

VALE OF GLAMORGAN

REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2021 - 2036

ISSUES, VISION AND OBJECTIVES

June 2023



BACKGROUND PAPER - BP2



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This background paper has been produced as part of the evidence base for the Replacement Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2021 - 2036. It explains the evolution of the approach to the guiding Vision for the RLDP and the Objectives that will outline how the Vision will be achieved.
- 1.2. The report sets out the key Issues facing the Vale of Glamorgan that the updated Vision and Objectives will seek to address. These Issues have been identified using a range of evidence including: the LDP Review Report and Annual Monitoring Reports; the Vale of Glamorgan Well-being Assessment, the Council's Corporate Plan, a range of national Planning policy and guidance as well as environmental, social, and economic evidence gathered as part of the Council's Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.
- 1.3. The Vision and Objectives will be central to the Council's Preferred Strategy for the RLDP. Therefore, in line with the RLDP Community Involvement Scheme, the Council has sought the views of key stakeholders in the development of both the Vision and Objectives for the new Plan. This has involved a series of engagement workshops with Elected Vale of Glamorgan Councillors, Local Community Councils, and members of the Vale of Glamorgan Public Service Board¹ (PSB). The primary purpose of these workshops was to enable stakeholders to have direct input into the Plan making process and develop collective ownership of the Plan as it progresses through its various stages.

Workshop Invitees	Date
Elected Vale of Glamorgan Councillors	05/09/22
Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board	14/10/22
Vale of Glamorgan Community Councils	21/10/22
Vale of Glamorgan Town Councils	15/12/22
Council Officers from various service areas	14/02/23

- 1.4. Prior to these workshops, all invitees received a briefing note which included the draft Vision and Objectives, as well as a survey seeking their views on a variety of topics, ranging from housing to Climate Change. The aim of this survey was to establish the key issues that the RLDP should address, and ambitions for the future of the Vale of Glamorgan. Those who were unable to attend the workshop were also invited to share their views through a Microsoft Forms survey.
- 1.5. Comments from these surveys and workshops have been reviewed by the Planning Policy team and have resulted in significant changes to the Vision and Objectives.

¹ Vale of Glamorgan PSB brings together senior leaders from public and third sector organisations across the Vale. Partners include Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, South Wales Fire and Rescue service, Natural Resources Wales, South Wales Police. For full list of partners see https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/Public-services-board/Public-Services-Board.aspx

- 1.6. Further information on this engagement and how it influenced the development of the RLDP Vision, and Objectives can be found in the Council's Consultation Report.

2. BACKGROUND CONTEXT

- 2.1. A full review of the adopted Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan (LDP) commenced in June 2021, with the Review Report published in May 2022. This review considered the contextual, legislative and policy changes that have taken place since the adoption of the LDP, as well as the performance of the LDP in respect of how the policies have delivered the Plan's Vision, aims and strategy considering the findings of the Annual Monitoring Reports undertaken by the Council since the adoption of the Plan.
- 2.2. The Review Report concluded that whilst the Plan had performed well in terms of delivering its Vision, and Objectives, due to changes in national and regional policy a full revision of the LDP should take place. Therefore, the publication of the LDP Review Report triggered the process through which the RLDP will be prepared and adopted by the Council.
- 2.3. It essential that the Replacement Plan strives to achieve the seven Well-being Goals outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. This Act aims to improve the economic, social, cultural, and environmental well-being of Wales. It outlines the ways in which public bodies must work together to achieve such improvements and contains seven goals, (as illustrated by Figure 1) that offer a shared vision to strive for. These goals will be essential to consider when formulating the Vision and Objectives that will underpin the Vale of Glamorgan's Replacement LDP (RLDP).

Figure 1: Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act Well-being Goals



Source: [Planning Policy Wales Edition 11](#) (February 2021)









3. KEY ISSUES AND THEMES

3.1. The Issues identified in this report relate to the key economic, environmental, social, and cultural challenges that the new Plan is seeking to address. A review of a broad and detailed evidence base has identified a number of themes under which related Issues have been grouped. The list below provides a breakdown of the base of existing evidence that has been consulted:

- National and Regional Planning Guidance and Legislation
- [Vale of Glamorgan Council Corporate Plan \(2020 – 2025\)](#)
- [PSB Well-being Plan \(2023-2028\)](#)
- [PSB Well-being Assessment \(2022\)](#)
- [LDP Annual Monitoring Reports \(2018 – 2022\)](#)
- [LDP Review Report \(2022\)](#)
- [Review Report and Delivery Agreement Consultation Responses](#)
- [Integrated Sustainability Appraisal \(ISA\) Scoping Report \(2022\)](#)

3.2. The evolution of the themes and Issues was also informed by a series of surveys conducted with Elected Vale of Glamorgan Councillors, Town and Community Councils and the PSB. Furthermore, the [Development Plans Manual \(DPM\) Edition 3](#) highlights the need for the LDP system to deliver Plans that: are resilient to Climate Change; support the transition to a low carbon society and incorporate the National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes, Sustainable Transport Hierarchy and Energy Hierarchy outlined in PPW 11.

3.3. The finalised themes and their related Issues have formed the basis of the Vision and Objectives; Section 6 of this report explores the Issues identified in greater detail and outlines how the RLDP will seek to address them. The nine key themes are as follows:

RLDP Key Themes	
	Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change
Prioritise Climate Change adaption and mitigation, ensuring that development and land use in the Vale reacts to the causes and is resilient to the impact of Climate Change.	
	Improving Mental and Physical Health and Well-being
Improve the health and well-being of our residents by fostering active, healthy communities for living, working and visiting and that tackle health and socio-economic inequalities in a sustainable way.	
	Homes for All
Housing supply needs to be able to respond to the authority's growing population but must also be appropriate in terms of type, tenure and location. In addition, there must be an adequate provision of affordable housing in order to cater to those in need.	
	Placemaking
Facilitate the development of adaptable, accessible, well-connected communities that have a strong sense of identity, offer a sustainable range of services and facilities and are equipped with adequate infrastructure.	
	Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Environment
Protect and enhance the quality, connectivity and resilience of the Vale's natural environment and green / blue infrastructure network and maximise opportunities to strive to achieve net biodiversity benefit. Natural resources, minerals and waste must be sustainably managed in the Vale of Glamorgan in order to achieve resource efficiency, including the utilisation and generation of renewable energy.	
	Embracing Culture and Heritage
Preserve and enhance the authority's cultural and heritage assets, maximising opportunities presented by the Vale's historic built and natural environmental, cultural identity and the Welsh language.	
	Fostering Diverse, Vibrant, and Connected Communities
Foster the development of well-connected, cohesive communities and ensure all engagement processes are as inclusive as possible, allowing everyone that wishes to share their views throughout the RLDP process to do so.	
	Promoting Active and Sustainable Travel Choices
Promote and encourage the use of sustainable methods of travel, particularly active modes of transport, whilst simultaneously reducing the need to travel.	



Building a Prosperous and Green Economy

Facilitate economic growth across the authority, ensuring a range and choice of local and strategic employment sites and job opportunities in response to employment needs. These opportunities should be adaptive to change and foster the growth of a highly skilled workforce.

- 3.4.** A further explanation of the themes that have informed the Vision and Objectives can be found in Appendix 1. The tables that formulate Appendix 1 detail the specific issues within each theme that are affecting the Vale of Glamorgan and outline how the Replacement Local Development Plan intends to address them across the Plan period.

4. RLDP VISION






- 4.1. To guide and manage future development, the adopted LDP sets out a Vision for the Vale of Glamorgan up to 2026, reflecting the key Issues, challenges, and opportunities. The existing LDP Vision was developed through stakeholder engagement and informed by a range of key strategies including the Vale of Glamorgan Community Strategy. The adopted LDP Vision states that:

“Our Vision for the Vale of Glamorgan is a place:

- ***That is safe, clean, and attractive, where individuals and communities have sustainable opportunities to improve their health, learning and skills, prosperity, and wellbeing; and***
- ***Where there is a strong sense of community in which local groups and individuals have the capacity and incentive to make an effective contribution to the future sustainability of the area.”***

- 4.2. As part of the review process and considering the current Issues and drivers for change identified, the Council has made the decision to develop a new Vision for the RLDP that better reflects the challenges, opportunities and aspirations of the Vale of Glamorgan’s communities and residents up to 2036. Overall, the role of the RLDP Vision is to clarify the core purpose of the Replacement Plan and provide a framework for developing the Preferred Strategy and future detailed policies.

- 4.3. Furthermore, to adhere to guidance outlined in the [Development Plans Manual \(DPM\) Edition 3](#), the RLDP Vision must articulate the aim of the Plan and how places will change over the Plan period. The Vision should:

	Be a concise, focused and positive statement
	Include a spatial, land-use emphasis and articulate how places are Planned to develop, change or be protected
	Be specific and appropriate, based on a clear understanding of the economic, social, environmental and cultural Issues
	Be consistent with the well-being Objectives and Plan and other local strategies, including Area Statements, National Park and AONB Management Plans
	Reflect varying geographical differences within the broader LPA area

Source: [Development Plans Manual Edition 3 \(March 2020\)](#)

- 4.4. In addition to the publication of the DPM (Edition 3), various national Planning policy and legislative changes have taken place since the adoption of the LDP. Many of these will impact the way that LDPs are prepared going forwards, and so must be considered in the formulation of the RLDP, and subsequently this Vision. Further details of these changes, and how they may affect the RLDP, can be found in Section 3 of the adopted [LDP Review Report](#).
- 4.5. The Vision has been derived from the Issues and themes identified in this report. Formulation of the Vision has also been informed by key stakeholders; further information on this can be found in the Council's Consultation Report.
- 4.6. The Vision and Objectives prepared for the RLDP also intend to help the Council achieve its overarching ambition of developing '*Strong Communities with a Bright Future*'. Furthermore, they have both been prepared in line with the Council's four key well-being Objectives outlined in the [Corporate Plan](#):
1. *To work with and for our communities.*
 2. *To support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth.*
 3. *To support people at home and in their community.*
 4. *To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment.*
- 4.7. Since the adoption of the current LDP the Welsh Government has declared a Climate Emergency and in February 2021 the Vale of Glamorgan PSB launched their [Climate Emergency Charter](#). This charter outlines the PSB's commitments to reducing emissions and mitigating the effects of Climate Change whilst adapting to its impacts. In addition, the Vale of Glamorgan Council has declared a Nature Emergency to protect and enhance biodiversity across the authority. Both declarations have thus been considered in the preparation of the Vision and Objectives and have contributed significantly to the determination of the nine key themes, as illustrated in Section 3.
- 4.8. Additionally, in March 2017, the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) was formally ratified by the ten local authorities across the South East Wales region, including the Vale of Glamorgan. The remit of the CCR is to boost economic growth through investment in transport, education, and skills, create employment opportunities and support business growth. The RLDP will play a key part in the delivery of the CCR programme of investment Planned.
- 4.9. The following RLDP Vision translates how the RLDP will seek to address and support the challenges, opportunities, and ambitions for the Vale of Glamorgan across the new Plan period.

“By 2036:

The Council will have achieved its target of becoming zero carbon by 2030. It has adopted innovative techniques and efficient resource use to mitigate its impact on the environment, and exemplar zero carbon projects including schools and district heating networks have been implemented. Development of the Cardiff Capital Region Aberthaw Green Energy Park has established the Vale of Glamorgan as a regional hub for innovation in renewable and green energy and zero carbon manufacturing. All development within the Vale of Glamorgan is now built to the highest standards of environmental design and performance, incorporating measures to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of Climate Change.

The Vale of Glamorgan is a healthy and inclusive place for everyone, with equitable access to services and facilities both physically and digitally. Residents are proud of where they live and have access to the homes they need. Housing growth has delivered homes which caters for all, including affordable homes and older person’s housing; contributing towards diverse and cohesive communities where residents can maintain their independence.

Through placemaking, places and spaces are safe, accessible and socially inclusive. Development respects local character and sense of place is valued by residents and contributes positively towards health and wellbeing. Positive improvements have been achieved in narrowing the disparities in the quality of life and health outcomes for residents living in the most deprived areas through improved access to employment, education, training, services and investment in the built environment.

The Vale enjoys a network of connected, multi-functional and accessible green and blue spaces, providing a range of enhanced leisure and health benefits within and between towns, villages and the countryside. More residents participate in active and healthy lifestyles. Investment in green infrastructure has produced a net biodiversity benefit with the creation of new habitats, enhanced connectivity and Planting providing carbon storage and contributing towards Climate Change resilience and adaptation. The Vale continues to be a place where the culture and diversity of people, and the unique qualities of its communities, are recognised and protected.

Placemaking supports a strong sense of community and has contributed to improving the quality of life for all generations. Residents and visitors have access to local facilities and inclusive places to meet and play. New development will have respected the local character of the Vale, protecting its outstanding and distinctive historic, natural and built environment. The important historic heritage of the Vale continues to be conserved and enhanced.

The Council's Growth and Regeneration Programme for Barry has successfully transformed the town. The town and local retail centres are vibrant places, while the new marina at Barry Waterfront and revitalised Barry Island provide all year-round tourism. A range of public realm schemes have enhanced the built and natural environment throughout the town.

The towns of Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Penarth are vibrant and attractive sustainable service centres playing a vital role in providing a diverse range of services and facilities for their residents and those living in neighbouring villages.

Town centres have adapted to reflect changes in retail behaviour and now function as multi use centres providing retail, leisure, recreation, community, and employment spaces.

Growth within rural settlements has provided for the needs of residents and supports balanced multigenerational communities that contribute to the vibrancy of the rural area. Through investment in active travel, public transport, and broadband connectivity the rural vale is a living and working countryside supporting a network of sustainable and thriving rural communities.

The delivery of the South East Wales Metro means that the Vale of Glamorgan is now well connected by an integrated transport system supporting economic growth. Communities have access to improved transport connectivity both locally and regionally, with economic and housing growth delivered sustainably to the benefit of communities. Enhanced active travel networks within and between towns and villages have created liveable and accessible neighbourhoods for residents linked to their surrounding rural settlements.

The Vale has a thriving local economy with a balanced, diversified business base. New employment growth at Bro Tathan and Cardiff Airport Enterprise Zones has attracted inward investment from knowledge-based and high-tech businesses, creating high quality employment and training. The Vale has a skilled and adaptable workforce. The delivery of strategic and local employment sites, alongside opportunities for rural businesses, agricultural diversification and digital connectivity, has enabled existing businesses to grow and thrive and has contributed to a reduction in outward commuting.





Through strong investment in tourism, leisure, recreation and green infrastructure, the Vale of Glamorgan is an all-year-round tourist destination. Sensitive and sustainable management of its built and natural assets including the Heritage Coast, Country Parks, beaches, countryside and historic heritage has enabled tourism to flourish. The Vale attracts visitors from afar and tourism is an important source of local employment, investment, and an enabler of rural diversification.

5. RLDP OBJECTIVES

- 5.1. The RLDP Objectives outline how the key Issues facing the Vale of Glamorgan will be addressed by the Replacement Plan, to achieve the Vision. These Objectives not only reflect national Planning policy, but also the aspirations of the Council and key stakeholders and demonstrate how the land use Planning system can address the Issues identified.
- 5.2. Currently, the adopted LDP Vision is delivered through 10 Objectives. These are:
1. ***To sustain and further the development of sustainable communities within the Vale of Glamorgan, providing opportunities for living, learning, working and socialising for all.***
 2. ***To ensure that development within the Vale of Glamorgan makes a positive contribution towards reducing the impact of and mitigating the adverse effects of Climate Change***
 3. ***To reduce the need for Vale of Glamorgan residents to travel to meet their daily needs and enabling them greater access to sustainable forms of transport.***
 4. ***To protect and enhance the Vale of Glamorgan's historic, built, and natural environment.***
 5. ***To maintain, enhance and promote community facilities and services in the Vale of Glamorgan.***
 6. ***To reinforce the vitality, viability and attractiveness of the Vale of Glamorgan's town, district, local and neighbourhood shopping centres.***
 7. ***To provide the opportunity for people in the Vale of Glamorgan to meet their housing needs.***
 8. ***To foster the development of a diverse and sustainable local economy that meets the needs of the Vale of Glamorgan and that of the wider South East Wales Region.***
 9. ***To create an attractive tourism destination with a positive image for the Vale of Glamorgan, encouraging sustainable development and quality facilities to enrich the experience for visitors and residents.***
 10. ***To ensure that development within the Vale of Glamorgan uses land effectively and efficiently and to promote the sustainable use and management of natural resources.***

5.3. It is essential that the Council’s Objectives for the Vale of Glamorgan RLDP also compliment the goals and Objectives of Future Wales, the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015) and Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 11. The relationship between the RLDP Objectives and national Planning policy is illustrated in Tables 1 – 3. In addition, the RLDP Objectives have been updated in line with the following guidance outlined in Section 5 of the Development Plans Manual (DPM) Edition 3 (2020):

“ 5.12. The Plan’s Objectives should be developed from the key economic, social, environmental and cultural Issues identified in the area, be deliverable and add detail to the vision. When read collectively, the vision and Objectives should set a clear context for the LDP’s strategy. The Objectives should flow through the Plan and be linked to the National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes, LDP policies and monitoring framework. Following the introduction of the WBFGA 2015, the LDP’s Objectives must align with the well-being goals and Objectives. The LPA must therefore demonstrate the alignment of each LDP Objective against the well-being goals and Objectives.”

	Focussed statements which seek to address the main social, environmental, economic, and cultural Issues identified in the area
	Demonstrate delivery of the National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes
	Align with the national well-being goals of The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
	Link to the vision, LDP policies and the monitoring framework

Source: [Development Plans Manual Edition 3 \(March 2020\)](#)

5.4. The aim of these Objectives is to offer greater detail on how the Planning system can help achieve the Vision and respond to the key Issues outlined in Appendix 1 of this report. The ten Objectives that will be central to the RLDP are:

RLDP Objectives



Objective 1 - Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change

- Ensure the efficient use of natural resources, promoting sustainable design and construction techniques within new developments. Support increased generation of renewable and low carbon energy, including district heating and community led schemes.
- Encourage development that reduces the need to travel by car and encourage people to participate in active travel and use sustainable transport to reduce emissions and improve air quality.
- Ensure that all new development and infrastructure is resilient to future impacts arising from Climate Change. Direct development away from areas prone to flood risk and incorporate water management, biodiversity enhancement and adaptation measures.



Objective 2 - Improving Mental and Physical Health and Well-being

- Ensure that all places offer inclusive and accessible environments for all ages that facilitate interaction with nature and others, and access to necessary healthcare facilities. Enable residents to participate in active lifestyles, through the provision of convenient access to open spaces and active travel routes for leisure, recreation and work.
- Enable the delivery of local employment, training and regeneration opportunities that reduce health and social inequalities.



Objective 3 - Homes for All

- Ensure that all new residential developments provide high quality housing that includes the right mix, tenure and type of homes that respond to the changing needs of the Vale's population. This includes homes that are affordable, accessible and adaptable for people of all ages and that address the identified accommodation needs of all the Vale's communities through all stages of life.



Objective 4 - Placemaking

- Through placemaking, ensure that all development will contribute positively toward creating a sense of place. All new development will be appropriately located and contribute toward creating active, safe, and accessible places that contain a range of uses. The character of existing communities will be protected and enhanced by developing places that respect local distinctiveness and the existing setting.

- Facilitate the provision of accessible community infrastructure that is tailored to meet the needs of the community, including high quality health, education, training, cultural, social, recreation, and community facilities and spaces.



Objective 5 – Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Environment

- Ensure that all development makes a positive contribution towards the development of a network of green infrastructure. Development must also protect natural habitats and soil quality and assist in halting the nature emergency by delivering a local net biodiversity benefit.
- Prioritising previously developed brownfield land for new development, directing development away from areas of nature conservation interest and safeguarding the sensitive natural environment from inappropriate development.



Objective 6 - Embracing Culture and Heritage

- Recognise the value of the Vale's built heritage by embedding placemaking into the Planning process, to ensure that development proposals protect the Vale's historic built environment from harmful changes. Ensure that new developments conserve and enhance the attractive qualities of the Vale's historic assets, respond appropriately to the locally distinctive context and achieve high standards of design.
- Maintain and enhance the Vales cultural facilities, and where appropriate secure opportunities for cultural enrichment, including promoting the use of the Welsh language, within new developments, the public realm and through the provision of multi-purpose community spaces and buildings.



Objective 7 - Fostering Diverse, Vibrant, and Connected Communities

- Facilitate physical, economic, and social regeneration, reflecting the needs and aspirations of local communities, through the provision of new homes, employment, and enhanced transport connectivity.
- Enable diversification of uses within town and local commercial and service centres to offer a mix of retail, leisure, commercial and community uses. Improve active travel and public transport connectivity within and between towns and neighbouring settlements.

- Provide for vital and vibrant rural communities whilst protecting the countryside through the delivery of growth in sustainable locations, related to the Settlement Hierarchy, alongside the provision of supporting infrastructure.



Objective 8 - Promoting Active and Sustainable Travel Choices

- Ensure new development is directed to locations that are or can be accessible by a choice of modes of transport, including walking, cycling, and public transport.
- Ensure that all new development increases the opportunities for residents to engage in active travel, by incorporating active travel facilities and encouraging a modal shift towards greater use of sustainable transport.
- Identify opportunities for maximising local transport investment arising from the South East Wales Metro in order to: strengthen public transport connectivity both locally and regionally, provide management of the highways network, and offer safe and effective choices for walking and cycling alongside enhanced public transport services.



Objective 9 - Building a Prosperous and Green Economy

- Provide for a range and choice of good quality employment land and support infrastructure to enable local businesses to expand. Create opportunities for inward investment and enable the Vale's economy to respond to future changes in work and employment patterns.
- Promote Bro Tathan Enterprise Zone, Cardiff Airport and Aberthaw, as important strategic employment areas, enabling delivery of high-quality and skilled jobs, training, and education opportunities.
- Support diversification of the rural economy, enabling opportunities to provide employment and business premises within rural settlements and facilitate the growth in rural enterprises.
- Facilitate sustainable tourism growth, recognising its contribution to the Vale's economic well-being. Enable enhanced leisure, recreation, economic activity, diversification, and sustainable development.



Objective 10 – Promoting Sustainable Tourism

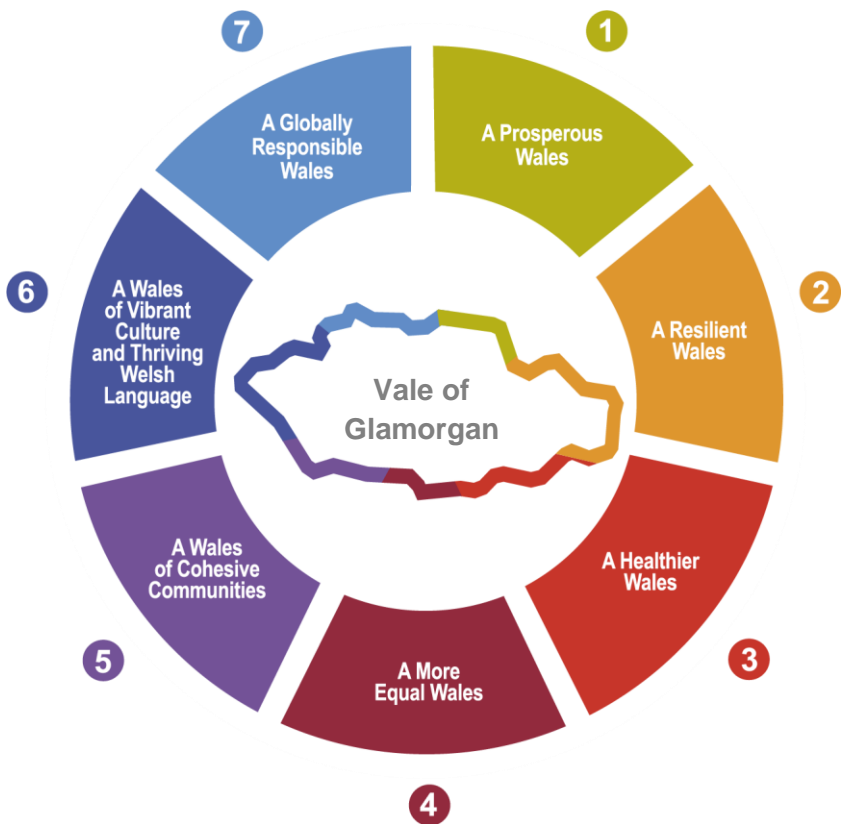
- To create an attractive tourism destination with a positive image for the Vale of Glamorgan, encouraging sustainable tourism and high-quality facilities to enrich the experience for visitors and residents.

5.5. Table 1 illustrates the ways in which the Objectives correspond with the key themes explored in this and highlights the fact that there is an overlap between each RLDP Objective, and the various themes identified. In addition, Tables 2 and 3 demonstrate how these themes and Objectives reflect key elements of national Planning policy and guidance. Meanwhile, Table 4 outlines the consistency between the RLDP Objectives, the Vale of Glamorgan PSB's Well-being Plan Objectives and the Council's Corporate Plan Objectives.

Table 1 – Comparison of RLDP Objectives against Key Themes:

Key Themes	RLDP Objectives									
	Objective 1 - Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change	Objective 2 - Improving Mental and Physical Health and Well-being	Objective 3 – Homes for All	Objective 4 - Placemaking	Objective 5 – Enhancing the Natural Environment	Objective 6 – Embracing Culture and Heritage	Objective 7 – Fostering Diverse, Vibrant, and Connected Communities	Objective 8 – Promoting Active and Sustainable Travel Choices	Objective 9 – Building a Prosperous and Green Economy	Objective 10 – Promoting Sustainable Tourism
Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change										
Improving Mental and Physical Health and Wellbeing										
Homes for All										
Placemaking										
Enhancing the Natural Environment										
Embracing Culture and Heritage										
Fostering Diverse, Vibrant, and Connected Communities										
Promoting Active and Sustainable Travel Choices										
Building a Prosperous and Green Economy										

Table 2 – Comparison of RLDP Objectives against the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Well-being Goals:



	Well-being Goals
Objective 1 - Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change	1 2 7
Objective 2 - Improving Mental and Physical Health and Well-being	2 3
Objective 3 - Homes for All	4 5
Objective 4 - Placemaking	1 4 5
Objective 5 - Enhancing the Natural Environment	1 2 7
Objective 6 - Embracing Culture and Heritage	5 6
Objective 7 - Fostering Diverse, Vibrant, and Connected Communities	1 3 4 5 6
Objective 8 - Promoting Active and Sustainable Travel Choices	2 3 5 7
Objective 9 - Building a Prosperous and Green Economy	1 2 7
Objective 10 – Promoting Sustainable Tourism	1 2 6 7

Table 3 – Comparison of RLDP Objectives against the Key Planning Principles from Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 11:

RLDP Objectives	PPW 11 - Key Planning Principles				
	Growing our economy in a sustainable manner	Making best use of resources	Facilitating accessible and healthy environments	Creating and sustaining communities	Maximising environmental protection and limiting environmental impact
Objective 1 - Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change					
Objective 2 - Improving Mental and Physical Health and Well-being					
Objective 3 - Homes for All					
Objective 4 - Placemaking					
Objective 5 - Enhancing the Natural Environment					
Objective 6 - Embracing Culture and Heritage					
Objective 7 - Fostering Diverse, Vibrant, and Connected Communities					
Objective 8 - Promoting Active and Sustainable Travel Choices					
Objective 9 - Building a Prosperous and Green Economy					
Objective 10 – Promoting Sustainable Tourism					

Table 4 - Comparison of RLDP Objectives against the PSB Well-being Plan and Council’s Corporate Plan Objectives:

RLDP Objectives	PSB Well-being Plan Objectives			VoG Council Corporate Plan Objectives			
	A more resilient and greener Vale	A more active and healthier Vale	A more equitable and connected Vale	Work with and for our communities	Support learning, employment, and sustainable economic growth	Support people at home and in their community	Respect, enhance and enjoy our environment
Objective 1 - Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change							
Objective 2 - Improving Mental and Physical Health and Well-being							
Objective 3 - Homes for All							
Objective 4 – Placemaking							
Objective 5 - Enhancing the Natural Environment							
Objective 6 - Embracing Culture and Heritage							
Objective 7 - Fostering Diverse, Vibrant, and Connected Communities							
Objective 8 - Promoting Active and Sustainable Travel Choices							
Objective 9 - Building a Prosperous and Green Economy							
Objective 10 – Promoting Sustainable Tourism							

6. APPENDIX

6.1. Appendix 1: How can the RLDP address the key Issues facing the Vale of Glamorgan?

Theme 1 – Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
Renewable energy and heat production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To mitigate the impacts of Climate Change carbon emissions from fossil fuel emitting energy and heat generation developments must be curtailed. To allow for this and to ensure that demand is met, energy and heat development that uses renewable energy production sources must be developed in appropriate locations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Renewable Energy Assessment will be conducted to provide an evidence base for the renewable heat and energy requirements in the Vale of Glamorgan. The Renewable Energy Assessment could also consider the potential for district heat networks in appropriate locations. RLDP policies will be influenced by the findings of the Renewable Energy Assessment and should facilitate both small-scale and large-scale renewable energy and heat development where appropriate. The RLDP can include a policy that promotes micro generation of renewable energy.
Emissions from Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The volume of traffic in the Vale of Glamorgan has risen consistently and peaked in 2019, prior to the Covid 19 pandemic.² This has resulted in a rise in carbon emissions from transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RLDP can seek to allocate sites in the most sustainable, transit orientated locations. Through master-Planning, it can ensure that sites are linked by active travel to public transport. The Plan will include policies that seek to avoid development in less sustainable locations.

² [Vale of Glamorgan Well-being Assessment – Environment and Transport Report \(May 2022\)](#)

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and facilitate modal shift to more sustainable and active forms of travel, such as walking, cycling and public transport. • Facilitate the roll out of electric vehicle charging points within new development.
Flooding and Coastal Erosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vale of Glamorgan is a coastal location, and several watercourses transverse it. Due to the implications of Climate Change, instances of flooding and extreme weather events accelerating coastal erosion are increasing in frequency, which will result in an increase in damage and disruption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RLDP will have to take account of and respond appropriately to the risks of flooding and coastal erosion. The new Plan will be used as a means of mitigating and adapting to the impacts of flooding and coastal erosion. • A Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment has been conducted, with the purpose of informing development regarding the management of flood risk within the RLDP. This will allow the Council to understand the flood risk from all sources and identify the extent and severity of flood risk throughout the locality. This allows the Council to adapt to the impacts of flooding both when allocating sites in the RLDP and drafting policies to assess windfall development. • Sites allocated within the RLDP will be located away from areas at high risk of flooding. Policy should also support the implementation of sustainable drainage systems on new developments, which can mitigate the impacts of flooding.

Theme 2 – Improving Physical and Mental Health and Well-being

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
<p>Promoting Healthy Behaviours</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most adults in the Vale of Glamorgan record engagement in healthy behaviours above Welsh national average. There are, however, differences in engagement in healthy behaviours between the least and most deprived areas; with those in more deprived areas are less likely to engage in healthy behaviours and most likely to experience poor health outcomes³. Healthy behaviours include physical activity, making healthy and nutritious food choices and not smoking or drinking above guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vale of Glamorgan’s built and natural environment has an impact on people’s choices and in their everyday lives including travel and recreation. The RLDP will therefore play its role in shaping development that encourages healthy behaviours such as active travel, physical activity, enjoying nature and green spaces, and socialising. A land use based health and well-being policy will address these Issues. • The RLDP will facilitate the introduction of new active travel routes and favour developments that encourage active travel choices. • The Plan will protect existing open green spaces and require new residential developments to provide new public open space. New housing will be located where green spaces and active travel routes are accessible.

³ [Vale of Glamorgan Well-being Assessment – Health and Communities Report \(May 2022\)](#)

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
<p>Safe and Healthy Environments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposure to harmful air pollution has been linked to negative health outcomes, with children four times more likely to have significantly reduced lung function in adulthood if they live in highly polluted areas. Much of air pollution is associated with commuting traffic. Higher rates of harmful Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) pollutant are found in more deprived areas³. • When compared to other areas of Wales, the Vale of Glamorgan records lower numbers of total recorded crime. However, recent years have seen an increase in antisocial behaviour. There is a correlation between experiences of crime and those areas of the Vale of Glamorgan measured as most deprived against the WIMD 2019 Community Safety Domain³. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RLDP will foster healthy environments by restricting development related to harmful pollutants and favouring proposals that contribute to improved air quality. • Improved air quality will prevent related negative health outcomes, this can be achieved by reducing traffic congestion and promoting low emission developments. The Plan can contribute to reduced traffic congestion by facilitating public transport and active travel improvements, ensuring that new developments are designed around sustainable transport rather than cars. • The RLDP will recognise the importance of protecting quiet areas for mental health. The provision and protection of tranquil areas which provide peaceful and relaxing spaces in noisy environments will promote both mental and physical well-being. • The Plan will require future developments to consider the prevention and reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour to create safe environments for people to live, work and enjoy. Feeling safe in a community can have a direct impact on personal and community well-being. Preparation of the Plan will involve engagement with South Wales Police Secured by Design.

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
Mental Health and Well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies show that there are people in the Vale of Glamorgan experiencing poor mental health, particularly as a result of isolation during the pandemic, particularly in more deprived areas³. • The National Survey revealed that 40% of respondents answered that their emotional and mental well-being was 'good' and 15% that their emotional and mental well-being was 'poor'. These results were mirrored across the differing community areas and age groups³. • In 2018/19 mental well-being among adults in the Vale of Glamorgan scored 50 on the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being scale. This was amongst the lowest in Wales, and below the National Average of 51.4. A higher score on the scale signifies better mental well-being³. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RLDP will promote mental health and well-being through the creation of high quality, attractive places, with identity, a sense of place and community. Where appropriate, development proposals should include spaces that encourage social integration and community cohesion, such as open spaces in residential developments and improvements to town centres. • Valuable green spaces, biodiversity and green infrastructure will be protected and enhanced where appropriate by the RLDP. This will allow people to connect with the natural environment, encouraging physical activity and contributing to improved mental health.
Specific Health Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vale of Glamorgan has an ageing population. Many older people in the Vale are not living in good health, with almost 50% of older people not free from limiting long term illness³. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RLDP will require development proposals to consider accessibility for all including those with specific needs such as physical disabilities or sensory impairments and demonstrate how this will be achieved. • The Plan itself will be subject to an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) which includes a Health Impact Assessment.

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health Wales will be involved in the Plan preparation, to ensure that the needs of all people are considered.
Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vale of Glamorgan PSB Well-being Assessment revealed that in 2018/19 81.9% of people in the Vale of Glamorgan answered that they were satisfied with their ability to access the facilities and services they need³. The pandemic has placed a spotlight on the importance of having both physical and digital access to services as access to in-person services has reduced³. The Western Vale is experiencing poorer access to services as measured through the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2019 Access to Services Domain³. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RLDP will strive to maintain and improve good accessibility to health services both physically and digitally to reduce inequalities and deprivation. The Plan will contribute towards physical accessibility by supporting transport infrastructure, only permitting health care developments in accessible locations which are well served by public transport. Digital accessibility could be improved by supporting the access of all properties in the Vale to digital infrastructure and good Wi-Fi connections with sufficient speeds.

Theme 3 – Homes for All

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
<p>Population Growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the 2021 Census, the population of Vale of Glamorgan was 131,800, a 4.3% increase from the 2011 Census⁴. • Of all the unitary authorities across Wales, between 2001 and 2020, the Vale of Glamorgan has seen the fourth highest average annual rate of growth in its population, at 0.7%, exceeded only by Newport, Bridgend, and Cardiff. This is higher than the regional (0.6%) and national (0.5%) averages⁴. • The largest growth in population (2001–2020) has been in the 65–79 age group, with growth accelerating in 2006 and again in 2011, resulting in an overall increase of almost 50% (Figure 5). The 80+ age group has also seen substantial growth, increasing by 38% over the historical period. The size of the working age population (15–64) has increased by 10%, whilst the population aged 0–4 has decreased by 2%⁴. The population ageing seen in the Vale of Glamorgan is an inevitable feature of population change across the UK, as the larger birth cohorts of the post-war period move into the retirement ages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RLDP will need to ensure that the level of growth balances the delivery of housing and employment growth with the demographic changes.
<p>Affordable Housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vale of Glamorgan Local Housing Market Assessment considers housing needs at ward level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RLDP shall seek to meet the needs of all its communities through the provision of a range of housing types and tenures

⁴ [How the Population Changed in the Vale of Glamorgan: Census 2021, ONS, June 2022](#)

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
	<p>across the authority. The latest LHMA (2021)⁵ was published in 2022 and identifies an annual need of 1,205 affordable dwellings to be provided to meet existing backlog and forecast demand up to 2026, illustrating that there continues to be high demand for affordable accommodation within the Vale.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The highest demand for affordable homes is within the social rented section (915 homes per year) followed by intermediate rent (211 homes) then low-cost home ownership (79 homes). Spatially, the greatest need for affordable homes is with Barry and Penarth although the LHMA⁵ notes that what is most noticeable is that all parts of the Vale demonstrate a deficit of social housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RLDP will include policies to secure affordable housing delivery to assist in meeting the identified affordable housing need. The RLDP will set a target for the number of affordable houses to be delivered by the planning system over the Plan period. The RLDP will support the provision of affordable housing on 'rural exception sites' specifically intended to meet an identified local need for affordable homes in the smaller villages.
Meeting the future housing needs of a changing population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The latest 2021 census information for the Vale of Glamorgan indicates that since 2011, the Vale of Glamorgan has seen a 24.9% increase people aged 65 years and over (2nd largest increase for a Welsh authority). Whilst at the same time, the number of people aged 15 to 64 years has decreased by 1.5%, and there has been a 4.3% increase in children aged under 15 years⁴. The Council's LHMA indicates that there is a high demand for smaller homes within the Vale⁵. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It will be important for the RLDP to consider the delivery of homes that are designed to be accessible and adaptable to changing needs over time. The RLDP will seek to ensure that new housing developments to provide a range of dwelling types and sizes to meet identified local needs.
Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council has recently completed its latest Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) which provides a robust assessment of the current and future need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in the Vale of Glamorgan over the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RLDP will identify sites to meet the identified accommodation need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation identified within the GTAA, and will facilitate the assessment of future unexpected demand.

⁵ [Vale of Glamorgan Local Housing Market Assessment 2021](#)

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
	Plan period. Once agreed by the Welsh Government the assessment will be the basis for future site provision within the Vale of Glamorgan ⁶ .	

⁶ Vale of Glamorgan Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment

Theme 4 – Placemaking

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
Preserving place identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vale of Glamorgan comprises places with a variety characters and identities, including Conservation Areas, the Heritage Coastline, rural villages and urban town centres. The Council has published detailed Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans for each of the 40 Conservation Areas in the Vale which include a full analysis of local character and provide guidance on how this can be preserved and enhanced⁷. The Council has established SLAs and Green Wedges to preserve place identity, prevent settlement coalescence and protect areas of geological, natural, visual, historical, or cultural significance⁸⁹. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RLDP will ensure that measures are in place to protect areas with a distinctive place identity. The RLDP will support mixed use and mixed tenure developments of appropriate densities to support diverse communities with vibrant public realm¹⁰. RLDP policies will respect and enhance the unique features and opportunities of heritage, culture, language of the Vale, along with its built and natural physical attributes¹⁰.
Quality of the Public Realm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vale of Glamorgan comprises 29 public parks and gardens, as well as numerous play areas, and other public open space typologies¹¹. A wide range of community facilities that serve the population are available within the Vale¹². 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RLDP will protect existing valuable public open spaces where appropriate and ensure that new public spaces are well designed, welcoming, safe, well connected, and inclusive, with distinctive identities¹⁰.

⁷ [Vale of Glamorgan Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans, 2009](#)

⁸ Vale of Glamorgan Replacement Local Development Plan 2021-2036 Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, 2022

⁹ Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011-2026 Green Wedge Background Paper, November 2011

¹⁰ [Placemaking Wales Charter, Design Commission for Wales, September 2020](#)

¹¹ Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011-2026 Open Space Background Paper, September 2013

¹² Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011-2026 Community Facilities Background Paper, September 2013

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More people in the Vale of Glamorgan report being satisfied with where they live than the Welsh average. This is supported by a number of community measures collected through the National Survey for Wales³. • The Vale has consistently seen net increases in public open space provision, partially through Section 106 agreements in association with new development¹³. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of the public realm should mitigate and be adaptable to the impacts of Climate Change, through well integrated landscaping, green infrastructure and sustainable drainage systems¹³.
<p>Access to services and facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council’s Settlement Appraisal revealed that the settlements with the highest number of key services were Barry, Penarth, Llantwit Major, and Cowbridge. However, several smaller rural settlements also contain a primary school, indicating that they may provide a supporting function for nearby smaller rural settlements¹⁴. • If not present within settlements themselves, this appraisal scored settlements based on their walking/cycling distance to a specified range of key services/facilities. • The Vale’s ‘Hamlets and Smaller Rural Settlements’ identified in the Settlements Appraisal appear to offer limited services and facilities. Therefore, residents largely rely on amenities available within higher order settlements to meet their daily needs¹⁰. • Many of the ‘Hamlets and Smaller Rural Settlements’ do not have access to public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RLDP will strive to ensure places serve a range of purposes, offering opportunities for community development, economic growth and enhancing health and well-being. • The Plan will ensure that places of work as well as key services and facilities are in places that are accessible via walking, cycling or public transport¹⁰. • The RLDP will support town centres as vibrant, attractive and safe places to live, work and enjoy, that offer a range of uses to meet the needs and wants of all residents and visitors. • All sites allocated in the RLDP will have been assessed against a diverse criteria, as specified in the Candidate Site Methodology, including access to key services and facilities opportunities for active travel. • The RLDP is required to include a Green Infrastructure Assessment (GIA), which this is

¹³ [Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011-2026 4th Annual Monitoring Report April 2021 to March 2022, October 2022](#)

¹⁴ Vale of Glamorgan Replacement Local Development Plan 2021-2036 Settlements Appraisal Review Background Paper, 2022

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
	<p>transport services, basic community services or employment opportunities. Therefore, there is likely to be a high reliance on private car use to access basic amenities¹⁰.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active travel routes within the Vale of Glamorgan are generally focussed within the Vale's key settlements, providing communities with sustainable travel options for access to local centres, facilitating day to day journeys and addressing specific access issues. • Access to transport varies across the Vale of Glamorgan with more rural areas of the Western Vale identified through the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD 2019) as having poorer access to public transport than more urban areas of Barry and the Eastern Vale². • In 2018-19 it was estimated that 11% of people in the Vale of Glamorgan travelled by bicycle once a month; while 25% of people walked every day for travel². 	<p>currently being prepared alongside a Council wide Green Infrastructure Plan. The GIA will provide an opportunity for a holistic approach to the provision of networks of multi-functional green spaces, helping the Council to realise the social potential of green infrastructure improvements as well as the benefits across a range of areas from the economy to health and well-being. It will seek to ensure that green infrastructure provision is prioritised in areas that are identified as currently having the least coverage.</p>

Theme 5 – Enhancing the Natural Environment

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
Minerals Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vale of Glamorgan is an important supplier of minerals and contributes to the sustainable supply of both aggregates and non-aggregate minerals in the South Wales region. As of 2016, the Vale of Glamorgan had sufficient mineral reserves to meet its needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RLDP will ensure that a sufficient supply of aggregate and non-aggregate minerals is available over the Plan period but also protected, for use by future generations, in accordance with local, regional and national policy and background evidence. As part of the Candidate Site Assessment Process, the impact of new allocations on existing mineral supplies and Mineral Safeguarding Areas will be considered. The RLDP will seek to ensure that the extraction of minerals is only permissible in areas where it can be demonstrated that the provisions of the RTS2, PPW, MTAN1 and relevant European and National legislation can be met.
Air Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vale has some of the worst levels of man-made air pollution in Wales¹⁵. Air emission scores are much higher in the south and east of the authority, including Barry, where population densities, traffic volumes and proximity to heavy industry are higher than in the more rural areas of the authority. Addressing air pollution is pivotal to creating a Healthy Wales as set out in the Well-Being of Future Generations Act. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall, the new Plan will aim to encourage and facilitate modal shift to more sustainable and active forms of travel, such as walking, cycling and public transport. The RLDP will need to ensure that new development reduces the need to travel, through ensuring that development is appropriately sited in sustainable locations and designed to avoid overconcentrations of air pollution.

¹⁵ [Stats Wales: Air Quality Indicators, by Local Authority \(2020\)](#)

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New development will also need to have good accessibility to sustainable transport modes, which mitigates the impact on the existing highway network. • Facilitate the roll out of electric vehicle charging points within new development. • The RLDP will encourage new developments that are designed to avoid impacts on air quality, reduce noise, and protect, incorporate, and enhance green infrastructure networks. • Renewable energy projects should also be promoted, to phase out energy production from fossil fuels, which cause air pollution. A review of the background evidence on renewable energy production will have to be conducted as part of the RLDP, as outlined above. • Where new development is proposed the agent of change principle dictates that it will have to mitigate against any harmful impacts it causes to neighbouring uses, which would include air pollution.
Development on Greenfield Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development in the open countryside, away from settlements, can lead to unsustainable development that harms the open nature of the Vale of Glamorgan and locks in reliance on private modes of transport. • Development on best and most versatile agricultural land reduces the most productive land within the authority, prejudicing future food production capabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RLDP intends to protect locations in the open countryside and the best and most versatile agricultural land. A sequential approach will be applied to identifying sites for allocation, beginning with brownfield sites and then moving on to sustainable greenfield sites on the edge of settlements. On greenfield sites where development is justified, a consideration of the agricultural land classification will be made, in order to appraise

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
		whether or not the land is too valuable to be permanently developed.
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste created in the Vale of Glamorgan needs to be dealt with in a sustainable manner that facilitates a circular economy. Alongside regional partners residual and food waste from the Vale of Glamorgan is now predominantly being transferred into energy through various processes, for example anaerobic digestion¹⁶. In addition, during the previous Plan period the Council have approved a number of local scale waste management facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RLDP will need to consider national policy and waste planning monitoring reports, as well as locally relevant waste management policies. It will also need to identify suitable locations for the provision of waste infrastructure, as well as criteria for assessing proposals for new facilities.
Nature Emergency and Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vale of Glamorgan Council announced a Nature Emergency in July 2021, vowing to place the Issue at the heart of the Council's decision making¹⁷. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council are required in legislation to maintain and enhance biodiversity, which must be reflected within the RLDP. Achieving this through the new Plan will ensure that new development limits the harm caused to existing biodiversity and can assist in mitigating the harm of Climate Change.
Green Infrastructure and the Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council are required to prepare a Green Infrastructure Assessment to minimise and reverse habitat fragmentation, provide environmental resilience, and realise the social potential of green infrastructure improvements. The Vale of Glamorgan has a wealth of important landscapes, which are all faced by unique development pressures. This currently includes the Glamorgan Heritage Coast, six Special Landscape Area and seven Green Wedges as designations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RLDP is required to include a Green Infrastructure Assessment (GIA) and this is currently being prepared alongside a Council wide Green Infrastructure Plan. The GIA will provide an opportunity for a holistic approach to the planning and provision of a network of green spaces which provide multi-functional benefits across a range of areas including the economy, health and well-being and biodiversity. Updated relevant technical background papers, along with other elements of the GIA work will be

¹⁶ [Cardiff Organic Waste Treatment Project](#)

¹⁷ [Vale of Glamorgan Council declares nature emergency \[Press Release\]](#)

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
		<p>used to inform Plan policies and to develop a robust approach to enhancing biodiversity, increasing ecological resilience, and improving well-being outcomes. A Habitat Regulation Assessment will also be conducted, which will appraise the likely impact of the RLDP on European sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The evidence base relating to Green Wedges and Special Landscape Areas will be reviewed as part of the RLDP and new policies will be created offering protection to these designations. The Candidate Site Methodology also considers the impact of new development on them.

Theme 6 – Embracing Culture and Heritage

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
<p>Protect heritage assets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 53km of coastline in the Vale including 23km of Glamorgan Heritage Coast, providing opportunities for walkers and cyclists⁸, including the All Wales Coastal Path from Barry Island to Penarth¹⁸. • There are 38 Registered Parks and Gardens present within the Vale⁸. • Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows and Llancafán are all recorded on the Register of Landscapes of Historic interest in Wales¹⁹. • 40 Conservation Areas and 740 Listed Buildings in the Vale of Glamorgan¹⁹, of which, 33 are Grade I Listed⁸. • There are 1,240 County Treasure local entries within the Vale, which include buildings and structures considered as having special local architectural or historic interest¹⁹. • 114 Scheduled Monuments designated throughout the Vale that need to be respected and preserved¹⁹. • Concentrations of archaeological interest seen around key settlements⁸ which play a key role in the local historical/architectural context and can reinforce a sense of local character. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RLDP will ensure that development proposals protect and enhance the quality of built/historic environment where possible. • RLDP will seek to protect and enhance the special character and natural beauty of the coastline while enabling its enjoyment and facilitating its continued use for agriculture and other appropriate economic activities. • Impact on the historic environment is a key criterion against which potential sites for allocation in the RLDP will be assessed as part of the Candidate Site Assessment process. • As part of the development of the RLDP, the Council will consult the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust who curate the authority's Historic Environment Record.

¹⁸ [Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011-2026 Written Statement \(June 2017\)](#)

¹⁹ [Historic Landscapes in Wales, Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust, 1998](#)

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
Preservation of Welsh Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between the 2001 and 2011 Census the percentage of people able to speak Welsh aged 3 and above fell from 11.3% in 2001 to 10.8% in 2011²⁰. • However, the Vale of Glamorgan is one of only four local authorities that has seen an increase in the percentage of people aged three or older able to speak Welsh between 2011 and 2021; the Vale saw an increase of 0.7%, making the percentage of Welsh speakers in the Vale 11.5%, as of March 2021²¹. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the densities of Welsh language use across the Vale of Glamorgan, it is not considered to be a major Issue which requires addressing in the RLDP. • Development of the RLDP should mitigate against proposals that could be considered to have a detrimental impact upon Welsh language use. • RLDP preparation will also consider the Council's Welsh Language Promotion Strategy where appropriate.
Promote and encourage sustainable tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence from the annual Vale of Glamorgan STEAM (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor) survey indicated a decrease in visitor numbers and revenue from tourism between 2010 and 2021; primarily, this is likely to be due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic¹³. • In light of the Climate Crisis, land-use decisions relating to all sectors must strive to protect and enhance the natural environment where possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RLDP will need to consider opportunities to promote and enhance opportunities for visitors to engage in forms of tourism that have minimal impacts on the environment. • The RLDP should seek to encourage the development of proposals that facilitate sustainable tourism. • Policy MG7 – ‘Provision of Community Facilities’ will be reviewed to ensure existing cultural facilities are protected and that the Town Centre First principle outlined in Future Wales is reflected. • Policy MG28 – ‘Public Open Space allocations’ will need to be reviewed as part of the RLDP preparation process.

²⁰ [Statistical Bulletin Census 2011: First Results on the Welsh Language](#)

²¹ [Census 2021: Welsh Language in Wales](#)

Theme 7 – Fostering Diverse, Vibrant and Connected Communities

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
Diversity and Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As measured by the Annual Population Survey, the percentage of people in the Vale of Glamorgan identifying as Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic was estimated at 2.1% in 2020 compared to 5.3% for Wales as a whole²². The 2021 census data revealed that 5.8% of people in the Vale of Glamorgan were not born in the UK, this is an increase of 0.9% since 2011²³. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan will encourage and promote cultural diversity and will ensure that the needs of different religious, cultural and ethnic groups are considered in Planning decisions. The RLDP will ensure that all groups are considered fairly within the Plan. This will be assessed by the ISA, which incorporates an Equality Impact Assessment.
Cohesive Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studies have revealed that as a whole, the Vale of Glamorgan has sufficient existing community floorspace when compared to the population, however, this is more concentrated within the larger settlements of Penarth, Barry and Llantwit Major. When assessed on a ward basis, 11 out of 23 wards had a deficit¹². Community factors such as a sense of belonging to an area, engaging in cultural activities and the ability to shape decisions in an area all contribute to a community's well-being³. Community interaction has changed as a result of closure of cultural venues, reduced action to in- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community facilities are important assets, therefore through the RLDP existing community facilities will be protected and new accessible community buildings and spaces will be encouraged where appropriate, particularly in rural settlements. The Plan will require development proposals and masterplanning to consider how the built environment can facilitate community cohesion and social interaction.

²² [StatsWales: Ethnicity by Area and Ethnic Group](#)

²³ [Census 2021: Country of Birth \(Detailed\)](#)

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
	<p>person services and increases in experiences in anti-social behaviour³.</p>	
<p>Effective Engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Delivery Agreement Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) sets out how and when community and stakeholder engagement will take place throughout the stages of the RLDP preparation, allowing the public to be involved appropriately at each stage²⁴. • The CIS sets out how engagement techniques will be used to involve hard to reach groups, for example using existing agencies²⁴. • The Council has already held a series of workshops with Council Members, the Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board (PSB) and Vale Town and Community Councils. These workshops provided the opportunity to discuss key issues within the Vale of Glamorgan and provide input into the development of the proposed RLDP Vision and Objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout all stages of the RLDP preparation and adoption effective engagement and consultation will take place as stated in the Delivery Agreement. Alternative copies of all RLDP associated documents e.g. large print/Welsh are available on request from the Council's Planning Department. • Non-technical summaries of a number of RLDP associated documents will be prepared and made available where appropriate. • A range of engagement methods will be utilised to ensure that the consultation process is as inclusive as possible.

²⁴ [Vale of Glamorgan RLDP Delivery Agreement 2021 – 2036 \(May 2022\)](#)

Theme 8 – Promoting Active and Sustainable Travel Choices

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
<p>Active Travel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active travel levels within the Vale of Glamorgan are relatively low and Active Travel Routes are generally focussed on the main settlements²⁵. • There are 65 Active Travel Routes (walking, cycling and shared use) in the Vale of Glamorgan, totalling 83.26km in length²⁶. • Cycle Counters collect data regarding the use of the Vale’s Active Travel Routes by cyclists on a daily basis; in 2021, the counter on Port Road, Barry recorded the highest usage figure in July with an average of 95 uses²⁷. • According to a survey completed by the 8 secondary schools within the authority, the level of active travel to school in the Vale is higher than the national average; active travel levels increased from 38% to 41% between 2017 and 2019²⁸. • Increasing opportunities for and the uptake of active travel is both a local and national priority and is being addressed through the Vale of Glamorgan Local Transport Plan 2015-2030²⁸ and Llwybr Newydd The Wales Transport Strategy 2021²⁹. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new Plan will support the delivery of the outcomes detailed in the Vale of Glamorgan Local Transport Plan 2015-2030. • A key priority for the emerging RLDP will be encouraging a modal shift towards more sustainable and active forms of travel. • The RLDP will attempt to reduce the need to travel by ensuring that new development is appropriately sited in sustainable and accessible locations and designed to facilitate walking and cycling as alternatives to the private car. • The RLDP will strive to safeguard land for the delivery of active travel schemes.

²⁵ [Vale of Glamorgan Programme for Active Travel Routes](#)

²⁶ [Active Travel \(Wales\) Act 2013 Reporting Duties](#)

²⁷ Vale of Glamorgan Cycle Loops Data (August 2022)

²⁸ [Vale of Glamorgan Local Transport Plan 2015-2030](#)

²⁹ [Llwybr Newydd The Wales Transport Strategy 2021](#)

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
Rural connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural bus services are very limited outside of major settlements in the Vale of Glamorgan¹⁴. Rail services are limited to larger settlements along the Vale of Glamorgan railway line. The Vale of Glamorgan is serviced by a number of main roads, including the A48, A4050, A4055, A4226, B4270 and B4265, which connect many of the Vale's rural settlements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RLDP will direct new development to the most sustainable and accessible locations to maximise the use of sustainable transport modes. The Plan will support improvements to existing public transport infrastructure, especially in rural areas. Consideration will be given to the opportunities for park and ride facilities at railway stations.
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Vale of Glamorgan, carbon emissions from transport outgrew domestic emissions in 2014 as the second highest emitter of CO₂ across the authority². Transport emissions were responsible for 20% of the Vale of Glamorgan's CO₂ emissions in 2019². 54% of the CO₂ emissions generated by transport was due to road transport on minor roads². The vast majority of respondents to the Council's Let's Talk About Well-being Survey expected both traffic conditions and air pollution to worsen between 2021 and 2026². 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall, the new Plan will aim to encourage and facilitate modal shift to more sustainable and active forms of travel, such as walking, cycling and public transport. The RLDP will need to ensure that new development reduces the need to travel, incorporates EV charging points where possible, and has good accessibility to sustainable transport modes, reducing transport related emissions.
Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To date, 13 EV Charging Points home to a combined total of 34 active sockets have been installed in the Vale of Glamorgan. A further 4 points providing 8 sockets are at the pre-construction stage, with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RLDP will support increases in the provision of ULEV charging points and improvements to the quality and quantity of Active Travel Routes in the Vale. The new Plan will ensure the delivery of parking provision within new development, in accordance with the Council's approved parking guidelines.

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
	<p>another 1 point offering sockets having been commissioned³⁰.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% of all parking spaces are required to have access to charging facilities on non-residential sites; this 10% figure is encouraged on residential sites³¹. • Project Zero commits the Council to obtaining a ULEV pool car fleet and the Council have recently taken delivery of its first 12 ULEV Pool Cars³². • The Council is exploring the possibility of a future on-street residential charging policy to enable the installation of convenient, appropriate, equitable, accessible and robust residential on-street electric vehicle charging infrastructure for Vale of Glamorgan resident³³. 	<p>However, parking provision for motor vehicles will be delivered in conjunction with infrastructure that supports alternative, more sustainable choices travel choices.</p>
Commuting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume of road traffic in the Vale of Glamorgan has been increasing since 2011 and peaked in 2019². • According to the ONS, as of 2021, 53.6% of people aged 16 years and over in employment living in the Vale of Glamorgan either drive or are a passenger in a car or van in order to get to work³⁴ • Approximately 5.9% of Vale residents people aged 16 years and over in employment walk to work³⁵. • Only 1% of Vale residents people aged 16 years and over in employment cycle to work³⁵. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and facilitate modal shift to more sustainable and active forms of travel, such as walking, cycling and public transport. • Reduce the need to travel for employment through sustainable patterns of land use and development. • Encourage/facilitate inward investment and local employment opportunities through site availability. • Provide opportunities to improve frequency and availability of public transport services, particularly for rural communities.

³⁰ Vale of Glamorgan Carbon Footprint exercise - Transport Element (October 2022)

³¹ [Vale of Glamorgan Local development Plan 2011-2036 Parking Standards SPG \(March 2019\)](#)

³² [Project Zero Vale of Glamorgan Council Climate Change Challenge Plan \(2021\)](#)

³³ Vale of Glamorgan Draft On-Street Charging Policy Report (2023)

³⁴ [ONS Build a Custom Area Profile \(Census 2021\)](#)

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="483 240 1263 416">• Important to note – data collected to inform the 2021 Census may not be reflective of current commuting patterns, especially due to changes in working practices during and as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. 	

Theme 9 – Building a Prosperous and Green Economy

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
<p>Economic Growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vale of Glamorgan is home to 14,320 businesses & industries and 900ha of existing employment sites⁸. • Cardiff Airport and Bro Tathan Enterprise Zone seeking to expand the aerospace and maintenance sector that has developed in the area⁸. • Bro Tathan Aerospace Business Park has development potential for up to 3 million sq. ft of employment floor space⁸. • The Council’s adopted LDP Annual Monitoring Reports indicate that a significant amount of land has been granted planning permission on strategic employment sites but take up of local employment sites has slowed in recent years³⁵. • Vale of Glamorgan’s location within the Cardiff Capital City Region facilitates access to an investment programme of £1.2 billion, including the delivery of the South Wales Metro⁸. • The Vale of Glamorgan is identified within South East Wales Growth Area outlined in Future Wales³⁶. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RLDP will seek to maximise opportunities for economic growth presented by local and strategic employment sites located across the Vale of Glamorgan. • The RLDP has potential to support economic growth by facilitating development of the Enterprise Zone. • Preparation of the RLDP will consider opportunities for economic growth facilitated by the Vale of Glamorgan’s presence with both the Cardiff Capital City Region and South East Wales Growth Area. • RLDP will need to consider how policy can accommodate trends in shopping habits, the changing nature of retail and the evolving role of our town, district, and local centres.
<p>Employment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment rate in the Vale of Glamorgan has been consistently above that of the Welsh average⁸. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will seek to protect existing employment land and premises, and work with land

³⁵ Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011-2026 [1st](#), [2nd](#), [3rd](#) and [4th](#) Annual Monitoring Reports April 2018 to March 2022 (October [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#) and [2022](#))

³⁶ [Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 \(February 2021\)](#)

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nomis data indicates that in March 2021 5.4%, (4,310 people) in the Vale of Glamorgan were unemployed¹³. All industry sectors have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Service Sector, in particular 'customer facing' services such as Accommodation and Food Services, have been heavily affected⁸. Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) illustrates that while employment opportunities are typically strong in the Vale, there are some areas, most notably in the East of Barry, where people struggle to access job opportunities³⁷. The WIMD 2019 Income Domain measures the proportion of people with an income below a defined level; three Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the Vale of Glamorgan are ranked in the top 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales³. Cardiff Airport and Bro Tathan Enterprise Zone include 550 ha of employment space⁸. Digitalisation and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have catalysed agile working patterns⁷. 	<p>owners to bring forward underused/vacant land in areas of demand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RLDP should strive to help promote rural enterprise and diversification. The RLDP can facilitate and encourage future development of the Enterprise Zone to deliver significant economic growth throughout the region, support high quality jobs and training/education for Vale residents. RLDP will need to consider internet access across the Vale of Glamorgan to capitalise on the economic opportunities created through home and remote working.
Out-commuting for work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 2021, data published by Stats Wales indicates that approximately 60% of the Vale's resident working population commute out of the area for work³⁸. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RLDP will attempt to help reduce out-commuting by providing opportunities for new housing, retail and employment development in accessible locations in the Vale of Glamorgan

³⁷ [Vale of Glamorgan Well-being Assessment - Education and Economy Report \(May 2022\)](#)

³⁸ [StatsWales Commuting Patterns by Welsh Local Authority and Measure \(2021\)](#)

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 8,100 people travel into the Vale of Glamorgan each day for work³⁸. • 9,000 people commute into the Vale from outside the authority for work with the highest proportion, (1,400) coming from Bridgend³⁹. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new Plan will maximise opportunities for small scale, sustainable employment to take place outside the larger settlements of the Vale of Glamorgan. • Outside of the main employment sites, the RLDP will consider, where appropriate, mixed used developments which provide greater benefit to the local community and potential job creation
Retail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving forward, we need to ensure that retail centres are adaptable e.g. facilitate the presence of non-retail uses in town and district centres. • Since 2017, there has been a reduction (5.05%) of retail floorspace in the town and district centres and increases in office floorspace (41.34%) and leisure floorspace (17.58%)¹³. • According to the survey undertaken in Spring 2022, average vacancy rate in retail centres increased during the 2021-2022 monitoring period; the average vacancy rate in the Vale's town centres for 2022 was 8.9%. However, this figure was well below the Welsh average of 16.9%¹³. • Welsh Government introduced temporary amendments to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 to provide greater flexibility for changes of use in town centres up until 2nd January 2022. The Welsh Government ran a three-month consultation on making these changes permanent. The outcome of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of the RLDP will include a review of primary retail areas in the Vale of Glamorgan and the following adopted LDP policies will be reviewed to reflect updated evidence, future retail requirements and national policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SP6 – Retail ➤ MG12 – Retail Hierarchy ➤ MG13 – Edge and Out of Town Retailing Areas ➤ MG14 – Non-A1 Retail Uses within Town and District Retail Centres ➤ MG15 - Non - A1 Retail Uses within Local and Neighbourhood Retail Centres • The new Plan will seek to support retail centres but also provide opportunities for new retail development. • RLDP will consider how to accommodate trends in shopping habits, the changing nature of retail and the role of town, district and local centres, as well as the impacts of Covid-19 on the retail sector.

Key Issues	Existing Evidence	How can the RLDP address these Issues?
	<p>this consultation is still being awaited as of February 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leakage of expenditure in the retail sector to Cardiff and Bridgend¹⁹. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RLDP will seek to enhance the vitality, viability and attractiveness of town and district centres, through the refurbishment and reuse of vacant properties and the promotion of retail and commercial centres as hubs for social and economic activity that can support the needs of local communities.
<p>Tourism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vale of Glamorgan has a range of attractions that utilise the natural environment and improve economic well-being including Glamorgan Heritage Coast³⁹. Total economic impact of tourism in the Vale of Glamorgan decreased by 26% between 2019 and 2021⁴⁰. Total visitor numbers to the authority fell by 22.4% (970,000 visitors) between 2019 and 2021⁴². According to the STEAM Report, between 2019 and 2021 there was a 28.6% fall in the number of full-time equivalent jobs employed in the tourism sector⁴². From 2019 to 2021 there was a 28.4% decrease in the number of total day visitors⁴². The widespread negative trends seen between 2019 and 2021 can be accredited to the Covid-19 pandemic, subsequent closure of businesses and intermittent lockdowns⁸. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the preparation of the RLDP, the following adopted LDP policies will be reviewed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SP11 – Tourism & Leisure ➤ MD13 – Tourism & Leisure ➤ MG29 – Tourism and Leisure Facilities RLDP will strive to support an increase in the number of tourist related developments, number of visitors, length of stays and spend per head. The new Plan will seek to promote appropriate, sustainable, low impact tourism. Preparation of the RLDP will consider how to maximise opportunities presented by Cardiff Airport. The RLDP will make provisions for the protection and enhancement of key tourist destinations within the Vale of Glamorgan, such as Barry Island seafront and Whitmore Bay.

³⁹ [Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board Well-being Assessment: Protecting, Enhancing and Valuing the Environment](#)

⁴⁰ STEAM Final Trend Report for 2010-2021 Vale of Glamorgan (September 2022)



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