



Bridgend Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033



Background Paper 17: National Development Framework (NDF) Conformity Assessment

Table of Contents

1. Purpose of the Assessment	1
2. Introduction	1
3. Overview of the NDF and the RLDP	2
4. NDF Conformity Assessment Part 1 (Outcomes)	4
5. NDF Conformity Assessment Part 2 (Policies).....	8
6. Conclusions.....	.63

BRIGDEND REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (RLDP) 2018-2033

BACKGROUND PAPER 17: FUTURE WALES 2040 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (NDF) – CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

1. Purpose of the Assessment

1.1 The purpose of this background paper is to supplement the Test of Soundness Self-Assessment and provide additional information in support of demonstrating conformity of the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP, 2018-2033) with Future Wales 2040 National Development Framework (NDF).

2. Introduction

2.1 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) must demonstrate that the RLDP meets the soundness tests as set out in national planning policy and guidance prior to submitting the Plan for examination. The LPA has undertaken a self-assessment of the RLDP's soundness to demonstrate that it meets the 3 tests as specified in Planning Policy Wales (PPW). These soundness tests are:

1. Does the plan fit? (Is it clear that the LDP is consistent with other plans?)
2. Is the plan appropriate? (Is the plan appropriate for the area in the light of the evidence?)
3. Will the plan deliver? (Is it likely to be effective?)

2.2 Welsh Government has confirmed, in its representation on the Deposit Plan, that "Bridgend's Replacement Local Development Plan (2018-2033) is in general conformity with National Development Framework (NDF): Future Wales, with respect to paragraphs 2.16 - 2.18 of the Development Plans Mana Manual (Edition 3)". Nevertheless, it has been considered prudent to supplement the Test of Soundness Self-Assessment and provide further evidence to demonstrate conformity of the RLDP with the NDF (test 1).

3. Overview of the NDF and the RLDP

3.1 The NDF is a plan published by Welsh Government in February 2021 to promote development that enhances wellbeing and quality of life in Wales. The NDF 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. The NDF is set in the context of a vision that will help deliver sustainable places across Wales by 2040, by supporting placemaking and ensuring development is directed to the right places, making the best use of resources, creating and sustaining accessible healthy communities, protecting our environment and supporting prosperity for residents.

3.2 Once adopted, the RLDP will replace the existing LDP (2006-2021) as the statutory Development Plan for the County Borough. In accordance with statutory requirements, policy and guidance, the RLDP will:

- deliver sustainable, transit-orientated development;
- maximise well-being and creating sustainable places through placemaking;
- build upon, and add value to the National Development Framework and national planning policies and guidance produced by the Welsh Government;
- reflect local aspirations for the County Borough, based on a vision agreed by the Council and other stakeholders;
- express in land-use terms the objectives of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and priorities of the Bridgend Public Services Board's Well-being Plan. This will be enabled by demonstrating the Five Ways of Working (involvement, collaboration, integration, prevention and long term balancing factors) in the Plan's development;
- provide a basis for rational and consistent development management decisions;
- guide growth and change, while protecting local diversity, character, and sensitive environments;

- ensure the social and economic resilience of settlements and their ability to adapt to change over the long term; and
- show why, how and where change will occur over the plan period.

3.3 The RLDP Vision has been developed to take into account the Bridgend Local Well-being Plan with the specific characteristics and key issues affecting the County Borough. It ultimately underpins all other components of the RLDP and has been devised to create the right conditions to address the various social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being outcomes. This broadly aligns and complements the vision and goals of the NDF.

3.4 The RLDP Vision shall be delivered through 4 Strategic Objectives which seek to reflect updated national policy and legislation and address the issues facing the County Borough. The development of the Objectives has been informed by the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) process, particularly the succinct set of key sustainable issues which should be addressed in the RLDP. These identified issues have been carried forward to underpin the SA process, thereby shaping the following four strategic objectives, which are central to the RLDP:

- SOBJ1: To Create High Quality Sustainable Places (Placemaking)
- SOBJ2: To Create Active, Healthy, Cohesive and Social Communities
- SOBJ3: To Create Productive and Enterprising Places
- SOBJ4: To Protect and Enhance Distinctive and Natural Places

3.5 Acting together, the Vision and Strategic Objectives provide an overarching framework to underpin all other components of the RLDP. Reflecting their importance, the Strategic Objectives have been subject to iterative testing and refinement through the SA process in tandem with preparing the Deposit Plan. Whilst necessarily high level, the resulting Strategic Objectives provide good coverage of all key sustainability issues which the RLDP needs to address. In turn, the Vision and 4 Strategic Objectives are supported by 35 Specific Objectives. These have been devised to create the right conditions to address the various social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being outcomes. The objectives

will also form part of the basis for monitoring the implementation of the RLDP, once adopted and operational.

3.6 The Strategic and Specific Policies of the RLDP form the framework for implementing and delivering the Council’s vision and objectives. It is imperative that ‘sustainable development’ principles are embed into the RLDP (including strategic policies) to help achieve the delivery of the NDF.

4. NDF Conformity Assessment Part 1 (Assessment of the contribution that RLDP Plan makes towards delivering the outcomes set out in the NDF).

4.1 Table 1. details the objective assessment undertaken to demonstrate that the RLDP makes a significant positive contribution towards delivering the 11 outcomes set out in the NDF. As detailed in the model below a RAG rating is utilised to present a status assessment using the traffic light colour designations; red, amber or green.

	RLDP policy is considered to make a significant positive contribution towards the NDF Outcomes
	RLDP policy is considered to make a neutral contribution to the NDF Outcomes
	RLDP policy is considered to have a significant negative impact upon the NDF Outcomes

Table 1: NDF Outcomes Conformity Assessment

NDF Outcomes		RLDP Strategic objectives and Policies																	
		SOBJ-1 To Create High Quality Sustainable Places (Placemaking)					SOBJ-2 To Create Active, Healthy, cohesive and Social Communities					SOBJ-3 To Create Productive and Enterprising Places					SOBJ-4 To Protect and Enhance Distinctive Natural Places		
A Wales where people live...		SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18
1	and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places																		
2	in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs, and services																		
3	in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic																		

		SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18
	inequality through sustainable growth	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Orange	Orange	Green	Orange	Orange
4	in places with a thriving Welsh Language	Orange	Green	Green	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Green	Green	Green							
5	and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Orange	Orange
6	in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Orange	Green	Green	Green
7	in places where travel is sustainable	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Orange	Orange	Green	Orange
8	in places with world-class digital infrastructure	Orange	Green	Orange															

		SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18
9	in places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution																		
10	in places with biodiverse, resilient, and connected ecosystems																		
11	in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient																		

5. NDF Conformity Assessment Part 2 (Assessment to determine if the Strategic and Specific Policies of the RLDP align with those of the NDF)

5.1 Table 2. details the objective assessment undertaken to demonstrate that the RLDPs Strategic and Specific Policies are aligned with those of the NDF.

Table 2: NDF Policies Conformity Assessment

	Future Wales 2040 NDF Policy Reference	How the RLDP aligns with the NDF	Summary of the relevant RLDP policies
1	<p>Where Wales will grow</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys • Swansea Bay and Llanelli • Wrexham and Deeside <p>The National Growth Areas are complemented by Regional Growth</p>	<p>The NDF identifies Bridgend and the valley areas as being within a National Growth Area, specifically Policy 33 (NDF, page 164). The policy states this area is to be the focus for strategic economic and housing growth within the South-East region. Under the Welsh Government central estimates 66,400 additional homes are needed in the region until 2039 and over the initial 5 years (2019/20 to 2023/24) 48% of the additional homes needed should be affordable homes. The level of</p>	<p>SP1: Regeneration and Sustainable Growth Strategy</p> <p>SP1 sets out a clear spatial strategy to help realise the regeneration aspirations and priorities of the Council, whilst balancing the need to deliver future housing requirements up to 2033. SP1 apports sustainable growth towards settlements that already benefit from significant services, facilities and employment opportunities and are most conducive to enabling transit orientated development; Sustainable Growth Areas. These include the Main Settlements of Bridgend and Pencoed along with the grouped Main Settlement of Pyle, Kenfig Hill and North Cornelly. This</p>

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<p>Areas which will grow, develop and offer a variety of public and commercial services at regional scale.</p> <p>There are Regional Growth Areas in three regions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The South West • Mid Wales • The North <p>Development and growth in towns and villages in rural areas should be of appropriate scale and support local aspirations and need.</p>	<p>household growth proposed in the RLDP is 7,575 dwellings over the plan period, an uplift of 1,905, or 33% over the 2018 principal projections. This degree of aspiration aligns with Bridgend being within a national growth area. This is supported by 71.7ha of employment, looking to deliver 7,500 jobs, thereby retaining the younger cohort of employees. Collectively, these approaches support Bridgend as having a key role in the national growth area, aligning with the NDF. This policy aligns with the principles of the NDF in allocating development within areas capable of supporting growth in employment and housing opportunities and investment in infrastructure.</p>	<p>Strategy seeks to ensure new development can come forward with necessary infrastructure improvements, including transport networks, utilities, green infrastructure, health, education, affordable housing and social facilities.</p> <p>The Strategy also includes a number of regeneration sites, which represent a necessary degree of continuity with the first adopted LDP and are essential to implement the long-term regeneration strategy embodied within the RLDP Vision. Regeneration Sites will be allocated in parts of the County Borough that will benefit the most from regeneration-led growth; where significant opportunities exist to address contamination, constraints and/or industrial legacies whilst encouraging economic growth.</p> <p>SP2: Regeneration Growth Area and Sustainable Growth Area Strategic Allocations</p>

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			<p>SP2 builds upon SP1 by directing growth to Regeneration Sites and Sustainable Urban Extensions within the identified Regeneration Growth Areas and Sustainable Growth Areas. The location and scale of these sites present opportunities for significant new development to take place over the plan period to help meet the RLDP Vision and Objectives and ensure implementation of the Regeneration and Sustainable Growth Strategy. The combined development of these sites will result in the provision of comprehensive residential, employment and commercial development whilst providing new transportation, affordable housing, community, education and recreation facilities to serve the respective sites and existing communities.</p> <p>SF1: Settlement Hierarchy and Urban Management The RLDP identifies and differentiates between the sustainability of places by defining a settlement</p>

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			<p>hierarchy. This is informed by the conclusions of the Bridgend County Borough Settlement Assessment (2019, updated in 2021), which reflects Bridgend’s historical and functional settlement pattern and seeks to achieve more sustainable places in a number of ways. The scale and type of growth apportioned to settlements is dependent upon their individual roles, functions and positions within the Settlement Hierarchy. This is to ensure the RLDP directs the majority of growth towards areas that already benefit from good infrastructure, services and facilities, or where additional capacity can be provided.</p> <p>SP9: Social and Community Infrastructure</p> <p>Local social and community facilities are important to the health and well-being of local communities. Policy SP9 therefore seeks to retain or enhance facilities to ensure no section of the community is excluded from having access to basic services, with the overall aim</p>

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			of creating sustainable and inclusive communities. This policy supports the RLDP's growth and spatial strategy by ensuring that proposed development is supported by sufficient community facilities and infrastructure.
2	<p>Shaping Urban Growth and Regeneration – Strategic Placemaking</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Sustainable Placemaking is fundamental to the successful delivery of both the RLDP and the aspirations of the NDF. Implementation of the NDF's strategic placemaking principles will ensure development allocated within the Plan contributes positively towards building sustainable places that support active and healthy lifestyles, with urban neighbourhoods that are compact and walkable, organised around mixed-use centres and public transport, and integrated with green infrastructure. The Council is equally committed to the</p>	<p>SP3: Good Design and Sustainable Place Making</p> <p>Policy SP3 includes two overarching criteria to ensure the principles of Good Design and Sustainable Placemaking are enshrined within all development proposals across the County Borough, enabled through application of 14 more detailed criteria. This Policy represents the starting point for the assessment of all planning applications which are received by the Local Planning Authority. Policy SP3 stipulates that all development must contribute to creating high quality, attractive, sustainable places that support active and healthy lives and enhance the community in which they are located, whilst having full regard to the natural, historic and built environment.</p>

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<p>following strategic placemaking principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating a rich mix of uses; • providing a variety of housing types and tenures; • 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 	<p>Placemaking Wales Charter and its aims for development of high-quality places for the benefit of communities. The Charter outlines six placemaking principles (people and community, movement, public realm, location, mix of uses and identity) that cover the range of considerations that contribute to establishing and maintaining good places. These principles have both informed and are embedded within the RLDP. Strategic Policy 3 ensures the principles of Good Design and Sustainable Placemaking are enshrined within all development proposals across the County Borough, enabled through application of overarching and detailed criteria. Each of the criterion relate to detailed issues</p>	<p>Policies (PLA1-PLA5) detail the site-specific requirements for the mixed-use Strategic Development Sites in Regeneration Growth Areas and Sustainable Growth Areas. These detailed Thematic Policies are set within the context of SP3 and will enable its implementation, in accordance with the Growth and Spatial Strategy identified within SP1 and Strategic Allocations identified within SP2.</p> <p>SP5: Sustainable Transport and Accessibility</p> <p>Policy SP5 emphasises that movement, connectivity and legibility of transport links are critical components in the creation of a successful, sustainable place. The policy requires all development proposals to consider improving and/or expanding corresponding active travel and public transport networks. This will prove fundamental in ensuring the increasing attractiveness of active travel as a credible alternative to the private car, thereby encouraging modal shifts away from</p>

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<p>small plots, including for custom and self-builders; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>which are addressed further in other Strategic and Development Management Policies. This policy aligns with the aims of the NDF in assisting to create neighbourhoods at a walkable scale, with homes, local facilities and public transport within walking distance of each other. This approach will enable the Plan to deliver a sustainable placemaking approach to development.</p>	<p>unsustainable forms of transportation, helping to promote physical activity and reducing the impact of transport-based emissions.</p> <p>SP9: Social and Community Infrastructure Local social and community facilities are important to the health and well-being of local communities. Policy SP9 therefore seeks to retain or enhance facilities to ensure no section of the community is excluded from having access to basic services, with the overall aim of creating sustainable and inclusive communities. This policy supports the RLDP's growth and spatial strategy by ensuring that proposed development is supported by sufficient community facilities and infrastructure.</p> <p>SP12: Retailing, Commercial and Service Centres Policy SP12 promotes the Town, District and Local Centres as hubs of socio-economic activity and the</p>

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			<p>focal points for a diverse range of services which support the needs of the communities they serve. They act as the most appropriate and sustainable locations for new retail, leisure and supporting commercial development. The co-location of facilities and services at such locations will help support their long-term health and vitality as convenient and attractive places to live, work, shop, socialise, study, access services for health and well-being and to conduct business. This approach will also encourage linked trips and a reduction in travel demand, recognising that they are more than the extent of designated retail areas. Major development must comply with the 'Town Centre First' policy contained within PPW and NDF, to help build resilient communities, and respond to the long-term impacts of Covid-19, which have not only re-focused the lives of people and communities but acted as a further driver towards making centres multi-functional places.</p>

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3	<p>Supporting Urban Growth and Regeneration – Public Sector Leadership</p> <p>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,</p>	<p>The NDF highlights the importance of applying placemaking principles to development. In particular, the document stresses that the public sector must prioritise design quality, innovation and sustainability, whilst ensuring that opportunities to create ecological networks, provide ecosystem services and green infrastructure are maximised.</p> <p>The RLDP’s approach in focusing growth within the relevant tiers of settlements, according to service and facility provision is in direct alignment with Policy 2 (NDF), assisting the regeneration of under-performing settlements. This urban focussed approach, based on strategic place making, compliments the approach set</p>	<p>SP1: Regeneration and Sustainable Growth Strategy</p> <p>The Regeneration-Led Spatial Strategy that underpinned the current adopted LDP (2013) has been broadly successful, especially in bringing forward a number of residential and mixed-use allocated sites (primarily on brownfield land) within the County Borough. However, there is now less scope to deliver an entirely regeneration-led strategy as there are few undeveloped brownfield sites remaining in Bridgend and the other Main Settlements deemed capable of accommodating sustainable growth (i.e. Pencoed and Pyle, Kenfig Hill and North Cornelly). This approach therefore needs to be complemented with additional sustainable urban growth to accommodate the housing requirement that underpins the RLDP. A combination of different site typologies is therefore necessary to deliver the growth requirements of the RLDP.</p>

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<p>developments, investments and actions must build sustainable places that improve health and wellbeing. 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.</p>	<p>out in the NDF whilst also seeking to redress regeneration issues within the Borough.</p> <p>An example of the RLDP's commitment to supporting regeneration using placemaking principles is demonstrated in the Porthcawl Waterfront allocation (PLA1) within the Plan. The allocation represents an opportunity to revitalise the Waterfront area of Porthcawl, with the site allocated for a residential-led, mixed use scheme that will deliver up to 1,110 dwellings with associated facilities, including tourism, leisure, retail, a bus terminus and community provision.</p>	<p>SP1 sets out a clear spatial strategy to help realise the regeneration aspirations and priorities of the Council, whilst balancing the need to deliver future housing requirements up to 2033. SP1 apports sustainable growth towards settlements that already benefit from significant services, facilities and employment opportunities and are most conducive to enabling transit orientated development; Sustainable Growth Areas. These include the Main Settlements of Bridgend and Pencoed along with the grouped Main Settlement of Pyle, Kenfig Hill and North Cornelly. This Strategy seeks to ensure new development can come forward with necessary infrastructure improvements, including transport networks, utilities, green infrastructure, health, education, affordable housing and social facilities.</p> <p>The Strategy also includes a number of regeneration sites, which represent a necessary degree of continuity with the current adopted LDP (2013) and are</p>

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			<p>essential to implement the long-term regeneration strategy embodied within the RLDP Vision. Regeneration Sites will be allocated in parts of the County Borough that will benefit the most from regeneration-led growth; where significant opportunities exist to address contamination, constraints and/or industrial legacies whilst encouraging economic growth.</p> <p>PLA1: Porthcawl Waterfront, Porthcawl Regeneration Growth Area</p> <p>Land at Porthcawl Waterfront is allocated for a comprehensive, regeneration-led, mixed-use development. The site will deliver circa 1,110 homes (including 30% / 335 units of affordable housing), incorporating a new one form entry Welsh medium primary school, a four classroom block extension at the existing English medium primary school, a new food store, leisure facilities, a bus terminus, recreation</p>

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			<p>facilities, public open space, plus appropriate community facilities and commercial uses.</p> <p>Long Term Regeneration Sites</p> <p>The RLDP proposes additional long-term Regeneration Sites (COM1 R1-3) for allocation within the Plan that are located within parts of the County Borough that will benefit the most and exhibit opportunities to deliver the greatest positive impacts of such growth, such as Valley's settlements. These includes sites at Coegnant Reclamation Site, Former Cooper Standard Site, Ewenny Road and Maesteg Washery. However, the housing land supply will not be dependent on these sites, as they require longer lead-in times, preparatory remediation-based enabling works and more detailed strategies to enable their delivery. These sites will therefore be considered 'bonus sites' within the plan.</p>

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<p>4 Supporting Rural Communities</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The RLDP recognises the importance of supporting rural communities and this is demonstrated within the Growth Strategy of the plan. There is a clear need to deliver wider regenerative benefits to rural and Valleys communities at a scale which acknowledges their infrastructure capacity, topography and geographical constraints. In more rural environments, a lack of public transport access needs to be balanced against the contribution the proposal would make towards the rural economy of that area.</p> <p>Designated Regeneration Areas aim to enable development within rural communities of a scale and nature that is tailored to community needs, whilst diversifying and strengthening local</p>	<p>SP1: Regeneration and Sustainable Growth Strategy</p> <p>SP1 sets out a clear spatial strategy to help realise the regeneration aspirations and priorities of the Council, whilst balancing the need to deliver future housing requirements up to 2033. The strategy categorises the proposed growth into three broad categories: Regeneration Growth Areas, Regeneration Areas and Sustainable Growth Areas. This Strategy seeks to ensure new development can come forward with necessary infrastructure improvements, including transport networks, utilities, green infrastructure, health, education, affordable housing and social facilities.</p> <p>The Strategy includes a number of regeneration sites, which represent a necessary degree of continuity with the current adopted LDP (2013) and are essential to implement the long-term regeneration strategy embodied within the RLDP Vision to support rural</p>

Future Wales 2040 NDF Policy Reference	How the RLDP aligns with the NDF	Summary of the relevant RLDP policies
	<p>economies, connecting communities to wider opportunities and protecting their high-quality environments.</p> <p>Regeneration Areas aim to capitalise on their rural surroundings to promote active lifestyles, grow the tourism industry and facilitate smaller-scale development on primarily brownfield sites.</p> <p>This strategy aligns with the principles of the NDF Policy 3 in supporting rural communities through sustainable regeneration and development that is on an appropriate scale.</p>	<p>communities. This policy helps to facilitate sustainable development within rural communities by allocating regeneration sites within parts of the County Borough that will benefit the most from regeneration-led growth; where significant opportunities exist to address contamination, constraints and/or industrial legacies whilst encouraging economic growth. To meet the need for community-based development within rural communities, Regeneration Areas are identified within both the Ogmore and Garw valleys. The policy recognises that distinctive approaches are required to bring forward development in these areas, which could include initiatives such as co-operative housing, self-build plots and custom build opportunities.</p> <p>SP6: Sustainable Housing Strategy</p> <p>A key function of SP6 is to provide an appropriate and sustainable supply of housing land to deliver inter-</p>

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			<p>connected, balanced communities that form the basis for individuals and families to prosper in all aspects of their lives. This will be monitored through a housing trajectory, which is a key tool to illustrate the expected rate of housing delivery for both market and affordable housing over the RLDP period. This will ensure a deliverable supply of land is secured and maintained to meet the housing requirement identified within the LHMA.</p> <p>This policy helps to deliver the strategy contained within policy SP1 to facilitate growth within rural communities, by supporting the use of Place Plans to identify small, local development sites that reflect local distinctiveness and address local, specific community scale issues and promote self and custom build opportunities.</p>

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			<p>Place Plans</p> <p>The Sustainable Housing Strategy equally recognises the role that Place Plans can have in assisting with identifying small, local development sites that reflect local distinctiveness and address local, specific community scale issues. Place Plans are to cover a community area and their preparation should ideally, although not exclusively, be led by Town and Community Councils and/or related steering groups. This will allow local groups to take the initiative and help promote (i.e., via development briefs) small, locally distinctive developments at a scale commensurate with the respective settlement and in accordance with the RLDP.</p> <p>SP11: Employment Land Strategy</p> <p>SP11 sets out the framework to enable delivery of a balanced level of employment land to accommodate the new jobs identified through the Regeneration and</p>

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			<p>Sustainable Growth Strategy. This policy facilitates small-scale sustainable employment developments within local service settlements, as well as appropriate rural enterprises within the countryside to help enhance and diversify the rural economy. This policy supports the provision of employment opportunities to assist with the challenges faced within rural communities.</p> <p>SP16: Tourism</p> <p>Within rural areas, tourism has the potential to increase economic activity, assist regeneration and conservation, and raise general health and well-being. The RLDP seeks to encourage high quality sustainable tourism within rural areas based on the County Borough's distinctive and valued natural environment, its historic features, the individual identity of its settlements and its cultural heritage, including the Welsh language. This includes</p>

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			<p>enhancing biodiversity and protecting and enhancing ecological connectivity, where appropriate. Policy SP16 therefore encourages sustainable tourism initiatives which support the rural economy and promote high quality activity-based tourism, business, events and cultural tourism.</p> <p>The policy aims to capitalise on the natural assets present within the County Borough to facilitate opportunities to grow tourism within rural communities. In particular, the expansion of sustainable tourism in the Llynfi Valley will build on the links to the Valleys Regional Park and the Afan Parc development in Neath & Port Talbot, by promoting complementary infrastructure and facilities which can benefit the Llynfi Valley as a whole.</p>
5	<p>Supporting the rural economy</p> <p>The Welsh Government supports sustainable, appropriate and proportionate economic growth in rural</p>	<p>In accordance with the NDF, the RLDP recognises the importance of implementing provisions to support the rural economy. Policy ENT4 facilitates</p>	<p>SP11: Employment Land Strategy</p> <p>Policy SP11 sets the framework to enable delivery of a balanced level of employment land to accommodate the new jobs identified through the Regeneration and</p>

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<p>towns that is planned and managed through Strategic and Local Development Plans.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>this by enabling existing rural businesses to expand and develop sustainably where appropriate within rural locations. Additionally, as demonstrated in Strategic Policy 16, the RLDP also aims to capitalise on the Boroughs natural assets by encouraging high quality sustainable tourism within rural areas, promoting the individual identity of its settlements, cultural heritage and historic features.</p> <p>This will help to ensure that the plan contributes to supporting the diversification of the rural economy away from a focus on agriculture.</p> <p>Strategic Policy 11 also contributes to supporting the rural economy in this regard, by allowing small-scale sustainable employment developments</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth Strategy. This approach is vital to help combat significant levels of out-commuting or shifts to migration profiles, which may otherwise be caused by the lack of a sufficient economic driver to incite and accommodate further job creation. Policy SP11 allows for small-scale sustainable employment developments within local service settlements, plus appropriate rural enterprises within the countryside to help enhance and diversify the rural economy. This policy is supported by specific policies such as ENT4 to provide employment opportunities to assist with the challenges faced within rural communities.</p> <p>ENT4: Rural Economy</p> <p>Outside of existing settlement boundaries, within the open countryside, the RLDP will support the diversification of the rural economy away from a focus on agriculture through appropriate small-scale sustainable enterprises.</p>

	Future Wales 2040 NDF Policy Reference	How the RLDP aligns with the NDF	Summary of the relevant RLDP policies
		<p>within local service settlements, plus appropriate rural enterprises within the countryside to help further enhance and diversify the rural economy.</p>	<p>Policy ENT4 allows for existing rural businesses to expand, providing the new development is in accordance with the policy requirements to conserve and enhance the quality of the countryside setting, whilst enabling new employment uses to be permitted as rural exception sites. Employment uses beyond the existing settlement must demonstrate that the nature of the business necessitates a rural location and mitigates against any harmful impacts on local amenity. These criteria enable the policy to demonstrate a balance between supporting the rural economy whilst ensuring that existing amenity is protected.</p> <p>SP16: Tourism</p> <p>Within rural areas, tourism has the potential to increase economic activity, assist regeneration and conservation, and raise general health and well-being.</p>

	Future Wales 2040 NDF Policy Reference	How the RLDP aligns with the NDF	Summary of the relevant RLDP policies
			<p>The RLDP seeks to encourage high quality sustainable tourism within rural areas based on the County Borough's distinctive and valued natural environment, its historic features, the individual identity of its settlements and its cultural heritage, including the Welsh language. This includes enhancing biodiversity and protecting and enhancing ecological connectivity, where appropriate. Policy SP16 therefore encourages sustainable tourism initiatives which support the rural economy and promote high quality activity-based tourism, business, events and cultural tourism.</p> <p>The policy aims to capitalise on the natural assets present within the County Borough to facilitate opportunities to grow tourism within rural communities. In particular, the expansion of sustainable tourism in the Llynfi Valley will build on the links to the Valleys Regional Park and the Afan Parc development in Neath & Port Talbot, by promoting complementary</p>

	Future Wales 2040 NDF Policy Reference	How the RLDP aligns with the NDF	Summary of the relevant RLDP policies
			infrastructure and facilities which can benefit the Llynfi Valley as a whole.
6	<p>Town Centre First</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The ‘Town Centre First’ approach forms a key part of both Welsh Government and the RLDP policy. The recent impact of Covid-19 on the retail sector has further highlighted the pressing need to create multi-functional town centres. To assist in the future delivery of the ‘Town Centre First’ approach in conjunction with the NDF, the RLDP prioritises town centres as multi-functional focal points for communities. The Plan seeks to direct facilities and services to town centres in the first instance, to preserve their health and vibrancy, whilst ensuring intended users can easily walk, cycle and/or use</p>	<p>SF1: Settlement Hierarchy and Urban Management</p> <p>The RLDP identifies and differentiates between the sustainability of places by defining a settlement hierarchy. This is informed by the conclusions of the Bridgend County Borough Settlement Assessment (2019, updated in 2021), which reflects Bridgend’s historical and functional settlement pattern and seeks to achieve more sustainable places in several ways. The scale and type of growth apportioned to settlements is dependent upon their individual roles, functions and positions within the Settlement Hierarchy. This is to ensure the RLDP directs the majority of growth towards areas that already benefit from good infrastructure, services and facilities, or where additional capacity can be provided. Policy SF1 classified Bridgend as the primary key settlement within the borough, along with five additional main</p>

Future Wales 2040 NDF Policy Reference	How the RLDP aligns with the NDF	Summary of the relevant RLDP policies
	<p>public transport to access them. This is reflected in Strategic Policy 12, which promotes the Town, District and Local Centres identified within the Retail Hierarchy as hubs of socio-economic activity and the focal points for providing a diverse range of services which support the needs of the communities they serve.</p> <p>This approach aligns with the NDF's principles in this regard and will complement efforts to regenerate retail and commercial centres through the creation of more outside space, the re-use of underutilised areas, the start-up of remote co-working hubs, and the focus of more accessible public services.</p>	<p>settlements. This policy supports the 'town centre first' approach by identifying a hierarchy of settlements that are relatively well self-contained, demonstrating a strong employment function with an existing concentration of businesses plus a notable variety of shopping and community services. The facilities that these settlements contain ensures that residents can meet their individual needs locally.</p> <p>SP1: Regeneration and Sustainable Growth Strategy</p> <p>Policy SP1 sets out a clear spatial strategy to help realise the regeneration aspirations and priorities of the Council, whilst balancing the need to deliver future housing requirements up to 2033. SP1 apportions sustainable growth towards settlements that already benefit from significant services, facilities and employment opportunities and are most conducive to enabling transit orientated development; Sustainable</p>

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			<p>Growth Areas. These include the Main Settlements of Bridgend and Pencoed along with the grouped Main Settlement of Pyle, Kenfig Hill and North Cornelly. This Strategy seeks to ensure new development can come forward with necessary infrastructure improvements, including transport networks, utilities, green infrastructure, health, education, affordable housing and social facilities.</p> <p>SP12: Retailing, Commercial and Service Centres Policy SP12 promotes the identified Town, District and Local Centres as hubs of socio-economic activity and the focal points for a diverse range of services which support the needs of the communities they serve. The ‘Town Centre First’ approach contained within the NDF is key to enabling such centres to increasingly become multi-functional places and community focal points, thereby rendering them more viable as go-to destinations.</p>

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			<p>These centres act as the most appropriate and sustainable locations for new retail, leisure and supporting commercial development. The co-location of facilities and services at such locations will help support their long-term health and vitality as convenient and attractive places to live, work, shop, socialise, study, access services for health and well-being and to conduct business. This approach will also encourage linked trips and a reduction in travel demand, supporting the councils' ambitions to create '20-minute neighbourhoods' throughout the County Borough.</p>
7	<p>Delivering Affordable Homes</p> <p>The Welsh Government will increase delivery of affordable homes by ensuring that funding for these homes is effectively allocated and utilised.</p> <p>Through their Strategic and Local Development Plans planning</p>	<p>The NDF places a high emphasis on Local Authorities to facilitate the provision of additional market and affordable housing to meet the required need identified within the LHMA, which revealed significant shortfalls of affordable housing provision within</p>	<p>SP2: Regeneration Growth Area and Sustainable Growth Area Strategic Allocations</p> <p>To enable the implementation of the Growth and Spatial Strategy, Policy SP2 defines a suite of Strategic Allocations where growth will be focused. Policy SP2 therefore builds upon Policy SP1 by directing growth to Regeneration Sites and</p>

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<p>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.</p>	<p>Bridgend, Porthcawl, Pencoed, and Pyle, Kenfig Hill and North Cornelly. Through a strategic and sustainable growth strategy as outlined in Strategic Policy 2, the RLDP seeks to deliver affordable housing in high need areas and ensure the County Borough’s future housing requirements can be realised. The Plan makes provision for the delivery of 8,335 new homes to meet a housing requirement of 7,575 (based on a 10% Flexibility Allowance), including 1,595 affordable homes. The Strategy is considered most appropriate to maximise delivery of affordable housing in high-need areas as identified by the LHMA, whilst enabling sustainable forms of development that meet the RLDP</p>	<p>Sustainable Urban Extensions within the identified Regeneration Growth Areas and Sustainable Growth Areas. The location and scale of these sites present opportunities for significant new development to take place over the plan period to help meet the RLDP Vision and Objectives and ensure implementation of the Regeneration and Sustainable Growth Strategy. The combined development of these sites will result in the provision of comprehensive residential, employment and commercial development whilst providing new transportation, affordable housing, community, education and recreation facilities to serve the respective sites and existing communities. This policy is further supported to facilitate the provision of affordable housing within the borough through specific policies COM2 and COM3, which seek to secure appropriate on-site affordable housing provision from new residential developments in order to contribute to the affordable housing requirement.</p>

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		<p>Objectives, minimise pressure on BMV agricultural land and provide scope to address existing infrastructure capacity issues.</p> <p>Through the economically viable and deliverable housing allocations identified within Policy COM1, the Plan will facilitate placemaking-led, sustainable development and foster communities that have access to sufficient, good quality, affordable housing to meet a range of needs. This approach supports the aims of the NDF and sets a strong policy-led framework to deliver affordable homes within the County Borough.</p>	<p>COM2: Affordable Housing</p> <p>New housing developments must incorporate an appropriate mix of house types, sizes and tenures to cater for the range of locally identified housing needs. This will ensure sustainable, balanced and cohesive communities are planned for whilst delivering the housing requirement through the related land supply. During the plan period, development proposals within the RLDP are expected to deliver a total of 1,595 affordable dwellings across the County Borough in order to contribute to the level of housing need identified by the LHMA. This overall affordable housing target has been derived by applying the site-specific contributions within Policy COM1 and the percentage targets within Policy COM3 to the individual components of housing supply.</p>
8	<p>Flooding</p> <p>Flood risk management that enables and supports sustainable strategic</p>	<p>A revised TAN15 is due to be implemented by Welsh Government in June 2023. This will be supported by</p>	<p>SP4: Mitigating the Impact of Climate Change</p> <p>One purpose of Policy SP4 is to recognise the risk of flooding as a key effect of climate change. The Policy</p>

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<p>growth and regeneration in National and Regional Growth Areas will be supported.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>the new Flood Map for Planning, which includes climate change information to show how this will affect flood risk extents over the next century. It shows the potential extent of flooding assuming no defences are in place. The Flood Map for Planning has no official status for planning purposes until June 2023. However, local authorities must review their Strategic Flood Consequence Assessments by November 2022 in line with the new TAN15 and Flood Map for Planning.</p> <p>This information has influenced the siting and type of development allocations within the RLDP and will also inform policies on flood risk whereby subsequent development proposals can be assessed. The RLDP</p>	<p>seeks to steer highly vulnerable development away from flood risk areas, to assess the implications of development in areas at risk of flooding and to ensure that new development does not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. The Development Advice Maps accompanying TAN 15 identify the flood risk zones as set out in the TAN and has been supplemented by a Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment. This information has influenced the siting and type of development allocations within the RLDP through the Candidate Site Assessment and will also inform policies on flood risk whereby subsequent development proposals can be assessed.</p> <p>DNP9: Natural Resource Protection and Public Health</p> <p>Policy DNP9 seeks to ensure that the County’s natural environment is protected from materially harmful development. Policy DNP9 also seeks to ensure that</p>

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	<p>Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment (2020) identified that some of the strategic sites and housing allocations within the plan are subject to flood risk. These sites are categorised as 'amber' in the assessment where it 'may' be possible to develop the site in line with the requirements in TAN15 subject to a detailed site-specific Flood Consequence Assessment and satisfaction of the Justification Tests as required by Policy DNP9. The flood risk for each Strategic Site is clearly set out in Appendix 5 of the plan, where the Council is of the view the risk of flooding can be overcome through flood defence schemes and master planning. The RLDP Infrastructure Delivery Plan identifies key flood defence</p>	<p>potential risks to human health are fully identified and assessed. This principle extends to development in flood risk areas and the redevelopment or remediation of contaminated/unstable land, or development within the statutory consultation zones stipulated by HSE for hazardous installations. The acceptability of adverse effects will depend on the nature of the development and the location, with the most sensitive sites, such as residential areas, being more vulnerable. In some circumstances, adverse effects can be mitigated to make the development acceptable. However, in the case of flood risk, the Council will adopt a sustainable approach to flooding by seeking to avoid development within flood risk areas in-line with National Planning Policy and Guidance.</p>

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		<p>infrastructure that is required before key sites can be delivered in this regard.</p> <p>This helps the RLDP to align with the NDF in supporting sustainable strategic growth and regeneration in National and Regional Growth Areas.</p>	
9	<p>Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify areas which should be safeguarded and created as ecological networks for their importance for adaptation to climate change, for habitat protection, 	<p>The NDF stipulates that in collaboration with local authorities and Natural Authorities, strategic action is required to safeguard ecological networks and secure biodiversity enhancements (net-benefit). In Bridgend, the County Borough's natural and built environment is of high quality and represents one of its primary assets. The diversity of landscapes, habitats, species and geology, and their relationship with the urban area, contribute enormously to the County Borough's distinctive and</p>	<p>DNP5: Local and Regional Nature Conservation Sites</p> <p>In order for a holistic approach to be taken towards nature conservation and/or areas of scientific interest in the County Borough, Policy DNP5 builds on SP17 and provides a second tier of protection above that afforded by national policy and supports the principles of the NDF. This is necessary to protect those sites defined in the RLDP as being of regional or local importance. The regionally and locally important sites identified in policy DNP5 (which include all designated Local Nature Reserves, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, and identified Regionally Important</p>

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<p>restoration or creation, to protect species, or which provide key ecosystems services, to ensure they are not unduly compromised by future development;</p> <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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</p>	<p>attractive character. Conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment is therefore a key function of the RLDP. This is demonstrated throughout the plan and forms part of the over-arching strategy of the RLDP.</p> <p>Development Management policies such as Policies DNP5 and DNP6 strictly control development in this regard and ensure that proposals will need to conserve and enhance valued countryside, landscapes, seascapes and significant geological sites, minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide a net benefit in biodiversity, where possible, whilst protecting or enhancing green infrastructure provision in recognition of its wide-ranging benefits.</p>	<p>Geodiversity Sites) are important to biodiversity and the conservation of scientific interest in the County Borough.</p> <p>DNP6: Biodiversity, Ecological Networks, Habitats and Species</p> <p>The aim of Policy DNP6 is to achieve a balance between the location, design, and layout of development or redevelopment, and the need to conserve that site’s biodiversity interest, whilst also taking into account the interests of any adjacent nature conservation resources.</p> <p>DNP8: Green Infrastructure</p> <p>Green Infrastructure is a network of multifunctional green spaces, natural features and environmental management systems which help to provide a natural life support system for people and wildlife. They can provide opportunities for recreation and tourism, public</p>

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<p>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.</p>	<p>The NDF also states that Local Development Plans should consider how designated sites fit within the wider network of habitats and assess what action needs to be taken to safeguard land which may be needed to connect or enlarge those sites. In this regard, the RLDP has been informed by a full Sustainability Appraisal of its strategy, as well as each strategic site allocated for development, to assess the likely significant environmental and wider sustainability impacts of development. Furthermore, the RLDP has also been informed by an evidence base that includes a Green Infrastructure Assessment, Habitat Regulations Assessment and a Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) review.</p>	<p>access, education, biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, water management, the protection and enhancement of the local landscape and mitigation of and adaption to climate change.</p> <p>At the landscape scale green infrastructure assets can comprise entire ecosystems such as wetlands, woodlands, heathlands and waterways. At a local scale, it might comprise of parks, fields, footpaths, Public Rights of Way, cycle ways, common land, open access land, allotments, cemeteries, landscaped areas, and gardens.</p> <p>DNP9: Natural Resource Protection and Public Health</p> <p>Policy DNP9 seeks to ensure that the County’s natural environment is protected from materially harmful development. Policy DNP9 also seeks to ensure that potential risks to human health are fully identified and assessed. This principle extends to development in</p>

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	<p>Additionally, Policy DNP8 aligns with the NDF in seeking to ensure that Bridgend’s green infrastructure assets are valued, protected, enhanced, and managed through a green infrastructure network. This demonstrates how the replacement Plan supports the NDF aims to conserve and enhance the natural environment whilst assessing and mitigating against the impacts of potential development within the RLDP.</p>	<p>flood risk areas and the redevelopment or remediation of contaminated/unstable land, or development within the statutory consultation zones stipulated by HSE for hazardous installations. The acceptability of adverse effects will depend on the nature of the development and the location, with the most sensitive sites, such as residential areas, being more vulnerable. In some circumstances, adverse effects can be mitigated to make the development acceptable. However, in the case of flood risk, the LPA will adopt a sustainable approach to flooding by seeking to avoid development within flood risk areas in-line with National Planning Policy and Guidance.</p> <p>SP17: Conservation and Enhancement of the Natural Environment</p> <p>Policy SP17 seeks to conserve, and, wherever possible, enhance the landscape quality as part of the natural environment within the County Borough. A high</p>

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			<p>level of protection is afforded to all areas identified as having high and/or unique landscape importance, particularly the nationally important Glamorgan Heritage Coast and the outstanding historic landscapes of Kenfig and Merthyr Mawr Warren, and other regionally and locally important areas designated as 'Special Landscape Areas' (refer to Policy DNP4).</p> <p>Policy SP17 also seeks specifically to protect statutorily designated sites of international or national importance. Sites of international importance are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and Ramsar sites. Only development which demonstrates compliance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (and subsequent amendments) will be permitted.</p>
10	International Connectivity		<p>Whilst the County Borough of Bridgend does not directly contain infrastructure to facilitate international travel, Bridgend Railway Station offers a well-</p>

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<p>The Welsh Government identifies the following Strategic Gateways to facilitate international connectivity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiff Airport • Holyhead Port • Haven Waterway, including the Ports of Milford Haven and Pembroke Dock • Fishguard Port <p>The Welsh Government will work with the operators, investors and local authorities to support Strategic Gateways and maintain their international connectivity roles.</p> <p>Strategic and Local Development Plans should support the Strategic Gateways by maximising the benefits they provide to their respective regions and Wales.</p>		<p>connected service with links to international travel hubs within the region such as Holyhead, Fishguard and Milford Haven. Additionally, bus services to and from Cardiff Airport are also available from the town centre. Additionally, the M4 motorway corridor serves as the primary strategic highway network for South Wales. Although it is the responsibility of the Welsh Government, the M4 motorway also serves the strategic needs of the County Borough and acts as an effective link from east and west. In view of its status as a Trans-European Route Network (TERN) and its strategic significance to the whole of South Wales, it is imperative that the Council and its neighbouring Authorities continue to collaborate with the Welsh Government in the effective management of the M4 motorway and its junctions.</p>

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	New development around the Strategic Gateways should be carefully managed to ensure their operation is not constrained or compromised.		
11	<p>National Connectivity</p> <p>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:</p>	<p>The RLDP shares the NDF's aim to improve connectivity through sustainable modes of transport. In practical terms, the RLDP seeks to reduce car dependencies and improve active travel infrastructure; deliver improved and expanded transport links, public transport, and enhanced transport infrastructure, both to communities within the Council area and to key destinations in neighbouring authorities. Development Management policies within the plan such as Strategic Policy 5 ensure that potential development is prioritised in</p>	<p>SP5: Sustainable Transport and Accessibility</p> <p>Policy SP5 emphasises that movement, connectivity and legibility of transport links are critical components in the creation of a successful, sustainable place. The policy requires all development proposals to consider improving and/or expanding corresponding active travel and public transport networks. This will prove fundamental in ensuring the increasing attractiveness of active travel as a credible alternative to the private car, thereby encouraging modal shifts away from unsustainable forms of transportation, helping to promote physical activity and reducing the impact of transport-based emissions.</p> <p>PLA8: Transportation Proposals</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Create a network of rapid-charging points to enable longer distance travel by electric vehicles throughout Wales.</p>	<p>sustainable locations that reduce car dependency and provide access to facilities and services via means of active travel. This policy aligns the aims of the NDF in assisting to create neighbourhoods at a walkable scale, with homes, local facilities and public transport within walking distance of each other. Additionally, Policy PLA8 of the RLDP identifies and allocates existing transportation proposals which will provide improvements to the public transport network and deliver more sustainable travel within the county borough. The availability of efficient and effective public transport is an important part of ensuring a place is sustainable and accords with the NDF’s aim to maximise opportunities to improve</p>	<p>Policy PLA8 identifies (and where necessary), safeguards land for strategic transport schemes that will provide improvements to the public transport network, make better use of the existing highway network to permit appropriate reallocation of road space, which will deliver more sustainable travel within the County Borough.</p> <p>Policy PLA8 (1) to (7) will encourage more residents and visitors to undertake journeys by bus or train, which will help to reduce the number of car-borne journeys, and facilitate access to employment opportunities, health and education facilities for those without access to a car.</p> <p>Additionally, maintaining a resilient highway network is essential for the economic and environmental wellbeing of the County Borough. Policy PLA8 (8) therefore includes provision for improvements at the Ewenny and Broadland roundabouts on the A48, while PLA8 (9) safeguards land for dualling the A48/A473</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Cycle Network – Revitalise the National Cycle Network to create a network of traffic-free paths connecting cities, towns and countryside across Wales. <p>Planning authorities should support developments associated with improvements to national connectivity and, where appropriate, maximise the opportunities that arise from them.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>inter-connectivity within the wider region.</p>	<p>between Waterton and Laleston. There are also significant constraints along the A4063 between Sarn and Maesteg which generate capacity and safety concerns. Appropriate improvements along this route will therefore be promoted through policy PLA8 (10). Policy PLA8 (11) safeguards the provision of improvements to the complex over-bridge junction at Penprysg Road, Pencoed. A Strategic Transport Study has been undertaken to consider the capacity issues as a result of the growth being promoted through the RLDP. The Study has identified junctions and corridors where improvements will be required. Therefore, Policy PLA8 (12) outlines the need for a number of interventions required to mitigate against the impacts of development on the transport network.</p> <p>PLA12: Active Travel</p> <p>Policy PLA12 supports new developments that incorporate well-designed safe features and facilities</p>

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			<p>that will be accessible to all people to walk and cycle for everyday journeys, reducing existing heavy reliance placed upon the private car. The RLDP aims to reduce private car reliance and help the County Borough achieve the principles set out within the NDF, with the ultimate aim of improving and expanding upon the current active travel routes as identified in the Existing Route Maps.</p> <p>To support the principles of the NDF, policy PLA12 is considered essential to the delivery of any strategic site or any proposal, ensuring that development is contributing to the promotion of a sustainable and healthy lifestyle.</p>
12	<p>Regional Connectivity</p> <p>The Welsh Government will support and invest in improving regional connectivity. In urban areas, to support sustainable growth and regeneration, our priorities are improving and</p>	<p>Bridgend's categorisation as the Primary Key Settlement of the County Borough recognises the settlement's role as a highly accessible, major employment and retail centre. Bridgend Town Centre is also positioned at the</p>	<p>SP5: Sustainable Transport and Accessibility</p> <p>Policy SP5 emphasises that movement, connectivity and legibility of transport links are critical components in the creation of a successful, sustainable place. The policy requires all development proposals to consider improving and/or expanding corresponding active</p>

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<p>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.</p> <p>The Welsh Government will work with Transport for Wales, local authorities, operators and partners to deliver the following measures to improve regional connectivity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>top of the retail and commercial hierarchy of the County Borough and is defined as a Sub-Regional Centre, the only centre in the County Borough demonstrating this wider geographical function.</p> <p>The NDF highlights the potential and opportunity for Bridgend to function as a key centre within the region, capitalising on its strategically important location on the Southeast Metro System. The RLDP recognises the need to maximise socio-economic benefits from the implementation of the South Wales Metro and provides the framework for the County Borough to both contribute towards and capitalise on the success of the Metro and the</p>	<p>travel and public transport networks. This will prove fundamental in ensuring the increasing attractiveness of active travel as a credible alternative to the private car, thereby encouraging modal shifts away from unsustainable forms of transportation, helping to promote physical activity and reducing the impact of transport-based emissions. This policy aligns the aims of the NDF in assisting to create neighbourhoods at a walkable scale, with homes, local facilities and public transport within walking distance of each other.</p> <p>PLA8: Transportation Proposals</p> <p>Policy PLA8 identifies and safeguards land for strategic transport schemes that will provide improvements to the public transport network, make better use of the existing highway network to permit appropriate reallocation of road space, which will deliver more sustainable travel within the County Borough.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>wider Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) plans.</p> <p>Regarding Active Travel, the Plan aligns with the NDF aims to deliver comprehensive networks of local walking and cycling routes.</p> <p>In practical terms, the Council has produced Active Travel Network Maps to identify the walking and cycling routes required to create fully integrated networks for walking and cycling to access work, education, services and facilities. The Council’s Active Travel Network Maps set out detailed plans for a network of active travel routes and facilities in the County Borough over the next 15 years.</p> <p>Consideration of active travel will be key during the master planning of strategic</p>	<p>Policy PLA8 (1) to (7) will encourage more residents and visitors to undertake journeys by bus or train, which will help to reduce the number of car-borne journeys, and facilitate access to employment opportunities, health and education facilities for those without access to a car.</p> <p>Additionally, maintaining a resilient highway network is essential for the economic and environmental wellbeing of the County Borough. Policy PLA8 (8) therefore includes provision for improvements at the Ewenny and Broadland roundabouts on the A48, while PLA8 (9) safeguards land for dualling the A48/A473 between Waterton and Laleston. There are also significant constraints along the A4063 between Sarn and Maesteg which generate capacity and safety concerns. Appropriate improvements along this route will therefore be promoted through policy PLA8 (10). Policy PLA8 (11) safeguards the provision of improvements to the complex over-bridge junction at</p>

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<p>of ultra-low emission vehicles, particularly in rural areas.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Active travel must be an essential and integral component of all new developments, large and small.</p> <p>Planning authorities must integrate site allocations, new development and infrastructure with active travel networks and, where appropriate, ensure new development contributes</p>	<p>sites within the County Borough, and this is demonstrated in Policy PLA12, which stipulates that development must maximise walking and cycling access by prioritising active travel provision within the site and providing or making financial contributions towards the delivery of the wider network off-site.</p> <p>In order to support the NDF's aims of facilitating increased use of ultra-low emission vehicles, Strategic Policy 5 requires developments to ensure they are served by appropriate infrastructure which caters for future technological developments such as electric vehicle charging whilst helping to reduce transport related airborne pollution by enabling more sustainable travel</p>	<p>Penprysg Road, Pencoed. A Strategic Transport Study has been undertaken to consider the capacity issues as a result of the growth being promoted through the RLDP. The study has identified junctions and corridors where improvements will be required.</p> <p>Therefore, Policy PLA8 (12) outlines the need for a number of interventions required to mitigate against the impacts of development on the transport network.</p>

Future Wales 2040 NDF Policy Reference	How the RLDP aligns with the NDF	Summary of the relevant RLDP policies
<p>towards their expansion and improvement.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>choices and reducing the demand for travel by car.</p> <p>The NDF encourages local authorities to facilitate an increase in modal share of bus travel and to improve access by bus to a wider range of trip destinations. The provision of high-quality bus corridors is also a priority of the Cardiff Capital Region, and fundamental to efforts to encourage more people to use public transport. To support these ambitions, The RLDP includes provision to enhance the park and ride capacity at Pyle Railway Station and improve bus provision in Porthcawl with the creation of a new bus terminus.</p> <p>Policy PLA8 (1) of the RLDP also safeguards the provision of existing provision for improvements to the Llynfi,</p>	

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	<p>Garw, Ogmore, Aberkenfig – Bryncethin, Pyle – Aberkenfig, Pencoed – Pyle and Porthcawl – Cornelly Corridors.</p> <p>These improvements will include bus stop enhancements, new shelters, raised kerbs and carriageway enhancements.</p>	
<p>13 Supporting Digital Communications</p> <p>The Welsh Government supports the provision of digital communications infrastructure and services across Wales.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>As recognised within Policy 13 of the NDF, adequate and efficient telecommunications and digital technology infrastructure is increasingly crucial for economic, social and environmental sustainability. Policy COM14 of the RLDP supports digital communications infrastructure where it is required, whilst safeguarding against any adverse impacts on residential amenity, natural and built heritage</p>	<p>SP10: Infrastructure</p> <p>Policy SP10 ensures that development is supported by sufficient infrastructure and facilities. The policy outlines that infrastructure must be provided as part of development proposals, where necessary, to enable sustainable placemaking. Policy SP10 also indicates the broad types of infrastructure that may need to be addressed to enhance the well-being of communities. It is fundamental for all of the County Borough’s residents to have good access to a range of services and facilities within their local area.</p>

Future Wales 2040 NDF Policy Reference	How the RLDP aligns with the NDF	Summary of the relevant RLDP policies
<p>New developments should include the provision of Gigabit capable broadband infrastructure from the outset.</p>	<p>assets, sensitive landscapes and other environmental designations. Additionally, as part of the RLDP allocation process, the Council has engaged with local infrastructure providers to ensure that each Strategic Site can support digital communications infrastructure and broadband connection as part of any development. Within the County Borough, according to the latest Ofcom data, 98.13% of properties have access to Superfast broadband. In 2019, the Welsh Government undertook a consultation exercise inviting telecommunications suppliers, local authorities, industry organisations and members of the public to identify postcodes and premises that are still without a</p>	<p>COM14: Telecommunications and Digital Technology Infrastructure</p> <p>Adequate and efficient telecommunications and digital technology infrastructure is increasingly crucial for economic, social and environmental sustainability. Policy COM14 seeks to enable the County Borough to respond positively and flexibly to technological advances over the RLDP period, whilst minimising impacts on amenity and the local environment.</p>

	Future Wales 2040 NDF Policy Reference	How the RLDP aligns with the NDF	Summary of the relevant RLDP policies
		<p>connection to Superfast Broadband. The consultation found that there are 2,403 homes within the Borough that have no NGA (Next Generation Access – broadband provision of 30Mbps or greater) broadband infrastructure operators present providing NGA services.</p> <p>The location of these premises provides a focus for future intervention when considering the mitigation required in the determination of planning applications.</p>	
14	<p>Planning in Mobile Action Zones</p> <p>The Welsh Government supports increased mobile phone coverage and the associated economic and social benefits it brings.</p>	<p>To help meet the NDF’s aims to support increased mobile phone coverage, Policy COM14 provides a framework the delivery of telecommunications infrastructure where it is required to improve provision, whilst safeguarding</p>	<p>COM14: Telecommunications and Digital Technology Infrastructure</p> <p>Adequate and efficient telecommunications and digital technology infrastructure is increasingly crucial for economic, social and environmental sustainability. Policy COM14 seeks to enable the County Borough to</p>

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	<p>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.</p>	<p>against any adverse impacts on residential amenity, natural and built heritage assets, sensitive landscapes, and other environmental designations.</p>	<p>respond positively and flexibly to technological advances over the RLDP period, whilst minimising impacts on amenity and the local environment.</p>
15	<p>National Forest</p> <p>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.</p>		<p>This NDF policy is not considered appropriate for analysis of conformity as the County Borough does not contain a National Forest.</p>

Future Wales 2040 NDF Policy		
Reference	How the RLDP aligns with the NDF	Summary of the relevant RLDP policies
<p>16 Heat Networks</p> <p>Within Priority Areas for District Heat Networks planning authorities should identify opportunities for District Heat Networks and plan positively for their implementation.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Decarbonisation & renewable energy have a key role to play in achieving climate change targets and reducing the reliance on fossil fuels and CO2 emissions. The RLDP is supported by extensive technical work in this area, setting out targets for a multitude of different renewable sources and identifying spatial areas for specific sources. Energy Masterplans for major developments and exploring provision for heat networks directly aligns with Policy 16 of the NDF.</p>	<p>ENT11: Low Carbon Heating Technologies for New Development</p> <p>Policy ENT11 continues the Council's current approach to seeking more energy efficient and lower carbon housing, and development that is environmentally sustainable in a wider sense to achieve the Vision and Objectives for the County Borough and support the aims of the NDF. Policy ENT11 seeks to ensure that the design and standard of any new development is optimised to achieve energy efficiency and zero carbon emissions. Development proposals must demonstrate that sustainable design standards are integral to the proposal through construction and operation, ensuring that they are considered at the beginning of the design process.</p>
<p>17 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy and Associated Infrastructure</p>	<p>In alignment with the energy aims of the NDF, the RLDP recognises the urgent need to tackle the climate emergency</p>	<p>SP4: Mitigating the Impact of Climate Change</p> <p>A key role of the RLDP is to put in place resource efficient and climate change resilient settlement</p>

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<p>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' international commitments and our target to generate 70% of consumed electricity by renewable means by 2030 in order to combat the climate emergency.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>and contribute towards meeting national renewable and low carbon energy generation targets by taking advantage of the County Borough's topography. The Council has an aspiration for all new homes to be net zero carbon in the first instance, meanwhile, appropriate locations to support opportunities for district heating, local renewable and low carbon energy projects, as well as to encourage an element of local ownership have also been identified within the Plan.</p> <p>To ensure the RLDP plays a significant role in achieving the climate targets outlined by Welsh Government and their NDF in reducing future energy demand, strict Development</p>	<p>patterns that minimise land take and urban sprawl. Put simply, this means locating development in settlements which are accessible to a range of services and facilities whereby people can reduce private car usage and thereby reduce the harmful effects of carbon emissions. Policy SP4 facilitates this by specifying criteria that requires development to both mitigate and adapt to climate change, thereby minimising its underlying causes and planning for its consequences.</p> <p>Policy SP4 also seeks to encourage renewable and low/zero carbon energy generation technology, subject to a range of material planning considerations. Such policy approaches can also help ensure that new development is designed to be resilient to future climate change effects and enable the Plan to conform with the principles of the NDF.</p>

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<p>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</p>	<p>Management policies have been introduced that seek to maximise the energy efficiency of new development, integrate energy generation into wider development proposals, and ensure that low carbon heating systems are installed. This commitment is demonstrated in Strategic Policy 4 (SP4) of the Plan, which stipulates that all development proposals must clearly demonstrate how they contribute to climate change mitigation and adaption. Policy SP4 seeks to encourage renewable and low/zero carbon energy generation technology to help ensure that new development is designed to be resilient to future climate change effects. The development of Local Search</p>	<p>SP10: Infrastructure Policy SP10 ensures that development is supported by sufficient infrastructure and facilities. The policy outlines that infrastructure must be provided as part of development proposals, where necessary, to enable sustainable placemaking. Policy SP10 also indicates the broad types of infrastructure that may need to be addressed to enhance the well-being of communities. It is fundamental for all the County Borough’s residents to have good access to a range of services and facilities within their local area.</p> <p>SP13: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development Policy SP13 (and supporting development management policies) will assist the County Borough transition to a low carbon, decentralised energy system that works for its individuals, communities and businesses by encouraging renewable and low and</p>

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<p>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.</p>	<p>Areas as part of the RLDP process to support renewable energy projects will also assist in co-ordinating strategic action, bringing a critical mass of new renewables developments together to build the case for new or reinforced grid infrastructure.</p>	<p>zero carbon energy projects. Policy SP13 outlines the criteria against which proposals up to Local Authority-wide scale will be assessed. Proposals which are likely to have a significant impact on the landscape and/or visual amenity will be required to undertake a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and other relevant technical assessments to identify likely significant effects and demonstrate that adequate mitigation has been incorporated into the development.</p>
<p>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:</p>	<p>The NDF's spatial priority is for large scale wind energy and solar developments to be directed towards Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy (as shown on associated Map within the NDF). There is a presumption in favour of large-scale onshore wind and solar energy development in these areas, an acceptance of landscape change and a</p>	<p>SP13: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development Policy SP13 (and supporting development management policies) will assist the County Borough transition to a low carbon, decentralised energy system that works for its individuals, communities and businesses by encouraging renewable and low and zero carbon energy projects. Policy SP13 outlines the criteria against which proposals up to Local Authority-</p>

Future Wales 2040 NDF Policy Reference	How the RLDP aligns with the NDF	Summary of the relevant RLDP policies
<p>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 landscape (particularly on the setting of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty);</p> <p>2. there are no unacceptable adverse visual impacts on nearby communities and individual dwellings;</p> <p>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</p>	<p>focus on maximising benefits and minimising impacts. The NDF also states that communities should be protected from significant cumulative impacts to avoid unacceptable situations whereby, for example, smaller settlements could be potentially surrounded by large wind schemes. The development of Local Search Areas as part of the RLDP process will assist in co-ordinating this strategic action, bringing a critical mass of new renewables developments together to build the case for new or reinforced grid infrastructure. The NDF also emphasises that renewable energy technologies other than wind and solar are supported in principle and this view is also a component of Strategic Policy</p>	<p>wide scale will be assessed. Proposals which are likely to have a significant impact on the landscape and/or visual amenity will be required to undertake a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and other relevant technical assessments to identify likely significant effects and demonstrate that adequate mitigation has been incorporated into the development.</p> <p>Local Search Areas (LSAs)</p> <p>The Renewable Energy Assessment undertaken by the council provides a high-level constraints assessment of the County Borough to identify areas that are considered more suitable for the location of wind energy and ground mounted solar PV developments. The locations identified have been overlaid alongside the 15 Landscape Character Areas defined as part of the landscape sensitivity</p>

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<p>Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) and appropriate compensatory measures have been secured);</p> <p>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;</p> <p>5. the proposal includes biodiversity enhancement measures to provide a net benefit for biodiversity;</p> <p>6. there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on statutorily protected built heritage assets;</p> <p>7. there are no unacceptable adverse impacts by way of shadow flicker, noise, reflected light, air quality or electromagnetic disturbance;</p>	<p>13 of the RLDP, which will assist the County Borough's transition to a low carbon, decentralised energy system that works for its individuals, communities and businesses by encouraging a variety renewable and low and zero carbon energy projects.</p>	<p>assessment set out in SPG20: Renewables in the Landscape (2016).</p> <p>Within the LSA's, proposals for wind and solar energy generation will be permitted subject to criteria 1a), 1b) and 1c) of policy SP13 and other relevant policies in this plan. Proposals for other development within these areas will only be permitted where they can demonstrate that they would not unacceptably prejudice the renewable energy generation potential of the LSA or the NDF's Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy.</p>

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<p>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);</p> <p>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;</p> <p>10. the proposal includes consideration of the materials needed or generated by the development to ensure the sustainable use and management of resources;</p> <p>11. there are acceptable provisions relating to the decommissioning of the development at the end of its lifetime,</p>		

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<p>including the removal of infrastructure and effective restoration.</p> <p>The cumulative impacts of existing and consented renewable energy schemes should also be considered.</p>		

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 This assessment has demonstrated the RLDP is in general conformity with and supports the delivery of the NDF, thereby providing a sound framework for enabling sustainable development in the County Borough.