbon ready reflecting our commitment to responding to and tackling climate change.
 - Promoting sustainable economic growth.
 - Identifies Preferred Strategic Site Allocations within the primary settlements of Abergavenny, Caldicot and Chepstow, three of Monmouthshire's most sustainable locations that have opportunities and potential to connect and link with regional travel aspirations, in particular identified opportunities at Severn Tunnel Junction and the South East Wales Metro Scheme.
- In preparing the Preferred Strategy three growth options and two spatial options were assessed against their contribution to the RLDP overarching objectives. Details of this assessment is set out in the Growth and Spatial Options Paper (September 2022). This assessment recognises that the growth level set in the new Preferred Strategy does not perform as well as the growth level associated with the Preferred Strategy proposed in June 2021, in relation to addressing RLDP objectives relating to ageing demographic and the ability to create resilient communities and rural communities. However, it performs better than the growth level prescribed by Welsh Government in its response to the June 2021 Preferred Strategy, which performed poorly against eight objectives including its ability to address housing, demographic changes and economic growth. Spatially, two options have been considered, the first relating to proportionate distribute across the County and the second distribution across the County's most sustainable settlement with the exclusion of the upper River Wye phosphates catchment area. When assessed against the RLDP objectives, proportionate growth performed better than the chosen spatial option to exclude the upper River Wye Phosphates catchment area, however, due to the NRW requirement to demonstrate phosphate neutrality, this is considered to be a deliverable spatial option.
- Overall, it is recognised that the Preferred Strategy is unable to deliver the Council's objectives in those settlements in the phosphate affected upper River Wye catchment, including the delivery of affordable homes. However, as there are currently no identified strategic solutions to the treatment of phosphates in the upper River Wye catchment area during the Plan period this is unavoidable. However, if a strategic solution to the phosphate issue is secured in the Monmouth Wastewater Treatment Works during the Plan period, windfalls sites within settlement boundaries could be developed. It is proposed to include within the settlement boundary three current sites: land at Rockfield Road, Monmouth with planning permission but unable to proceed at present due to phosphates, and two current LDP sites at Drewen Farm, Monmouth

and Tudor Road, Wyesham that are unable to proceed due to phosphates. In accordance with the Development Plans Manual, these will be considered as ‘bonus sites’.

Is it supported by robust, proportionate and credible evidence?

- Extensive evidence building has been undertaken to support the Preferred Strategy. A full breakdown is provided in Appendix 2 of the Preferred Strategy. In addition to these, further studies and evidence will be or are currently being undertaken and commissioned, including viability modelling, Strategic Flood Consequence, and Green Belt and Green Wedge Review. A renewable energy assessment and site search process to meet the identified Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need are ongoing. Further work will be undertaken during the Plan preparatory process as appropriate and necessary.

Can the rationale behind plan policies be demonstrated?

- The evidence gathered has informed the preparation of the strategic policies, which need to be read in conjunction with one another in order to gain an understanding of the overall policy direction of the Plan. Each strategic policy has a reasoned justification and a summary table setting out how it relates to the relevant RLDP objectives, national policy, and Well Being Goals, as well as the key evidence. The Strategic Policies have been grouped by PPW11’s overarching policy themes and the relevant sections of PPW11 are referenced as these combined with the locally specific evidence forms a key approach to establishing the rationale to the Plan’s policies.

Does it seek to meet assessed needs and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development?

- The Preferred Strategy is derived from evidence that assesses the needs of the County, particularly in respect of homes (both market and affordable) and jobs, as well as the need to protect the most valuable areas of land. The Growth and Spatial Options Paper (September 2022) and Initial Integrated Sustainable Appraisal (November 2022) accompanying the Preferred Strategy, appraise the Preferred Strategy’s contribution to locally specific needs and sustainable development credential respectively. The Integrated Sustainability Appraisal process has an integral and iterative role in the preparation of the RLDP. In this respect, its use in testing or measuring the performance of the RLDP from its inception through to the preparation of the Preferred Strategy is indicative of the iterative feedback between the ISA and the RLDP as work progresses.

- The Preferred Strategy contribution to the RLDP locally specific objectives is discussed above, which concludes that the Strategy performs well against addressing the needs of the County but is unable to deliver the Council's objectives in those settlements in the phosphate affected upper River Wye catchment.
- Similar results were concluded in the Initial Integrated Sustainability Assessment of the Options considered as part of the Preferred Strategy process. In summary, Growth Option 1 (PS June 2021) is identified as best performing against ISA themes relating to the economy and employment, population and communities, health/ wellbeing and equalities as the additional growth provides an opportunity to deliver a greater range of new housing, employment opportunities and community infrastructure to meet the needs of the County. Option 2 (the new Preferred Strategy growth level) performs slightly less positively than Option 1 given the level of growth proposed is less and therefore less affordable housing and less demographic change result, however similar positive effects are predicted under this Option, providing a more balanced demographic, more affordable housing and more sustainable communities than predicted under Option 3 (WG prescribed growth level).
- Spatially, while both options perform well, options 1 (proportionate distribution) performs more positively than Option 2 (exclusion of upper River Wye catchment) against ISA themes relating to population/ communities, health/ wellbeing, economy/ employment, and equalities compared to the other options. Option 1 is found to have the potential for significant long-term positive effects, focusing growth at all of the County's most sustainable Settlements where there is greater need and better access to public transport, existing employment and facilities/ services. Option 2 also performs positively in this respect; however, the significance of effects is uncertain due to the absence of growth at key settlement Monmouth, and other settlements in the Upper Wye catchment area. This has the potential to exacerbate existing demographic issues and levels of out-commuting, specifically in the Upper Wye catchment area. However, the environmental constraint makes this unavoidable.
- The ISA of the Preferred Strategy, which combines growth option 2 with spatial option 2 recognises that whilst the Preferred Strategy is unable to fully deliver the Council's objectives, the strategy nonetheless maximises delivery of core issues and objectives within environmental and national policy constraints. When assessed against the ISA themes the Preferred Strategy is predicted to have a positive significant effect on themes including economy and employment, population and communities and transport and movement, in recognition of the Preferred Strategy proposing to deliver new employment and homes to meet identified needs, distributed to the higher tier settlements of Abergavenny, Caldicot and Chepstow,

where there is greater need and better access to sustainable transport modes and wider infrastructure. It recognises, however, that limiting employment and housing opportunities in the settlements of the upper River Wye catchment area could exacerbate out-commuting and may exacerbate any existing demographic issues in Monmouth and other settlements in the upper River Wye catchment. The assessment acknowledges that a solution is however, being sought between the relevant organisations which may facilitate a level of growth in the upper River Wye catchment during the Plan period.

- Effects remain uncertain at this stage in the Plan process on a number of ISA themes including health and wellbeing equalities, diversity and social inclusion, historic environment, landscape and climate change. This is primarily related to the limited detail available to fully assess the potential effects due the strategic level of the plan stage and also recognition of limited growth in Monmouth other upper River Wye catchment settlements. Significant negative effects are predicted in relation to the natural resources ISA theme, which recognises that given the widespread nature of high quality ALC throughout the County that substantial loss of the County's soil resource is inevitable.
- In addition, the Local Housing Market Assessment has provided key evidence on the level of affordable housing need in the County. An Employment Land Review has been undertaken to quantify the future employment land requirements based on the Welsh Government Practice Guidance for Economic Development. This will be supplemented by an Economic Development Strategy. The need for homes and jobs has also been considered alongside the need to protect the County's land resources for environmental, agricultural and nature conservation purposes. The balance to be achieved between these differing and sometime competing needs will continue to be a key focus of the RLDP as it progresses to the Deposit stage.
- The hierarchy of settlements has been developed taking account of the sustainability credentials of each settlement and how they can contribute to their wider communities. This hierarchy recognises and acknowledges the availability of services and facilities, accessibility issues and other considerations. Reference should be made to the Sustainable Settlement Appraisal Background Paper (December 2022) for full details. This work has formed the basis for the proposed spatial strategy, which seeks to ensure development is located in the most sustainable settlements within a Monmouthshire context.

Are the vision and the strategy positive and sufficiently aspirational?

- The RLDP Vision has been developed to take into account the key challenges and opportunities for change, whilst being aspirational and positive enough to seek a reversal to the otherwise projected decline in job numbers and younger age groups present in the County. The vision for growth is a positive one which seeks to create high quality, sustainable places in both urban and rural settlements within a Monmouthshire context. The Preferred Strategy takes a positive, yet realistic approach to achieving growth within the context of Monmouthshire and tackling key national and local issues, such as the provision of affordable homes, growing Monmouthshire's economic base, tackling climate change and creating sustainable places to live and work in. The strategy is considered to present a balanced approach to growth by putting forward a strategy that is aspirational enough to address a number of key issues facing the County, whilst also having regard to Welsh Government Officer concerns regarding alignment with Future Wales: the National Plan 2040 and phosphates water quality issues associated with the River Wye and River Usk.

Have the 'real' alternatives been properly considered?

- A number of different alternative growth and spatial options are considered in the Growth and Spatial Options Paper (September 2022), and also against the ISA themes through the Integrated Sustainability Assessment process, with a brief overview provided above in relation to 'Does it seek to meet assessed needs and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development?'. Having regard to the outcome of these assessments, four options setting out different combinations of growth and spatial options as set out in the Growth and Spatial Options Paper (September 2022) were considered as part of the Progressing the Monmouthshire's Replacement Local Development Plan Council Report on 27th September 2022. These were:
 - Option 1: Proceed with the previous Preferred Strategy that we consulted on in July-August 2021;
 - Option 2: Adopt an amended approach and proceed with a demographic-led strategy (based on the latest detailed population data) and an amended spatial strategy to take account of the phosphate constraint in the River Wye catchment. This is the recommended option;
 - Option 3: Proceed with the WG prescribed maximum dwelling requirement (4,275 dwellings over the Plan period), and a spatial strategy that takes account of the phosphate constraint in the River Wye catchment; or
 - Option 4: Restart the RLDP process.
- Council endorsed option 2 as the basis for progressing the RLDP as set out in the new Preferred Strategy.

Page 266	Is it logical, reasonable and balanced? ▪ The Preferred Strategy has emerged from a clear understanding of the issues at a national, regional and local level. It has considered a range of options and has had regard to the views expressed during the non-statutory consultation and engagement exercises to date and made changes to the options considered as a result. The Preferred Strategy has emerged from engagement and evidence and as such it is considered to be logical and reasonable within the context of the issues facing Monmouthshire. It is considered to provide a balanced approach that integrates with other plans and strategies, whilst ensuring it is reflective of national policy and the need for a sustainable and deliverable Plan. Is it coherent and consistent? ▪ The Preferred Strategy sets out a coherent strategy from which its strategic policies flow. The strategy is guided by, and consistent with, the Plan vision and objectives, the principles of sustainability and placemaking set out in national planning guidance, the growth and spatial options and the evidence base. Is it clear and focused? ▪ The Preferred Strategy is set out in a clear and logical form, clearly showing the links between the various elements of the Strategy. It provides a clear focus of its purpose, identifying the vision and issues associated with the Plan and how the Preferred Strategy will seek to address these.
Test 3: Will the plan deliver (Is it likely to be effective?) Questions • Will it be effective? • Can it be implemented? • Is there support from the relevant infrastructure providers both financially and in terms of meeting relevant timescales? • Will development be viable? • Can the sites allocated be delivered? • Is the plan sufficiently flexible? Are there appropriate contingency provisions? • Is it monitored effectively?	Will it be effective? ▪ The Preferred Strategy's objectives have emerged from an understanding of the challenges and needs of Monmouthshire as well as a sound, logical and robust evidence base. The strategy seeks to integrate and reflect other plans and strategies as part of an integrated approach to delivery, maximising its opportunities to be effective in its implementation. ▪ The Preferred Strategy makes provision for approximately 5,400 – 5,940 homes (5,400 plus 10% flexibility) over the Plan period, including the provision of approximately 1,580 – 1,850 affordable homes. This level of growth will enable the provision of market and affordable housing and provides the opportunity to address the unbalanced demography, improve labour force retention and assists in the County's housing affordability challenge. ▪ In order to meet the housing provision figure of 5,940, the RLDP will need to make new allocations for 2,200 new homes reflecting the number of units that already have planning permission or that will be delivered via other housing supply streams, such as windfall and infill sites. These new allocations provide the Council

with the opportunity to open up longer term directions for strategic growth and implement place-making and climate change principles.

- The Preferred Strategy also provide the planning policy framework to facilitate the growth of the resident workforce to support 6,240 jobs over the Plan period to help grow Monmouthshire's economic base and reduce the out-commuting experienced within the County. This level of job growth aligns with the projected population and housing growth and takes account of adjustments to household membership rates for key younger age groups and a reduced level of commuting by retaining more of the resident workforce.
- The Preferred Strategy establishes the requirement for new homes to be net zero carbon ready, reflecting the Council's commitment to responding to and tackling climate change.
- It is recognised, however, that the Preferred Strategy is unable to deliver the Council's objectives in those settlements in the phosphate affected upper River Wye catchment. As there are currently no identified strategic solutions to the treatment of phosphates in the upper River Wye catchment area during the Plan period this is unavoidable.
- As discussed in relation to Test 2 and the Strategy's ability to address local issues, it is recognised that the Preferred Strategy does not perform as well against the RLDP objectives as the higher growth level proposed under Option 1 and Spatial Option 1 to distribute growth proportionately across the County. However, it performs better than the level of growth proposed by Welsh Government. Notwithstanding that however, the Preferred Strategy does begin to address key issues including the ageing demographic, affordability challenges and economic growth, whilst having regard to the phosphate constraints and Welsh Government's concerns regarding alignment with Future Wales: the National Plan 2040. Similar results were concluded in the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal of the Growth and Spatial Options when assessed against the ISA themes (see Test 2 for further details). Similarly, the ISA concludes that whilst the Preferred Strategy is unable to fully deliver the Council's objectives, the strategy nonetheless maximises delivery of core issues and objectives within environmental and national policy constraints.

Can it be implemented?

- The preparation of the Preferred Strategy is with the clear intention that it will be implementable and that its policies and proposals will be delivered within the Plan period. The Preferred Strategy sets out a deliverable spatial framework and strategic growth which is based on sustainability principles and is responsive to the needs of the communities of Monmouthshire. The policies and proposals (both strategic and eventually specific within the future Deposit Plan) will provide the framework through which the Plan's objectives will be implemented and the decision-making process undertaken. More detailed assessment

work, covering issues such as viability, phasing and deliverability of sites will be undertaken to support the preparation of the Deposit Plan.

- The level of affordable housing noted above aligns with the Council commitment to ensuring that the new site allocations provide 50% affordable housing. In order for residential sites to be allocated in the RLDP, it will be essential to demonstrate that sites are viable and deliverable, having regard to the Council's commitment for 50% affordable housing provision on new sites. This may require Welsh Government policy position changes on use of Social Housing Grant or other public sector funding.
- Providing for the level of jobs growth is part of a complex picture, including the provision of a deliverable range of employment land supply, in appropriate locations. It will also be achieved through the allocation of a minimum of 38ha of employment land to facilitate the delivery of industrial and business employment uses. It has, however, become widely accepted that there has been a fundamental shift in working practices experienced as a legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic, with a significant increase in people working from home/remotely. This has provided the opportunity for many people to live and work in the same location via a new remote working approach and aligns with Welsh Government's 'Smarter Working: a Remote Working Strategy for Wales. The RLDP will also include a policy framework to support job growth from other key employment sectors including retail, leisure and tourism.
- As part of the preparation of the Deposit RLDP an effective and appropriate monitoring framework will be developed and included within the Plan. This will form the basis for undertaking the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR will represent the main method for measuring and assessing the progress in the implementation of the policies and proposals of the adopted RLDP.

Is there support from the relevant infrastructure providers both financially and in terms of meeting the relevant timescales?

- Infrastructure providers are an important component in developing the RLDP and form a key consultee. In this respect they have and will continue to be engaged throughout the Plan making process. Notably further consultation will be undertaken in the preparation of the Deposit Plan to ensure that Plan delivery is fully evidenced. Extensive discussions have taken place between the Council and Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water and NRW to identify workable solutions to the phosphates water quality issue. The outcome of these ongoing discussions has become a central part of the proposed spatial strategy with no new allocations proposed in the upper River Wye Phosphates Catchment area. Other infrastructure providers have also been involved in on-going discussion including Western Power, the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Transport for Wales, and the Local Education Authority.

Will the development be viable?

- The need for development to be viable is an important aspect in the preparation of the Plan and will be evidenced in relation to the identification of sites or the development of specific policies. Work is currently being developed at a regional level to establish a robust and consistent methodology for assessing viability across authorities in the south east Wales region. This work sits alongside viability modelling at a site-specific level ensuring that viability assessments submitted with candidate sites are appropriately informed by local conditions and policy and are robustly evidenced. In seeking to address key local issues such as 50% affordable housing delivery on new site allocations and net zero carbon ready homes, it will be essential to demonstrate that sites are viable and deliverable. As noted above, this might require Welsh Government's policy position changes on use of Social Housing Grant or other public sector funding. Additional viability work will be required to demonstrate site viability and deliverability based on these policy requirements.
- A second call for candidate sites was undertaken over an eight-week period during summer 2021. Detailed information on site viability was required as part of this exercise, with a guidance note issued to help landowners and developers on the level and type of information required. A Viability Steering Group has also been established to inform the viability process and ensure key inputs reflect market conditions in Monmouthshire. This site-specific information together with viability modelling will be used to evidence that the sites allocated in the Deposit Plan are viable.

Can the sites allocated be delivered?

- The Preferred Strategy identifies Preferred Strategic Development Sites for the Primary Settlements of Abergavenny, Caldicot and Chepstow through Strategic Policy S7. To inform these Strategic Development Sites, a high-level assessment has been undertaken to identify those sites which could contribute to delivering the level of growth (housing and jobs) required to deliver the Preferred Strategy. These sites have provided sufficient evidence of viability and deliverability that will be built on as the Plan progresses. Two of the Preferred Strategic Sites are anticipated to provide housing both within and beyond the RLDP plan period (Abergavenny East and Caldicot East).
- Further site-specific allocations will be identified as part of the Deposit plan with their deliverability evidenced accordingly.

Is the Plan sufficiently flexible? Are there appropriate contingencies in place?

- The Preferred Strategy has been designed to provide a flexible policy framework which is capable of providing certainty on how much growth is proposed and its broad distribution, but flexible enough to consider appropriate and acceptable opportunities that may arise during the Plan period, such as windfall

sites and rural enterprise developments. The dwelling and employment land requirement figures contain a flexibility allowance to allow for unforeseen circumstances that may emerge through the Plan period. The flexibility allowance will be given further consideration as part of the Deposit Plan preparation. There is a clear challenge in balancing the environmental constraint of water quality in the River Wye with meeting the identified objectives. Although there is no identified strategic phosphates solution at present for the River Wye, as a contingency it is proposed to include within the settlement boundary three current sites: land at Rockfield Road, Monmouth with planning permission but unable to proceed at present due to phosphates, and two current LDP sites at Drewen Farm, Monmouth and Tudor Road, Wyesham that are unable to proceed due to phosphates. In accordance with the Development Plans Manual, these will be considered as 'bonus sites'.

Is it monitored effectively?

- As part of the preparation of the Deposit Plan an effective and appropriate monitoring framework will be developed and included within the Plan and will form the basis for undertaking the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR will represent the main method for measuring and assessing the progress in the implementation of the policies and proposals of the adopted RLDP. In the meantime, a number of annual monitoring exercises will continue to be undertaken to help ensure evidence is up-to-date. This includes the annual housing surveys, Employment and Retail Surveys and preparation of the Adopted LDP Annual Monitoring Reports.

Appendix 1

Monmouthshire RLDP Preferred Strategy (December 2022) – General Conformity with Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 Assessment

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (referred to as Future Wales from this point on) was published by Welsh Government in February 2021 to promote development that enhances well-being and quality of life in Wales. It considers the issues significant to Wales's prosperity and well-being, such as the economy, housing, transport, energy, and the environment. It identifies where national developments should take place, where the key growth areas are and what infrastructure and services are needed. It is set in the context of a vision that will help deliver sustainable places across Wales by 2040, by supporting placemaking and ensuring our choices direct development to the right places, making the best use of resources, creating and sustaining accessible healthy communities, protecting our environment and supporting prosperity for all.

The requirement for a development plan to be in general conformity with the upper tier statutory development plan in Wales is set out in primary legislation. Planning Policy Wales 11 (February 2021) and the Development Plans Manual (March 2020) provide additional guidance on how to assess general conformity. Paragraph 2.18 of the Development Plans Manual notes that "the fact that a development plan may be inconsistent with one or more policies in the upper tier plan, either directly or through the omission of a policy/proposal, does not, by itself, mean that the plan is not in general conformity. Rather, the fundamental point is how significant the inconsistency is from the point of view of delivery of the upper tier plan". It goes on to note in paragraph 2.19 "whilst it would be acceptable for the lower tier plan to provide further detail in relation to making it more locally distinctive, it fundamentally must not undermine the overarching strategy, policies or proposals in the upper tier plan(s)". The requirement to be in general conformity with Future Wales is also a test of soundness and will be tested through the examination process.

The purpose of this Appendix is to demonstrate that the Monmouthshire's Preferred Strategy (December 2022) assists in the delivery of the Future Wales policies and is in general conformity with its overarching strategy.

The following section assesses whether the RLDP objectives and Strategic Policies set out in the Preferred Strategy are considered to be in general conformity with Future Wales Policies using the traffic light model below:

RLDP/Preferred Strategy is considered to be in general conformity with the Future Wales 2040 policy objective.
RLDP/Preferred Strategy is considered to make a neutral contribution to the Future Wales 2040 policy objective.
RLDP/Preferred Strategy is not considered to be in general conformity with the Future Wales 2040 policy objective.

Future Wales Policy*	Relevant RLDP Objectives and Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies	General Conformity with FW Strategy
Policy 1 – Where Wales will grow The Welsh Government supports sustainable growth in all parts of Wales. In three National Growth Areas there will be growth in employment and housing opportunities and investment in infrastructure. The National Growth Areas are: • Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys • Swansea Bay and Llanelli • Wrexham and Deeside The National Growth Areas are complemented by Regional Growth Areas which will grow, develop and offer a variety of public and commercial services at regional scale. There are Regional Growth Areas in three regions: • The South West • Mid Wales • The North Development and growth in towns and villages in rural areas should be of appropriate scale and support local aspirations and need.	RLDP Objectives: Objective 1 – Economic Growth / Employment Objective 6 – Land Objective 9 – Demography Objective 10 – Housing Objective 12 – Communities Objective 13 – Rural Communities Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies: S1 – Growth Strategy S2 – Spatial Distribution of Development – Settlement Hierarchy S6 – Affordable Homes S7 – Preferred Strategic Site Allocations S9 – Sustainable Transport S12 – Employment Sites Provision	Monmouthshire is not identified as a growth area in Future Wales, however, the policy allows for growth in towns and villages in rural areas of an appropriate scale and to support local aspiration and need. The Preferred Strategy growth level has emerged from an understanding of the issues, challenges and needs of Monmouthshire as well as a sound, logical and robust evidence base. The Council has considered how best to progress the RLDP having regard to a number of challenges that have arisen following stakeholder consultation and engagement on the previous Preferred Strategy in summer 2021, namely a Welsh Government objection on the level of growth set out in the Preferred Strategy and phosphate water quality issues in the Rivers Wye and Usk. In response to these challenges four options were considered by Council on 27th September having regard to the benefits and risks associated with each. The Report recognises that while the Preferred Strategy would not deliver key outcomes/address local evidence-based issues in the upper River Wye Catchment settlements, it would deliver growth (homes and jobs) that address our locally evidence-based issues and objectives in the south of the County and River Usk catchment area, including in relation to the delivery of affordable homes, rebalancing our demography and responding to the climate and nature emergencies. The proposed level of growth also represents a closer alignment with the level of growth prescribed by Welsh

Page 273		Government's July 2021 letter whilst meeting the Council's objectives and meeting the tests of soundness. Although Monmouthshire is not within the national growth area identified in Future Wales 2040: The National Plan, our evidence shows that the proposed level of growth is essential to deliver our local evidence-based issues and objectives and to ensure the RLDP is 'sound'. It is supported by policies 3, 4, 5 and 7, which support public leadership and the use of public land to deliver on ambitious affordable housing targets, demographically balanced rural communities, the rural economy and the delivery of affordable homes. The growth strategy will assist in addressing our core issues without harming or compromising Welsh Government's objectives for wider South East Wales region. On the basis of the evidence prepared to support the Preferred Strategy it is considered the level and distribution of growth proposed is of an appropriate scale to specifically address local aspirations and needs.
Policy 2 – Shaping Urban Growth and Regeneration – Strategic Placemaking The growth and regeneration of towns and cities should positively contribute towards building sustainable places that support active and healthy lives, with urban neighbourhoods that are compact and walkable, organised around mixed-use centres and public transport, and integrated with green infrastructure. Urban growth and regeneration should be based on the following strategic placemaking principles: • creating a rich mix of uses; • providing a variety of housing types and tenures;	RLDP Objectives: Objective 3 – Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Landscape Objective 8 - Health and Well-being Objective 11 – Placemaking Objective 12 – Communities Objective 13 – Rural Communities Objective 15 – Accessibility Objective 16 – Culture, Heritage and Welsh Language RLDP Strategic Policies:	The Preferred Strategy's core aim is to deliver sustainable and resilient communities for all. The Strategic Policy Framework seeks to ensure development contributes to the creation of sustainable places that focus on delivering placemaking and ensuring Monmouthshire's communities are sustainable in the long terms and are attractive places to live, work and visit. The policy framework set out in the Preferred Strategy is considered to reflect the policy objectives of the Future Wales policy and provide the basis to make a significant contribution to placemaking objectives at the local level within Monmouthshire.

• building places at a walkable scale, with homes, local facilities and public transport within walking distance of each other; • increasing population density, with development built at urban densities that can support public transport and local facilities; • establishing a permeable network of streets, with a hierarchy that informs the nature of development; • promoting a plot-based approach to development, which provides opportunities for the development of small plots, including for custom and self-builders; and • integrating green infrastructure, informed by the planning authority's Green Infrastructure Assessment. Planning authorities should use development plans to establish a vision for each town and city. This should be supported by a spatial framework that guides growth and regeneration, and establishes a structure within which towns and cities can grow, evolve, diversify and flourish over time.	S3 – Sustainable Placemaking and High Quality Design S9 – Sustainable Transport S11 – Community and Recreation Facilities S17 – Green infrastructure, landscape and Nature Conservation	The new Preferred Strategy focuses growth on the three principal settlements of Abergavenny, Caldicot and, to a lesser extent, Chepstow. The Strategy identifies three Strategic Development Sites which will deliver sustainable and well-connected urban extensions. The sites will have good walking and cycling links to the respective town centres and railway stations and public transport links. The larger Abergavenny and Caldicot sites will deliver a mix of uses and amenities on site. Visions for each town are being developed via regeneration Placemaking Plans co-produced with the respective Town Council.
Policy 3 – Supporting Urban Growth and Regeneration – Public Sector Leadership The Welsh Government will play an active, enabling role to support the delivery of urban growth and regeneration. The Welsh Government will assemble land, invest in infrastructure and prepare sites for development. We will work with local authorities and other public sector bodies to unlock the potential of their land and support them to take an increased development role. The public sector must show leadership and apply placemaking principles to support growth and regeneration for the benefit of communities across Wales. The public sector's use of land, developments, investments and actions must build sustainable places that improve health and well-being.	RLDP Objectives: Objective 1 – Economic Growth / Employment Objective 10 – Housing Objective 11 – Placemaking Objective 14 – Infrastructure RLDP Strategic Policies: S1 – Growth Strategy S2 – Spatial Distribution of Development – Settlement Hierarchy S3 – Sustainable Placemaking & High Quality Design S5 – Infrastructure Provision S6 – Affordable Homes	The Preferred Strategy policy framework establishes a new direction for the RLDP to ensure sustainable growth in the County, embodying the principles set out in the draft Community and Corporate Plan of tackling inequality, protecting our environment and adapting to a world being reshaped by climate change. Monmouthshire County Council recognise the significant role it must play in providing public leadership in achieving this aim. To deliver on these key objectives sites to be allocated in the RLDP will need to demonstrate that sites are viable and deliverable, having regard to the Council's commitment for 50% affordable housing provision on new site allocations, the requirement for net zero carbon ready homes and associated infrastructure to ensure the development is sustainable and well-connected. This commitment could have financial

Planning authorities must take a proactive role and work in collaboration with the Welsh Government and other public sector bodies to identify the best locations for growth and regeneration, and provide certainty about how they should be developed.	S7 – Preferred Strategic Site Allocations S12 – Employment Sites Provision	implications for the Council of reduced land sale receipts and the potential need to CPO sites to bring them forward. It may also require Welsh Government policy position changes on use of Social Housing Grant or other public funding. The suggested approaches are supported by Policy 3 of FW which supports public leadership and the use of public land to deliver on ambitious affordable housing targets. One of the preferred Strategic Development Sites is promoted by a Registered Social Landlord, and another extends onto Council-owned land offering opportunities to deliver affordable housing in a different way.
Policy 4 – Supporting Rural Communities The Welsh Government supports sustainable and vibrant rural communities. Strategic and Local Development Plans must identify their rural communities, assess their needs and set out policies that support them. Policies should consider how age balanced communities can be achieved, where depopulation should be reversed and consider the role of new affordable and market housing, employment opportunities, local services and greater mobility in tackling these challenges.	RLDP Objectives: Objective 1 – Economic Growth / Employment Objective 8 – Health and Well-being Objective 9 – Demography Objective 10 – Housing Objective 11 – Placemaking Objective 12 – Communities Objective 13 – Rural communities Objective 16 – Culture, Heritage and Welsh Language RLDP Strategic Policies: S1 – Growth Strategy S2 – Spatial Distribution of Development – Settlement Hierarchy S3 – Sustainable Placemaking & High Quality Design S6 – Affordable Homes S9 – Sustainable Transport S13 – Rural Enterprise S14 – Visitor Economy	The issues identified in Policy 4 of Future Wales are directly related to the issues and challenges that the Monmouthshire RLDP is seeking to address. The Preferred Strategy proposes a level and distribution of growth that provides the opportunity to address the County's key issues/challenges including an unbalanced demography, improve labour force retention and out-commuting rates and assist in the County's housing affordability challenge. In this respect the Preferred Strategy is considered to offer a significant contribution to achieving the objectives of Policy 4 of Future Wales whilst also being the most conducive to achieving the RLDP vision and the Council's core purpose of building sustainable and resilient communities across Monmouthshire.

Policy 5 – Supporting the rural economy The Welsh Government supports sustainable, appropriate and proportionate economic growth in rural towns that is planned and managed through Strategic and Local Development Plans. Strategic and Local Development Plans must plan positively to meet the employment needs of rural areas including employment arising from the foundational economy; the agricultural and forestry sector, including proposals for diversification; start-ups and micro businesses. The Welsh Government also strongly supports development of innovative and emerging technology businesses and sectors to help rural areas unlock their full potential, broadening the economic base, and creating higher paid jobs.	Objective 1 – Economic Growth / Employment Objective 9 – Demography Objective 11 – Placemaking Objective 12 – Communities Objective 13 – Rural Communities Objective 16 – Culture, Heritage and Welsh Language RLDP Strategic Policies: S1 – Growth Strategy S2 – Spatial Distribution of Development – Settlement Hierarchy S3 – Sustainable Placemaking & High Quality Design S5 - Infrastructure S13 – Rural Enterprise S14 – Visitor Economy	A significant issue for Monmouthshire is the need to sustain and regenerate the County’s rural economy consistent with the policy aims of Policy 5 of Future Wales. The Preferred Strategy provides the policy framework to allow for an appropriate amount of diversification and enterprise in rural areas as well as the infrastructure both physical and digital to facilitate this. The Preferred Strategy also recognises the role the agricultural and forestry, tourism and leisure sectors play in Monmouthshire’s economy and seeks to facilitate their growth at an appropriate scale. The Strategy is supplemented by a range of evidence and the RLDP will be accompanied by an Economic Development Strategy.
Policy 6 – Town Centre First Significant new commercial, retail, education, health, leisure and public service facilities must be located within town and city centres. They should have good access by public transport to and from the whole town or city and, where appropriate, the wider region. A sequential approach must be used to inform the identification of the best location for these developments and they should be identified in Strategic and Local Development Plans.	RLDP Objectives: Objective 1 – Economic Growth / Employment Objective 2 – Town and Local Centres Objective 11 – Placemaking Objective 12 – Communities Objective 13 Rural Communities Objective 15 – Accessibility RLDP Strategic Policies: S1 – Growth Strategy S2 – Spatial Distribution of Development – Settlement Hierarchy	In accordance with PPW11 the Preferred Strategy sets out the town centre hierarchy for Monmouthshire with a view to sustaining and enhancing the County’s main towns as vibrant and attractive centres and to maintain their essential functions as attractive places to live and visit and provide a valuable role in meeting the needs of local communities. The hierarchy assists the implementation of the sequential approach and town centre first principle by directing retail, commercial and social developments, including leisure, cultural and entertainment uses to the appropriate position in the hierarchy. At Preferred Strategy stage, only the three Preferred Strategic Development Sites have been identified. Details of other allocations and infrastructure will be contained in the Deposit

	S3 – Sustainable Placemaking & High Quality Design S10 – Town, Local and Neighbourhood Centres	Plan or accompanying Infrastructure Plan at the next key stage.
Policy 7 – Delivering Affordable Homes The Welsh Government will increase delivery of affordable homes by ensuring that funding for these homes is effectively allocated and utilised. Through their Strategic and Local Development Plans planning authorities should develop strong evidence based policy frameworks to deliver affordable housing, including setting development plan targets based on regional estimates of housing need and local assessments. In response to local and regional needs, planning authorities should identify sites for affordable housing led developments and explore all opportunities to increase the supply of affordable housing.	RLDP Objectives: Objective 1 – Economic Growth / Employment Objective 6 – Land Objective 9 – Demography Objective 10 – Housing Objective 12 – Communities Objective 13 – Rural Communities Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies: S1 – Growth Strategy S2 – Spatial Distribution of Development – Settlement Hierarchy S6 – Affordable Homes S7 – Preferred Strategic Site Allocations	Tackling affordability issues in Monmouthshire’s housing market has been identified as a key challenge to address through the RLDP process and is a key driver behind the proposed Strategy. Accordingly, the Preferred Strategy establishes a policy framework that seeks to address this through an affordable housing target of between 1,580 – 1,850 affordable homes, commencing work to establish affordable housing percentage thresholds for inclusion in the Deposit Plan and committing to ensuring new site allocations provide for 50% affordable housing. Additional opportunities to increase the supply of affordable housing, such as a housing mix policy will also be explored in the Deposit Plan. As noted in relation to Policy 3, Monmouthshire County Council recognise the significant role it must play in providing public leadership in achieving this aim as well as the role the RLDP plays. The Preferred Strategy sets out the Council’s commitment for 50% affordable housing provision on new site allocations. This commitment could have financial implications for the Council of reduced land sale receipts and the potential need to CPO sites to bring them forward. It may also require Welsh Government policy position changes on use of Social Housing Grant or other public funding. The suggested approaches are supported by Policy 3 of FW which supports public leadership and the use of public land to deliver on ambitious affordable housing targets.

		The latest Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) (December 2020) provides the evidence base on affordable housing matters within the RLDP.
Policy 8 – Flooding Flood risk management that enables and supports sustainable strategic growth and regeneration in National and Regional Growth Areas will be supported. The Welsh Government will work with Flood Risk Management Authorities and developers to plan and invest in new and improved infrastructure, promoting nature-based solutions as a priority. Opportunities for multiple social, economic and environmental benefits must be maximised when investing in flood risk management infrastructure. It must be ensured that projects do not have adverse impacts on international and national statutory designated sites for nature conservation and the features for which they have been designated.	RLDP Objectives: Objective 3 - Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Landscape Objective 4 – Flood Risk Objective 6 – Land Objective 7 – Natural Resources Objective 17 – Climate and Nature Emergency RLDP Strategic Policies: S4 – Climate Change S17 – Green Infrastructure, Landscape and Nature Conservation	The Preferred Strategy is underpinned by Objective 4 which seeks to ensure that new development takes account of the risk of flooding, both existing and in the future, including the need to avoid inappropriate development in areas that are at risk from flooding or that may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere and the need to design development, including the use of natural flood management measures to appropriately manage flood risk and surface water run-off. Policy S4 of the Strategy makes a policy commitment to avoid locating development in areas at risk of flooding, or where appropriate, minimise the risk of flooding including the incorporation of measures such as Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and flood resilience design. In accordance with the updated TAN15, we have commissioned a Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment (SFCA) along with other Planning Authorities in the South-East Wales region to inform the preparation of the RLDP. The SFCA will be used to inform the identification of areas most suitable for development and support the identification and safeguarding of areas suitable for sustainable and natural flood management. The Preferred Strategy also recognises the significant role Green Infrastructure plays in flood attenuation and water resource management and managing and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystems resilience.
Policy 9 – Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure	RLDP Objectives:	Monmouthshire has significant Green Infrastructure, landscape, biodiversity and nature conservation resources.

To ensure the enhancement of biodiversity, the resilience of ecosystems and the provision of green infrastructure, the Welsh Government will work with key partners to: • identify areas which should be safeguarded and created as ecological networks for their importance for adaptation to climate change, for habitat protection, restoration or creation, to protect species, or which provide key ecosystems services, to ensure they are not unduly compromised by future development; - and • identify opportunities where existing and potential green infrastructure could be maximised as part of placemaking, requiring the use of nature-based solutions as a key mechanism for securing sustainable growth, ecological connectivity, social equality and well-being. Planning authorities should include these areas and/or opportunities in their development plan strategies and policies in order to promote and safeguard the functions and opportunities they provide. In all cases, action towards securing the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity (to provide a net benefit), the resilience of ecosystems and green infrastructure assets must be demonstrated as part of development proposals through innovative, nature-based approaches to site planning and the design of the built environment.	Objective 3 - Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Landscape Objective 4 – Flood Risk Objective 6 – Land Objective 7 – Natural Resources Objective 8 – Health and Well-being Objective 17 – Climate and Nature Emergency RLDP Strategic Policies: S4 – Climate Change S17 – Green Infrastructure, Landscape and Nature Conservation	The need to protect and enhance these resources is a key focus of the RLDP, recognising the multifunctional role it has in delivering active travel, placemaking, ecosystem resilience, climate change mitigation and improving general health and well-being. The Council has prepared the Monmouthshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2019), which has also informed the evidence base of the SE Wales Area Statement. This provides an overarching framework for positive actions by all stakeholders involved in the future protection, management and enhancement of Green Infrastructure in Monmouthshire and sets out key strategic objectives and priorities for guiding the planning management and delivery of Green Infrastructure in Monmouthshire.
Policy 10 – International Connectivity The Welsh Government identifies the following Strategic Gateways to facilitate international connectivity: • Cardiff Airport • Holyhead Port • Haven Waterway, including the Ports of Milford Haven and Pembroke Dock		There are no Strategic Gateways to facilitate international connectivity identified in the Monmouthshire boundary. The RLDP is therefore considered to have a neutral impact on the achieving the Future Wales policy.

• Fishguard Port The Welsh Government will work with the operators, investors and local authorities to support Strategic Gateways and maintain their international connectivity roles. Strategic and Local Development Plans should support the Strategic Gateways by maximising the benefits they provide to their respective regions and Wales. New development around the Strategic Gateways should be carefully managed to ensure their operation is not constrained or compromised.		
Policy 11 – National Connectivity The Welsh Government will support and invest in improving national connectivity. Our priorities are to encourage longer-distance trips to be made by public transport, while also making longer journeys possible by electric vehicles. The Welsh Government will work with Transport for Wales, local authorities, operators and partners to support the delivery of the following measures to improve national connectivity: • Rail Network – Transform the rail network and improve the quality of rail services for passengers. • Bus Network – Invest in the development of the national bus network, fully integrated with regional and local bus networks, to increase modal share of bus travel and improve access by bus to a wider range of trip destinations. • Strategic Road Network – Invest in road improvements to reduce journey times, deliver a safer and more resilient road network, and improve air and noise quality. Create a network of rapid-charging points to enable longer distance travel by electric vehicles throughout Wales. • National Cycle Network – Revitalise the National Cycle Network to create a network of traffic-free paths connecting cities, towns and countryside across Wales.	RLDP Objectives: Objective 14 – Infrastructure Objective 15 – Accessibility Objective 17 – Climate and Nature Emergency RLDP Strategic Policies: S4 – Climate Change S5 – Infrastructure Provision S9 – Sustainable Transport	The Preferred Strategy seeks to promote sustainable forms of transport, reduce the need to travel, increase provision for walking and cycling and improve public transport provision. The spatial strategy of the RLDP is to focus development in those locations that provide the best opportunities for achieving sustainable development, which offer a choice of transport modes and contribute towards the development of a sustainable transport network and provide opportunities to enhance and connect to the Active Travel Networks. Enhancing the use of ultra-low emission vehicles through the provision of sufficient charging infrastructure is also recognised as a key contributor to improving sustainable national connectivity given Monmouthshire’s rural character. The RLDP will promote the concept of the ‘20-minute neighbourhood’. However, Monmouthshire is predominantly a rural County and as set out in FW Policy 5, it is recognised that there are significant disparities between urban areas with regard to the feasibility of delivering effective public transport systems and active travel routes. Development proposals in rural areas of Monmouthshire should therefore

Planning authorities should support developments associated with improvements to national connectivity and, where appropriate, maximise the opportunities that arise from them. Planning authorities must ensure that, where appropriate, new development contributes towards the improvement and development of the National Cycle Network and key links to and from it.		demonstrate innovative solutions to connect rural locations to services and facilities. The RLDP will also seek to facilitate the Monmouthshire specific recommendations of the 'South East Wales Transport Commission Final Recommendations Plan 2020, which recommends the enhancement of the Severn Tunnel Junction rail station and access arrangements, and development of a walkway station at Magor and Undy. The RLDP will therefore plan for strategic development with Monmouthshire's most sustainable locations that have opportunities and potential to connect and link with regional travel aspirations and plans, in particular identified opportunities at Severn Tunnel Junction and the South East Wales Metro scheme. The identified preferred strategic growth areas of Abergavenny East, Bayfield in Chepstow and Caldicot East will be linked to the town centre and railway stations via active travel connections. An updated Monmouthshire Local Transport Plan taking account of recent key evidence including the South East Wales Transport Commission Final Recommendations Plan: November 2020 and South East Metro will be prepared alongside the preparation of the Deposit Plan. The RLDP will support the transport schemes in identified within the updated LTP, and where appropriate, safeguard land for key transport proposals.
Policy 12 – Regional Connectivity The Welsh Government will support and invest in improving regional connectivity. In urban areas, to support sustainable growth and regeneration, our priorities are	RLDP Objectives: Objective 14 – Infrastructure Objective 15 – Accessibility Objective 17 – Climate and Nature Emergency	The Preferred Strategy seeks to promote sustainable forms of transport, reduce the need to travel, increase provision for walking and cycling and improve public transport provision. The spatial strategy of the RLDP aims to focus development in those locations that provide the best opportunities for

improving and integrating active travel and public transport. In rural areas our priorities are supporting the uptake of ultra-low emission vehicles and diversifying and sustaining local bus services. The Welsh Government will work with Transport for Wales, local authorities, operators and partners to deliver the following measures to improve regional connectivity: • Active Travel – Prioritising walking and cycling for all local travel. We will support the implementation of the Active Travel Act to create comprehensive networks of local walking and cycling routes that connect places that people need to get to for everyday purposes. • Bus – Improve the legislative framework for how local bus services are planned and delivered. We will invest in the development of integrated regional and local bus networks to increase modal share of bus travel and improve access by bus to a wider range of trip destinations. • Metros – Develop the South East Metro, South West Metro and North Wales Metro. We will create new integrated transport systems that provide faster, more frequent and joined-up services using trains, buses and light rail. • Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles – Support the roll-out of suitable fuelling infrastructure to facilitate the adoption of ultra-low emission vehicles, particularly in rural areas. Planning authorities must plan the growth and regeneration of the National and Regional Growth Areas to maximise opportunities arising from the investment in public transport, including identifying opportunities for higher density, mixed-use and car-free development around metro stations. Active travel must be an essential and integral component of all new developments, large and small. Planning authorities must integrate site allocations, new development and infrastructure with active travel networks and, where appropriate, ensure new	RLDP Strategic Policies: S4 – Climate and Nature Emergency S5 – Infrastructure Provision S9 – Sustainable Transport	achieving sustainable development, which offer a choice of transport modes and contribute towards the development of a sustainable transport network and provide opportunities to enhance and connect to the Active Travel Networks. Enhancing the use of ultra-low emission vehicles through the provision of sufficient charging infrastructure is also recognised as a key contributor to improving sustainable national connectivity given Monmouthshire’s rural character. As noted above the RLDP will also seek to facilitate the Monmouthshire specific recommendations of the ‘South East Wales Transport Commission Final Recommendations Plan 2020, which recommends the enhancement of the Severn Tunnel Junction rail station and access arrangements, and development of a walkway station at Magor and Undy. It will also plan for strategic development with Monmouthshire’s most sustainable locations that have opportunities and potential to connect and link with regional travel aspirations and plans, in particular identified opportunities at Severn Tunnel Junction and the South East Wales Metro scheme. The identified preferred strategic site allocations of Abergavenny East, Bayfield and Caldicot East will be linked to the town centre and railway stations via active travel connections. An updated Monmouthshire Local Transport Plan taking account of recent key evidence including the South East Wales Transport Commission Final Recommendations Plan: November 2020 and South East Metro will be prepared alongside the preparation of the Deposit Plan. The RLDP will support the transport schemes in identified within the updated LTP, and where appropriate, safeguard land for key transport proposals.

development contributes towards their expansion and improvement. Planning authorities must act to reduce levels of car parking in urban areas, including supporting car-free developments in accessible locations and developments with car parking spaces that allow them to be converted to other uses over time. Where car parking is provided for new non-residential development, planning authorities should seek a minimum of 10% of car parking spaces to have electric vehicle charging points		
Policy 13 – Supporting Digital Communications The Welsh Government supports the provision of digital communications infrastructure and services across Wales. Planning authorities must engage with digital infrastructure providers to identify the future needs of their area and set out policies in Strategic and Local Development Plans to help deliver this. New developments should include the provision of Gigabit capable broadband infrastructure from the outset.	RLDP Objectives: Objective 14 - Infrastructure RLDP Strategic Policies: S5 – Infrastructure Provision	Given Monmouthshire's rural character, the RLDP recognises the importance of ensuring the provision of adequate digital infrastructure to enhancing the County's economic and community connectivity and communication needs and reducing the need to travel.
Policy 14 – Planning in Mobile Action Zones The Welsh Government supports increased mobile phone coverage and the associated economic and social benefits it brings. The Welsh Government will identify Mobile Action Zones, showing locations where there is little or no mobile telecommunications coverage. The Welsh Government, planning authorities and mobile telecommunications operators must work together to achieve increases in mobile coverage within Mobile Action Zones.	RLDP Objectives: Objective 14 - Infrastructure RLDP Strategic Policies: S5 – Infrastructure Provision	Future Wales does not identify the Mobile Action Zones at this stage. The RLDP is therefore considered to have a neutral impact on achieving the policy aims. This will be reviewed once the Mobile Action Zones are published.
Policy 15 – National Forest The Welsh Government is committed to developing a national forest through the identification of appropriate sites and mechanisms. Action to safeguard proposed locations for the national forest will be supported.	RLDP Objectives: Objective 3 - Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Landscape Objective 4 – Flood Risk Objective 6 – Land	Future Wales does not identify the location(s) of the proposed national forest. However, Welsh Government identify 14 National Forest Sites that are part of its estate and managed and maintained by Natural Resources Wales, two of which are within Monmouthshire's boundary – Wentwood

	Objective 7 – Natural Resources Objective 8 – Health and Well-being Objective 17 – Climate and Nature Emergency RLDP Strategic Policies: S4 – Climate Change S17 – Green Infrastructure, Landscape and Nature Conservation	Forest and Wye Valley Woodlands. Work is ongoing by Welsh Government to identify additional sites. Policy S17 of the Preferred Strategy is supportive of protecting and enhancing Green Infrastructure assets within the County consistent with the aims of Policy 15 of FW.
Policy 16 – Heat Networks Within Priority Areas for District Heat Networks planning authorities should identify opportunities for District Heat Networks and plan positively for their implementation. Large scale mixed-use development should, where feasible, have a heat network with a renewable / low carbon or waste heat energy source. Planning applications for such development should prepare an Energy Masterplan to establish whether a heat network is the most effective energy supply option and, for feasible projects, a plan for its implementation.	RLDP Objectives: Objective 17 – Climate and Nature Emergency RLDP Strategic Policies: S4 – Climate Change	There are no Priority Areas for District Heat Networks identified within the Monmouthshire boundary within Future Wales. The RLDP does, however, establish the strategic policy framework to support the development of renewable and low/zero carbon energy generation. A Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Assessment of the potential for renewable energy generation, using the Welsh Government Toolkit, has been undertaken and will inform the Deposit Plan in terms of specific local search areas for the potential for types of renewable and low/zero carbon energy. The assessment reviews the potential for District Heat Networks in Monmouthshire and concludes that there is very little potential for financially viable traditional heat networks (50 kWh/m² and greater). This corresponds with the Welsh Government's heat mapping for Future Wales.
Policy 17 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy and Associated Infrastructure The Welsh Government strongly supports the principle of developing renewable and low carbon energy from all technologies and at all scales to meet our future energy needs. In determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon energy development, decision-makers must give significant weight to the need to meet Wales'	RLDP Objectives: Objective 17 – Climate and Nature Emergency RLDP Strategic Policies: S4 – Climate Change	There are no Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy within the Monmouthshire boundary within Future Wales. Consistent with Policy 17 of Future Wales the RLDP does, however, establish the policy framework for developing renewable and low carbon energy from all technologies through Strategic Policy S4 – Climate Change. An assessment of the potential for renewable energy generation, using the Welsh Government Toolkit, has been undertaken and will inform the Deposit Plan in terms of identifying local search areas for

international commitments and our target to generate 70% of consumed electricity by renewable means by 2030 in order to combat the climate emergency. In Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy the Welsh Government has already modelled the likely impact on the landscape and has found them to be capable of accommodating development in an acceptable way. There is a presumption in favour of large-scale wind energy development (including repowering) in these areas, subject to the criteria in policy 18. Applications for large-scale wind and solar will not be permitted in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and all proposals should demonstrate that they will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the environment. Proposals should describe the net benefits the scheme will bring in terms of social, economic, environmental and cultural improvements to local communities. New strategic grid infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of energy should be designed to minimise visual impact on nearby communities. The Welsh Government will work with stakeholders, including National Grid and Distribution Network Operators, to transition to a multi-vector grid network and reduce the barriers to the implementation of new grid infrastructure.		different types of renewable and low/zero carbon energy. Consistent with FW, the Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Assessment concludes that there is limited wind resource in Monmouthshire. It does, however, identify significant solar resource. Further work will be undertaken to refine the potential solar resource to identify local search areas in the Deposit Plan and establish local renewable energy generation targets.
Policy 18 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments of National Significance Proposals for renewable and low carbon energy projects (including repowering) qualifying as Developments of National Significance will be permitted subject to policy 17 and the following criteria: 1. outside of the Pre-Assessed Areas for wind developments and everywhere for all other technologies, the proposal does not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the surrounding		Policy 18 of Future Wales sets out the criteria Welsh Government will use to assess renewable and low carbon energy developments of national significance. The RLDP is therefore considered to have a neutral impact on its delivery as it is not Monmouthshire’s policy framework being used to determine the proposals. Recent appeal and Ministerial decisions prioritise the safeguarding of best and most versatile agricultural land over

landscape (particularly on the setting of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty); 2. there are no unacceptable adverse visual impacts on nearby communities and individual dwellings; 3. there are no adverse effects on the integrity of Internationally designated sites (including National Site Network sites and Ramsar sites) and the features for which they have been designated (unless there are no alternative solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) and appropriate compensatory measures have been secured); 4. there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on national statutory designated sites for nature conservation (and the features for which they have been designated), protected habitats and species; 5. the proposal includes biodiversity enhancement measures to provide a net benefit for biodiversity; 6. there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on statutorily protected built heritage assets; 7. there are no unacceptable adverse impacts by way of shadow flicker, noise, reflected light, air quality or electromagnetic disturbance; 8. there are no unacceptable impacts on the operations of defence facilities and operations (including aviation and radar) or the Mid Wales Low Flying Tactical Training Area (TTA-7T); 9. there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on the transport network through the transportation of components or source fuels during its construction and/or ongoing operation; 10. the proposal includes consideration of the materials needed or generated by the development to ensure the sustainable use and management of resources; 11. there are acceptable provisions relating to the decommissioning of the development at the end of its lifetime, including the removal of infrastructure and effective restoration.		the temporary use for renewable energy generation such as solar farms. Given the extent of BMV agricultural land in Monmouthshire this approach significantly reduces the amount of land potentially available for renewable energy development and presents a challenge to the Council meeting its requirement to be net carbon neutral by 2030.

The cumulative impacts of existing and consented renewable energy schemes should also be considered.		
Policy 19 – Strategic Policies for Regional Planning Strategic Development Plans should embed placemaking as an overarching principle and should establish for the region (and where required constituent Local Development Plans): 1. a spatial strategy; 2. a settlement hierarchy; 3. the housing provision and requirement; 4. the gypsy and traveller need; 5. the employment provision; 6. the spatial areas for strategic housing, employment growth and renewable energy; 7. the identification of green belts, green corridors and nationally important landscapes where required; 8. the location of key services, transport and connectivity infrastructure; 9. a framework for the sustainable management of natural resources and cultural assets; 10. ecological networks and opportunities for protecting or enhancing the connectivity of these networks and the provision of green infrastructure; and 11. a co-ordinated framework for minerals extraction and the circular economy, including waste treatment and disposal. The Welsh Government requires the adoption of Strategic Development Plans in the North, Mid Wales, South West and South East regions.	RLDP Objectives: Objective 1 – Economic Growth / Employment Objective 5 – Minerals and Waste Objective 7 – Natural Resources Objective 10 – Housing Objective 14 – Infrastructure RLDP Strategic Policies: S1 – Growth Strategy S2 – Spatial Distribution of Development – Settlement Hierarchy S3 – Infrastructure Provision S8 – Gypsy and Travellers S9 – Sustainable Transport S12 – Employment Sites Provision S15 – Sustainable Waste Management S16 - Minerals	The preparation of the Preferred Strategy has also involved a regional and coordinated approach to the collection of evidence, including population projection modelling, regional employment study, Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Assessment and Integrated Sustainability Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment. This has provided a consistent and comparable approach to methodologies and a basis to consider the evidence and any implications on a more regional basis as well as at a local level. This approach will continue through the preparation of the Deposit Plan, with a number of jointly commissioned pieces of evidence already in progress including a Development Viability Model, a Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment and Green Belt and Green Wedge Review. Long standing regional working methods associated with areas such as waste and minerals are continued and reflected in the Preferred Strategy. This regional approach to many of the policy areas covered in the RLDP will provide a substantial evidence base for the preparation of the South East SDP.
Policy 33 – National Growth Area – Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys will be the main focus for growth and investment in the South East region. Strategic and Local Development Plans should recognise the National Growth Area as the focus for strategic economic and	RLDP Objectives: Objective 1 – Economic Growth / Employment Objective 6 – Land Objective 9 – Demography Objective 10 – Housing	Monmouthshire is not identified as a growth area in Future Wales, however, the policy supports development in the wider region which addresses the opportunities and challenges arising from the region’s geographic location and its functions as a Capital Region. The background evidence to the Preferred Strategy shows that the proposed level of

housing growth; essential services and facilities; advanced manufacturing; transport and digital infrastructure. The Welsh Government will work with regional bodies and local authorities in the region and in neighbouring regions of England to promote and enhance Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys' strategic role and ensure key investment decisions support places in the National Growth Area and the wider region. The Welsh Government supports Cardiff's status as an internationally competitive city and a core city on the UK stage. Cardiff will retain and extend its role as the primary national centre for culture, sport, leisure, media, the night time economy and finance. The Welsh Government supports an increased strategic role for Newport as a focus for sustainable, long-term growth and investment. The Welsh Government will work with authorities within the region and in England to promote Newport's strategic role and ensure key investment decisions in Wales and England support Newport. The Welsh Government supports co-ordinated regeneration and investment in the Valleys area to improve well-being, increase prosperity and address social inequalities. The Welsh Government will work with regional bodies, local authorities, businesses, the third sector, agencies and stakeholders to support investment, including in the manufacturing sector, and to ensure a regional approach is taken to addressing socio-economic issues in the Valleys. The Welsh Government supports development in the wider region which addresses the opportunities and challenges arising from the region's geographic location and its functions as a Capital Region.	Objective 12 – Communities Objective 13 – Rural Communities Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies: S1 – Growth Strategy S2 – Spatial Distribution of Development – Settlement Hierarchy S6 – Affordable Homes S7 – Preferred Strategic Site Allocations S9 – Sustainable Transport S12 – Employment Sites Provision	growth is essential to deliver our local evidence-based issues and objectives and ensure the RLDP is 'sound' in respect of all tests of soundness. The RLDP growth strategy will assist in addressing our core issues without harming or compromising Welsh Government's objectives for the wider South Wales region. The Preferred Strategy seeks to build on Monmouthshire's key strategic location that benefits from good links to Cardiff, Bristol and the Midlands. The RLDP recognises that given Monmouthshire position as the gateway to Wales combined with the wider opportunities associate with the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, South East Wales Metro and the County's strategic location between the Great Western Cities of Cardiff, Newport and Bristol, the County has potential to contribute to the aims for the wider region. Additional comments are set out in relation to FW Policy 1 above.
Policy 34 – Green Belts in the South East	RLDP Objectives: Objective 3 – Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Landscape	The South East Wales Regional Strategic Diagram (page 163 of Future Wales) provides an indicative plan of the area for consideration with the detailed boundary to be defined

The Welsh Government requires the Strategic Development Plan to identify a green belt to the north of Cardiff, Newport and the eastern part of the region to manage urban form and growth. The Strategic Development Plan must consider the relationship of the green belts with the green belt in the West of England. Local Development Plans and development management decisions should not permit major development in the areas shown for consideration for green belts, except in very exceptional circumstances, until the need for green belts and their boundaries has been established by an adopted Strategic Development Plan.	Objective 6 – Land RDLP Strategic Policies: S2 – Spatial Distribution of Development – Settlement Hierarchy S7 – Preferred Strategic Site Allocations S17 – Green Infrastructure, Landscape and Nature Conservation	through the preparation of the SDP. In advance of an SDP, the area shown for consideration in Future Wales should be treated as a designated Green Belt. In assessing the spatial strategy for distributing growth within the County consideration has been given to paragraph 3.72 of PPW11 which states that: <i>“when considering a Green Belt designation, a sufficient range of development land which is suitably located in relation to the existing urban edge should be made available, having regard to the longer term need for development land, the effects of development pressures in areas beyond the Green Belt and the need to minimise demand for travel. This may require land to be safeguarded, and boundaries of proposed Green Belts must be carefully defined to achieve this”.</i> In this respect, the Preferred Strategy is considered to facilitate the identification of a green belt in southern Monmouthshire with the primary settlements situated outside the broad designation, consistent with the indicative plan and meeting the aims of Policy 34 but allowing for an appropriate level of growth in Monmouthshire to address its local challenges and issues. A Green Belt and Green Wedge review had been commissioned on a sub-regional basis to inform the evidence base of the RLDPs and the South East Wales SDP. The Council still has significant concerns, however, regarding the Green Belt designation as a permanent designation that would have long-term policy implications for future growth and prosperity in Monmouthshire.
Policy 35 – Valleys Regional Park The Welsh Government supports the establishment of the Valleys Regional Park.		Policy 35 – Valleys Regional Park is not considered to be directly related to Monmouthshire. The Preferred Strategy is therefore considered to have a neutral impact of achieving its aims.

Strategic and Local Development Plans should embed its principles into their planning frameworks. The Welsh Government will work with local authorities, the third sector and key partners to support the Valleys Regional Park and maximise opportunities for new development.		
Policy 36 – South East Metro The Welsh Government supports the development of the South East Metro and will work with Transport for Wales, local authorities and other partners to enable its delivery and maximise associated opportunities. Strategic and Local Development Plans must support the South East Metro. Planning authorities should plan growth and regeneration to maximise the opportunities arising from better regional connectivity, including identifying opportunities for higher density, mixed-use and car-free development around new and improved metro stations.	RLDP Objectives: Objective 14 – Infrastructure Objective 15 – Accessibility Objective 17 – Climate and Nature Emergency RLDP Strategic Policies: S4 – Climate Change S5 – Infrastructure Provision S9 – Sustainable Transport	Preferred Strategy Policy S9 – Sustainable Transport, sets out the policy framework to promote sustainable travel in the County with specific reference to developing the role of Monmouthshire’s Primary settlements in accordance with the South East Wales Regional Plan and Monmouthshire’s Local Transport Plan around which low carbon sustainable transport opportunities can be developed and linked to the South East Wales Metro. The Preferred Strategy identifies Preferred Strategic Site Allocations within Monmouthshire’s most sustainable locations that have opportunities and potential to connect and link with regional travel aspirations, in particular identified opportunities at Severn Tunnel Junction and the South East Wales Metro Scheme. An updated Monmouthshire Local Transport Plan taking account of recent key evidence including the South East Wales Transport Commission Final Recommendations Plan: November 2020 and South East Metro will be prepared alongside the preparation of the Deposit Plan. The RLDP will support the transport schemes in identified within the updated LTP, and where appropriate, safeguard land for key transport proposals.

*Table excludes FW Policies 20 – 32 as these cover the north west and south west regions

Conclusion

As the assessment above demonstrates, the Preferred Strategy aligns with the objectives of Future Wales and establishes a policy framework that is in general conformity with Future Wales and makes a positive contribution to its policy aims. At a local and regional level, the RLDP is well-placed to implement the vision and objectives of Future Wales by ensuring that it includes policies that adhere to principles of placemaking and sustainable development.

Future Wales includes policy provisions for issues at a national level such as International Connectivity and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments of National Significance. These are shown in yellow above, to indicate that the Preferred Strategy makes a neutral contribution to these areas. Similarly, a neutral affect is indicated for policies areas where locations are yet to be published such as Planning Mobile Action Zones and Policy 35 relating to the Valleys Regional Park which is not directly relevant to Monmouthshire. Whilst the RLDP does not directly include provisions for these issues, they are not considered to have a material impact on the ability of the RLDP to align with the over-arching vision and objectives of Future Wales.

This page is intentionally left blank

Monmouthshire Replacement Local Development Plan

Delivery Agreement

Revised December 2022





**Monmouthshire County Council
Replacement Local Development Plan**

Delivery Agreement

Revised December 2022

Planning Policy Service

Monmouthshire County Council

County Hall, Rhadyr, Usk, Monmouthshire NP15 1GA

Tel: 01633 644429

Email: Planningpolicy@monmouthshire.gov.uk

CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
Timetable	7
Community Involvement Scheme	12
Appendices:	
1. List of Consultation Bodies	29
2. Timetable for RLDP	34
3. Risk Assessment	36
4. Glossary of terms	42

1.0 Introduction

Revised Delivery Agreement December 2022

- 1.1 The Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Delivery Agreement was first approved by Welsh Government on 14th May 2018. Since then, several challenges have arisen meaning that progress on the preparation of the RLDP has been delayed. These challenges include the publication of updated Welsh Government 2018-based population projections, the Covid-19 pandemic, an objection from Welsh Government to the July 2021 Preferred Strategy, and phosphate water quality issues in the River Wye and River Usk catchment areas.
- 1.2 The Council is proceeding with a new Preferred Strategy that responds to the Welsh Government objection and unresolved water quality constraint in the upper River Wye catchment. As a consequence, there is a need to further amend the Delivery Agreement timetable as set out in this document.

LDP Review

- 1.3 A full review of the Monmouthshire Local Development Plan 2011 – 2021 (adopted 27th February 2014) has been undertaken, the findings of which are set out in the LDP Review Report (March 2018). The Review Report provides an overview of the issues that have been considered as part of the full review process and subsequently identified any changes that are likely to be needed to the LDP, based on evidence. It concludes by recommending that the Council commences the preparation of a RLDP following the full revision procedure. The final Review Report was published alongside the Draft Delivery Agreement (May 2018). The Council has commenced preparation of the Replacement LDP which will cover the Plan period 2018-2033.
- 1.4 The adopted Monmouthshire Local Development Plan (February 2014) covers the period 2011-2021. The risks associated with the LDP expiry date legislation for the adopted LDP have dissipated following the publication of a letter from the Minister received in September 2020¹. This clarified that the provisions in the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 relating to LDP expiry dates do not apply to LDPs adopted prior to that Act coming into force (4th January 2016). This means that our current LDP, adopted in February 2014, remains an extant development Plan for decision-making purposes until the RLDP is adopted. Although policies in the Adopted LDP may be superseded by more recent national policy or evidence after December 2021, the Minister's clarification provides much needed clarity to all stakeholders and removes a considerable risk of having a policy vacuum. This clarification does not, however, change the urgent need for the Council to make timely progress on its RLDP and to get

¹ Minister for Housing and Local Government Letter to Local Authority Leaders and Chief Executives National Park Authority Chief Executives 24th September 2020

the new Plan adopted as soon as realistically possible to address our key issues to ensure a Plan-led system is in place.

Purpose of a Delivery Agreement

- 1.5 The RLDP will cover the 2018-2033 period. Preparation of a Delivery Agreement² is a key requirement in preparing a replacement Plan. This document provides details of the various Plan-making stages, the time each part of the process is likely to take, and the resources that the Council will commit to Plan preparation. It also sets out the way in which the Council proposes to involve the local community and other stakeholders in the preparation of the RLDP. The RLDP will be examined by an independent Inspector to test whether the Plan is sound and has been prepared in accordance with its Delivery Agreement.
- 1.6 The Delivery Agreement is split into two key parts:
- The **Timetable** for producing the RLDP. This provides a clear indication of when each stages of Plan preparation will take place. Definitive dates are provided up to the deposit stage with indicative dates for later stages. A project management approach will continue to be taken to ensure that the Plan is adequately resourced and delivered on time. The timetable is included in *Part 2* of this Revised Delivery Agreement and has been updated to reflect the delays detailed above.
 - The **Community Involvement Scheme** outlines the Authority's principles of community engagement; its approach in relation to who, how and when it intends to engage with the community and stakeholders, how it will respond to representations and how these representations will inform later stages of Plan preparation. This is included as *Part 3* of this Revised Delivery Agreement.
- 1.7 A glossary of terms can be found in Appendix 4.

Preparation of the Replacement LDP

- 1.8 In preparing the RLDP the Council will aim to achieve the following key outcomes³:
- Support sustainable development and quality places based around the National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes, be aligned with national policy set out in Planning Policy Wales (PPW) and Future Wales: the National Plan 2040 and integrated with an SA/SEA/HRA, including Welsh language and the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.
 - Be based on and underpinned by early, effective and meaningful community involvement in order to understand and consider a wide range of views, with the aim of building a broad consensus on the spatial strategy, policies and proposals of the RLDP.

² Section 63 (1) Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 & Regulations 5 – 10 LDP (Wales) Regulations (as amended 2015)

³ Welsh Government Development Plans Manual (Edition 3, March 2020).

- Be based on a robust understanding of the role and function of the Monmouthshire area including the functional linkages to areas beyond our administrative boundaries.
- Be distinctive by having plans setting out clearly how Monmouthshire will develop and change, giving certainty for communities, developers and businesses.
- Be resilient to climate change, reflecting the Council's climate emergency declaration and Community and Corporate Plan priority. We will adhere to the principles of Placemaking, the Sustainable Transport Hierarchy and the Energy Hierarchy as set out in PPW.
- Ensure the sustainable management of natural resources in accordance with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and other relevant legislation.
- Deliver what is intended through deliverable and viable plans, taking into account necessary infrastructure requirements, financial viability and other market factors.
- Be proactive and responsive, kept up-to-date and flexible to accommodate change.

- 1.9 The RLDP will be prepared with regard to a wide range of legislation, policies and other initiatives at the European, national, regional and local level. The Gwent Well-Being Plan (GWBP) will be of particular importance at the local level. The GWBP relates to the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the sub region and has clear links with the RLDP where it relates to land use planning.

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA)

- 1.10 An Integrated Sustainability Appraisal⁴, (ISA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment⁵ (SEA), is a statutory requirement of LDP preparation in order to assess the environmental, social and economic implications of the Plan's strategy and policies. The ISA process fulfils the requirements and duties for Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA) and Well-being of Future Generations (WBG) and is utilised to ensure that policies in the LDP reflect sustainable development principles and take into account the significant effects of the Plan on the environment.
- 1.11 The Council will continue to adopt an integrated approach to the SA/SEA of the RLDP, ensuring that the Plan is internally consistent, with economic and social issues considered alongside other matters. The appraisal process will run concurrently with the Plan making process and forms an iterative part of plan preparation.
- 1.12 The ISA, incorporating the SEA, will be undertaken as follows:
- An Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report identifies the existing sustainability issues in the Monmouthshire area and provides baseline information

⁴ Section 62 (6) Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

⁵ European Union Directive 2001/42/EC & Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004

along with a review of plans, policies, programmes and strategies. The existing SA indicators and objectives will be revised and updated as necessary. A revised Sustainability Framework will be produced.

- An Initial Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report (ISAR) predicts and evaluates the effects of the LDP options, spatial strategy and strategic policies on the social, environmental and economic objectives as set out in the Scoping Report. The Initial ISAR will be published at the same time as the Preferred Strategy and updated when the Deposit Plan is prepared.
- A Final Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report will bring together all elements of the ISA and take into account the binding recommendations of the Planning Inspector. The Final ISAR will be published following receipt of the Inspector's Report.
- An Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement will be published to explain how the sustainability considerations and the Sustainability Assessment have been taken into consideration in the production of the RLDP.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

1.13 The Habitats Directive⁶ requires that land use plans, including LDPs, are subject to an additional Habitats Regulations Assessment where there are sites of European significance for nature conservation purposes. Monmouthshire contains a range of international nature conservation designated sites such as Special Areas of Conservation and a RAMSAR site. Habitats Regulations Assessment will be undertaken alongside ISA/SEA to ensure an integrated approach to assessment. It is intended that the process will again run concurrently with the Plan making process and form an iterative part of Plan preparation.

1.14 There are two stages of Habitats Regulation Assessment:

- Screening
- Habitats Regulations Assessment

Evidence Base Assessments

1.15 As outlined in each of the published Annual Monitoring Reports, and the Review Report, there is a need to update and undertake various evidence base assessments throughout the preparation of the RLDP which will include:

- Needs assessments in relation to population, housing, employment and retail
- Additional land allocations to meet the chosen growth strategy for the new Plan period
- Affordable Housing Viability Assessment
- Local Housing Market Assessment Update
- Sustainable Settlement Assessment

⁶ 92/43/EC

- Employment Land Review and Regional Employment Study
- Amenity Open Space Survey
- Settlement Boundary Review
- Renewable Energy Assessment
- Infrastructure Plan
- Green Wedge Review
- Landscape Sensitivity Study Update

This is not a definitive list and additional evidence base update requirements may emerge as the replacement Plan progresses.

Well-being of Future Generations Act

- 1.16 The Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (WBFG) gained Royal Assent in April 2015. The Act aims to make a difference to lives of people in Wales in relation to seven well-being goals and also sets out five ways of working. The seven well-being goals relate to; a prosperous Wales, a resilient Wales, a healthier Wales, a more equal Wales, a Wales of cohesive communities, a Wales of vibrant culture and Welsh language, and, a globally responsible Wales. The five ways of working are long-term, integration, involvement, collaboration and prevention. Given that sustainable development is the core underlying principle of the LDP (and SEA), there are clear associations between both the LDP and the WBFG Act. As a requirement of the Act a Well-being Plan (WBP) must be produced, which considers economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being and has clear links with the RLDP. Both the WBFG Act and the WBP will be considered fully throughout the preparation of the RLDP, which will follow the five ways of working.

Tests of Soundness

- 1.17 ‘Soundness’ is an integral part of the LDP system and is an important principle by which it may be demonstrated as to whether the LDP shows good judgement and is able to be trusted. If the RLDP is found not to be sound then the Welsh Government could require the Council to take necessary action to remedy the situation. This may involve returning to the very early stages of Plan preparation thereby causing considerable delay in the preparation of the Plan.
- 1.18 The Council must submit the RLDP to the Welsh Government for examination. An independent Inspector is appointed by the Welsh Government to undertake this examination to determine whether the Plan is fundamentally sound. The Inspector will assess whether the preparation of the Plan has been undertaken in accordance with legal and regulatory procedural requirements, and, complies with the Community Involvement Scheme. The Inspector must also determine whether the Plan meets the three soundness tests⁷:

⁷ Development Plans Manual Edition 3 (Welsh Government, March 2020)

- **Test 1 – Does the Plan fit?** (i.e. is it clear that the RLDP is consistent with other Plans?)
- **Test 2 – Is the Plan appropriate?** (i.e. is the Plan appropriate for the area in the light of the evidence? Does it address the key issues? Is the vision and strategy positive and sufficiently aspirational?)
- **Test 3 – Will the Plan deliver?** (i.e. is it likely to be effective?)

1.19 The conclusions reached by the Inspector will be binding and, unless the Welsh Government intervenes, the Council must accept the changes required by the Inspector and adopt the RLDP.

2.0 Timetable

- 2.1 The Council established a timetable in the original Delivery Agreement (May 2018) summarising the key stages in Plan preparation (Table 1), which while challenging, was considered to provide a realistic timeframe for preparation of the RLDP having regard to the resources available. In preparing the timetable, regard was had to the WG's expectation that a replacement Plan can be prepared in considerably less than 4 years, taking into account the resources available and the extent of changes required (Planning Policy Wales Edition 9, November 2016 provided the relevant guidance at that time). Moreover, it had regard to the fact that the current LDP was due to expire in December 2021 and there was a pressing need to maintain plan coverage. However, as noted above, a recent Ministerial letter has confirmed that the LDP end date legislation will not apply to those LDPs adopted prior to 4th January 2016 meaning that the Adopted LDP will remain in force until the RLDP is adopted.
- 2.2 Work commenced at pace on the RLDP following the approval of the original Delivery Agreement in May 2018, however, since that time several challenges have arisen which have impacted on the progress of the RLDP. This includes the publication of updated Welsh Government 2018-based population projections, the Covid-19 pandemic, an objection from Welsh Government to the June 2021 Preferred Strategy, and phosphate water quality issues in the River Wye and River Usk catchment areas.
- 2.3 The Council is proceeding with a new Preferred Strategy that responds to the Welsh Government objection and unresolved water quality constraint in the upper River Wye catchment. As a consequence, there is a need to further amend the Delivery Agreement timetable as set out in this document. The revised RLDP timetable is set out in Table 1 and Appendix 2.
- 2.4 Table 1 is split into definitive and indicative stages:
- **Definitive Stages** – This part of the timetable provides information up to and inclusive of the statutory Deposit stage. The progress of the Plan over this period is under the direct control of the Council (subject to external risks such as the recent pandemic) and therefore the revised target dates, while still challenging, are considered realistic and every effort will be made to adhere to these dates.
 - **Indicative Stages** – This part of the timetable provides for the stages of Plan preparation beyond the statutory Deposit stage. These stages are increasingly dependent on a wide range of external factors (e.g. the number of representations received, number of examination hearing sessions, time taken to receive Inspector's Report) over which the Council has limited control. Those dates will be reconsidered after reaching the Deposit stage when definitive timings for the remaining stages will be prepared and submitted to the Welsh Government for agreement and publication.

Table 1 - Key Stages in Replacement Plan Preparation (Revised December 2022)

Key Stages	Timescale
Definitive	
Revised Delivery Agreement (4) (December 2022)	December 2022
	Full Council – December 2022
	Submission to Welsh Government for agreement – December 2022
Pre-Deposit Participation	June 2022 - November 2022
	Report to Council on draft Preferred Strategy – December 2022
Preferred Strategy (Pre-Deposit) Consultation.	December 2022
	Preferred Strategy – statutory 8 week consultation (December 2022 – January 2023)
	Informal consultation on the Candidate Site Register (December 2022 – January 2023)
	Report to Council with summary Consultation Report to endorse the Preferred Strategy (Spring 2023)
Statutory Deposit Plan Consultation	April-May 2024
	Report to Council on draft Deposit Plan – March 2024
	Deposit Plan - 6 week statutory consultation
	Analyse consultation responses and prepare consultation report – Summer 2024
	Report to Council on focused changes and submission of Deposit Plan to Welsh Government – October 2024
Stages	Timescale
Indicative	
Submission of RLDP to Welsh Government	October 2024
Independent Examination	Late 2024/early 2025
Inspector's Report	June 2025
Adoption	July 2025 (must be adopted within 8 weeks of receiving the Inspector's binding report)

- 2.5 A revised detailed project Plan outlining the timescale for each of the stages of Plan preparation is included in Appendix 2.

Resources

- 2.6 The Head of Placemaking, Regeneration, Highways and Flooding and Head of Planning will be responsible for the overall delivery of the RLDP, with the Planning Policy Manager responsible for the day-to-day project management. The Planning Policy Team will lead in the preparation and delivery of the RLDP with Member engagement and political reporting at appropriate stages. The existing staff resources are set out in Table 2 below, approximately 80% of officer time will be dedicated to the RLDP to account for day to day involvement in liaison with colleagues in development management and also to account for regional working. Additional time will be dedicated by the Head of Placemaking, Regeneration, Highways and Flooding and the

Head of Planning to ensure the efficient delivery of the RLDP. It will also be necessary to call upon staff resources from other internal departments to assist in undertaking various evidence base updates/assessments. This is likely to include officer support from: Development Management, Heritage, Housing, Highways, Business and Enterprise, Green Infrastructure, Education, Democratic Services and Legal Services.

Table 2 – Planning Policy Staff Resources

Officer Job Title	Number of posts
Planning Policy Manager	1
Principal Planning Policy Officer	1
Senior Planning Policy Officer	3*
Planning Policy Officer	1

*One post holder is retiring in December 2022 and this post will be deleted

- 2.7 The Council recognises that additional professional specialist services will also be required to progress and establish a robust evidence base to inform the RLDP. While it is anticipated that a considerable amount of evidence base work will be undertaken by MCC officers, predominately Planning Policy, the use of external consultants will be necessary, particularly in relation to highly technical/specialist elements of the evidence base. Financial resources have been secured accordingly.
- 2.8 The Delivery Agreement has been prepared on the basis of a Monmouthshire RLDP only. Work is, however, on-going on a regional basis and collaboration with neighbouring authorities will continue to be fundamental to the preparation of the RLDP, particularly with regard to a joint evidence base, where appropriate. The South East Wales Strategic Planning Group (SEWSPG) has, and continues to, progress a set of regionally agreed methodologies for key topic areas to ensure a consistent evidence base throughout the Cardiff Capital Region. In addition, Monmouthshire, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent, Newport and Caerphilly Councils have jointly procured a number of joint evidence base studies. Liaison also continues with our neighbours in England as they progress their Development Plans.
- 2.9 A sufficient budget is available to progress the RLDP to adoption within the proposed timetable. It is anticipated that this will cover expenditure relating to all elements of preparation of the RLDP and the Independent Examination.

Risk Management and Analysis

- 2.10 While the original timetable for preparation of the RLDP was considered to be realistic, it was acknowledged that it would also be challenging. It was recognised that there are a number of factors that could result in Plan preparation deviating from the proposed timetable. The original timetable allowed for flexibility through a degree of tolerance of up to 3 month delay, before a formal revision to the Delivery Agreement is required. Appendix 3 sets out a risk assessment including a number of potential issues that could cause difficulties in keeping to the proposed timetable, together with the Council's proposed approach to managing them.

- 2.11 The unavoidable delays to the Plan preparation process experienced as a consequence of the numerous challenges set out above, and the decision to embark on a new Preferred Strategy, has necessitated a further revision to the RLDP timetable, which has been updated to reflect a realistic timescale for further key stages of the RLDP process. The revised timetable identifies the RLDP being adopted in Summer 2025 and is set out in Appendix 2.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)

- 2.12 The RLDP will contain sufficient policies to provide the basis for determining Planning applications. However, SPG has an important supporting role in providing more detailed or site-specific guidance on the way in which RLDP policies will be applied. While SPG does not form part of a Development Plan it should be derived from and be consistent with the relevant LDP. The SPG should also be clearly cross referenced to the policies and proposals it supplements.
- 2.13 Since the adoption of the current Adopted LDP, a total of nine Supplementary Planning Guidance documents and one Planning Advice Note have been prepared and adopted to support existing LDP policies. The SPG cover the following topic areas:
- Green Infrastructure, April 2015
 - Conversion of Agricultural Buildings Design Guide SPG April, 2015
 - LDP Policies H5 & H6 Replacement Dwellings in the Open Countryside and Extension of Rural Dwellings SPG, April 2015
 - Affordable Housing SPG, July 2019
 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency SPG, March 2016
 - Primary Shopping Frontages Supplementary Planning Guidance, April 2016
 - Sustainable Tourism Accommodation SPG, November 2017
 - Rural Conversions to Residential or Tourism Use, November 2017
 - Infill Development SPG, November 2019
 - Planning Advice Note – Archaeology, August 2020
 - Conservation Area Appraisals (to date 18 appraisals have been approved as Supplementary Planning Guidance).
- 2.14 It is anticipated that the SPG topics listed above will continue to be necessary and relevant, and so will be carried forward with any amendments necessary to support the RLDP, and/or the updated evidence base.
- 2.15 For example it is recognised that updated viability testing is essential to inform the RLDP which could result in changes to existing policy, particularly affordable housing. Accordingly it is likely that the Affordable Housing SPG will need to be revised to reflect such changes. It is anticipated that this will be revised alongside the preparation of the RLDP. It should nevertheless be noted that SPG to the RLDP cannot be formally adopted until after the Inspector's Report has been received and it is clear that there are no changes to the policy approach set out in the Replacement Plan. It is not

anticipated that any new/additional SPG will be prepared or consulted on in parallel with the RLDP, primarily due to the challenging timescales.

Monitoring and Review

- 2.16 The Council will continue to monitor and regularly review progress of the RLDP against the requirements of the Delivery Agreement to ensure the timetable is being adhered to and the public engagement as set out in the CIS is being met. As noted in paragraph 2.10 the timetable allows for a marginal degree of flexibility, however, any significant amendments to the DA will require approval by the Council prior to Welsh Government agreement. The DA may need to be amended if the following circumstances, which are beyond the LPA's control, occur:
- Significant change to the resources available to undertake preparation of the RLDP.
 - Preparation of the RLDP falls behind schedule by more than 3 months at a key stage.
 - Significant changes to European, UK or Welsh legislation directly affecting the RLDP preparation process.
 - Any other change in circumstances that will materially affect the delivery of the RLDP in accordance with the DA.
 - Significant changes to the Community Involvement Scheme.
- 2.17 Given the unavoidable delays incurred during the Plan preparation process to date (as detailed above), the Delivery Agreement timetable has been further revised to reflect a more realistic timescale for future key stages of the RLDP process.
- 2.18 An updated timetable will be submitted to the Welsh Government following the Deposit stage. This will provide certainty of the timescales for the remaining stages (i.e. replacing indicative stages with definitive stages). The indicative timetable will be redefined within 3 months of the close of the formal Deposit period and submitted to the Welsh Government for agreement.

3.0 Community Involvement Scheme

- 3.1 The Community Involvement Scheme sets out how the Council proposes to proactively involve the community and stakeholders in the preparation of the RLDP. While ultimately it is the Council that is responsible for the content of the RLDP, one of the aims of the LDP system is that Plan production is based on effective community involvement in order that a range of views can be considered as part of a process of building a wide consensus on the Plan's strategy and policies. The five ways of working prescribed by the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act are integral to the CIS, namely long-term, integration, involvement, collaboration and prevention. The CIS describes the ways in which the community can influence the RLDP at the different stages of the Plan preparation process.
- 3.2 In light of the recent pandemic, the Council has reviewed digital involvement options to provide our communities and stakeholders with information and the ability to engage with the RLDP consultation in a virtual manner. Further details are set out below.
- 3.3 Monmouthshire County Council's core purpose of becoming a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life⁸ is intrinsically linked to land use Planning and is therefore key to the delivery of the RLDP. Accordingly, the CIS is based on Monmouthshire County Council's five values; openness, fairness, flexibility, teamwork and kindness.

Openness. *We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.*

Fairness. *We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.*

Flexibility. *We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.*

Teamwork. *We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.*

⁸ The Community and Corporate Plan 2022 sets out the Council's core purpose, principles, and priorities

Kindness: We will show kindness to all those we work with putting the importance of relationships and the connections we have with one another at the heart of all interactions.

3.4 Monmouthshire County Council is also committed to ensuring the ten national principles for public engagement in Wales are utilised. Public engagement in the preparation of the RLDP will take place in accordance with the guidelines set out in the CIS. The Council recognise that engagement must be designed to make a difference. The main objectives for involving the community in the RLDP preparation process can be identified as:

- To involve people at the earliest opportunity, in time to shape Plan preparation work
- That consultation takes place before decisions are made and that such decisions are made in an open and transparent manner
- To provide an accessible consultation process and adapt this as necessary to account for individual needs
- To encourage and enable everyone with the opportunity to be involved, if they so choose
- Adopt alternative approaches to ensure seldom heard groups are involved from the outset
- Draw on local knowledge to improve decision making and help the realistic implementation of decisions
- That the planning system should help implement the community's vision for the area
- To seek consensus and strengthen community involvement
- To engage as full a spectrum of the community as possible in strategic issues
- To provide two way dialogue by responding to and publishing comments received at formal consultation stages (Preferred Strategy and Deposit) in a report of consultation.

Welsh Language and Bilingual engagement

3.5 The Welsh Language Standards place a legal duty on Councils to make it easier for people to use services through the medium of Welsh. The Council has published a Welsh Language Strategy for 2022 - 2027; the requirements of both the corporate strategy and Welsh Language Standards will be maintained at each stage of the RLDP. Bilingual engagement will be carried out in the following ways:

- We welcome correspondence in both Welsh and English. Where correspondence is received in Welsh and a reply is necessary, this will be sent in Welsh.
- All comments forms, public notices (including site notices) and Easy Read documents will be bilingual. Stakeholders on the RLDP database will be sent RLDP correspondence in their preferred language.
- Any pages on the Replacement Local Development Plan website and social media posts published on twitter will be bilingual.
- Any public meetings will be conducted bilingually where a request has been made ahead of time. Prior notification is required in order to provide a translation service.
- Draft RLDP documents can be made available in Welsh if requested. The Adopted RLDP will be available in both Welsh and English format.

How will we involve you?

3.6 We will seek to publicise the RLDP process at every stage and reach as much of the community as possible, as well as other stakeholders, to advise people about the RLDP and how they can get involved. This will be done by:

- Direct contact with statutory consultees and those stakeholders who have asked to be included on the RLDP database (1000+ contacts) (contact and language preference are as indicated by the stakeholder through consultation).
- Through use of **Twitter**, by utilising both the corporate @MonmouthshireCC account and the @MCCPlanning account.
- Via **Facebook** on the Monmouthshire County Council page.
- Engagement with Members through specific workshops, Member drop-in sessions and in reports to appropriate Council meetings.
- Engagement with Town and Community Councils
- All RLDP information and documents will be made available on the Council's website, which will be updated regularly.
- Deposit of documents at the Council's headquarters, libraries and Community Hubs where possible⁹.
- Press releases for the local media, where appropriate.
- Producing Easy Read summary documents for key stages of the RLDP process.
- Public information exhibitions, engagement sessions ('drop-in sessions') and meetings in accessible and neutral locations.
- Virtual engagement and consultation via web based technological tools.
- Site notices will be displayed regarding proposed land allocations at Deposit stage and letters will be sent to adjacent properties (excluding Candidate Sites submitted as these relate to submissions for consideration rather than proposals).

Who will we involve?

Individuals who have registered an interest through the RLDP Database

3.7 A database has been maintained to include members of the public, interested persons and any individual organisations who have requested to be kept informed at each stage of the RLDP process. The primary purpose of this database is to allow for those who are not included on the Welsh Government list of consultees for Local Development Plans to be involved and informed throughout the RLDP process. Anyone can request for their details to be included on the database. Anyone who makes representations at any of the stages of RLDP process will be automatically added to the database in order for them to receive updates on progress and allow them to be adequately informed of further opportunities to participate at a later date. It should be noted that the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force in May 2018. By commenting on the RLDP,

⁹ If some of these venues are temporarily closed during a consultation period we will endeavour to identify alternative outlets and communicate this to all stakeholders via the means set out here.

individuals and stakeholders give their consent for their details to be held by the Council throughout the RLDP process and for a period of 6 years following adoption.

- 3.8 If you wish for your details to be added to the RLDP database, please contact the Planning Policy Team by email, phone or in writing using the contact details as set out in paragraph 3.29.

County Councillors

- 3.9 It is recognised that the involvement of Members of Monmouthshire County Council throughout the RLDP preparation will be of key importance. Members have a unique position as not only do they represent the communities within their individual ward, they also represent public interest and are involved in decisions for the wider benefit of the County as a whole. Accordingly, Members will play an essential role in the RLDP process by providing information to local residents, informing us of issues/opportunities within their local area and more fundamentally making decisions on matters affecting the Monmouthshire area as a whole.
- 3.10 The Cabinet Member for Sustainable Economy, Deputy Leader has responsibility for Planning policy, including the RLDP. Liaison with the Cabinet Member and all other Members is essential throughout the process. All-Member workshops will be when deemed necessary, particularly at key stages of the RLDP including but not limited to; the Growth and Spatial Options, Preferred Strategy, Deposit RLDP and at Adoption. Topic-specific Member workshops will also be held throughout the Plan preparation process. Key stages of Plan preparation will go to the Place Scrutiny Committee for pre-decision scrutiny. Members will be fully informed throughout the process and notified prior to every participation/consultation stage.

Town and Community Councils

- 3.11 Town and Community Councils also play a key role in disseminating information to the residents within their area on matters of local importance and will be a key link to communities across Monmouthshire. Town and Community Councils will be consulted at every stage of the RLDP process and through their individual communication methods will help raise awareness of the RLDP to local communities. They also have the ability to provide up to date local information, opinions on any proposals within their areas and more importantly are able to provide detail of any land use based aspirations they have for their community.

Partnership Groups

- 3.12 Existing partnership groups are seen as an important means of engaging the wider community in the preparation of the RLDP, particularly in the early stages of public participation when structured discussion is desirable.
- 3.13 Liaison with the Gwent Public Service Board and partners will be of particular importance to ensure the RLDP aligns with the Gwent Well-being Plan. We will also work closely with the Council's Community Development Team who operate as a bridging mechanism between

partners, Town & Community Councils and the community. The Community Development Team is also central to the delivery of the Gwent Wellbeing Plan.

Members of the Public, Businesses, Land Owners, Developers and Agents

- 3.14 As outlined previously extensive engagement will be undertaken at each key stage of the RLDP process. Efforts will be made to engage with the business community at an early stage which could be achieved through liaison with the individual Chambers of Commerce across the County. We will also engage with planning agents who are regular customers of Monmouthshire's Planning Service. As noted above, anyone can request for their details to be included on the RLDP database. Landowners, agents and prospective developers who wish to put land forward to be considered for development will therefore also be included on the RLDP database.
- 3.15 The Candidate Site process provided the opportunity for those who have an interest in land to submit sites to be considered for development. A common methodology has been established across the South East Wales region for local planning authorities to utilise for their respective RLDPs. Reflecting this, we adopted a two-stage Call for Candidate Sites. The Initial Call for Candidate Sites took place over a 16-week period from the 30th July 2018 to 19th November 2018. The Second Call for Candidate Sites took between 5th July 2021 to 31st August 2021, alongside consultation on the 2021 Preferred Strategy. The dates for these calls for site were advertised extensively using the methods set out above. This ensured submissions were made at the appropriate time.

Additional Consultation Bodies

- 3.16 Appendix 1 provides a list of the specific and general consultation bodies along with UK Government departments and other consultees. The specific consultees¹⁰ comprise of the Welsh Government and those bodies with specific functions that apply to the revised Plan area, for example the Aneurin Bevan Health Board who cover the Monmouthshire area and Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, the local water undertaker. The Authority must also consult UK Government Departments where aspects of the Plan appear to affect their interests. These consultation bodies will be engaged throughout the RLDP process at each of the formal stages and informally, as appropriate.

Seldom Heard Groups

- 3.17 Seldom heard groups are those who have not traditionally taken part or been included in the Plan preparation process. Additional effort will therefore be required to ensure these groups are engaged in the RLDP process. A flexible approach will need to be undertaken in relation to engagement with these groups, albeit within the parameters of the specified participation/consultation periods. Engagement with these groups may be achieved by using existing partnerships and groups wherever possible. It is nevertheless recognised that the very principle of a seldom heard group is that they may not be involved in existing groups and that this may not therefore always be achievable. Trusted

¹⁰ As defined in LDP Regulation 2. Full list provided in Appendix 1.

intermediaries will also be used, as appropriate, in order to gain the views of particular groups of people who do not have the confidence to engage directly in the process.

3.18 The following groups are identified as not having been sufficiently engaged in Plan preparation previously and will subsequently be actively encouraged to participate in the RLDP process:

- Young People – Monmouthshire Youth Council¹¹ will be invited to participate as appropriate in the RLDP process. This will ensure the voices of young people are heard and enable young people to share their views on a wide range of issues that they consider important to them and their local area.
- Disabled People – we will seek to engage with an appropriate stakeholder group(s) at relevant stages, in order to gain the views of those living with disabilities in Monmouthshire. We understand that the Access for All forum was recently disbanded but we will seek input from relevant stakeholders to offer an opportunity for people with disabilities to influence the policies and decisions that affect them.
- Gypsy and Travellers – we will seek to engage with an appropriate stakeholder group(s) at relevant stages to ensure the Gypsy and Traveller community are engaged. Work is underway via the People Scrutiny Committee and led by the Council's Housing team to identify sites for inclusion in the RLDP to meet the County's identified site need. This work includes Gypsy and Traveller community representatives.

3.19 In addition to the above groups, there are other seldom heard voices who are considered to have been under-represented previously in LDP preparation. This includes (but is not exclusive to) those seeking affordable housing in the County, small house-builders and small and medium-sized enterprises. Accordingly, we will endeavour to reach out to these groups by utilising existing mutual points of contact wherever possible.

What we expect from you

3.20 In order to ensure any comments and representations on the RLDP are considered, they must be submitted within the prescribed timescales. The Delivery Agreement sets out the timetable of relevant stages and provides a guideline of when we will seek your involvement. This will ensure that individual views are considered and taken into account throughout the RLDP preparation process.

3.21 It is also of importance that stakeholders notify the Planning Policy team should their contact details change during the RLDP process in order for us to keep them fully informed of progress. With regard to Candidate Sites, it is noted that land ownership changes may also occur during the process and it is imperative that these are communicated to the Planning Policy team in order to ensure progress is not delayed.

¹¹ Youth Workers and pupils from King Henry VIII School, Caldicot School, Chepstow School and Monmouth School

Building Consensus

- 3.22 The Council will seek to build consensus through the various engagement and consultation methods set out within the CIS. Consensus building can only be achieved if the community and other interested parties are kept fully informed and effectively engaged throughout the preparation of the RLDP, which will be of particular importance in the early stages of Plan preparation. Elected Member support is essential in achieving this. It is nevertheless recognised that there will be occasions where consensus cannot be achieved and a difference in opinion between certain parties occurs. A clear audit trail of decisions will be maintained in order to ensure that there is transparency in the decision making process, and, to provide assurances to those that disagree that the decisions have been made in an informed and balanced way. However, decisions made will not be revisited via subsequent consultation opportunities, so participants are requested to focus their input on the matter being considered at that stage.

Late representations

- 3.23 Responses are required by the specified deadline of the specific consultation period in order for them to be considered. Any late comments/representations will not be logged as 'duly made' as they were not made in accordance with the published timescales. There may be exceptional circumstances where a representation is submitted late and it will be at the Council's discretion as to whether such late representations can be accepted. Evidence will be required to highlight why the representation was delayed and that a genuine attempt was made to submit within the prescribed deadline. The timescale to produce the RLDP continues to be challenging, the acceptance of late representations could result in further delay which would not be acceptable.

Availability of Documents

- 3.24 The RLDP documents will be made available at each of the relevant stages. All documents will be available electronically on the Planning Policy pages of the Council's website at <http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/Planning-policy>. Public access computers are available at our Community Hubs listed below.
- 3.25 In addition to online availability, the documents will also be available in paper copies in the following locations:
- Planning Reception, Monmouthshire County Council, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA (open to the public Monday to Thursday)
 - Abergavenny Community Hub, Market Hall, Cross Street, Abergavenny, NP7 5HD
 - Caldicot Community Hub, Woodstock Way, Caldicot, NP26 5DB
 - Chepstow Community Hub, Manor Way, Chepstow, NP16 5HZ
 - Monmouth Community Hub, Rolls Hall, Whitecross Street, Monmouth, NP15 3BY
 - Usk Community Hub, 35 Maryport Street, Usk, NP15 1AE
 - Gilwern Library, Common Road, Gilwern, NP7 0DS

- 3.26 Other than in exceptional circumstances, paper copies of documents will not be sent out during the RLDP process as they will be made publicly available in the locations listed above, as well as being made available electronically. Exceptional circumstances will be assessed on a case by case basis depending on the specific needs of the relevant individual. If one of the buildings listed above is temporarily closed during a consultation period, we will endeavour to identify alternative outlets and communicate this to all stakeholders. Where alternative outlets are not available, we will seek to provide information to stakeholders via electronic means.

Timetable and proposed Methods of Engagement

- 3.27 The following table sets out the detailed timetable for community engagement and the proposed engagement methods for the key stages in the RLDP preparation process. The list is not exhaustive and may be adapted to ensure the community and stakeholders are suitably involved at each stage. The proposed methods of engagement will vary dependent on the stage of Plan preparation, subject matter, preference of those involved and the resources available at the time, recognising that the proposed timetable and methods should not hinder Plan preparation.
- 3.28 Further details on the precise nature of the consultation and engagement arrangements for future key consultation stages will be detailed on the Planning Policy website and in future correspondence to all those on the RDLP database prior to the start of any consultation process. A mixture of public events and virtual engagement mechanisms will be utilised throughout the remainder of the Plan preparation process.

Table 3 - Community involvement timetable and proposed methods of engagement.

Definitive Stage: Delivery Agreement						
Summary of key steps	ISA/SEA & HRA	Who will be involved	Methods of engagement	Outcome	Type of reporting required	LDP Regulations
• Prepare timetable for the RLDP process • Preparation of Community Involvement Scheme • Consultation on Draft DA • Submission of Final DA to Welsh Government following Council approval	• Provide details of integration of the Integrated SA (ISA)/SEA process in the timetable	• Internal Consultees • Members • Specific consultation bodies	• Consultation with Members via Council Meeting • Consultation with Democratic Services Committee • Targeted consultation with specific consultation bodies via direct correspondence • Information by letter or email	• A realistic timeframe for preparation of the revised LDP • Details of risk management • Community involvement proposals specified • Collaborative working • Formal commencement of LDP revision	Full Council - Revised Delivery Agreement (4) (December 2022)	The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 9 & 10 (2004) and Regulation 2 (5) (2015)

Definitive Stage: Pre-Deposit Participation						
Summary of key steps	ISA/SEA & HRA	Who will be involved	Methods of engagement	Outcome	Type of reporting required	LDP Regulations
• Review and update existing LDP evidence base • Initial Call for Candidate Sites (including call for brownfield sites) – for a 16 week period • Engage with consultees to develop consensus on vision, issues and objectives. • Engage with consultees to develop consensus on options, including, growth levels and spatial distribution • Obtain Member approval on Preferred Strategy	• Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Update baseline information, indicators and objectives. • Produce revised sustainability framework. • HRA Screening of pre-deposit proposals for likely significant effects (stage 1).	• Internal Consultees • Members • Specific & General consultation bodies (Including Aneurin Bevan Health Board) • Other consultees (including Public Service Board) • Seldom heard groups • Town and Community Councils • All others on RLDP database	• Drop-in sessions, exhibitions and meetings as appropriate. • Virtual engagement and consultation via web based technological tools such as webinars. • Engage with Members through workshops and report to Council meetings. • Publication of each participation/consultation stage on Council's website • Twitter via Planning policy and corporate account • Facebook via corporate account • Press Release • Involve relevant community groups. • Information by letter or email as appropriate • Preparation of Easy Read Summary document	• Awareness raising of RLDP • Involvement of those who do not normally participate • Seek consensus on vision, issues and objectives • Collaborative working • Seek consensus on options, including, growth levels and distribution • Receipt of Candidate Sites • Draft SA/SEA Scoping Report • Draft Preferred Strategy	Full Council – proposal for progressing the RLDP, September 2022 Full Council to report on draft Preferred Strategy – May 2021. Full Council – Draft Preferred Strategy endorsement for consultation and engagement, December 2022 Log details of involvement for inclusion within Report of Consultation.	The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulation 14 (2004) and Regulation 2 (10) (2015)

Definitive Stage: Pre-Deposit Consultation - Preferred Strategy and Initial Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report (ISAR)						
Summary of key steps	ISA/SEA & HRA	Who will be involved	Methods of engagement	Outcome	Type of reporting required	LDP Regulations
• Formal consultation on Preferred Strategy • Formal consultation on ISAR • Further Call for Candidate Sites/Request for submission of detailed site information for those sites submitted during the initial candidate site call that are compatible with the Preferred Strategy • Publication of Candidate Sites Register • Preparation of Initial Report of Consultation providing feedback and comments on representations received. • Preparation of Deposit RLDP • Obtain Member approval on Deposit RLDP	• Formal consultation on ISAR and HRA • HRA of Deposit Plan. Revisit HRA Screening to determine whether the policies and proposals have potential to lead to likely significant effects, beyond those considered in Stage 1 screening.	• Internal Consultees • Members • Specific & General consultation bodies • Other consultees • Seldom heard groups • Town and Community Councils • All others on RLDP database	• Engage with Members through workshops and reports to Council meetings. • Public engagement sessions, exhibitions and meetings as appropriate. • Virtual engagement and consultation via web based technological tools such as webinars. • Publication of each consultation stage on Council's website • Twitter via Planning policy and corporate account • Facebook via corporate account • Press Release • Involve relevant community groups. • Information by letter or email as appropriate	• Preferred Strategy • Initial Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report • Candidate Site Register • Draft Deposit Plan	Full Council - Deposit Plan for endorsement for consultation and engagement, March 2024 Details of responses received to be incorporated into Report of Consultation.	The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 15 & 16 (2004) and Regulation 16a (2015)

			• Preparation of Easy Read Summary document			
Definitive Stage: Deposit Consultation - Deposit Plan, Sustainability Appraisal Report (SAR) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)						
Summary of key steps	SA/SEA & HRA	Who will be involved	Methods of engagement	Outcome	Type of reporting required	LDP Regulations
• Deposit of RLDP for public inspection • Formal consultation on Deposit RLDP, ISAR, HRA and any relevant supporting documents • Preparation of Report of Consultation providing feedback and comments on representations received	• Formal consultation on ISAR • Formal consultation on HRA	• Internal Consultees • Members • Specific & General consultation bodies • Other consultees • Seldom heard groups • Town and Community Councils • All others on RLDP database	• Engage with Members through workshops and reports to Council meetings. • Public engagement sessions, exhibitions and meetings as appropriate. • Virtual engagement and consultation via web based technological tools such as webinars. • Publication of each consultation stage on Council's website • Twitter via Planning policy and corporate account • Facebook via corporate account • Press Release • Update relevant community groups • Information by letter or email as appropriate	• Deposit Plan • Final Sustainability Appraisal Report • Habitats Regulations Assessment • Representations and comments on Deposit Plan, SA/SEA, HRA to be included in Report of Consultation	Details of responses received to be incorporated into Report of Consultation.	The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 17, 18 & 19 (2004)

			Preparation of Easy Read Summary document			
Indicative Stage: Submission of RLDP to Welsh Government						
Summary of key steps	SA/SEA & HRA	Who will be involved	Methods of engagement	Outcome	Type of reporting required	LDP Regulations
- Consider any representations made on Deposit proposals and update Deposit Plan & Report of Consultation accordingly - Potential Focused Changes consultation - Submit Deposit RLDP, Report of Consultation, Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report (ISAR), Community Involvement Scheme and any relevant supporting documents (including the evidence base) to the Welsh Government and PEDW.	- Consider any implications of representations on ISAR & HRA - Submit ISAR - Submit HRA	- Members - Internal Consultees - Specific & General consultation bodies - Other consultees - Town and Community Councils - All others on RLDP database	- Notify Members via email - Publication on Council's website - Twitter via Planning policy and corporate account - Facebook via corporate account - Press Release - Information by letter or email as appropriate - Provide copies of documents in the following locations: County Hall, Libraries and Community Hubs	Submission of Deposit RLDP and supporting documents to Welsh Government for formal examination	Full Council to report on responses received on Deposit Plan, any Focused Changes and to seek endorsement for submission – October 2024	The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulation 22 (2004) and Regulation 2 (17) (2015)
Indicative Stage: Independent Examination						
Summary of key steps	SA/SEA & HRA	Who will be involved	Methods of engagement	Outcome	Type of reporting required	LDP Regulations
Publish details of Hearing Sessions and notify all interested	Appraise any MACs utilising	- Members - Internal Consultees	Notify Members via email	Ensure examination is open to all who wish to observe	Statements of common ground, as necessary	The Town and Country Planning

parties specifying dates and location • Seek common ground with objectors to focus hearing sessions • Update Matters Arising Changes (MACs) as appropriate • Consult on Matters Arising Changes	the ISA/SEA as appropriate • Appraise any MACs utilising the HRA as appropriate	• Specific & General consultation bodies • Other consultees • Town and Community Councils • All others on RLDP database	• Publication on Council's website • Twitter via Planning policy and corporate account • Facebook via corporate account • Press Release • Information by letter or email as appropriate			(Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulation 23 (2004)
Indicative Stage: Inspector's Report						
Summary of key steps	SA/SEA & HRA	Who will be involved	Methods of engagement	Outcome	Type of reporting required	LDP Regulations
• Publish Inspector's Report following receipt (within prescribed 8 week period) • Inform interested parties of receipt and publication of Inspector's Report		• Members • Internal Consultees • Specific & General consultation bodies • Other consultees • Town and Community Councils • All others on RLDP database	• Notify Members via email • Publication on Council's website • Twitter via Planning policy and corporate account • Facebook via corporate account • Press Release • Information by letter or email as appropriate • Provide copy of Inspectors Report in the following locations: County Hall, Libraries and Community Hubs	• Binding Inspector's Report	None	The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulation 24 (2004)

Indicative Stage: Adoption						
Summary of key steps	SA/SEA & HRA	Who will be involved	Methods of engagement	Outcome	Type of reporting required	LDP Regulations
• Obtain Member approval to formally adopt • Inform all on RLDP database of adoption of the RLDP • Produce adoption statement • Produce the adopted RLDP bilingually	• Publish ISA Report • Publish HRA Report	• Members • Internal Consultees • Specific & General consultation bodies • Other consultees • Town and Community Councils • All others on RLDP database	• Engage with Members via an all Member Workshop and Council Meeting • Once adopted publication on Council's website • Once adopted, notification via Twitter utilising Planning policy and corporate account • Once adopted, notification via Facebook utilising corporate account • Once adopted, Press Release will be published • Once adopted, notification via letter or email • Once adopted, provide copy of Adopted LDP in the following locations: County Hall, Libraries and Community Hubs	• Formal adoption of the RLDP	Full Council prior to formal Adoption – July 2025	The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulation 25 (2004) and 2(19) (2015)

Contact details

3.29 You can contact the Planning policy team using any of the following methods:

Email: Planningpolicy@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01633 644429

Post:

Planning Policy

Monmouthshire County Council

County Hall

The Rhadyr

Usk

NP15 1GA

Appendix 1 – List of Consultation Bodies

The Council will consult the following specific consultation bodies at all stages in the preparation of the RLDP.

Specific Consultation Bodies¹² (including UK Government Departments):

- Welsh Government (Planning division will co-ordinate consultations)
- Natural Resources Wales
- Network Rail
- Office of Secretary of State for Wales
- Telecommunication Operators - EE, Vodaphone and O2, Openreach, Virgin Media
- Aneurin Bevan Health Board
- Gas and Electricity Licencees - National Grid, Wales & West Utilities
- Sewerage and Water undertakers – Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water
- Department for Transport (including Secretary of State for functions previously exercised by the Strategic Rail Authority)
- UK Government Departments- Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
- Home Office
- Ministry of Defence

Neighbouring local authorities:

- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
- Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
- Bristol City Council
- Cardiff Capital Region and, once established, the Corporate Joint Committees¹³
- Forest of Dean District Council
- Gloucestershire County Council
- Herefordshire County Council
- Newport City Council
- Powys County Council
- South Gloucestershire Council
- Torfaen County Borough Council

Town and Community Councils in the Monmouthshire area:

- Abergavenny Town Council
- Caerwent Community Council
- Caldicot Town Council
- Chepstow Town Council
- Crucorney Community Council
- Devauden Community Council
- Gobion Fawr Community Council
- Goetre Fawr Community Council
- Grosmont Community Council
- Llanarth Fawr Community Council

¹² As defined in LDP Regulation 2.

¹³ Once established.

- Llanbadoc Community Council
- Llanelly Community Council
- Llanfoist Fawr Community Council
- Llangybi Fawr Community Council
- Llantilio Pertholey Community Council
- Llantrisant Fawr Community Council
- Magor with Undy Town Council
- Mathern Community Council
- Mitchel Troy United Community Council
- Monmouth Town Council
- Portskewett Community Council
- Raglan Community Council
- Rogiet Community Council
- Shirenewton Community Council
- Skenfrith Community Council
- St Arvans Community Council
- Trellech United Community Council
- Usk Town Council
- Whitecastle Community Council
- Wye Valley Community Council

General Consultation Bodies

The Council will consult the following general consultation bodies, where appropriate, in accordance with this Delivery Agreement. This list is not exhaustive and may be added to as appropriate:

(i) Voluntary bodies whose activities benefit any part of the authority's area, including:

- Age Concern Gwent
- Gwent Association for the Blind
- Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations Monmouthshire (GAVO)
- Gwent Wildlife Trust
- Royal Voluntary Service (RVS)

(ii) Bodies representing the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in the authority's area, including:

- Citizen's Advice Cymru
- Ethnic Minority Foundation
- Friends, Families and Travellers
- Travelling Ahead Wales

(iii) Bodies which represent the interests of different religious groups in the authority's area, including:

- The Representative Body of the Church in Wales

(iv) Bodies which represent the interests of disabled persons in the authority's area.

- Downs Syndrome Association
- Gwent Association for the Blind
- Mencap Cymru
- Mind Cymru
- Royal National Institute for Deaf People
- Wales Council for Deaf People
- Wales Council for the Blind
- Wales Council for the Disabled

(v) Bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying on business in the authority's area, including.

- Abergavenny Community Enterprise
- British Wind Energy Association
- Confederation of British Industry (Wales)
- Homemakers Community Recycling
- South East Wales Energy Agency
- Viridor Waste Management

(vi) Bodies which represent the interests of Welsh culture in the authority's area, including.

- Cadw
- Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd
- Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments
- Mentrau Iaith Cymru

Other Consultees

The Council will consult the following other consultees, where appropriate, in accordance with the Delivery Agreement. This list is not exhaustive and may be added to as appropriate:

- Abergavenny Local History Society
- Abergavenny Transition Town
- Arriva Trains Wales
- British Aggregates Association
- British Geological Survey
- Business Resilience Forum
- Business Wales (South Wales Regional Centre)
- Campaign for Real Ale (Camra)
- Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (CPRW)
- Caldicot Town Team
- Cardiff Capital Region City Deal
- Chambers of Trade & Commerce – Abergavenny, Chepstow, Monmouth and Usk
- Charter Housing Association
- Chartered Institute of Housing (Cymru)
- Chartered Institution of Waste Management Wales
- Chepstow Society

- Civic Societies – Abergavenny & District, Monmouth and Usk
- Community Land Advisory Service Cymru (CLAS)
- Country Landowners and Business Association Cymru (CLA)
- Design Commission for Wales
- Disability Advice Project
- Disability Rights Commission Wales
- Disability Wales
- Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee
- Energy Saving Trust Wales
- Farmers Union of Wales (FUW)
- Federation of Master Builders Cymru
- Federation of Small Businesses in Wales
- Fields in Trust
- Freight Transport Association
- Friends of the Earth – Abergavenny & Crickhowell and Chepstow
- Gwent Badger Group
- Gwent Police
- Gwent Young Farmers Clubs
- Health and Safety Executive (Wales)
- Home Builders Federation
- Institute of Directors Wales
- Joint Council for Wales
- Llanarth Estate
- Llangybi Estate
- Llanover and Coldbrook Estate
- Member of Parliament for Monmouth
- Member of Parliament for Newport East
- Member of Senedd for Monmouth
- Member of Senedd for Newport East
- Magor with Undy Sports and Leisure Association
- Mineral Products Association
- Monmouth Archaeological Society
- Monmouth, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals Trust
- Monmouthshire Bat Group
- National Air Traffic Services
- National Farmers Union Cymru (NFU)
- National Trust
- National Health Service (NHS) Wales
- Newport Harbour Commissioners
- One Voice Wales
- Open Spaces Society
- Planning Aid Wales
- Pontypool Park Estate Office
- Public Health Wales

- Rail Freight Group
- Ramblers Cymru
- RSPB Cymru
- Rural Housing Enabler
- Shelter Cymru
- Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Fields Association Ltd
- Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
- South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- Sports Council for Wales
- Sustrans Cymru
- The Canal and River Trust
- The Chepstow Society
- The Coal Authority
- The Gypsy Council
- The National Library of Wales
- PEDW
- The Theatres Trust
- Transition Chepstow
- Transition Monmouth
- Transport for Wales (TfW)
- Wales Co-operative Centre
- Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA)
- WEA Cymru (Adult Learning Wales)
- Wales Environment Link
- Welsh Environmental Services Association
- Welsh Health Estates
- Welsh Historic Gardens Trust
- Welsh Language Commissioner
- Woodland Trust Wales (Coed Cadw)
- Wye Valley AONB
- Wye Valley Society

Appendix 2 – Revised RLDP Timetable (December 2022)

Key Stage Revised Date [illegible]

[illegible]

Appendix 3 – Risk Assessment

Issue	Potential Risk(s)	Mitigation	Probability and Impact
Gap in major applications coming forward until the RLDP is adopted.	While the 2020 Ministerial letter has confirmed that the Adopted LDP will remain in force until the RLDP is adopted, there will be a delay in major applications coming forward until RLDP adoption. This will impact on the Council's ability to address/deliver the RLDP issues and objectives, including the demographic and affordability challenges facing the County, until the RLDP is adopted, and puts pressure on the deliverability of the housing and employment figures over the Plan period, with more reliance on delivery towards the end of the Plan period.	Progression of the RLDP in a timely manner will ensure that the Council has an adopted RLDP in place as soon as possible in 2025, minimising the negative implications associated with the delay in major applications coming forward.	Medium Likelihood
			Medium Impact
Objection from Welsh Government to the Preferred Strategy and/or Deposit Plan	Programme slippage	Collaboration with WG officials in accordance with WBFGA five ways of working.	Low Likelihood
			High Impact
Change in staff resources available to assist with RLDP preparation.	Programme slippage.	Consider additional resources (including support from other sections within the Council) and ensure robust structure.	Medium Likelihood
			High Impact

Issue	Potential Risk(s)	Mitigation	Probability and Impact
Staff turnover in small team.	Programme slippage.	Ensure RLDP process maintains highest level corporate priority.	Medium Likelihood
			High Impact
Reduction and lack of financial resources.	Programme slippage. Delay in securing information required to progress Plan.	Ensure Plan preparation process is adequately costed with in-built capacity for unforeseen costs.	Medium Likelihood
			High Impact
Council decision making structure/ political reporting cycle.	Programme slippage.	Streamline decision-making procedures and ensure timetable is realistic.	Medium Likelihood
			Medium Impact
Political Change/ Elections.	Programme slippage.	Early Member training.	Low Likelihood
			Medium Impact
Lack of consensus throughout the organisation and/ or lack of support from officers/other departments	Programme slippage.	Ensure organisation wide support of Plan process and timetable from outset.	Low Likelihood

Issue	Potential Risk(s)	Mitigation	Probability and Impact
in production of the evidence base.			Medium Impact
Challenging timetable to prepare RLDP due to greater than anticipated workload (e.g. greater number of representations received, ISA/SEA/HRA requirements).	Programme slippage.	Realistic timetabling for each stage of Plan preparation, adequate resources and careful project management with adequate contingencies/flexibility. If appropriate reconsider timetable and resources.	High Likelihood
			High Impact
National Issues			
Additional requirements arising from the issue of new legislation and/or national guidance. e.g. general conformity with the adopted NDF, alignment with revised Planning Policy Wales and	Programme slippage.	Monitor emerging legislation/guidance; report and respond early to changes as necessary. Continued collaboration with key partners.	High Likelihood
			High Impact

Issue	Potential Risk(s)	Mitigation	Probability and Impact
LDP Manual, revised TAN15, water quality.			
Involvement in preparation of Strategic Development Plan (SDP)	Programme slippage. Resource implications, extent of input to the SDP currently unknown.	Ensure sufficient resources are available and corporate support of SDP process and timetable from outset.	Medium Likelihood
			Medium Impact
Direction from Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary to prepare a Joint Plan.	Work on individual LDP to date would be abortive.	Cannot be mitigated, full justification of the Council's approach to produce an individual Monmouthshire LDP has been provided.	Low Likelihood
			High Impact
Ability of statutory consultees and/or PEDW to respond within set timescales.	Programme slippage. Key milestones are not met. Examination and/or Receipt of Inspectors Report delayed.	Maintain close liaison with statutory consultees and PEDW to ensure early identification of potential problems.	Medium Likelihood
			Medium Impact

Issue	Potential Risk(s)	Mitigation	Probability and Impact
Local Issues			
Insufficient information to undertake ISA/SEA.	Programme slippage.	Identify expectations of consultation bodies. Consider additional resources.	Low Likelihood
			Medium Impact
Large volume and /or highly significant levels of objection to proposals e.g. site allocations.	Programme slippage. Plan cannot be submitted for examination without significant work.	Ensure close liaison and early/continued involvement of the community, statutory bodies & stakeholders throughout the Plan preparation process.	Medium Likelihood
			Medium Impact
Review of RLDP resulting from a requirement to align with a Strategic Development Plan.	Programme slippage.	Ensure involvement in progress of regional work. Early response to potential local implications.	Low Likelihood
			Low Impact
Plan fails the test of 'soundness'.	Programme slippage. Part of the Plan is excluded or changed. Additional work needs to be carried out before the Plan can be adopted. The Plan could be withdrawn.	Ensure RLDP has a robust evidence base, properly subjected to ISA/HRA, with well audited community and stakeholder engagement.	Low Likelihood

Issue	Potential Risk(s)	Mitigation	Probability and Impact
		Maintain liaison with Welsh Government on preparation procedures.	High Impact
Legal Challenge.	Programme slippage. Adopted Plan quashed in whole or part. Additional work/time/ financial requirements.	Good knowledge of statutory requirements to ensure compliance.	Low Likelihood
			Medium Impact

Appendix 4 – Glossary of terms

Adopted Plan	The final version of the RLDP.
Adoption	The final stage of Local Development Plan preparation where the RLDP becomes the statutory development plan for the area it covers.
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)	A yearly report to monitor the effectiveness of the RLDP and ultimately determines whether any revisions to the Plan are necessary. It assesses the extent to which the RLDP strategy and objectives are being achieved and whether the RLDP policies are functioning effectively.
Baseline	A description of the present state of an area.
Candidate Site	A site nominated by an individual with an interest in land (i.e. landowner, developer, agent or member of the public) to be considered for inclusion in the LDP. All Candidate Sites will be assessed for suitability for inclusion as potential allocations.
Community	People living in a defined geographical area, or who share other interests and therefore form communities of interest.
Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)	The Community Involvement Scheme forms part of the Delivery Agreement. It outlines the principles of engagement and provides detail on how the local planning authority will involve communities and stakeholders (including businesses and developers) in the preparation of the Local Development Plan.
Consensus Building	A process of dialogue with the community and other interested parties to understand relevant viewpoints and to seek agreement where possible.
Consultation	A formal process in which comments are invited on a particular topic or draft document usually within a defined time period.
Council	Monmouthshire County Council (excluding for planning purposes the Brecon Beacons National Park administrative area that falls within Monmouthshire).
Delivery Agreement (DA)	A document comprising the local planning authority's timetable for the preparation of a Local Development Plan, together with its Community Involvement Scheme, submitted to the Welsh Government for agreement.
Deposit Consultation	A formal stage in which individuals and organisations can make representations on the RLDP. Representations that relate to whether the Plan is 'sound' can then be examined by an Inspector.
Deposit Plan	This is a full draft of the RLDP which undergoes a formal consultation period prior to it being submitted to the Welsh Government for public examination.
Duly Made	Representations to the development plan which are made in the correct manner and within the specified consultation time period.
Engagement	A proactive process that seeks to encourage the involvement and participation of the community and other groups in the decision making process.
Evidence Base	Information and data that provides the basis for the preparation of the RLDP vision, objectives, policies and proposals and justifies the soundness of the policy approach of the LDP.
Examination	The examination involves public examination of the Deposit RLDP, the Deposit representations, the report of consultation, evidence base/background documents and the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report. This is carried out by the PEDW on behalf of the Welsh Government.
Habitat Regulations	Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) relates to the assessment of the impacts of a Plan (or project) against the nature conservation objectives of

Assessment (HRA)	European designated sites for any likely significant effects. HRA also ascertains whether the proposed Plan would adversely affect the integrity of the site.
Indicator	A measure of variables over time, often used to measure progress in the achievement of objectives, targets and policies.
Inspector's Report	The Report prepared by an independent Inspector who examines the RLDP. The Inspector's Report contains recommendations on the content of the final RLDP and is binding upon the Council. The Council must adopt the RLDP in the manner directed by the Inspector.
Involvement	Generic term relating to community involvement that includes both participation and consultation techniques.
Local Development Plan (LDP)	A land use plan which includes a vision, strategy, area wide policies for development types, land allocations, and policies and proposals for key areas of change and protection. Allocations and certain policies are shown geographically on the Proposals Map forming part of the Plan. The LDP is a statutory development plan that each local planning authority area is required to produce in Wales.
Local Planning Authority (LPA)	In the case of Monmouthshire, this is Monmouthshire County Council (excluding the Brecon Beacons National Park administrative area where the local planning authority is the National Park).
Monmouthshire County Council (MCC)	This is the name of the Local Planning Authority preparing the RLDP.
Objective	A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change in trends.
Participation	A process rather than a single event that provides opportunity for direct engagement with the community and stakeholders to input into decision making.
Partners	Other local authority departments and statutory bodies where the RLDP will help to deliver some of the objectives of their strategies. Partners may be expected to contribute in the formulation of relevant parts of the Plan.
Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW)	PEDW are an independent body who will be responsible for the formal examination of the RLDP.
Planning Policy Wales (PPW)	Planning policy guidance for Wales produced by the Welsh Government is set out in this document
Pre-Deposit	Stages of preparation and consultation of the RLDP before the Deposit Plan is finalised and approved by the Council.
Preferred Strategy	This sets out the broad strategic direction for the RLDP. This includes the preferred level of growth along with the spatial strategy for distributing the growth. It also includes the vision, issues and objectives of the Plan.
Press Releases	Sent to Welsh media, including newspapers, radio and television news stations as appropriate. Media may choose not to print or broadcast an item.
Regulation	Regulations are set out in Welsh Statutory Instruments. They provide the framework for the preparation of the RLDP.

Report of Consultation	A Consultation Report is one of the documents required to be submitted for independent examination. An initial consultation report is also required for the pre-deposit stage.
Representations	Comments received in relation to the RLDP, either in support of, or in opposition to.
Review Report	The Review Report provides an overview of the issues that have been considered as part of the full review process and identifies changes that are likely to be needed to the RLDP, based on evidence. It also sets out the type of revision procedure to be followed in revising the LDP.
Scoping	The process of deciding the scope and level of detail of an integrated sustainability appraisal (SA), including the sustainability effects and options which need to be considered, the assessment methods to be used and the structure and contents of the SA Report.
Soundness Tests	In order to adopt a RLDP it must be determined to be 'sound' by the Planning Inspector. The Tests of Soundness are set out in the Development Plans Manual (Edition 3, March 2020). There are three tests to make that judgement in relation to the Plan as a whole. A framework for assessing the soundness of LDPs has been developed by the Planning Inspectorate.
Stakeholders	People whose interests are directly affected by a RLDP (and/ or Integrated Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment) and whose involvement is generally through representative bodies.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	Generic term used internationally to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, Plans and programmes. The European Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) requires a formal "environmental assessment of certain Plans and programmes, including those in the field of planning and land use".
Strategic Development Plan (SDP)	A Strategic Development Plan is a tool for regional planning to cover cross-boundary issues such as housing and transport. It will be prepared by a Strategic Planning Panel across a region. LPA's must have regard to the SDP when developing their RLDPs.
Submission	When the RLDP, ISAR and HRA are formally submitted to the Welsh Government for independent examination by a Welsh Government appointed Inspector.
Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)	Provide more detailed or site specific guidance on the application of RLDP Policies. They provide supplementary information in respect of the policies in a LDP. SPG does not form part of the RLDP and is not subject to independent examination.
Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA)	Tool for appraising policies, including LDPs, to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives (i.e. social, environmental and economic factors). Each LPA is required by Section 62(6) of the Act to undertake SA of their Local Development Plan. This form of sustainability appraisal fully incorporates the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.
Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report (SAR)	A document required to be produced as part of the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal process to describe and appraise the likely significant effects on sustainability of implementing a LDP, which meets the requirements for the Environmental Report under the SEA Directive. Section 62(6) of the Act

	requires each LPA to prepare a report of the findings of the SA of the LDP. It is an integral part of the development Plan making process.
Timetable	Sets out the dates by which key stages and processes of RLDP preparation are expected to be completed. These are definitive for stages up to the deposit of the RLDP and indicative for the remaining stages after.
Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015)	The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is legislation that requires public bodies, such as local authorities, to put long term sustainability at the forefront of their thinking to make a difference to lives of people in Wales. Local authorities must work towards the seven well-being goals and enact the five ways of working set out in the Act.



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

Equality and Future Generations Evaluation

Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Mark Hand Phone no: 07773478579 E-mail: markhand@monmouthshire.gov.uk	Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal Seek Place Scrutiny Committee's pre-decision scrutiny of the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) new Preferred Strategy, prior to it being reported to Council on 1st December 2022 to seek endorsement to commence statutory consultation/engagement and stakeholder involvement in December 2022 to January 2023.
Name of Service area Planning (Planning Policy)	Date 01/11/2022

Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	The Preferred Strategy aims to have a positive impact on people of all ages, particularly through increasing opportunities for the younger population to both live and work within Monmouthshire to assist in ensuring a balanced demography whilst also supporting the needs of the older population socially, economically and by ensuring an appropriate housing mix to meet different needs. This would benefit younger people but not to the detriment of older age groups.	Opportunities to deliver on these objectives, in particular delivering affordable homes and job opportunities, are limited in the upper River Wye catchment due to the need for the Spatial Strategy to respond to the environmental constraint of water quality in the River Wye, for which no deliverable strategic solution has yet been identified.	The Preferred Strategy seeks to provide a more balanced demographic profile for Monmouthshire. It provides the strategic direction for development and use of land in Monmouthshire (excluding the area within the Brecon Beacons National Park) and identifies how much sustainable growth is needed and where this growth will broadly located for Monmouthshire up to 2033. The recent Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated the importance of sustainable communities and a balanced demography to support the older age groups. Consideration is given to how currently stalled sites in Monmouth and the upper River Wye catchment could come forward in the future should a water quality solution be identified and implemented. Placemaking is embedded throughout the Plan, with detailed masterplanning and design policies to be set out in the Deposit Plan ensuring that exemplar places are created that are safe, accessible and pleasant for all.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Disability	The Preferred Strategy recognises the need to ensure the provision of a wide-ranging choice of homes including meeting affordable and accessible housing needs as far as possible. It also recognises the importance of the health and well-being of people and aims to create attractive, safe and accessible places to live, work and visit. The recent Covid-19 pandemic has emphasised the importance of place-making and Green Infrastructure for the provision of open spaces in close proximity to homes for physical and mental wellbeing.	Opportunities to deliver on these objectives, in particular delivering a wide-ranging choice of homes including affordable and accessible homes and job opportunities, are limited in the upper River Wye catchment due to the need for the Spatial Strategy to respond to the environmental constraint of water quality in the River Wye, for which no deliverable strategic solution has yet been identified.	The Preferred Strategy aims to support the well-being of current and future generations that are more inclusive, cohesive, prosperous and vibrant. It provides the strategic direction for development and use of land in Monmouthshire (excluding the area within the Brecon Beacons National Park) and identifies how much sustainable growth is needed and where this growth will broadly located for Monmouthshire up to 2033. Consideration is given to how currently stalled sites in Monmouth and the upper River Wye catchment could come forward in the future should a water quality solution be identified and implemented. Placemaking is embedded throughout the Plan, with detailed masterplanning and design policies to be set out in the Deposit Plan ensuring that exemplar places are created that are safe, accessible and pleasant for all.

[Type here]

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Gender reassignment	None.	None.	Placemaking is embedded throughout the Plan, with detailed masterplanning and design policies to be set out in the Deposit Plan ensuring that exemplar places are created that are safe, accessible and pleasant for all.
Marriage or civil partnership	None.	None.	N/A
Pregnancy or maternity	None.	None.	Placemaking is embedded throughout the Plan, with detailed masterplanning and design policies to be set out in the Deposit Plan ensuring that exemplar places are created that are safe, accessible and pleasant for all.
Race	.None.	None.	Placemaking is embedded throughout the Plan, with detailed masterplanning and design policies to be set out in the Deposit Plan ensuring that exemplar places are created that are safe, accessible and pleasant for all.

[Type here]

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Religion or Belief	None.	None.	Placemaking is embedded throughout the Plan, with detailed masterplanning and design policies to be set out in the Deposit Plan ensuring that exemplar places are created that are safe, accessible and pleasant for all.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Sex	One of the challenges facing the County is the imbalance between male and female earnings, although this situation is improving. The Preferred Strategy aims to provide economic growth and employment provision, which could indirectly impact on wage equality and therefore access to housing and quality of life.	The jobs in the foundation economy are disproportionately occupied by females. This sector is vital to support our communities, as are jobs in tourism. Neither sectors are generally well-paid, although they often offer flexible working conditions that can assist work-life balance. Wage levels are not within the remit of planning policy and policies to try to seek only high paid jobs could be to the detriment of this vital economic sector. Opportunities to deliver on these objectives, including delivering job opportunities, are limited in the upper River Wye catchment due to the need for the Spatial Strategy to respond to the environmental constraint of water quality in the River Wye, for which no deliverable strategic solution has yet been identified.	The Preferred Strategy aims to support economic growth and prosperity. It provides the strategic direction for development and use of land in Monmouthshire (excluding the area within the Brecon Beacons National Park) and identifies how much sustainable growth is needed and where this growth will broadly located for Monmouthshire up to 2033. Other policy tools beyond the RLDP are available to the Council could assist with securing well-paid employment opportunities within the County. Consideration is given to how currently stalled sites in Monmouth and the upper River Wye catchment could come forward in the future should a water quality solution be identified and implemented. Placemaking is embedded throughout the Plan, with detailed masterplanning and design policies to be set out in the Deposit Plan ensuring that exemplar places are created that are safe, accessible and pleasant for all.

[Type here]

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Sexual Orientation	None.	None.	Placemaking is embedded throughout the Plan, with detailed masterplanning and design policies to be set out in the Deposit Plan ensuring that exemplar places are created that are safe, accessible and pleasant for all.

[Type here]

2. The Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions This duty aligns with our commitment as an authority to Social Justice.

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?

Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice	The Social Justice strategy focuses on three main areas: tackling loneliness and isolation; tackling poverty and promoting equitable economic prosperity; and giving children the best start in life. The Preferred Strategy seeks to tackle house price unaffordability, which currently prevents some of our communities accessing suitable housing within the County, by maximising affordable housing delivery on new housing allocations, reflecting the Council's commitment to deliver 50% affordable homes on new housing sites. This is likely to benefit younger people in particular, which in turn will make our ageing communities more socially sustainable. Good quality and affordable housing is important in achieving poverty reduction and equitable prosperity, and supporting the best start in life. Good spatial planning helps to build cohesive communities. The provision of affordable housing combined with policy interventions in relation to the requirement of a mix of market housing will increase opportunities for those in poverty to access	People in poverty or on low incomes might not be able to access digital opportunities to work from home and/or are more likely to be employed in roles that cannot work from home. Opportunities to deliver on the local evidence-based objectives, in particular delivering affordable homes and job opportunities, are limited in the upper River Wye catchment due to the need for the Spatial Strategy to respond to the environmental constraint of water quality in the River Wye, for which no deliverable strategic solution has yet been identified.	The Preferred Strategy sets out the strategic planning policy framework to assist in addressing these key issues. The Preferred Strategy sets out our commitment to maximising the provision of affordable homes on new housing allocations and to deliver net zero carbon ready new homes. We will consider the need for planning policies in the Deposit Plan to control the housing mix of the market housing on development sites, to ensure it helps create mixed communities and supports the retention of younger people who can afford an open market home were there sufficient supply of 2 and 3 bedroom homes. We will consider the need for small affordable housing schemes in rural settlements similar to the current LDP's 60/40 sites in the Deposit RLDP. We will consider a range of policies in the

	safe, secure and suitable housing. Requiring new homes to be net zero carbon ready will improve energy efficiency for new build properties which will reduce the cost of living. The provision of suitable employment land, planning policy tools to support business and the use of other (non-planning) tools to stimulate economic activity will increase employment opportunities within the County. In accordance with the WFGA, the RLDP also seeks to prevent future problems and will therefore continue to avoid new development in flood risk areas and will seek net zero carbon ready development to help address the climate emergency and also tackle issues such as fuel poverty.		Deposit RLDP around the climate change theme to minimise the carbon footprint of new development, and therefore mitigate negative impacts associated with the proposed growth. A policy requirement for broadband infrastructure provision will maximise opportunities for all to access the technology to work from home where possible, reducing commuting and associated costs.

[Type here]

3. Policy making and the Welsh language.

How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:	Describe the positive impacts of this proposal	Describe the negative impacts of this proposal	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts
Policy Making Effects on the use of the Welsh language, Promoting Welsh language Treating the Welsh language no less favourably	The Welsh language is a material planning consideration and is included within the RLDP Objective relating to Culture, Heritage and Welsh Language to ensure there is no negative impact. Any level of growth for the County relies on in-migration, some of which, whether English or Welsh or other nationality, will choose Welsh Medium education for their children. Also in-migration to Monmouthshire comes from other areas in Wales (including rural Welsh speaking areas e.g. Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion, Gwynedd, Ynys Môn, Denbighshire). This is in the main due to the significantly increased employment opportunities offered in Cardiff, Newport and in adjacent areas of England e.g. Bristol, Gloucester etc. Monmouthshire with its border location and transport links is accessible to all of these areas. This in-migration, together with the ambition to retain and attract younger families, will expose more children to Welsh curriculum education in all schools, increasing the number of Welsh speakers in the County. The Preferred Strategy is subject to a Welsh Language Impact Assessment	Any level of growth for the County relies on in-migration, being a border County a proportion of this is likely to be from England.	The Preferred Strategy aims to support culture and the Welsh language. We will liaise with the Local Education Authority to understand if the proposed growth and spatial strategy necessitates additional Welsh medium school provision. There are already significant plans and proposals in place in terms of expanding Welsh Medium education in Monmouthshire. This is due to a number of factors: - the increased popularity of the Welsh Language. - the opportunity for children to become bilingual - the increased employment opportunities that this affords them in Wales.

[Type here]

	(WLIA) as part of the wider Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA).		
Operational Recruitment & Training of workforce	An expansion of the provision of Welsh Medium education in the County will increase the opportunities for Welsh speakers to apply for vacancies within the Council thus increasing the Council's Welsh speaking capacity.	None of the current Planning Policy Team are fluent Welsh speakers, however, there are robust systems in place to deal with phone calls and correspondence without delaying the provision of the service.	N/A
Service delivery Use of Welsh language in service delivery Promoting use of the language	All statutory documentation on the RLDP and associated consultation along with notices, social media and general correspondence will be bilingual. A document will be in English only if it comes from an external source that is not subject to compliance with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. Emails/letters etc will make it clear that correspondence in Welsh is welcome and will not lead to a delay in response or a lesser standard of service . When requests are made for people to be added to the RLDP consultation database we will record language choice and communicate accordingly.	None of the Planning Policy team are Welsh speakers, however, there are robust systems in place to deal with phone calls and correspondence without delaying the provision of the service.	The Welsh language is a material planning consideration and is included within the RLDP Objective relating to Culture, Heritage and Welsh Language to ensure there is no negative impact. The Preferred Strategy is subject to a Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA) as part of the wider Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA). We will review this further if any additional assessment is required as we go through the RLDP process.

[Type here]

4. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	Positive: The Preferred Strategy identifies the level of growth over the RLDP period and spatial distribution of this growth, including identification of the Preferred Strategic Site Allocations. As well as housing growth, the Preferred Strategy aims to provide economic growth and employment provision in both urban and rural areas. Negative: Careful site selection is required to minimise loss of best and most versatile agricultural land and mineral resource.	The Preferred Strategy includes RLDP Objectives relating to economic growth/employment and town/local centres, which have been set in order to address the identified issues relating to creating a prosperous Wales.
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	Positive: The Preferred Strategy incorporates RLDP Objectives including the impact of development on the natural environment in already constrained areas. It is, however, recognised that developments could improve connectivity through opportunities to create new linkages. The limited supply of brownfield land within the County is a recognised issue. The Preferred Strategy recognises that we are in a climate and nature emergency by including a specific climate and nature emergency objective. The Preferred Strategy sets out a commitment to delivering net zero carbon ready homes. Resilience of new development to aspects of climate change can be achieved via the design and location of new developments. All developments can provide	The Preferred Strategy includes RLDP Objectives relating to Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Landscape, Flood Risk, Minerals and Waste, Land and Natural Resources which have been set in order to address the identified issues relating to creating a resilient Wales. There are water quality issues in the River Usk and River Wye SACs. There is a legal and national policy requirement to maintain and enhance ecology. This is reflected in the Preferred Strategy which avoids new allocations in the upper River Wye catchment area given the inability to deliver a strategic solution to phosphate mitigation in the Monmouth WwTW at this time.

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	opportunities to minimise carbon by providing opportunities for renewable energy generation, seeking to reduce commuting, supporting the use of ultra-low emission vehicles and public transport, and the provision of quality Green Infrastructure. There are phosphate water quality issues in the River Usk and River Wye SACs. There is a legal and national policy requirement to maintain and enhance ecology. This is reflected in the Preferred Strategy which avoids new allocations in the upper River Wye catchment area given the inability to deliver a strategic solution to phosphate mitigation in the Monmouth WwTW at this time. The recent pandemic has emphasised the need to enable such responses in delivering sustainable and resilient communities for all. It has also emphasised the importance of placemaking and Green Infrastructure for the provision of open spaces in close proximity to homes for physical and mental wellbeing. Negative: Additional growth would likely result in further pressure on the natural environment. New developments could nevertheless improve Green Infrastructure and ecological connectivity through opportunities to create new linkages. The value and importance of having access to locally accessible open/green spaces to assist in recreation and health	

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	and well-being has been heightened during the recent pandemic. The environmental benefit of avoiding new site allocations in the upper River Wye catchment is countered by the impact this has on achieving the social, economic and cultural objectives. However, without a deliverable strategic solution to water quality issues in the upper River Wye catchment, this environmental constraint needs to take priority.	
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	Positive: The Preferred Strategy identifies the level of growth over the RLDP period and spatial distribution of this growth, including identification of the Preferred Strategic Site Allocations (including avoiding new allocations in the upper River Wye catchment due to phosphate water quality issues). It is recognised that any developments will be encouraged to support healthier lifestyles and provide sufficient open space. The RLDP will encourage Active Travel and will reflect the Integrated Network Maps. The recent Covid-19 pandemic has emphasised the vulnerability of those in our communities with underlying health conditions, as well as the importance of placemaking and Green Infrastructure for the provision of open spaces in close proximity to homes for physical and mental wellbeing. The need for affordable housing, both in terms of purchase/rent and living costs, is being exacerbated	The Preferred Strategy includes RLDP Objectives relating to Health and Well-being in order to address the identified issues relating to creating a healthier Wales. The recent Covid-19 pandemic has emphasised the vulnerability of those in our communities with underlying health conditions, as well as the importance of place-making and green infrastructure for the provision of open spaces in close proximity to homes for physical and mental wellbeing.

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	by the current cost of living crisis. The Preferred Strategy seeks to maximise affordable housing through delivery of 50% affordable homes on all new site allocations and provision of net zero carbon ready homes. Negative: Additional growth has the potential to increase commuting which could affect areas with air quality problems, however, the RLDP seeks to provide for jobs within the County. Moreover, the recent pandemic has demonstrated that a significant proportion of our communities can work from home which is likely to continue over the longer term.	
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	Positive: The Preferred Strategy identifies the level of growth over the RLDP period and spatial distribution of this growth, including identification of the Preferred Strategic Site Allocations (including avoiding new allocations in the upper River Wye catchment due to phosphate water quality issues). The Preferred Strategy also considers the balance of housing, employment and infrastructure in both urban and rural areas. The recent pandemic has emphasised the importance of socially sustainable communities and ensuring a balanced demography. Negative: The environmental benefit of avoiding new site allocations in the upper River Wye catchment is countered by the impact this has on achieving the social, economic and cultural	The Preferred Strategy has been assessed against the RLDP Objectives including housing, place-making, communities, rural communities, infrastructure and accessibility in order to address the identified issues relating to creating a Wales of cohesive communities. Placemaking is embedded throughout the Plan, with detailed masterplanning and design policies to be set out in the Deposit Plan ensuring that exemplar places are created that are safe, accessible and pleasant for all.

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	objectives. However, without a deliverable strategic solution to water quality issues in the upper River Wye catchment, this environmental constraint needs to take priority.	
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	Positive: The Preferred Strategy identifies the level of growth over the RLDP period and spatial distribution of this growth, including identification of the Preferred Strategic Site Allocations (including avoiding new allocations in the upper River Wye catchment due to phosphate water quality issues). It includes a specific climate and nature emergency objective. This recognises that we are in a climate emergency and has committed to strive to limit the increase in global temperatures to 1.5°C. The Preferred Strategy sets out a commitment to delivering net zero carbon ready new homes reflecting our commitment to respond to the climate emergency. In addition, the recent pandemic has demonstrated that a significant proportion of our communities can work from home which is likely to continue over the longer term. The RLDP seeks to reduce the commuting ratio and to enable home-working, reflective of recent trends. The Preferred Strategy also includes a specific strategic policy relating to climate change. Negative: None.	The Preferred Strategy includes a specific climate and nature emergency objective which has been set in order to address the identified issues relating to creating a globally responsible Wales. Climate change considerations inform the RLDP's planning policy framework including policies, proposals and land use allocations. Section 6 of the Environment Act already requires biodiversity enhancement, which will help address the emergency.

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	Positive: The Preferred Strategy identifies the level of growth over the RLDP period and spatial distribution of this growth, including identification of the Preferred Strategic Site Allocations (including avoiding new allocations in the upper River Wye catchment due to phosphate water quality issues). The Preferred Strategy includes an objective relating to Culture, Heritage and the Welsh language. Negative: Any level of growth for the County relies on in-migration, being a border County a proportion of this is likely to be from England.	The Preferred Strategy includes an objective relating to Culture, Heritage and the Welsh language which has been set in order to address the identified issues relating to creating a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language. We will liaise with the Local Education Authority to understand if the proposed growth necessitates additional Welsh medium school provision.
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	Positive: The Preferred Strategy identifies the level of growth over the RLDP period and spatial distribution of this growth, including identification of the Preferred Strategic Site Allocations (including avoiding new allocations in the upper River Wye catchment due to phosphate water quality issues). Housing and economic growth in both urban and rural areas will assist in balancing the demography across the County and in addressing the County's affordability challenges. The Preferred Strategy aims to address the higher proportion of older age groups and lower proportion of young adults compared to the Welsh average. One of the key objectives of the RLDP is to deliver much needed affordable housing, having a safe secure and suitable home gives people the best start in life.	The Preferred Strategy includes an objective relating to demography which has been set in order to address the identified issues relating to creating a more equal Wales. The recent pandemic has highlighted the links between poverty and resilience, as well as the higher level of homelessness. The Preferred Strategy seeks to take action to enable younger people who are currently priced-out of the County an opportunity to remain living here by striving to maximise affordable housing delivery to help tackle this. It also seeks to provide additional jobs.

[Type here]

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	Negative: None.	

5. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future	The Preferred Strategy sets out the level of growth for housing/employment and the spatial distribution of this growth across the County. The Preferred Strategy also sets out the RLDP vision, the role of which is to clarify the core purpose of the RLDP and provide a framework for developing the Plan and future detailed policies. The Vision sets the overarching context for Monmouthshire for the period up to 2033.	A total of 17 RLDP Objectives are included in the Preferred Strategy in order to address the issues, challenges, opportunities and drivers facing the County.

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 Working together with other partners to deliver objectives	The Preferred Strategy has been informed by a range of evidence. We have engaged with consultees at key stages from the outset of the RLDP process to build consensus including on the issues, vision and objectives, and the growth and spatial options. Pre-deposit plan preparation and engagement has also included: collaborative working with neighbouring local authorities; Member involvement; discussions with key stakeholders including internal departments and external organisations, including key infrastructure providers. We will engage/consult on the Preferred Strategy including through methods listed above, two virtual events for members of the public, a virtual event for Town and Community Councils and seven in person drop-in sessions at various settlements across the County. We will seek to engage with seldom heard groups in particular young people, via the Youth Council, and Gypsy and Travellers via the GTAA work. We have met with the Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement to discuss how this area can be strengthened.	The RLDP Delivery Agreement ensures full stakeholder /community's involvement to shape the RLDP. We will engage/consult on the Preferred Strategy including; Member involvement, two virtual events for members of the public, a virtual event for Town and Community Councils and seven in person drop-in sessions at various settlements across the County. We will seek to engage with seldom heard groups in particular young people, via the Youth Council, and Gypsy and Travellers via the GTAA work. A revised Delivery Agreement which will amend the project timetable for Plan preparation, will be reported to Council in December 2022, alongside the new Preferred Strategy.

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 Involving those with an interest and seeking their views Involvement	The Preferred Strategy has been informed by a range of evidence. We have engaged with consultees at key stages from the outset of the RLDP process to build consensus including on the issues, vision and objectives, and the growth and spatial options. Pre-deposit plan preparation and engagement has also included: collaborative working with neighbouring local authorities; Member involvement; discussions with key stakeholders including internal departments and external organisations including key infrastructure providers. The RLDP Delivery Agreement Community Involvement Scheme sets out the way in which the Council proposes to involve the local community and other stakeholders in the preparation of the RLDP. We have met with the Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement to discuss how this area can be strengthened.	The revised Delivery Agreement ensures full stakeholder /community's involvement to shape the RLDP. We will engage/consult on the Preferred Strategy including; Member involvement, two virtual events for members of the public, a virtual event for Town and Community Councils and seven in-person drop in sessions at various settlements across the County. We will seek to engage with seldom heard groups in particular young people via the Youth Council, and Gypsy and Travellers via the GTAA work. A revised Delivery Agreement which will amend the project timetable for Plan preparation, will be reported to Council in Decdember 2022 alongside the new Preferred Strategy.

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse	The Preferred Strategy sets out the level of growth for housing/employment and the spatial distribution of this growth across the County to address the core issues of delivering much needed affordable housing at pace and scale, responding to the climate and nature emergency by delivering net zero carbon ready new homes in exemplar places, and ensuring our communities are socially and economically sustainable by attracting and retaining younger people to rebalance our ageing demographic. The Spatial Strategy avoids new site allocations in the upper River Wye catchment due to the absence of a strategic solution to water quality issues at this time.	The Preferred Strategy seeks to address our key issues/challenges/opportunities (in a land use context) and support delivery of the Council's vision for the future of the County and its communities. The RLDP Delivery Agreement seeks to ensure that the Plan will be delivered in accordance with the project timetable and ensures full stakeholder /community involvement to shape the RLDP. A revised Delivery Agreement which will amend the project timetable for Plan preparation, will be reported to Council in December 2022 alongside the new Preferred Strategy.

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Page 364 Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies	The Preferred Strategy sets out the level of growth for housing/employment and the spatial distribution of this growth across the County. The Preferred Strategy seeks to address the issues/challenges/opportunities identified (in a land use context) and support delivery of the Council's vision/objectives for the future of the County and its communities. The Preferred Strategy is subject to an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Well-being of Future Generations Assessment (WBFG), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA), and Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA)), whose findings have been used to inform the development of the RLDP strategy, strategic policies and preferred strategic site allocations in order to ensure that the Plan will be promoting sustainable development. The Preferred Strategy also sets out the Vision which will set the overarching context for Monmouthshire for the period up to 2033. MCC recognises that we are in a climate emergency and nature emergency and has committed addressing these. The RLDP will have a key role in addressing these issues.	The Preferred Strategy will be subject to statutory consultation in December 2022-January 2023. The Preferred Strategy is subject to an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Well-being of Future Generations Assessment (WBFG), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA), and Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA)), whose findings have been used to inform the development of the RLDP strategy, strategic policies and preferred strategic site allocations in order to ensure that the Plan will be promoting sustainable development. We will continue to work closely with our neighbours, both in Wales and England, including the joint procurement of evidence as applicable. The RLDP will align with the new Integrated Network Maps for Active Travel, and the Deposit Plan will be accompanied by an Infrastructure Plan, revised Local Transport Plan and Economic Development Strategy.

[Type here]

6. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	None.	None.	N/A
Corporate Parenting	The RLDP will provide affordable homes, the delivery and allocation of which should be cognisant of the needs of children leaving care.	None.	N/A

7. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

A range of background evidence and data has been used to inform the Preferred Strategy, from a wide range of sources both internal and external to the Council, including:

- RLDP Preferred Strategy (December 2022)
- Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper (Updated December 2022)
- Monmouthshire Local Development Plan Review Report (March 2018) <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2018/03/Final-Review-Report-1.pdf>
- Monmouthshire Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Reports (2014- 2022) <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/annual-monitoring/ldp-annual-monitoring-report>
- Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report (AECOM, November 2022)
- HRA of the Monmouthshire RLDP Preferred Strategy (AECOM, November 2022)
- RLDP revised Delivery Agreement (December 2022)
- Monmouthshire RLDP Demographic Update Report (Edge Analytics, November 2021)
- Sustainable Settlements Appraisal (Updated December 2022)
- Growth and Spatial Options Paper (September 2022)
- Housing Background Paper (December 2022)
- Candidate Sites High Level Assessment (August 2022)
- Monmouthshire Employment Land Review (BE Group, October 2022)

[Type here]

- Monmouthshire 2040: Our Economic Growth and Ambition Statement (November 2019) and supporting MCC Economies of the Future Reports (2018)
- Monmouthshire RLDP Candidate Sites Register (February 2022) [Monmouthshire Replacement Local Development Plan Candidate Sites Register \(Electoral Wards 2022\) - Monmouthshire](#)
- Local Housing Market Assessment 2020-2025

External sources of data include Welsh Government, Cadw, Natural Resources Wales, Hometrack, Office for National Statistics and Stats Wales.

- *Equalities dashboard link.* [Equality data dashboard for EQIA's 2020.xlsx](#)

8. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

Positive -

The new Preferred Strategy sets out the level of growth for housing/employment and the spatial distribution of this growth across the County to address the core issues of delivering much needed affordable homes, responding to the climate and nature emergency by delivering net zero carbon ready new homes in exemplar places, and ensuring our communities are socially and economically sustainable by attracting and retaining younger people to rebalance our ageing demographic. This is a positive impact for social justice.

The new Preferred Strategy will be the subject of further engagement/consultation and political reporting.

Negative –

People in poverty or on low incomes might not be able to access digital opportunities to work from home and/or are more likely to be employed in roles that cannot work from home.

Opportunities to deliver on the local evidence-based objectives, in particular delivering affordable homes and job opportunities, are limited in the upper River Wye catchment due to the need for the Spatial Strategy to respond to the environmental constraint of water quality in the River Wye, for which no deliverable strategic solution has yet been identified.

There are no negative implications for corporate parenting or safeguarding.

9. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible
Recommend that Place Scrutiny Committee scrutinise the Replacement Local Development Plan new Preferred Strategy, prior to it being reported to Council on 1st December 2022 to seek Council's endorsement for the new Preferred Strategy to be issued for statutory consultation/engagement and stakeholder involvement.	Place Scrutiny Committee 10 th November 2022.	Head of Placemaking, Regeneration, Highways and Flooding Head of Planning Planning Policy Team
Seek Council's endorsement of the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) new Preferred Strategy to be issued for statutory consultation/engagement and stakeholder involvement in December 2022 - January 2023.	Council 1 st December 2022. A revised Delivery Agreement, which will amend the project timetable for Plan preparation, will be reported to the same Council meeting for agreement and endorsement to submit to the Welsh Government for Ministerial approval.	Head of Placemaking, Regeneration, Highways and Flooding Head of Planning Planning Policy Team

10. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
0.0	LDP Review Report and Delivery Agreement	20/04/2018	Draft for Council 10 th May 2018
1.0	Issues, Vision and Objectives scrutiny	01/02/2019	Draft for Economy & Development Select Committee 14 th February 2019
1.1	Issues, Vision and Objectives endorsement following consultation	09/04/2019	Draft for Cabinet 5 th June 2019

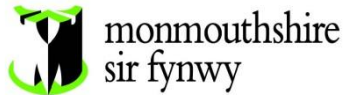
[Type here]

1.2	Issues, Vision and Objectives endorsement following consultation	14/06/2019	Amended for Cabinet 3 rd July 2019 to reflect 16 th May 2019's Climate Emergency declaration by Council
2.0	Growth and Spatial Options endorsement to consult	07/06/2019	Draft for Cabinet 3 rd July 2019
2.1	Growth and Spatial Options scrutiny	09/07/2019	Draft for Economy & Development Select Committee 17 th July 2019
3.0	Preferred Strategy endorsement to consult	11/12/2019	Draft for Council report 5 th March 2020
3.1	Preferred Strategy endorsement to consult	17/02/2020	Social Justice Strategy reviewed with Judith Langdon
4.0	Revised Delivery Agreement	05/03/2020	Timetable amended further to account for slippage as a result of the pre-election period preceding the December 2019 General Election, the additional time and work needed to inform the Preferred Strategy and delays associated with joint working with neighbouring local authorities on joint evidence base work.
4.1	Revised Delivery Agreement and review of Issues, Vision and Objectives and of evidence base in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic.	07/10/2020	Timetable amended further to account for Covid-19 pandemic and revised Welsh Government population and household projections.
5.0	Revised Growth and Spatial Options scrutiny	17/11/2020	Draft for Economic Development Select Committee 10 th December 2020
5.1	Revised Growth and Spatial Options endorsement to consult, including identifying growth option 5 and spatial option 2 as the proposals at this stage of the process.	03/12/2020	Draft for Cabinet report 16 th December 2020
6.0	Preferred Strategy Consultation endorsement to consult.	24/06/2021	Draft for Council Report 24 th June 2021
7.0	Pre-decision scrutiny by Place Scrutiny Committee of the proposal to progress the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) prior to it being reported to Council on 27 th September 2022.	26/09/2022	Draft for Scrutiny Committee and Council reports

[Type here]

7.1	Council endorsement on proposal to progress the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP).	27/09/2022	Draft for Council Report 27 th September 2022
8.0	Pre-decision scrutiny by Place Scrutiny Committee of the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) new Preferred Strategy prior to it being reported to Council on 1 st December 2022 to seek Council's endorsement for the new Preferred Strategy to be issued for statutory consultation/engagement and stakeholder involvement.	10/11/2022	Draft for Scrutiny Committee and Council reports
8.1	Council endorsement for the new Preferred Strategy to be issued for statutory consultation/engagement and stakeholder involvement.	01/12/2022	Draft for Council 1 st December 2022

This page is intentionally left blank



SUBJECT: Corporate Safeguarding Policy

MEETING: Council

DATE: 1st December 2022

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE:

To inform members of the revisions to the Corporate Safeguarding Policy and seek endorsement of the revised policy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council endorses the revised Corporate Safeguarding Policy.

3. KEY ISSUES:

The Corporate Safeguarding Policy sets out the framework through which the Council supports a preventative approach to safeguarding and protects children and adults who are at risk from harm, abuse or neglect. It is of relevance to all services operating within Monmouthshire, elected members, paid and unpaid workforce, residents of and visitors to Monmouthshire.

Revisions to the Corporate Safeguarding Policy require the endorsement of full Council to be enacted.

The Corporate Safeguarding Policy is routinely reviewed and revised of every 2 years. The revisions reflect any changes in the legal or policy framework; the local or national context; and developments within good practice guidelines.

The current review has led to the following main revisions to the policy:

- Changed the Safeguarding Board name to update to Gwent Safeguarding Board
- Updated roles and responsibilities
- Updated website links and page numbering
- Updated that independent settings are now required to undertake a SAFE
- Makes reference that training records are now being centrally held within Talent lab and Volunteers are being kept on a separate system called Kinetic
- Updated exploitation definitions in align with Gwent Safeguarding Board definition
- Changed any reference of Child Protection and Adult protection to "Safeguarding"

- Referenced we have signed up to Welsh Government Code of Practice for Ethical Employment
- Update on Licensing around enhanced DBS checks being carried out every 6 months for drivers rather than 2 years
- Updated the guidance in respect of Governing Bodies in schools
- Added the Modern-Day Slavery Statement
- Updated the referral process flowchart in align with Wales Safeguarding Procedures

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL:

Not applicable to this report

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA:

The Policy supports the Annual Safeguarding Evaluation Report to Council, with the most recent report being presented to and endorse by Council on 27th October 2022.

6. REASONS:

Safeguarding vulnerable people is central to the Council and requires strong leadership and governance. The regular review and endorsement by Council of the Corporate Safeguarding Policy is an integral component of the governance framework.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There are no resource implications to this report.

8. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

This Corporate Safeguarding Policy supports the effective safeguarding in Monmouthshire County Council.

9. CONSULTEES:

Members of the Whole Authority Safeguarding Group
Chief Officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Revised Corporate Safeguarding Policy

11. AUTHORS:

Safeguarding Service Manger – Kelly Turner

12. CONTACT DETAILS:

Kelly Turner

kellyturner@monmouthshire.gov.uk

01291 638303



CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

JULY 2017 - APPROVED
NOVEMBER 18- AMENDED
JULY 2022 - REVIEWED

JANE RODGERS

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Title	Corporate Safeguarding Policy
Purpose	The Corporate Safeguarding Policy sets out the framework through which the Council supports a preventative approach to safeguarding and protects children and adults who are at risk from harm, abuse or neglect. It is of relevance to all services operating within Monmouthshire, elected members, paid and unpaid workforce, residents of and visitors to Monmouthshire.
Owner	Kelly Turner, Safeguarding Service Manager
Approved by	Approved by Council
Date	Previous version approved July 2017 Amended November 2018 Reviewed July 2022
Version Number	3.0
Status	Final
Review Frequency	Every 2 years
Next review date	July 2024
Consultation	WASG

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	2
2.	Scope	2
3.	Objectives	3
4.	Principles of Policy	3
5.	Legislative Context	4
6.	Governance Arrangements	6
7.	Roles and Responsibilities	9
8.	Quality Assurance	12
9.	Safe Workforce	14
10.	Preventative Approach	22
11.	Robust Protection	25
12.	Safe Services	26
13.	Safeguarding in Education	30
	APPENDICES	36
1.	Relevant Legislation and Contact Details	37
2.	Referral Process Children	39
3.	Referral Process Adults	41
4.	Role Description for Directorate Safeguarding Lead	42
5.	Terms of Reference WASG	43
6.	SAFE	44
7.	Training Template	63
8.	Definitions of Abuse	65
9.	Model Template	67
10.	Minimum Standards	72

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

1. INTRODUCTION

Safeguarding children and adults at risk from abuse is everybody's responsibility.

Monmouthshire County Council (the Council) is committed to ensuring that people living in the County are safe and protected and that its statutory duties to safeguard and protect children, young people and adults at risk are discharged.

For the purposes of this policy, children and young people are defined as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. This does not exclude a young person who is 16 years of age in Further Education, or a member of the Armed Forces, in hospital, in a young offender's institution, or in prison.

An adult at risk is defined as an adult who is experiencing, or who is at risk of, abuse or neglect, has needs for care and support (whether or not the Council is meeting any of those needs), and as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

The Council's workforce shares a responsibility, both collectively and individually, to ensure that children and adults at risk are protected from harm. Council employees, Councillors, volunteers and contractors who come into contact with children or adults at risk in the course of their duties are expected to understand their responsibility and where necessary take action to safeguard and promote the welfare of vulnerable people.

2. SCOPE

For the purposes of this policy 'workforce' is defined as those engaged by the Council, including permanent and temporary employees, students, volunteers, workers employed by employment agencies, contractors and consultants.

The policy covers the whole workforce and Councillors, and whilst all have varied levels of contact with children, young people, and adults at risk everybody should be aware of potential indicators of neglect and abuse and be clear about what to do if they have concerns.

This policy sets out the expectation that all settings providing services for children and adults in Monmouthshire will have their own safeguarding policies and procedures which are in keeping with this document and other local, regional and national procedures and guidance.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

3. OBJECTIVES

The policy provides a framework which ensures that policies and practices within the Council are consistent and in line with Monmouthshire's stated values, and which must underpin all work with children, young people, and adults at risk.

The intention of this policy is to support quality service delivery, promote good practice, and ensure services are delivered in a way that children, young people and adults at risk are safe from harm and can fulfil their potential and live the lives they want to live.

This policy is intended to be enabling; to ensure that all parts of the Council understand how to put effective safeguards in place. This is a policy for a positive, preventative and proactive approach to safeguarding. It must be owned and implemented across the Council and promoted in wider communities. The policy is intended as an enabler of a positive culture of proactively identifying, managing, and removing risks to safety, whilst ensuing decisive and timely action to address serious concerns.

4. PRINCIPLES OF THE POLICY

This policy is underpinned by the Council's vision to build sustainable and resilient communities and the 4 wellbeing objectives:

- To develop opportunities for communities and businesses to ensure a well-connected and thriving county;
- Maximise the benefits of the natural and built environment for the well-being of current and future generations;
- Maximise the potential in our communities to improve wellbeing for people throughout the course of their life;
- Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life to help them achieve better outcomes.

There is an expectation that all of the workforce, Councillors and partners share an objective to help keep children, young people and adults at risk safe by contributing to:

- Creating and maintaining a safe environment;
- Identifying where there are concerns and taking action to address them in partnership with other agencies;

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

- Prevent unsuitable people from working with children, young people and adults at risk;
- Ensure the whole workforce understands safeguarding and their accountabilities and responsibilities;
- Promote safe practice and challenge poor and unsafe practice.

The policy sets out a preventive approach which ensures safeguards are proactively put in place to prevent abuse and neglect occurring.

The Council requires a competent workforce of individuals who can identify instances in which there are grounds for concern about the welfare of a child or adult and initiate appropriate action to keep them safe.

The policy requires effective partnership working between all those involved with providing services for children, young people and adults at risk.

5. LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The Council remains committed to the 1945 Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child, as well as the United Nation's Principles for Older People.

The Care Quality Commission 2014 defined Safeguarding as "protecting individual's health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect."

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act (2014) (SSWBA) aims to strengthen and build on existing safeguarding practice in Wales to ensure that people are able to live their lives to the full. There is an overarching duty to promote the well-being of people who need care and support together with an emphasis on shared responsibility and partnership working.

"Whilst the Council is the organisation in making enquiries to identify whether an individual is at risk of harm, or abuse, and co-ordinating a response it should be clear that Safeguarding is everyone's business and to this end this responsibility cannot be achieved in isolation and without clear and accountable leadership." Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014 (SSWA)

In the Social Services and Wellbeing Act, well-being is defined through eight aspects, one of which is protection from abuse and neglect. In relation to a child, well-being also includes their physical, intellectual, emotional, social and behavioural development; and their welfare (ensuring they are kept safe from harm).

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

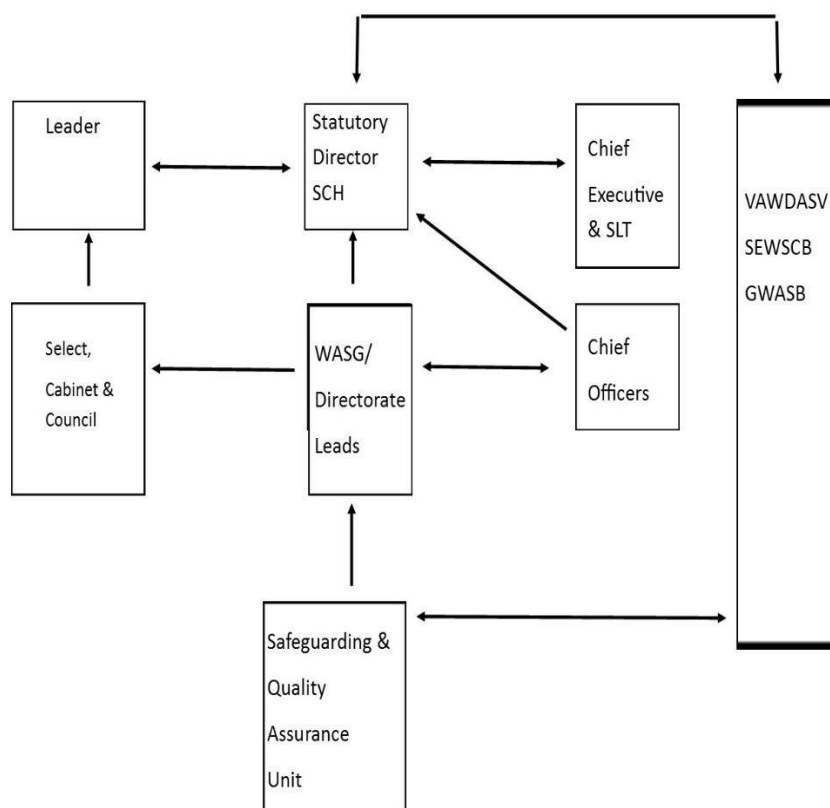
Data Protection

The Council's duties under Data Protection legislation **does not prevent** the lawful exchange of information without consent when this is proportionate and justifiable in regard to safeguarding a child or vulnerable adult, or in the prevention of a crime. Similarly, there are specific provisions within the legislation which allows the Council to refuse to release safeguarding information where to do so would not be in the interests of the child or vulnerable adult involved.

Appendix 1 gives further related legislation, policy and guidance and key contacts within the Council.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

6. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS



(a) Role of the Regional Boards

The [Gwent Safeguarding Board \(GSB\)](#) has the statutory responsibility to provide the strategic lead in the region in relation to safeguarding citizens and the promotion of their well-being, as enshrined in the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 and accompanying guidance, 'Working Together to Safeguard People Volume 1'. The GSB's purpose is to lead, co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding adult practice in the region. Monmouthshire Council is accountable to the GSB as a key statutory partner and as such must contribute fully to the work streams of the Board and ensure good alignment with the Council's work programmes.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

The **GSB** also has the statutory responsibility to provide the strategic lead in the region in relation to the safeguarding of children and promotion of their welfare, as enshrined in the Children Act 2004 and The Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 and accompanying guidance, 'Working Together to Safeguard People Volume1'. The GSB's purpose is to lead, co-ordinate, and ensure the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding children practice in the region. Monmouthshire Council is accountable to the GSB as a key statutory partner and as such must contribute fully to the work streams of the Board and ensure good alignment with the Council's work programmes.

The [Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence \(VAWDASV\) Regional Board](#) was established as a statutory requirement within the VAWDASV Act 2015 in order to strategically lead the implementation of the Act in the region. Monmouthshire Council is a key statutory partner on the Board and contributes fully to its work streams and ensures good alignment between the Board and the Council's work programmes.

(b) Chief Officer Social Care and Health (SCH)

The Chief Officer SCH fulfils the role of Statutory Director of Social Services and has legal accountability for ensuring the Council has appropriate safeguarding measures in place to protect children, young people and adults at risk. The Chief Officer is responsible for reporting the effectiveness of these arrangements on a corporate level to the Chief Executive, Senior Leadership Team and Cabinet and Council.

The Chief Officer SCH is the point of contact for all other Chief Officers to report serious safeguarding concerns, which may occur in their service area. The Chief Officer is responsible for ensuring appropriate action is taken including reporting to the Chief Executive and Lead Cabinet Member as necessary.

(c) The Chief Executive

The Chief Executive has overall responsibility for ensuring arrangements for safeguarding of children and adults at risk are effective across the Council. The Chief Executive is responsible for developing effective governance arrangements and ensuring there is a safeguarding policy in place.

Through one to one meetings with the Chief Officer for Social Care and Health (SCH), the Chief Executive is kept informed of relevant safeguarding issues.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

(d) The Leader

The Leader of the Council is responsible overall for providing political leadership to ensure the Council fulfils its duties and responsibilities for safeguarding.

(e) Lead Cabinet Member for Safeguarding

The Lead Cabinet Member for Safeguarding will have regular one to one meetings with the Chief Officer SCH and be kept informed and updated on relevant safeguarding matters.

The Lead Member will be briefed on any sensitive cases that may be considered for Child or Adult Practice Reviews or may otherwise become a matter of public interest.

(f) Executive Members

All Cabinet members have a responsibility to support and challenge their Chief Officers on the effectiveness of safeguarding within their area.

(g) Chief Officers

Chief Officers are responsible for reporting any serious safeguarding concerns that may arise in their service area to the Chief Officer SCH. Chief Officers will brief their respective Cabinet Members on any safeguarding issues and on the general effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements.

Chief Officers are responsible for ensuring the workforce within their Directorates are appropriately trained to identify and respond to safeguarding concerns.

Chief Officers are responsible for ensuring that they have safeguarding operational procedures in place and Safeguarding Audit Framework for Evaluation (SAFE) audits are undertaken for the relevant service areas within their Directorate.

Chief Officers will ensure that Directorate Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) are nominated for any service areas where there is direct contact with the public, and the DSL has a direct link to them to ensure that a robust reporting mechanism is in place for reporting any safeguarding concerns.

(h) Head of Children's Services and Head of Adult Services

The Heads of Service ensure the Chief Officer SCH is informed of any safeguarding issues in their one to one meetings and ensure that any serious concerns are raised without delay.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

The Heads of Service represent the Council on the Gwent Safeguarding Board (GSB) and are responsible for ensuring appropriate representation on any respective Sub Groups. The Heads of Service will brief the Chief Officer SCH, the Senior Leadership Team, Select Committees, Cabinet, and Council on any issues arising from Child or Adult Practice Reviews and the resultant action plans.

The Head of Children's Service has operational and strategic management responsibility for the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit which works across the Council to provide assurance and support to safeguarding and operationally leads Child Protection and Protection of Vulnerable Adult processes.

7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) Councillors

All Councillors must familiarise themselves with this Policy and seek advice from the Chief Officer SCH if they are unclear about their responsibility for safeguarding. The Corporate Safeguarding Policy will be communicated as part of the mandatory induction programme for all new Councillors.

All Councillors will be expected to undertake safeguarding training combined Level 1 as a minimum.

(b) Select Committee

The role of the Select Committee is to review and scrutinise decisions and make reports or recommendations in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions whether by the Cabinet or another part of the Council. The role is to provide constructive challenge to the Council about its safeguarding activity in an impartial and independent manner.

(c) All Staff

Every service area of the Council has a role to play and must take full ownership of their safeguarding responsibilities. The Council expects every member of the workforce to take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of any child or adult at risk involved in Council activity.

Managers must proactively analyse where risks to safeguarding are most likely to arise in their particular service(s) and ensure they have appropriate operational procedures and supporting systems in place to manage these well. They are accountable for understanding

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

the training needs of their workforce and ensuring there are appropriate operational arrangements for people to access the right training.

Any person responsible for, or working with, children or adults at risk in any capacity, whether paid or unpaid, is considered to have a duty of care towards them both legally and contractually and as a responsible moral citizen. This includes a duty to behave in a manner that does not threaten, harm or put people at risk of harm from others.

All parts of the workforce have a responsibility to conduct themselves in their private lives in a manner that does not compromise their position in the workplace or call into question their suitability to work with children or adults at risk.

All members of the workforce should:

- Be alert to the possibility of harm, abuse and neglect;
- Participate in relevant safeguarding training and multi-agency working to safeguard children and adults at risk;
- Be familiar with local procedures and protocols for safeguarding and follow the Councils Code of Conduct and other professional codes;
- Report any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child or adult at risk.

Everybody working for or on behalf of the Council has a duty to report any concerns they may have for the welfare and/or protection of children and adults at risk. The duty to report is a legal requirement and failure to report appropriately will be considered a serious matter under the Council's personnel policies. (See Appendix 2 and 8 for how to make a referral and Appendix 1 for contact information).

Each Directorate where there is direct contact with the public, will have a Directorate Safeguarding Lead (DSL) responsible for safeguarding. See Appendix 4 for roles and responsibilities. The DSL will work and liaise with the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit to deal with any safeguarding concerns about a child or adult at risk including allegations against members of staff.

(d) Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit

The Council's Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit provides safeguarding support to all service areas and settings in the County covered by this policy. This is alongside of the Unit's operational / statutory role in respect of adult and child protection.

The Unit will support, challenge, and hold to account all directorates, schools, service areas and partner agencies in respect of their safeguarding practices in the following ways:

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

- Facilitate directorates, service areas, schools and partner agencies to undertake a biennial audit of safeguarding arrangements using the SAFE framework;
- Undertake regular review meetings / visits to Council departments and other settings to discuss safeguarding procedures and practices;
- Provide support and challenge to directorates regarding their safeguarding arrangements;
- Provide professional advice and consultation regarding safeguarding or child / adult protection issues;
- Support the Whole Authority Safeguarding Group in delivering its activity programme;
- Support the Whole Authority Safeguarding Group in implementing a quality assurance framework for safeguarding;
- Work with People Services in relation to safe recruitment and HR Practices and the development of a training plan;
- Provide safeguarding training across the Council to support services in meeting their training requirements;
- Follow up any allegations against professionals in partnership with others.

(e) Directorate Heads of Service

All Heads of Service are responsible, through their Departmental Management Teams (DMTs) for ensuring that the workforce is aware of the Corporate Safeguarding Policy and service operational procedures, and that people receive training at a level appropriate to their role and responsibility

All Heads of Service must ensure that safe recruitment practices are adopted particularly in relation to reference checks and where relevant, checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

All Heads of Service must report any safeguarding concerns to their responsible Chief Officer or DSL.

(f) Line Managers and Supervisors

Every line manager / supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the workforce for whom they are responsible (including agency, consultants and volunteers) receive the training they need, proportionate to their role and responsibilities.

(g) Contractors, Sub Contractors or organisations funded by the Council

All contractors, sub-contractors or other organisations funded by the Council are responsible for arranging checks through the safe recruitment process and for ensuring that staff comply with regulatory and contractual arrangements relating to their safeguarding responsibilities. All contractors, sub-contractors and other organisations are

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

responsible for informing relevant Managers within the Council of any safeguarding concerns they may have.

(h) Agency Workers

The Council requires all Employment Agencies to undertake the relevant safe recruitment checks and references on any staff members offered employment / placements within the Council. However, it is the responsibility of the Directorate/ Service Manager to draw the Agency Workers attention to the Corporate Safeguarding Policy.

8. QUALITY ASSURANCE

(a) Reporting and Monitoring

The Council has comprehensive mechanisms in place for Officers and Councillors which provide a robust governance framework supported by a performance reporting system that is transparent, on line and capable of providing information for challenging scrutiny by Officers, Councillors and Regulators.

At a corporate level, the responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements across the Council is delegated to the Whole Authority Safeguarding Group.

Terms of Reference for the Whole Authority Safeguarding Group can be found at Appendix 6.

The Whole Authority Safeguarding Group will produce a report annually for Senior Leadership Team (SLT), Cabinet and Scrutiny. This report will provide an overview of the Council's safeguarding performance. This will provide an opportunity for councillors to scrutinise and challenge the Council's safeguarding activity

A clear line of sight on reporting of safeguarding performance is also available through Service Business Plans which are subject to scrutiny by the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member, Chief Executive, SLT and Policy and Performance Unit. Safeguarding information pertinent to the service area must be included in all Service Business Plans.

Observations of Cabinet, Scrutiny, Internal Audit and external regulators will steer and influence the priorities of the Whole Authority Safeguarding Group.

All reports prepared for Members must include an explanation of any safeguarding or Corporate Parenting implications in regard to any Council decision which is proposed.

The Head of Adults and Head of Children's Services will ensure the activities of the regional boards will be reported to Council on a formal, regular basis.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

The SLT will have safeguarding as part of its work programme and regular agenda item at its meetings.

The Senior Management Team (SMT) Meetings will have safeguarding as a regular agenda item and will be a forum to raise awareness about safeguarding and to cascade information.

Departmental Management Team meetings (DMT) will have safeguarding as a regular item on their agenda and will escalate risks, issues and training needs to the relevant DSLs.

Every Service in the Council will report on their safeguarding performance to the Whole Authority Safeguarding Group through their DSL.

(b) Safeguarding Audit Framework for Evaluation - SAFE

The SAFE audit tool (See Appendix 6) will be used to monitor and gather information and monitor compliance of the Safeguarding Policy by all DMTs, schools and other settings working with children, young people and adults at risk. The audit will be undertaken on a biennial basis and information gathered will be used to improve safeguarding for children, young people and adults at risk.

The audit tool is based on legislation and is set out in sections which require service areas to critically consider their own practice, procedures, systems and culture. The SAFE includes a safeguarding action plan which enables the service area to establish a programme of activity to address any improvements indicated through the SAFE. The Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit will provide support to services in completing and delivering their SAFEs.

The SAFE is an important mechanism in the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk in the care of the Council, at school or in other services provided or commissioned by the Council. We also ask independent settings operating in our LA area to complete the SAFE, such as Early Years / Nursery settings, independent schools.

(c) Internal Audit / External Regulators

Internal Audit will review safeguarding on a cyclical basis in accordance with their normal planning and risk assessment process along with all other services of the Council which could be subject to an audit review. This will be done on an annual basis.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

Where there are matters of concern in service provision, allegation of fraud, theft or corruption or significant non-compliance with Council policy, discussions will take place with Internal Audit to assess whether they are the appropriate mechanism to investigate the matter further. If both parties confirm that this is appropriate Internal Audit will undertake a special investigation and report back any outcomes to the respective Head of Service / Chief Officer.

The Council will address any issues identified by respective external regulators and it is incumbent on all Chief Officers and Senior Managers to ensure that coherent and comprehensive self-evaluation and consequential action is taken where required to oversee improvements.

All internal and external audit reports are scrutinised by the relevant Select Committee and any recommendations, if accepted, from every inspection / audit report are transferred into the work programme of the Whole Authority Safeguarding Group and relevant Service Plans for action and subjected to the Council's performance measures.

9. SAFE WORKFORCE

(a) Recruitment, selection and management of the workforce

The Council will implement safe recruitment and employment standards in accordance with the Gwent Safeguarding Board regional guidance and as set out in the Monmouthshire Recruitment and Selection Policy and Guidance Handbook.

To promote safe recruitment and HR practices the Council will:

- Review its recruitment and selection procedures regularly and will carry out regular auditing on safe recruitment practices for staff;
- Ensure that managers responsible for recruitment receive safe recruitment training which is updated on a regular basis;
- Ensure that safe recruitment procedures are made accessible to and used by all managers;
- Ensure that safe recruitment standards are applied and monitored within the contractual arrangements in services that are commissioned by the Council or supported through grants;
- Monitor staff compliance with its policies for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk through training and auditing of HR processes.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

The Council's Disciplinary Procedures set out what action will be taken against any member of the workforce who does not comply with the Council's policies and procedures, including those in place to safeguard and promote the well-being of children and adults at risk.

[Corporate Disciplinary Policy](#)

[School Disciplinary Policy](#)

(b) Whistleblowing

Whistleblowing is defined as:

'The disclosure by a member of staff or professional of confidential information which relates to some danger, fraud or other illegal or unethical conduct connected with the work place, be it of the employer or his/her fellow employees' (Public Concern at Work Guidelines 1997).

The Council has an agreed [Whistleblowing Policy](#) which refers to the reporting by any member of the workforce of suspected misconduct, illegal acts or failure to act within the Council. The whistleblowing policy can be used for confidential reporting of any abusive, inappropriate, or unprofessional behaviour against any children, young people or adults at risk; or any conduct that breaches criminal law or statute; compromise health and safety; breaches accepted professional code of conduct; or otherwise falls below established standards of practice in relation to children, young people or adults at risk.

The Council expects the highest standards of conduct from the workforce and encourages the workforce and others with serious concerns about any aspect of the Council's work to come forward and voice those concerns in a safe environment. The Whistleblowing policy enables members of the workforce to raise concerns at an early stage and in the correct way.

The policy is accessible to all staff within the People Services area on the Hub. The Policy explains:

- The types of issues/disclosures that can be raised;
- How the person raising a concern will be protected from victimisation and harassment;
- How to raise a concern;
- What the Council will do.

(c) Allegations against Adults who work with Children, Young People or Adults at Risk

Allegations or concerns with regard to adults working with children and/ or adults at risk must be referred and investigated in a fair, timely and consistent manner in order to effectively protect those at risk.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

Policy and guidance which clarifies Council staff member's duty to report concerns relating to other staff members, professionals and volunteers, and offers support to this process includes:

- [Wales Safeguarding Procedures](#);
- The Council's Whistleblowing Policy (See Section 8).

The sharing of information must be sensitively handled and be restricted to those agencies who have a need to know in order to:

- Protect adults and children;
- Facilitate enquiries;
- Manage HR/ disciplinary processes.

All Professional Strategy Meetings for children and adults at risk will be convened and chaired by the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit in accordance with regional guidance.

On the completion of the investigation, should an individual be dismissed or removed from working with children or adults at risk (in a Regulated Activity) the Council has a duty to refer the individual to the DBS (Safeguarding Vulnerable Group's Act 2006). The Council also has an obligation to refer certain information about an employee's conduct and matters relating to safeguarding to professional regulatory bodies.

Any member of the Monmouthshire County Council workforce/ employee of a contractor or sub-contractor who believes that allegations or suspicions are not being investigated properly has a responsibility to escalate their concern to a higher level within the Council or via the Council Whistleblowing Policy – see above.

Referral forms can be found at

Adults - [Referral](#)

Children - [Referral](#)

(d) Training

All members of the workforce, whether permanent or temporary, Councillors, and volunteers who work with children and adults at risk in Monmouthshire will be given access to this policy and the name and contact details of the DSL as part of their induction when they commence work.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

All of the workforce will be expected to undertake training relevant to the position that they hold and to renew their qualifications to the highest level.

Training organisers are responsible for keeping a record of attendance. It is the responsibility of all managers to keep an accurate record of the safeguarding training for all their workforce (See Appendix 7). Each member of the workforce is responsible for keeping an accurate record of their own training. It is the responsibility of managers to disseminate and actively promote this information throughout MCC, support staff, and volunteers.

The Council's Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit will be responsible for informing Directorates of the Training Programme. Attendance at training courses will be monitored through SAFE audits and reported back by each Directorate to the WASG.

In addition, Training records will be held centrally with the Talent Lab. It is the responsibility of the individual employee to inform their Manager, who should update the Talent Lab. Within Education it is a requirement for the Head Teacher to maintain a training record.

(e) Volunteering

This Policy applies to all volunteers who engage with adults at risk, children and young people in their volunteering role.

[Volunteering Policy](#)

Volunteers working for the Council, including within schools, will be subject to the same recruitment processes as the paid workforce and according to the nature of the activity being undertaken.

Safeguarding will be covered within the initial induction. Volunteers must subsequently attend the level of safeguarding training relevant to the nature of the voluntary activity being undertaken.

Records regarding volunteers including their recruitment and safeguarding training are held on a separate system [Kinetic].

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Training	Target Group	Delivery Method	Responsible department	Renewal
Basic Awareness Training Programme	Basic Awareness is required by everyone.	Film and Leaflet during the induction period	MCC Training Department	Every 3 years or more frequently if required.
Level 1 children / Level 1 Adults or combined adult and children's safeguarding (optimally people will access the level 1 combined, or both level 1 adult and children's if they come into contact with both adults at risk and children)	This Level is required by everyone who comes into contact as part of their role with children, young people and adults at risk.	Delivery of set training programme by trained level 1 trainers at directorate level https://sway.office.com/WUWQp7iP7Yo255II?ref=Link	MCC Training Department Designated Safeguarding Leads Safeguarding & Quality Assurance Unit SEWSCB/ GWASB	Every 2 years

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Level 2 Children's Safeguarding	This course is required for practitioners working with children, young people and their families who are: - involved in making or responding to referrals to Children's or Adults Services; - Designated Safeguarding Leads in their settings/organisations; - working regularly with child or adult protection situations.	Delivery of set training programme through the Safeguarding & Quality Assurance Unit Or the equivalent course via GSB	MCC Training Department Safeguarding & Quality Assurance Unit GSB	Every 3 years

Level 2 Adults Safeguarding	This course is required for practitioners working with adults at risk who are: - involved in making or responding to referrals to Adults Services; - Designated Safeguarding Leads in their settings/organisations; - working regularly with adult protection situations.	As Above	As Above	As Above
Level 3 Children's/ Adults Safeguarding	Appropriate specialist training for those working directly with children or adults at risk to be accessed and updated when required.	Arranged as required on a course by course basis	Social Care Workforce Development Team Safeguarding & Quality Assurance Unit GSB	As identified in Continual Professional Development plans

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Level 4 Strategic Leadership of Safeguarding	Safeguarding for strategic leads – senior managers and elected members.	Delivery of set training programme through the Safeguarding & Quality Assurance Unit	Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit	Every 3 years or more frequently if identified within Continual Professional Development plans
VAWDASV Group 1	Basic Awareness is required by everyone	Online	MCC Training Dept	Every 3 years
VAWDASV Group 2	This Level is required by everyone who comes into contact as part of their role with children, young people and adults at risk who may need to undertake a targeted enquiry, or who holds a DSL/safeguarding lead role	Delivery of set training programme through the VAWDASV team	MCC Training Dept	Every 2 years
VAWDASV Group 3	Required by VAWDASV Directorate Leads	Delivery of set training programme through the VAWDASV team	MCC Training Dept	
Modern Day Slavery and Exploitation Basic Awareness (exp May 19)	Basic Awareness is required by everyone.	Film and Leaflet during the induction period	MCC Training Department	Every 3 years or more frequently if required
Prevent – preventing violent extremism	Completion of this mandatory session is now available online	Online or via the relevant MCC lead	Lead Officer covers Newport CC and Monmouthshire CC	Every 3 years

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Modern Day Slavery and Exploitation Champion Training	• Designated Safeguarding Leads; • Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads; • Public Protection Team; • Housing and Tenancy Support teams; • Team Managers in SCH Operational Teams; • Adult Safeguarding Manager; • Councillors.	Delivery of set training programme through the Safeguarding & Quality Assurance Unit	MCC	Every 3 years

The principle is that the workforce trains up to the highest level of safeguarding required and renews only at that level (unless otherwise identified through Continued Professional Development).

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

10. PREVENTATIVE APPROACH

One of the Council's corporate priorities is to support Monmouthshire residents to be safe, stay well, and to live independently within their community. With regard to this the Council is committed to the development and commissioning of services and the implementation of community and individual well-being approaches to help meet this aim.

Services operating within the Council will be expected to respond to the needs of children and adults at risk, understand how to establish a positive culture of safeguarding and adhere to the principles of partnership working in promoting prevention and early intervention.

(a) Counter Terrorism and the Risk of Radicalisation

The PREVENT Public Sector Duty came into place in July 2015. The Counter Terrorism and Securities Act 2015 places an expectation on the Council when exercising its functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. PREVENT covers all forms of extremism including Islamist extremism, Extreme Far-Right, militant, animal rights etc. The aim of PREVENT is to safeguard those who may be vulnerable to extremist influence and provide support to those who are at risk. If anybody has PREVENT concerns, they should raise with the PREVENT Lead for the Council (See Appendix 1).

Initial referrals are made via the Duty To Report (DTR) before a PREVENT referral is submitted. Once it is ascertained that the referral is not subject to any other police investigations, a multi-agency panel known as the Channel Panel is held and a support plan is developed for the individual.

(b) Exploitation

Child Exploitation refers to the use of children for someone else's advantage, gratification or profit often resulting in unjust, cruel and harmful treatment of the child. These activities are to the detriment of the child's physical or mental health, education, moral or social-emotional development. It covers situations of manipulation, misuse, abuse, victimisation, oppression or ill-treatment.

There are two main forms of child exploitation that are recognised:

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

Child Sexual Exploitation

The abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust for sexual purposes; this includes profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the exploitation of another as well as personal sexual gratification.

Examples: Use of children in sex work, trafficking of children for sexual abuse and exploitation, child pornography, sexual slavery.

Child Criminal Exploitation

The use of the child in work or other activities for the benefit of others. This includes, but is not limited to, child labour. Economic exploitation implies the idea of a certain gain or profit through the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services. This material interest has an impact on the economy of a certain unit, be it the State, the community or the family.

Examples: Child domestic work, child soldiers and the recruitment and involvement of children in armed conflict, child bondage, the use of children from criminal activities include the sale and distribution of narcotics, the involvement of children in any harmful or hazardous work.

Criminal exploitation is also known as 'county lines' and is when gangs and organised crime networks exploit children to sell drugs. Often these children are made to travel across counties and they use dedicated mobile 'phone 'lines' to supply drugs.

The Council strives to create a hostile environment to child exploitation and actively works with partners to identify children at risk and prevent this form of abuse.

(c) Modern Slavery / Trafficking

Modern Day Slavery (MDS) / Trafficking encompasses slavery, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, forced labour, and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have to coerce or force the individual into a life of abuse, servitude, and inhumane treatment. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 and allows the courts to pass down severe sentences on the perpetrators, and to place restrictions on people from harm.

Section 52 of the Act places a duty on Local Authorities to identify and refer modern slavery child victims and consenting adult victims through the National Referral

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

Mechanism (NRM). Councils also have a duty to notify the Home Secretary of adults who do not consent to enter the NRM. This confers **First Responder** status on to all Local Authorities.

In response to this Monmouthshire has developed a [Risk Taking Behaviour Protocol](#), which clarifies all duties and responsibilities and identifies Champions and training programmes to ensure understanding and compliance with the National Referral Mechanism.

In January 2020, Monmouthshire County Council signed up to the Welsh Government's Code of Practice: Ethical Employment in Supply Chains. The Council acts in accordance with the relevant Modern Slavery and Trafficking legislation and guidance and promotes practices to identify and safeguard victims of these crimes and ensure transparency of supply chains.

To this end the Council is working in partnership with Welsh Government, the wider public sector, suppliers, service providers and others to address Modern Slavery challenges and drive collaborative action with a view to reducing risks and incidence of Modern Slavery.

Training in relation to MDS and Victim Support regarding Modern Slavery can be found at

[BAWSO](#)

(d) Self-Harm / Suicide

Self-harm is the name given to any deliberate act of self-injury or behaviour intended to cause harm to someone's own body.

The Suicide and Self Harm Prevention Strategy and associated action plan builds on 'Talk to Me', the 2009 national action plan to reduce suicide and self-harm in Wales. It sets out the strategic aims and objectives to prevent and reduce suicide and self-harm in Wales over the period 2015-2020. It identifies priority care providers to deliver action in certain priority places to the benefit of key priority people and confirms the national and local action required.

(e) Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)

Domestic Abuse is recognised to impact both adults and children and can have life changing effects. The VAWDASV Act (Wales) 2015 aims to improve arrangements for the

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

prevention of gender based violence, abuse, and sexual violence. The Act requires the public sector in Wales to work together in a consistent and cohesive way to prevent VAWDASV and to improve the outcomes for individuals and their families affected. The Gwent Whole Education Approach Group sits under the VAWDASV Partnership Board to develop and embed guidance across the region. The group meets to review data and consider effective advice and support for educational establishments and to provide clear communication on the Welsh Government Guidance and the expectations of the Gwent VAWDASV Partnership Board. The Whole Education Approach Group includes key partners working in Education, Police and specialist support services.

11. ROBUST PROTECTION

(a) Safeguarding children and young people at risk of harm, abuse and/or neglect.

Safeguarding refers to the activity, which is undertaken to protect children who are suffering, or at risk of suffering significant harm, as a result of abuse or neglect.

The categories of abuse recognised within Safeguarding children and young people are

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Neglect
- Financial Abuse

The definitions of categories of abuse are outlined in Appendix 7.

The primary legislation and guidance which shape's Safeguarding Practice and Procedures is:

- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Wales Safeguarding Procedures
- Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014

A new Act introduced in 2020 relates to [Children \(Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment\) \(Wales\) Act 2020](#)

Whilst Statutory Children's Services are the Lead Agency in Child Protection matters, there is a wider duty on all agencies to work together to protect and safeguard children.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

(b) Safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and/or neglect

Since April 2014, when SSWBA which came into force, Adult Safeguarding has been on a statutory basis. The drafting and ratification of SSWBA compliant all-Wales policy, procedure and guidance is found in the [Wales Safeguarding Procedures](#).

The SSWBA refers to an 'adult at risk from abuse or neglect', defined as an adult who:

- Is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect;
- Has needs for care and support (whether the authority is meeting any of those needs); and
- As a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

This applies to all adults within the County boundary whether or not they are ordinarily resident. Adult safeguarding also needs to take into account the capacity of adults to make decisions in accordance with the Mental Capacity Act. If an adult is deemed to have capacity, then consent must be sought for the safeguarding process. The only exception to this is when an alleged abuser is a potential risk to other vulnerable people.

The Act also places a 'duty to report' on all staff to report actual or suspected abuse or neglect of adults and children deemed to be at risk. It provides for the use of Adult Protection Safeguarding Orders (APSO) via a Magistrate to allow Designated Officers to enter premises where it is suspected an adult is at risk and speak to them alone to establish if they are safe.

Appendix 3 sets out a flowchart outlining Adults referral process.

(c) Allegations or Concerns against adults who work with children and adults at risk Professional Strategy Meetings

See Section 9c

12. SAFE SERVICES

(a) Commissioning Arrangements

Any new service provider commissioned to support children or adults at risk will be required to undergo an accreditation process. The accreditation process is designed to ensure that the service is fit for purpose and has the necessary arrangements in place to safeguard those it is supporting and deliver a quality service. As part of the accreditation process checks will be made with local hosting authorities, regulatory bodies, as well as financial

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

enquiries. Providers will be required to provide information confirming their safeguarding policy and procedures.

Contractor monitoring activity either planned or unplanned, will include satisfying the Council that the provider is managing their responsibilities in regard to safeguarding and are operating in line with legislation, policy and procedures. Where required confirmation will be sought of the service's performance regarding safe recruitment practices, DBS checking and safeguarding referrals.

Minimum Standards

The Council has developed Minimum Standards for Safeguarding across Commissioned Services, Partnerships and Volunteers. The standards apply to all areas of the council and all activity in which it works with partners, volunteers and commissioned services, where there is engagement with children, young people and adults at risk.

The context of each work setting will determine the specific arrangements put in place to ensure adherence with its minimum standards. These will be risk based, proportionate and appropriate to the nature of the setting. A key determining factor for the level of required arrangements will be whether the service is deemed as a regulated activity. An assessment tool has been produced to support Directorates to assess their activity against the standards and take any action needed.

Each Directorate is accountable for ensuring that all organisations with whom it works are clear about their safeguarding responsibilities and have arrangements /procedures in place to discharge them. (Appendix 10)

Commissioning and Procurement

In 2019 Monmouthshire signed up to the Welsh Government Code of Practice for Ethical Employment in Supply Chains and an action plan for implementation has been drafted

(b) Lettings and Hiring

With almost all casual lettings the Council will not be contracting the services of hirers. It is nonetheless allowing its premises to be used for activities that may involve children, young people or adults at risk.

Therefore, Managers have a duty to ensure, as far as is reasonable, that these activities also comply with safeguarding requirements. Members of the public may reasonably

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

assume that because an activity is taking place within a Council setting the Council has had due regard to safeguarding in entering into the arrangement.

In allowing use of council premises, the onus must remain upon the hirer to ensure that safeguarding standards are maintained. This is something that organisations are made aware of under safeguarding legislation and through their own organisational governing body, if applicable.

Managers should request to see and retain copies of relevant safeguarding documentation as proof that hirers and their staff comply with such measures on receipt of applications.

Managers must also consider reporting any concerns about an individual's suitability to work with children, young people and adults at risk to Children's/ Adults Services.

In the case of 'one off' children's events, for example, a private birthday party, safeguarding legislation exempts such uses from the processes mentioned above but nonetheless this policy requires managers to be able to properly demonstrate due regard to safeguarding risks in agreeing any hiring arrangements.

(c) Monmouthshire Home search - Housing Register

The Council's Housing Register, known as Monmouthshire Homesearch, is a partnership between the Council and local housing associations. Monmouthshire Homesearch is a common housing register and a joint allocations policy. The Housing Register, a legal responsibility of the Council, determines the priority and procedure for the allocation of social housing in Monmouthshire. The Housing Register policy supports and contributes to the Council's Safeguarding Policy through the following:

Special Management Lettings - There may be exceptional circumstances where the only way an exceptionally urgent housing need can be resolved is through the use of management discretion. There is the ability in very urgent cases for MHR Operational Sub Group to exercise discretion. In the interests of fairness to all applicants these circumstances are kept to an absolute minimum. Such cases may include the following circumstances: an applicant has an exceptional need that is not covered by the allocation scheme, for example, where Child or Public Protection issues require urgent rehousing.

Serious Offenders – Monmouthshire Homesearch will seek to minimise the risk to the community and the applicant where individuals are considered to pose a risk to themselves and/or others (even where an individual has not been convicted of an offence).

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

Monmouthshire Homesearch (through the Council's Housing Options Team) will work with the Police and Probation Services to assess and manage risk and will apply special arrangements where cases are referred through the Multi-Agency Public Protection panel (MAPPA) or any protocol with Probation Services Officers. This may result in restrictions being placed upon the applicant in their choice of property or area, or a direct offer of suitable accommodation being made.

Information Sharing - Information may be shared about individuals and their history, irrespective of whether their consent has been obtained, in exceptional circumstances. This will be in accordance with the provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Section 115). This includes where there is a need to safeguard children and address issues regarding child protection or adults at risk.

(d) Licensing

With effect from 1st April 2016 all new and existing Licensed Hackney Carriage, Private Hire Drivers, Proprietors, and Operators must undergo Safeguarding of children, young people, and adults at risk training before obtaining a licence from the Council.

All staff within the Licensing Section should undertake safeguarding training to enable them to work with the taxi trade to gather information to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk and be able to share relevant information with Police and Social Services.

The Council is unable to insist on safeguarding training as part of the condition of a licence within the alcohol and entertainment industry. However, Licensing will continue to work with the Police to provide free training to those working in the industry and continue to improve information sharing.

The Council will continue to work with traders who require licenses e.g. takeaway outlets to provide assistance on how to recognise possible safeguarding issues.

Since 01 October 2021, this Authority undertakes enhanced DBS every 6 months after the granting of new drivers' licences. New drivers will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check upon application. Those currently licensed by this Authority will be required to do an enhanced DBS check upon renewal of their licence and then an enhanced check every 6 months after renewal (previously DBS was every 3 years). This procedure will be the same for Private Hire Operators. However Operators will be required to conduct a basic DBS and they will not be required to have a check if they already do so as they are a driver. Operators are also now required to carry out checks on their booking and dispatch staff

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

(previously no checks on staff employed). All vehicle proprietors are also required to also carry out basic DBS checks every year if a check has not been carried out as above by means of a further licence.

13. SAFEGUARDING IN EDUCATION

Roles and Responsibilities in Schools

(a) The role of the Governing Body in Maintained Schools in Monmouthshire

Governing bodies are accountable for ensuring effective policies and procedures are in place to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children in accordance with this guidance, and for monitoring compliance with them. Governing bodies of maintained schools, governing bodies [corporations] of colleges and proprietors of independent schools must ensure their respective organisations:

- Have effective safeguarding [including child protection] policies and procedures in place that are:
 - In accordance with local authority guidance, locally agreed interagency procedures and minimum standards;
 - Inclusive of services that extend beyond the school/college day (e.g. boarding accommodation, community activities on school premises, etc.);
 - Reviewed at least annually;
 - Made available to parents or carers on request;
 - Provided in a format appropriate to the understanding of children, particularly where schools and colleges cater for children with additional needs.
- Operate safe recruitment procedures that take account of the need to safeguard children and young people, including arrangements to ensure that all appropriate checks are carried out on new staff and unsupervised volunteers who will work with children, including relevant DBS checks.
- Ensure that the head teacher/principal and all other permanent staff and volunteers who work with children undertake the training necessary to carry out their

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

responsibilities for safeguarding effectively, which is kept up-to date by refresher training.

- Give clear guidance on the organisation's arrangements for child protection and the responsibilities to temporary staff and volunteers who will be providing cover during short-term absences and working with children.
- Ensure that the governing body/proprietor remedies without delay any deficiencies or weaknesses regarding any child protection arrangements that are brought to its attention.
- Ensure that the designated senior person (DSP), the designated governor, and the chair of governors undertakes training in inter-agency working that is provided by, or to standards agreed by, the Safeguarding Children Board, as well as refresher training to keep their knowledge and skills up to date, in addition to basic safeguarding training.

(See 'Keeping Learners Safe – The role of local authorities, governing bodies and proprietors of independent schools under the Education Act 2002')

(b) Additional responsibilities of community Focussed Schools, Pre and Post School Learning and Out of Hours Learning Providers in Monmouthshire

The governing body of a school controls the use of the school premises both during and outside school hours, except where a trust deed allows a person other than the governing body to control the use of the premises, or a transfer of control agreement has been made. Governing bodies can enter into transfer of control agreements in order to share control of the school premises with another body, or transfer control to it. The other body, known as the "controlling body", will control the occupation and use of the premises during the times specified in the agreement.

Transferring control of the premises to local community groups, sports associations, and service providers can enable school facilities to be used without needing ongoing management or administrative time from school staff.

Where the governing body provides services or activities directly under the supervision or management of school staff, the school's arrangements for child protection will apply. Where services or activities are provided separately by another body, the governing body

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

must confirm that the body concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place in regard to safeguarding children and child protection and there are arrangements to liaise with the school on these matters where appropriate.

(c) Responsibilities of Head teachers

Head teachers and principals of all schools and colleges should foster a nurturing culture within the school or college and promote open communication between staff and pupils on safeguarding matters. They must ensure all staff [including supply teachers and volunteers]:

- Fully implement and follow the safeguarding policies procedures adopted by the governing body or proprietor;
- Have both time and access to sufficient resources to enable them to discharge their responsibilities, including taking part in strategy discussions and other inter-agency meetings as well as contributing to the assessment of children;
- Understand the procedures for safeguarding children, feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and be confident that such concerns will be addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with Welsh Government's Procedures for Whistleblowing in Schools and Model Policy;
- As part of their induction, are given a written statement about the school or college policy and procedures, and the name and contact details of the DSP.

(d) Role of the Designated Person in Schools (DSP)

Please refer to [Keeping Learners Safe](#) section 2:15

The Head teacher / principal must appoint the appropriate number of DSP's and deputy DSPs for their education setting and should ensure the DSP:

- is given sufficient time and resources to carry out the role effectively, which should be explicitly defined in the post holder's job description;
 - has access to the required levels of training and support to undertake the role, including online safety training;
 - has time to attend and provide reports and advice to case conferences and other interagency meetings as required;
 - has the appropriate IT equipment to carry out the role effectively.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

(e) Referrals

The DSP should act as a point of contact and a source of support, advice, and expertise within the setting establishment when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies.

The DSP is responsible for making referrals about allegations of suspected abuse to the relevant investigating agencies. Where these relate to cases of suspected abuse or allegations of abuse against staff or volunteers, the process for referral and enquiries is set out in the relevant procedures.

DSPs have a responsibility to ensure that:

- The Duty Officer (children's social care) contact details for the originating authorities of all service users are sourced and displayed in an area which is accessible to all staff;
- In the event of a safeguarding concern a referral is made both to the duty officer in the person's home authority and to the Monmouthshire duty officer.
- In the event of an allegation against a professional the Lead Officer for Safeguarding in Education is informed at the same time as the above referral/s.

(f) Role of Independent Settings and Residential Establishments

Proprietors of residential and/or independent settings should ensure that:

- They comply with the requirements of their regulatory body;
- They fulfil all responsibilities for safeguarding adults and children (including those at risk).

(g) The Role of the Manager of Early Years Settings/ Nurseries/ Playgroups/ Before & After School Care Settings

Managers of Early Years Settings and all partner agencies in Monmouthshire providing early years services for children should:

- Act as, or appoint, a DSP to take the lead role in safeguarding and protecting the children in their care;
- Ensure that they have an up to date Safeguarding policy and procedures which have been adopted by the proprietor/managing body and are fully implemented and followed by all staff;

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

- Ensure that parents/carers can access information regarding safeguarding arrangements
- Ensure that sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable the designated person and other staff to discharge their responsibilities including taking part in strategy discussions and other inter-agency meetings, and contributing to the assessment of children; and
 - All staff and volunteers understand the procedures for and are supported in raising concerns with regard to children in their care

(h) The Role of Volunteers in Educational Establishments

Volunteers are also seen by children as safe and trustworthy adults, and therefore will be subject to the same recruitment processes as the paid workforce and according to the nature of the activity being undertaken.

However, in other circumstances, e.g. where a volunteer's role will be one-off, such as accompanying teachers and pupils on a day outing or helping at a concert or school fete, such measures would be unnecessary provided that the person is not to be left alone and unsupervised in charge of children.

For the purpose of this policy, governors who also volunteer in schools should be treated on the same basis as other volunteers.

The DSP should ensure a record of volunteers is kept using the Kinetic Volunteering System. The system must be used to record how often they volunteer and the roles that they are undertaking. This will then determine whether they are in regulated activity and the recruitment processes to be followed. All recruitment records must be kept on the Kinetic System.

Regulated activity is defined as unsupervised activity in a limited range of establishments with the opportunity for contact with children. The scope of regulated activity includes unsupervised activities such as:

- Teaching;
- Training;
- Instructing;
- Caring for or supervising children;
- Providing advice or guidance on wellbeing;
- Driving a vehicle only for children.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

In addition, to be regarded as regulated activity, this unsupervised activity enacted within a specified place must be done regularly. Regularly means carried out by the same person frequently (once a week or more often), or on four or more days in a 30 day period (or in some cases, overnight).

For those people who do not work in regulated activity but nevertheless work, paid or unpaid, with children, their employers may, but will not be required to, obtain relevant checks – but it will be unlawful to check if they are on a barred list.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

Record of Appendices

Appendix 1	Relevant Legislation and Council Contacts	
Appendix 2	Referral Process – Children	
Appendix 3	Flow chart adult referrals	
Appendix 4	Roles and Responsibilities Directorate Safeguarding Leads	
Appendix 5	Terms of Reference Whole Authority Safeguarding Group	
Appendix 6	SAFE Auditing Tool	
Appendix 7	Training Record Template	
Appendix 8	Categories of abuse - Definition	
Appendix 9	Model Template Safeguarding Policy for Operational Settings and Schools	
Appendix 10	Minimum Standards for Safeguarding Across Commissioned Services, Partnerships and Volunteers	

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

APPENDIX 1 RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND CONTACT DETAILS

- Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014
- Children Act 1989, 2004
- Carers Act 2004
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equalities Act 2010
- Framework for Assessing Children and their Need (2001)
- Stronger Partnership's for Better Outcomes (2006)
- Wales Interim Policy & Procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Abuse (2010)
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Wales Safeguarding Procedures
- Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act 2020
- NSF for Children, Young People and Maternity Services
- Direct Payment's Guidance
- Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act 2015
- General Data Protection Regulation 2018
- Data Protection Act 2018
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- VAWDASV Regional Service - [Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence - Gwent Safeguarding](#)
- PREVENT - [Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- Keeping Learners Safe – [Keeping learners safe | GOV.WALES](#)

Relevant Contacts

Social Services Duty – Children Services	01291 635669 during office hours 0800 328 4432 out of office hours
Social Services Duty – Adult Services	Monmouth/Usk/Raglan – 01600 773041 Abergavenny – 01873 735885 Chepstow/Caldicot – 01291 635666
PREVENT	Recruitment in progress
Gwent Safeguarding Board	www.gwentsafeguarding.org.uk
Modern Slavery /Trafficking – Training and Victim Support	BAWSO www.bawso.org.uk .
GDPR	KathrynEvans@monmouthshire.gov.uk

CHILDREN'S SERVICES		
Duty Social Worker	01291 635669	childduty@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Out of Hours	0800 328 4432	southeast@caerphilly.gov.uk

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

Kelly Turner	Safeguarding Service Manager	07540 591225	kellyturner@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Jessica Scarisbrick	Child Protection Co-ordinator	07929 878496	jessicascarisbrick@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Heather Heaney	Designated Lead Officer for Safeguarding in Education	01633 644392 / 07917 707343	heatherheaney@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Katie Jacobs	Quality Assurance & Safeguarding Officer	07976 837800	katiejacobs@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Leanne Parker	Independent Reviewing Officer	01873 735483 / 07793 799340	leanneparker@monmouthshire.gov.uk

ADULT SAFEGUARDING

Adult Safeguarding Duty		01873 735492	MCCadultsafeguarding@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Out of Hours		0800 328 4432	southeast@caerphilly.gov.uk
Jason Davies [in post 11/07/22]	Team Manager		Jasondavies2@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Vivien Butler	Adult Safeguarding Co-ordinator	07966 862732	vivienbutler@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Sonia Hawkins	Adult Safeguarding Co-ordinator	07976 273715	soniahawkins@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Sophia Jones	Adult Safeguarding Co-ordinator	07970 980831	sophiajones@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Samuel Evans	Adult Safeguarding Screen Officer	07929 832774	Samuelevans@monmouthshire.gov.uk

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY
APPENDIX 2 REFERRAL PROCESS - CHILDREN

An overview of the duty to report process

*I am aware of a child that may be at risk of harm?
What evidence do I have: disclosure; observation; information?*



Do I need to take immediate action to ensure safety? Should I obtain emergency medical aid? Do the police need to be informed a possible crime has been committed?



Is there a designated safeguarding person (DSP) in my agency I can discuss this with? Do I need to contact social services for advice? What is the result of these discussions?



Do I need to make a report to social services? Do I need to try to gain consent? What information do I have to share: core data; cause for concern; individual's living environment?



MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

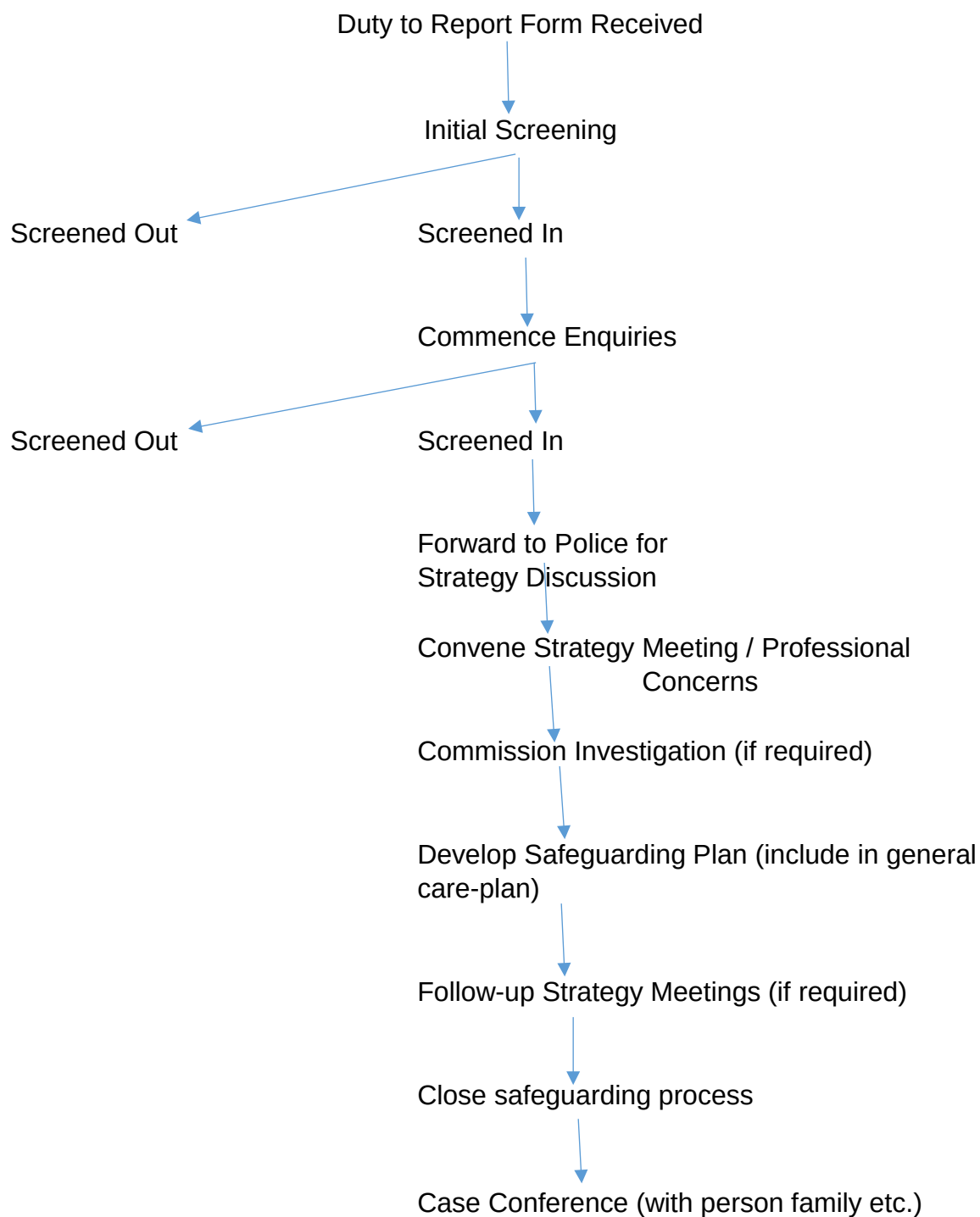
Should this report be immediate by telephone, followed up on the same day by a written report or is the level of concern such I can make a written report? What advice have I received about this from my agency and social services?



What do I need to do next? Document incident/concerns; inform key people; ensure received response from social services within 7 working days or chase up.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

APPENDIX 3 ADULT SAFEGUARDING PROCESS



MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

APPENDIX 4 ROLE DESCRIPTION FOR DIRECTORATE
SAFEGUARDING LEAD

Every Directorate within the Council is required to nominate a Directorate Safeguarding Lead [DSL] for dealing with children or adults that might be at risk of abuse and/or neglect. The DSL is responsible for:

- Acting as an overarching and key source of advice and support for other staff in their Service on all safeguarding issues
- Ensuring robust arrangements are in place for staff to access day to day practice advice and support for safeguarding from their line managers
- Support staff or take the lead in referring safeguarding concerns to Social Care and Health as appropriate
- Being familiar with the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Policy and the Wales Safeguarding Procedures as they relate to Children's and Adult safeguarding
- Ensuring the Operational Procedures for safeguarding within the directorate are compliant with legislation and statutory guidance and are issued to all staff
- Regular liaison with their Head of Service on the Whole Authority Safeguarding Group
- Ensuring compliance with policies and guidance within their directorate service areas and reporting this to the Whole Authority Safeguarding Group
- Attending relevant training
- Ensuring members of the workforce within their Services attend training at levels appropriate to their roles and functions and maintain management information in relation to attendance on training
- Ensuring safeguarding responsibilities are highlighted through staff induction processes, team meetings, supervision and staff briefings
- Make a contribution to the completion of the SAFE audit for the Directorate

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

APPENDIX 5 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WHOLE AUTHORITY
SAFEGUARDING GROUP

The main responsibilities of the Group are to ensure that robust arrangements for safeguarding children and adults are in place within and across the Council. The Whole Authority Safeguarding Group will act on a strategic level to:

- Assure the Council that procedures for managing safeguarding concerns are robust;
- Ensure that all directorates within the council are aware of their contribution to keeping children, young people and adults at risk safe and free from harm or abuse;
- Support the functions and duties of the Chief Officer Social Care and Health;
- Ensure inter departmental working and corporate communication is effective;
- Resolve any potential barriers that could prevent having effective procedures in place;
- Receive and consider recommendations and learning from Child / Adult Practice / Domestic Homicide Reviews;
- Ensure appropriate training is available for the workforce (paid and unpaid) and Elected Members;
- Receive and consider agreed performance information;
- Produce an Annual Report on safeguarding performance within the council for SLT, Cabinet and relevant Scrutiny Committee;
- Review the Corporate Safeguarding Policy as and when required or after 3 years as a minimum.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

APPENDIX 6

MONMOUTHSHIRE SAFEGUARDING AUDIT FRAMEWORK for EVALUATION (SAFE)

In accordance with Monmouthshire's Safeguarding Policy, all organisations that provide services for or work with adults at risk, children, young people and families are expected to carry out an audit of their safeguarding practices, based on a process of self-evaluation. **Even if you do not directly provide these services, please consider the audit in relation to your service area which may be helpful in identifying safeguarding support needs.**

The following audit framework is set out in sections related to different standards and requires you to think about your own practices and procedures within your setting. It is designed to give you an understanding of safeguarding in your own service area/ establishment and how these might be developed. In addition, the audits provide Monmouthshire County Council with an overview of safeguarding practices across the county. The audit tool is based on Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014, and directly relates to Monmouthshire's Corporate Safeguarding Policy 2022. The [Corporate Safeguarding Policy](#) will inform your response to the audit.

Please think carefully about your own practices and procedures in your setting; complete the audit to the best of your knowledge and think about how you will evidence your responses. Please complete the RAG System (Red, Amber or Green – see below) and produce an action plan with any actions that are required to improve safeguarding in your area/school.

If you need support or assistance in completing the audit or are considering if you need to undertake the audit, please contact your Directorate Safeguarding Support Officer. If you have considered the audit tool, against

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

the Corporate Safeguarding Policy and believe that you have a Nil Return please discuss this with your Directorate Lead and Safeguarding Support Officer.

Please undertake the following audit and return it to the named officer below for your Directorate:

SAFEGUARDING SUPPORT OFFICER	ROLE	DIRECTORATE RESPONSIBILITY	EMAIL ADDRESS
Kelly Turner	Safeguarding Service Manager	Chief Executives Resources Social Care & Health	kellyturner@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Heather Heaney	Designated Lead Officer for Safeguarding in Education	CYP Schools Early Years Flying Start	heatherheaney@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Katie Jacobs	Quality Assurance & Safeguarding Officer	Communities and Place MonLife Resources	katiejacobs@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Jason Davies [in post from 11/07/22]	Adult Safeguarding Team Manager	Adult Services	jasondavies2@monmouthshire.gov.uk

The Safeguarding Unit will review the information, which helps to inform MCC in developing safeguarding practices at a wider level.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The audit and subsequent Action Plans for your area will support the development of Safeguarding practice within your team/area, and subsequently develop a Directorate Level Action Plan.

Please try to be as realistic and honest as you can be and use this document to help you to identify your current position regarding safeguarding and set targets/actions to improve.

Organisation / Service Area / School / Establishment Name	Person Completing this Audit	Role / Position	Date Completed	Date Returned to LA

Please list below ALL the individual services / organisations / establishments that you are responsible for and reporting on in this audit. Where relevant be specific in your audit regarding which service is being commented upon. (For e.g. Leisure Centre, Day Service, Care Home, Social Work Team Primary School, Comprehensive School, Nursery, Breakfast Club, After School Club, Sports Activities, etc.)

.....

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

.....

.....

.....

.....

STANDARD	EVIDENCE	RAG RATING	FURTHER ACTIONS REQ'D
STANDARD 1: DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS <i>Designated Safeguarding Leads fulfil an essential role in developing and implementing policies that help to protect children and adults at risk from all forms of abuse and create a safe environment. Designated Safeguarding Leads take responsibility in their setting for managing issues and concerns about adults and children at risk.</i>			
1.1 There is a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for Safeguarding and all staff know who that person is. (please check appendix 4 Corp SG Policy)	(please identify)		

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1.2 There is a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (to act when the DSL is off site) and all staff know who that person is.			
1.3 The role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead is clearly defined in a job description which sets out their responsibilities in safeguarding.			
1.4 The DSL and deputy DSL are adequately trained and supported to fulfil their roles. (S9 -Training Requirement Corp SG Policy)	Provide details of safeguarding courses attended with dates:		

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

STANDARD 2: POLICIES AND PROCEDURES			
2.1 Your setting has adopted the Monmouthshire Safeguarding Policy (formally via governing body/trustee / management body if appropriate).	Give Date when adopted:		
2.2 The LA policy has been communicated to all staff members and is implemented in your setting/organisation.			
2.3 Your setting has its own written safeguarding policies and procedures which relate to your area of service. These are reviewed regularly	List any relevant policies with dates including date of reviews and of next review:		

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

(at least every 3 years) (support available in drafting from directorate lead)			
2.4 All staff and volunteers are made aware of all safeguarding policies and procedures and how these are applied within the setting			
2.5 Everyone using your service are made aware of all safeguarding policies and procedures and how these are applied within the setting			
2.6 We are confident that every service we commission delivers a safeguarding standard consistent with our service.			

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

2.7 Your Staff where appropriate are aware of their responsibility relating to GDPR			
STANDARD 3: ACCOUNTABILITY			
3.1 All staff understand to whom they are directly accountable with regards to the well-being of adults at risk and children, and the level of accountability they have.	Is this discussed at team meetings and staff appraisals? How is this recorded?		
3.2 All Job descriptions are explicit and recognise responsibilities regarding safeguarding and promoting the well-being of children and adults at risk.			

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

STANDARD 4: LISTENING AND RESPONDING

4.1 Children and adults at risk are encouraged to express their wishes and feelings including any concerns they might have over harm and abuse.			
4.2 Appropriate decisions are made in order to protect children, young people and adults at risk from harm.			
4.3 Children, young people and adults at risk feel safe in your setting and that their well-being is promoted.			
4.4 We reflect on what has gone well and areas for improvement and ensure that new	How is this achieved?		

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

learning is embedded.			
STANDARD 5: EFFECTIVE INTER-AGENCY WORKING TO SAFEGUARD AND PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK			
5.1 Staff participate in multi-agency meetings and forums to consider the needs of and provide support for individual children and their families and adults at risk.	List the relevant meetings your setting is involved:		
5.2 Staff are able to recognise when children and adults at risk need additional support and are able to make the appropriate referral e.g. referrals to other single agencies, referral to, referral to Adult Services or Children's Services	Provide numbers of referrals made to e.g. adult/children's services		
5.3 Any decisions made or actions			

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

taken in relation to the protection or safeguarding of individuals are recorded appropriately and maintained confidentially.			
5.4 Arrangements are in place to ensure that personal and confidential information is appropriately shared across settings / services.	Is information securely available across varying levels of need? How do you know this is being complied with?		
STANDARD 6: STAFF AND VOLUNTEER TRAINING (Sect. 9 Corporate SG Policy)			
6.1. All staff and volunteers receive appropriate training (at the relevant levels) to enable them to discharge their safeguarding duties.	Describe your record keeping arrangements and how this is monitored by your setting. What arrangements are in place for updates and renewals		

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

6.2 All staff and Volunteers are assessed in relation to safeguarding training needs.	How is this achieved?		
6.3 There is a record kept of all adult/child protection and safeguarding training and this is updated as appropriate.	Provide a copy of your training record		
6.4 Arrangements are in place to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of training and the identification of adult/child protection and safeguarding training.			
STANDARD 7: SAFE RECRUITMENT			
7.1. All staff and volunteers have DBS checks prior to	Describe how you monitor DBS arrangements:		

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

employment if they are engaged in regulated activity.			
7.2. All staff / volunteers who have contact with children, young people and adults at risk are selected in accordance with the Safe Recruitment Policy and have appropriate checks in line with current legislation and guidance: - References are always taken up prior to appointment. - Identity and qualifications are verified. - Professional registration is in place - Face to face interviews are carried out. - Previous employment history is checked. - Any anomalies or discrepancies are followed up. - Necessary checks are carried out before the employee takes up the post (e.g. DBS if they	Provide information about any DBS risk assessments that you have undertaken since the last audit: how can you be confident that sound decisions are made?		

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

are engaged in regulated activity).			
7.3 There is a Safe Recruitment policy in place.			
7.4 Those people involved in recruitment within your setting have undertaken Safe Recruitment Training	Provide details of any training undertaken:		
STANDARD 8: HANDLING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS			
8.1 There is a named senior officer with responsibility in respect of allegations against staff and volunteers. All staff know who this person is.			
8.2 There is a written procedure for handling allegations			

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

against staff and volunteers in place.			
8.3 Incidents and allegations of professional abuse are recorded appropriately and maintained confidentially.	Provide numbers of professional concerns and any issues referred:		
STANDARD 9: SAFEGUARDING IN THE BUILDING			
9.1 Do you know and monitor public access points in the building(s) so that you know if people are entering or leaving the building?			
9.2 Are Parents / Carers / Visitors monitored whilst they are in the building including signing in and out procedures if appropriate? Are			

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

badges issued to visitors?			
9.3 Do you have policies and procedures in place to maintain safeguarding when other people/vehicles not involved with your organisation use/visit the premises at the same time as your organisation?			
9.4 Are safeguarding issues reported to the relevant lead officer and the building's management, as appropriate?			
9.5 Do you risk assess for safeguarding and general safety when using premises other than your own and have a reporting system in place for issues identified?			

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

STANDARD 10: E-SAFETY

10.1 Children, young people or adult at risk who have access to the internet via any means in your setting can do so safely.	Provide details of any e-safety awareness activity that is undertaken within your setting:		
10.2 Do you have and implement a policy for the safe use of internet access by service users, staff and volunteers?	Tell us where this policy is available:		

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD SUMMARY REPORT:

Describe any key challenges and successes that you have experienced over the last year. Relate this both to your individual role and to the wider setting.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Please identify what support might be helpful to you in your role as Designated Safeguarding Lead or to assist with the development of safeguarding within your setting.

RAG RATING

Green

Means everything is in place, up to date, and meets the required minimum standard

Amber

Means that something requires review or improvement

Red

Means something needs to be developed as a matter of urgency

PART 2: ACTION PLAN

INSERT YOUR COMPLETED / UPDATED ACTION PLAN FROM YOUR PREVIOUS AUDIT

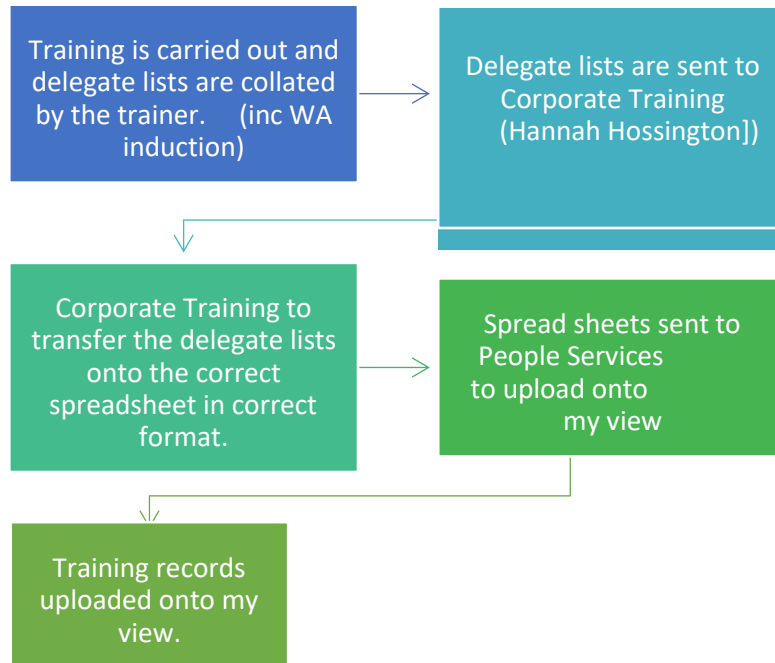
Ensure that any actions from your previous action plan that have not been completed are incorporated into your current plan as below.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

No	Standard Identified	RAG Rating	Action Needed / Evidence of Completion	Timescale / Date of completion

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

APPENDIX 7 PLAN FOR UPLOADING 'MY VIEW' WITH TRAINING RECORDS



The above is the temp interim solution for recording training onto personal files on 'My View'.

Trainers to ensure delegate lists are sent to Corporate Training Unit (Hannah Hossington) within a day following the training.

When staff attend external training the Line Manager will need to send the information to Corporate Training Unit, as above, with regards to training attended.

Format for uploading data to My View:-

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Corporate Training Unit will send the training records to be uploaded in the following format.

Directorate	Service	Division	Section	Employee Number	Name	Course	Date	Result	Reason if not attended

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

APPENDIX 8 DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.

Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or caregiver fabricates or induces illness in a child whom they are looking after.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, for example by witnessing domestic abuse within the home or being bullied, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill treatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include noncontact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or caregiver failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

In addition, neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Financial Abuse

Financial or material abuse is any theft or misuse of a person's money, property or resources by a person in a position of, or expectation of, trust to a vulnerable person. Common forms of financial abuse are misuse by others of a vulnerable adult's state benefits or undue pressure to change wills. Financial/material abuse may also be perpetrated by one vulnerable adult upon another.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

APPENDIX 9

Safeguarding Policy for (Name of setting/service if not already noted [there is a school specific template, which includes additional responsibilities that schools have, eg Operation Encompass])

Introduction

1.1 **Name of Service/Setting** fully recognises the contribution it makes to safeguarding adults and children at risk.

There are three main elements to our policy:-

- a. Prevention;
- b. Procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases of adults and children at risk.
- c. Support to those who may have experienced abuse or harm.

1.2 This policy applies to all staff and volunteers working in **name of service/setting**. It is recognised that staff who come into contact with adults and children can often be the first point of disclosure of abuse or harm. This first point of contact is an important part of the protection process and it is essential that all staff are aware of and implement the procedures as noted in this policy.

Prevention

2.1 We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult help to safeguard adults and children at **name of service/setting**.

We will therefore:-

- a. Establish and maintain an ethos where children and adults feel secure, are encouraged to talk and share their concerns and will be listened to;
- b. Ensure that those attending this setting/using this service know that all staff and volunteers in this setting can be approached if they are worried or concerned about matters that concern them or their family members or friends.
- c. Include in the ethos of the setting that people have the right to be safe from abuse and to know that they can turn to staff for help;

Procedures

3.1 At **name of service/setting** we will follow the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, and other guidance and protocols that have been endorsed and agreed by the Gwent Safeguarding Board (GSB).

3.2 The setting/service will: -

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

- a. Ensure it has a named designated senior member of staff (DSL) who has undertaken the appropriate training in line with agreed national and local requirements. This setting/service will also nominate a named deputy who will be the central contact at times when the designated person is absent. In the unlikelyhood that both are absent or unavailable the most senior person will act as a contact point for other staff.
- b. Recognise the role of designated person and arrange support and training. The setting/service will look to the GSB and to the local authority for guidance and support in all child protection matters and concerns for adults at risk.
- c. Ensure that all members of staff, including permanent, part time and adult volunteers, (and school governors/management boards) knows:-
 - The name and contact details of both the designated and deputy person responsible for child protection and concerns for adults at risk;
 - That it is the named designated person and/or their deputy who have the responsibility for making referrals for children/adults at risk within timescales, by completing the agreed multi-agency form.
 - That the designated person and deputy will seek advice from the Designated Officer and or Social Services Duty Team if necessary when a referral is being considered; if in doubt a referral must be sent.
- d. Ensure that all members of staff are aware of the need to be alert to signs of abuse and know how to respond to an adult or child who may disclose abuse. That all members of staff will be offered and expected to attend appropriate training and updates as arranged by the setting/service.
- e. Ensure that adults, children and carer have a clear understanding of the responsibility placed on the setting/service and its staff for safeguarding adults and children by setting out their obligations in relevant service/setting information.
- f. Provide training for all staff so that they:-
 - i) Understand their personal responsibility;
 - ii) Are cognisant of agreed local procedures
 - iii) Understand the need to be vigilant in identifying suspected cases of abuse;
 - iv) Know how to support an adult or child who discloses abuse, particularly the do's and don'ts.
- g. Work to develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding children and adults at risk including attendance at child protection/case conferences and subsequent meetings and support these with the submission of written reports.
- h. Keep written records of concerns about adults and children at risk (noting date, event and action taken), even where there is no need to refer the matter to agencies responsible for formal investigation.
- i. Ensure that all records and files are kept secure and in locked locations. The designated person is responsible for the security, compilation and storage of all records and should be able to access and produce them in times of need. It is

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

the responsibility of the designated person to ensure that any transfer of records is conducted sensitively and securely.

- j. Ensure that all recruitment and selection procedures follow all national and local guidance. The setting/service will seek advice and guidance from the appropriate Human Resources on recruitment and selection.
- k. Seek to designate a governor for child protection who will champion and oversee the school's child protection policy and practice. This governor will feed back to the Governing body on child protection matters as and when required but will be required to write an annual report to the governing body on the school's child protection activities.

Supporting children and adults at risk of abuse

4.1 At **name of service/setting** we recognise that those who are at risk, suffer abuse or witness violence are often affected in adverse ways, some may be deeply troubled by these events.

4.2 At **name of service/setting** we will endeavour to be patient and supportive to those at risk of harm or abuse.

Prevent Duties

In March 2015, the Counter Terrorism and Security Act received Royal Assent. The Act includes how we need to work together to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Where we become aware of information involving identification of potential instances of extremism and radicalisation, we will refer to Adult/Children's Services in the same way as for all safeguarding concerns.

Information for all staff/volunteers

5.1 What to do if a child or adult tells you they have been abused or harmed

A person may confide in any member of staff/volunteer. Staff to whom an allegation is made should remember:-

- Yours is a listening role, do not interrupt the person when they are freely recalling events. Limit any questions to clarifying your understanding of what the person is saying. Any questions should be framed in an open manner so not to lead the person;
- You must report orally to the **Designated Person Safeguarding (DSL) or their Deputy** in their absence immediately to inform them of what has been disclosed. In the unlikelihood of both being absent seek out the most senior person in the setting/service;
- Make a note of the discussion, as soon as is reasonably practical (but within 24 hours) to pass on to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. The note which should be clear in its use of terminology should record the time, date, place, and people who were present and should record the person's answers/responses in exactly

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

the way they were said as far as possible. This note will in most cases be the only written record of what has been disclosed and as it records the initial disclosure from the person it is an important one in the child protection process.

Remember, your note of the discussion may be used in any subsequent formal investigation and or court proceedings. It is advised that you retain a copy in a safe place;

- Do not give undertakings of absolute confidentiality. (See note following this section for more details) You will need to express this in age/understanding related ways to the person as soon as appropriately possible during the disclosure. This may result in the person 'clamming up' and not completing the disclosure, but you will still be required to share the fact that they have a shared a concern with you to the designated person. Often what is initially shared can be the tip of an iceberg;
- Your responsibility in terms of referring concerns ends at this point, but you may have a future role in terms of supporting the person, contributing to an assessment or supporting safeguarding plans. You can ask the designated person for an update but they are restricted by procedures and confidentiality and may be limited in their response. The level of feedback will be on a need to know basis, but whatever is shared is strictly confidential and not for general discussion with others.

If an allegation of abuse is made against a member of staff/volunteer this must be reported to the Designated Person for Safeguarding (DSL).

Where the allegation is against a member of staff you should refer to Children's/Adult Services in the same way as for all allegations of abuse.

Confidentiality

6.1 A person may only feel confident to confide in a member of staff/volunteer if they feel that the information will not be divulged to anyone else. However we all have a responsibility to share relevant information about the protection of children and adults with the designated statutory agencies when a person is experiencing harm or abuse.

It is important that each member of staff/volunteer deals with this sensitively and explains to the person that they must inform the appropriate people who can help them, but they will only tell those who need to know in order to be able to help. Staff should reassure the person and tell them that their situation will not be common knowledge within the setting/service (i.e. not discussed with other staff) Staff/volunteers need to be aware that it may well have taken significant courage on the part of the person to disclose the information and they may also be experiencing conflicting emotions, involving feelings of guilt, embarrassment, disloyalty (if the abuser is someone close) and hurt.

Training

The setting/service will be cognisant of national and local training requirements and guidance, which will include GSB guidance, advice and training opportunities.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

7.1 The service/setting will ensure that the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will have received initial training when starting their role and continued professional updates as required. Specific updates as suggested by national and local

requirements will be central to the DSL's development. The designated deputy will be initially supported by the designated person and consideration for joint opportunities for training with the designated person will be given.

7.2 All staff/ volunteers will be regularly updated during the year as appropriate from the designated lead but will receive specific awareness raising training within a 2 year period.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead at this setting is:-

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead at this setting is:-

Monmouthshire Children's Services can be contacted as follows:-

Phone: 01291 635669

Out of hours telephone number: 0800 328 4432

Monmouthshire Adult Services can be contacted as follows:-

Phone: 01873 735492

Out of hours telephone number: 0800 328 4432

In an emergency, please call 999 to report a vulnerable adult at risk

- Monday – Friday 9am to 5pm we operate a duty service in each locality.
- If you are reporting an adult at risk who lives in South Monmouthshire, you can speak to someone on telephone number 01291 635666.
- If you are reporting an adult at risk who lives in Abergavenny area, you can speak to someone on telephone number 01873 735885.
- If you are reporting an adult at risk who lives in Monmouth area, you can speak to someone on telephone number 01600 775100.
- Outside of office hours you can contact the Adult Services Emergency Duty Team on 0800 3284432.

This policy was updated on by

Staff/volunteers were made aware of this policy and or updates on

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY
APPENDIX 10 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR SAFEGUARDING
ACROSS COMMISSIONED SERVICES, PARTNERSHIPS AND
VOLUNTEERS

Introduction:

This statement sets out how Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) is meeting commissioning and partnership obligations towards the safeguarding of vulnerable children, young people and adults at risk. It gives assurances to the public, elected members, staff, volunteers and people carrying out work on behalf of the Council that there are sound arrangements in place to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk. This statement should be read in conjunction with Monmouthshire County Council's Corporate Safeguarding policy which sets out the Council's full position and commitment to ensuring best practice safeguarding systems.

Council employees, elected members, volunteers and contractors who come into contact with children or adults at risk in the course of their duties are expected to understand their responsibility and where necessary take action to safeguard and promote the welfare of vulnerable people. We recognise that safeguarding is everyone's business. People in all agencies need to recognise and act appropriately when they identify children, young people and adults at risk.

Monmouthshire County Council recognises that Safeguarding is more than just responding to safeguarding concerns; it is about working to prevent and protect children, young people and adults. Its safeguarding responsibilities extend to all areas of its activity, both directly delivered and delivered in partnership with other organisations or individuals, **where there is engagement with children, young people and adults at risk**. There is an expectation that all of those working and/or volunteering within the county embed safeguarding good practice in everything they do and work in a way that is in support of and complements Monmouthshire County Council's Corporate Safeguarding policy.

Overarching Principles

Monmouthshire County Council:

- Is committed to working in partnership with commissioned service providers, partners and volunteers to ensure children, young people and adults at risk are kept safe from harm.
- Recognises the importance of embedding a culture of safeguarding, which engenders behaviours which protect people from harm, and as significantly helps them to live life to the full and realise their potential.
- Considers every child, young person and adult at risk (whatever their background, culture, age, disability, gender, ethnicity, religious belief) has a

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

right to participate in a safe society without any violence, fear, abuse, bullying or discrimination.

Scope

Monmouthshire County Council's minimum standards for safeguarding apply to all areas of the council and all activity in which it works with partners, volunteers and commissioned services, **where there is engagement with children, young people and adults at risk**. Each Directorate is accountable for ensuring that all organisations with whom it works are clear about their safeguarding responsibilities and have arrangements /procedures in place to discharge them.

Minimum Standards for Safeguarding for Working with Commissioned Services, Partners and Volunteers

1. Service Commissioners will be responsible for ensuring that contractual arrangements specify responsibilities in relation to safeguarding in accordance with the Councils Corporate Safeguarding Policy.
2. All organisations working with the Council will need to evidence they have robust and transparent arrangements in place in regard to safeguarding before they are commissioned or work in partnership to provide services on MCC's behalf.
3. All organisations funded by or on behalf of the Council who are commissioned to support children, young people or adults will be required to undergo an accreditation process. Providers will be required to provide information confirming their safe recruitment training, and safeguarding policies and procedures.
4. All contractual arrangements will allow for the Council to terminate the relationship where an organisation has failed to ensure appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place and or adhered to.
5. All organisations working with the Council will have in place policies, procedures and systems to ensure the safe recruitment of staff and that staff comply with regulatory and contractual arrangements relating to their safeguarding responsibilities. These will include, for both paid and unpaid staff:
 - Safe recruitment practices which, where appropriate/specified, require as a minimum Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checking, reference checking arrangements and robust selection procedures.
 - Where appropriate/specified have risk assessment and management arrangements in place for positive DBS checks.
 - As part of their induction, all new members of staff receive appropriate level of Safeguarding training.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

- Reporting arrangements concerns in a timely manner and engage positively in safeguarding procedures and investigations.
- 6. All organisations are responsible for informing relevant managers within the Council of any safeguarding concerns they may have.
- 7. All organisations working with the Council will have annual training and development plans in place which ensure safeguarding remains embedded within practice.
- 8. Where national minimum safeguarding standards are applicable, providers will comply, and where not, work to best practice standards.
- 9. All organisations working with the Council will engage and comply with the Council's quality assurance processes.
- 10. Where appropriate, monitoring activity will include satisfying the Council that the provider is managing their responsibilities in regard to safeguarding, and are operating in line with legislation, policy and procedures.

The Council acknowledges that the context of each work setting will determine the specific arrangements put in place to ensure adherence with its minimum standards. These will be risk based, proportionate and appropriate to the nature of the setting. Consistent with the requirements within the Council's Volunteering Policy, one key determining factor for the level of required arrangements will be whether the service is deemed as a regulated activity, as defined below:

Regulated Activity

Regulated activity is defined as unsupervised activity in a limited range of establishments or the wider community with the opportunity for contact with children and young people or adults at risk. The scope of regulated activity includes unsupervised activities such as:

- Teaching
- Training
- Instructing
- Caring for or supervising children and young people or adults at risk
- Providing advice or guidance on wellbeing
- Driving a vehicle only for children or adults at risk

In addition, to be regarded as regulated activity, this unsupervised activity enacted within a specified place must be done regularly. Regularly means carried out by the same organisation frequently (once a week or more often), or on four or more days in a 30-day period (or in some cases, overnight). There may be circumstances where a less frequently delivered service is deemed a regulated activity due to the nature of the activity.

Each Directorate will determine the level of arrangements which are appropriate to each commissioned, partnership or volunteer service in line with the matrix below.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Only when a full risk based assessment has been carried out can proportionate arrangements be determined:

Risk Level	Description of service	Safeguarding Requirements
High	Service provides regulated activity	Pre -qualification and accreditation processes to ensure evidence of full range of safeguarding arrangements in place: • Safe recruitment practices including robust selection processes, DBS Check (at correct level), employment and or character references, employment and education checks • Comprehensive Safeguarding training • Safeguarding policies and procedures Monitoring by the Council of adherence with safeguarding arrangements as part of regular contract /quality assurance activity
Medium	Service may involve frequent supervised contact with adults at risk, young people and children.	Processes to ensure evidence of key safeguarding arrangements in place: • Safe recruitment practices including robust selection processes, employment and or character references, • Safeguarding training Level 1 • Safeguarding policies and procedures Regular contract/service review arrangements by the Council to include adherence with safeguarding arrangements.
Low	Service which does not include frequent activity with adults at risk, young people and children.	Processes to ensure understanding of safeguarding responsibilities and reporting arrangements are in place Safeguarding Level 1 awareness training

This page is intentionally left blank



Integrated Impact Assessment document

(incorporating Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio Economic Duty)

Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Kelly Turner Phone no: E-mail: KellyTurner@monmouthshire.gov.uk	Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal To provide members with information regarding the revisions to the Corporate Safeguarding Policy.
Name of Service area Safeguarding	Date Dec2022

1. **Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?** Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Page 453

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	Effective safeguarding arrangements within the council provides protection for children – who by virtue of their age are vulnerable.	None	
Disability	Safeguarding applies to children and to all adults who have care and support needs. It is known that children and adults with disabilities are at increased risk of abuse and neglect	None	Safeguarding training includes responding to safeguarding concerns for people with disability. Ensure people with disability know their rights and have access to information

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Gender reassignment	None		
Marriage or civil partnership	None		
Pregnancy or maternity	None		
Race	.Safeguarding and protection services should take into the account the impact of race and culture within family situations.		Safeguarding training includes responding to people from a diverse range of racial and cultural backgrounds. Safeguarding arrangements are in place for unaccompanied assylum seeking children
Religion or Belief	<i>Responding to safeguarding concerns should take account of the individual beliefs, values and religion of people and families. Some of these may interface with safeguarding issues such as HBV or radicalization. It is important that practitioners respect individual beliefs whilst still being able to address safeguarding issues.</i>		Safeguarding training takes account of working within diverse cultures and beliefs. Safegaruding services are in place to support families and individuals affected by HBV and radicalization.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Sex	none		
Sexual Orientation	.None		

2. The Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

Page 455

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions This duty aligns with our commitment as an authority to Social Justice.

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice	<i>Effective safeguarding arrangements and responding to concerns considers family and individual needs on a holistic basis and plans will often include tackling aspects of socio economic disadvantage e.g. within parent / carer populations</i>	<i>None</i>	

3. Policy making and the Welsh language.

How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:	Describe the positive impacts of this proposal	Describe the negative impacts of this proposal	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts
Policy Making Effects on the use of the Welsh language, Promoting Welsh language Treating the Welsh language no less favourably	None	Safeguarding training within the council is not routinely delivered in Welsh	A welsh medium option for safeguarding should be provided
Operational Recruitment & Training of workforce	None	It is desirable to have welsh speakers within the council so that people with safeguarding concerns can communicate their concerns in their first language	Have a better understanding of welsh speakers within the council
Service delivery Use of Welsh language in service delivery Promoting use of the language	None		

4. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	Neutral	
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	Neutral	
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	Ensuring that vulnerable children and adults are safeguarded and protected from harm / abuse / neglect supports people's health and wellbeing.	
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	Good safeguarding is central to cohesive communities, and helps to ensure that there are the right processes in place to safeguard and protect more vulnerable groups and communities.	
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	Ensuring that people live free from harm, abuse and neglect is recognised regionally and nationally as a key component to wellbeing.	
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	Safeguarding is essential to ensure that any vulnerable group or individual using leisure services, or who are engaged in cultural, artistic or sporting activities are protected from potential harm or abuse.	
A more equal Wales	Safeguarding is a key part of ensuring that people can fulfil their potential no matter what their background.	

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	Equality is at the centre of the services the Authority provide and commission.	

5. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 Long Term Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future	It deals with immediate safeguarding and protection as well has how preventative steps are utilised to ensure safeguarding is sustainable in the future.	
 Collaboration Working together with other partners to deliver objectives	The report details how services work in partnership with agencies from different sectors, considers involvement and collaboration with communities and details the progress made in relation to Safeguarding in Monmouthshire.	

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 Involvement Involving those with an interest and seeking their views	The report includes information from all parts of the council and was a collaborative approach with all the directorates. The SAFEs take account of the needs of individual service areas.	
 Prevention Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse	The report details the importance of prevention within safeguarding and some of the mechanisms and services that are in place to support prevention and early intervention.	
 Integration Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies	.Good safeguarding and protection supports the wellbeing of vulnerable citizens, groups and communities within the LA.	

6. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	This report identifies where we can further improve safeguarding and protection for children and for adults who are at risk.	<i>.Safeguarding is about ensuring that everything is in place to promote the well-being of children and vulnerable adults, preventing them from being harmed and protecting those who are at risk of abuse and neglect</i>	
Corporate Parenting	Children who are looked after have been impacted by harm and abuse and have often experienced many adverse experiences. The report identifies how the impact of adverse experiences can be minimised by ensuring good quality placements and care.		

7. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

Both qualitative and quantitative data is presented within the report.

- Equalities dashboard link. [Equality data dashboard for EQIA's 2020.xlsx](#)

8. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

. This section should summarise the key issues arising from the evaluation. This summary must be included in the Committee report template

Having effective safeguarding arrangements in place across the council is critical to meeting the health and wellbeing needs of children, adults at risk and their wider families and communities. It is equally important in ensuring that safeguarding runs through all services that are provided to vulnerable people.

9. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible
Implement the WASG activity plan	September 2022	Chief Officer Social Care and Health

10. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
	<i>e.g. budget mandate, DMT, SLT, Scrutiny, Cabinetetc</i>		