

VALE OF GLAMORGAN

REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2021 - 2036

SELF ASSESSMENT OF THE PREFERRED STRATEGY AGAINST THE TESTS OF SOUNDNESS

October 2023



BACKGROUND PAPER - BP4



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- i. This Background Paper has been published alongside the Vale of Glamorgan Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Preferred Strategy. A key element of the development plan preparation process is to demonstrate that the Plan is 'sound'. This Background Paper assesses the draft Preferred Strategy (PS) against the tests of soundness set out by the Welsh Government as detailed in the Development Plans Manual (Edition 3 – March 2020).
- ii. The Background Paper also outlines the relationship between the Strategic Policies and the RLDP Objectives as well as the Public Service Board Well-being Plan and the Council's Corporate Plan, (see Appendix 1 – 3). In assessing the link between these policies and the RLDP Objectives, the extent to which the Strategy is reflective of the Key Planning Principles from Planning Policy Wales (PPW) has also been considered.
- iii. Furthermore, a detailed assessment of the Preferred Strategy's conformity with Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (Welsh Government, February 2021) has been undertaken and can be found at Appendix 4.
- iv. It is considered that the self-assessment conducted by the Council demonstrates that the Preferred Strategy, stages undertaken, and the processes followed to reach this stage are 'sound'. This self-assessment of the Preferred Strategy against the three Tests of Soundness is set out below. The overall soundness of the Plan will continue to be assessed against these tests as it progresses and eventually at an Examination by a Planning Inspector.

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. SELF-ASSESSMENT OF THE PREFERRED STRATEGY AGAINST THE TESTS OF SOUNDNESS	2
3. APPENDICES	18
Appendix 1: Comparison of RLDP Strategic Policies against the RLDP Objectives.....	18
Appendix 2: Comparison of RLDP Strategic Policies against the PSB Well-being Plan Objectives and Priority Workstreams.....	21
Appendix 3: Comparison of RLDP Strategic Policies against the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Corporate Plan Objectives	23
Appendix 4: Comparison of RLDP Strategic Policies against the RLDP Objectives and general conformity with Future Wales - The National Plan 2040.....	25
Appendix 5: Relevant Background Documents.....	46

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Background Paper has been published alongside the Vale of Glamorgan Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Preferred Strategy. A key element of the development plan preparation process is to demonstrate that the Plan is 'sound'. This Background Paper assesses the draft Preferred Strategy (PS) against the tests of soundness set out by the Welsh Government as detailed in the Development Plans Manual (Edition 3 – March 2020).
- 1.2 The Background Paper also outlines the relationship between the Strategic Policies and the RLDP Objectives as well as the Public Service Board Well-being Plan and the Council's Corporate Plan, (see Appendix 1 – 3). In assessing the link between these policies and the RLDP Objectives, the extent to which the Strategy is reflective of the Key Planning Principles from Planning Policy Wales (PPW) has also been considered.
- 1.3 Furthermore, a detailed assessment of the Preferred Strategy's conformity with Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (Welsh Government, February 2021) has been undertaken and can be found at Appendix 4.
- 1.4 It is considered that the self-assessment conducted by the Council demonstrates that the Preferred Strategy, stages undertaken, and the processes followed to reach this stage are 'sound'. This self-assessment of the Preferred Strategy against the three Tests of Soundness is set out below. The overall soundness of the Plan will continue to be assessed against these tests as it progresses and eventually at an Examination by a Planning Inspector.

2. SELF-ASSESSMENT OF THE PREFERRED STRATEGY AGAINST THE TESTS OF SOUNDNESS

<p>Development Plans Manual (Edition 3, March 2020)</p>	<p>Response: This self-assessment has been undertaken to monitor consistency with the Tests of Soundness at the Preferred Strategy stage of the Replacement Local Development Plan process. It has also helped identify future requirements as we work towards the preparation of the Deposit Plan.</p>
<p>Preparation Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has preparation of the plan complied with legal and regulatory procedural requirements? (LDP Regulations, CIS, SEA Regulations, SA, HRA etc.?) • Is the plan in general conformity with the NDF (now referred to as Future Wales: The National Plan 2040) and/or SDP? (when published or adopted respectively) 	<p>Has preparation of the plan complied with legal and regulatory procedural requirements? (LDP Regulations, CIS, SEA Regulations, SA, HRA etc.?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Preferred Strategy has been prepared in accordance with the necessary procedural requirements. In particular, it is important to note the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) which have been published to support the Preferred Strategy. Both of these background documents build upon the ISA Scoping Report (June 2022) and Initial Habitats Regulations Assessment Scoping Report (May 2023) prepared earlier in RLDP process. • All consultation arrangements and associated documents were prepared and delivered in accordance with the LDP Regulations (2005 as amended 2015). The scope of all consultations as well as the engagement methods used, outcomes and reporting mechanisms are consistent with the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) set out in the Council’s Delivery Agreement (DA) (May 2022). The CIS identifies the Council’s commitment to engagement with a wide range of stakeholders including Elected Members, statutory consultees, the public, the Public Services Board (PSB) (the Key Stakeholder Group for the RLDP) and relevant Council departments amongst others. • It should be noted the May 2022 version of the DA references the ‘Vale Viewpoint Citizens Panel’ as a stakeholder forum. This group has now been disbanded and replaced by ‘Participate Vale’, for which people can register their contact details in order to be notified of all Council-run consultations. This service presents opportunities for people to get involved with Council decisions and local issues in the Vale of Glamorgan. All RLDP public consultations will be advertised to ‘Participate Vale’ members. This change is reflected in the Revised Delivery Agreement (December 2023).

- The use of virtual engagement methods adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic have been retained in order to provide the chance for stakeholders to engage with various RLDP consultations in a virtual manner through the use of the RLDP consultation database, attendance at online workshops and the completion of online surveys alongside scheduled face to face drop-in sessions at strategic locations. Full details of the Preferred Strategy consultation can be viewed on the Council's website.
- Prior to consulting on the Preferred Strategy for the RLDP, non-statutory consultation exercises were undertaken with various stakeholders to enhance the Council's understanding of the key issues, aspirations and options relevant to the authority. Comments received during these consultations have significantly influenced the Vision and Objectives as well as the selected Spatial and Growth Options for the Preferred Strategy.
- Full details of all consultations undertaken to inform the preparation of the Prepared Strategy will be provided in the Consultation Report that accompanies the Deposit RLDP.
- The timetable in the approved DA identified that consultation on the DPS would take place during April and May 2023. However, the identification of key sites and the need to engage with and secure further site-specific background information from site promoters to ensure site deliverability has meant that production of the Draft Preferred Strategy was delayed beyond the agreed 3 month slippage period. The Welsh Government agreed an extension to the DA in December 2023, which rescheduled the Draft PS public consultation over eight weeks between December 2023 and January 2024.

Is the plan in general conformity with the NDF (now referred to as Future Wales: The National Plan 2040) and/or SDP? (when published or adopted respectively)

- In February 2021, the Welsh Government published Future Wales - the National Plan 2040, the Welsh Government's national development framework. On publication, Future Wales (FW) came into force with immediate effect and now forms part of the development plan system in Wales, it must be considered alongside LDPs or extant Unitary Development Plans in development management decisions.

- The policy framework set out in the Preferred Strategy is in general conformity with this and supports the objectives of FW being met during the RLDP Plan period. The detail associated with many of Future Wales' policies will be pursued through the preparation of a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the Cardiff Capital Region, which has yet to formally commence. An assessment of the Preferred Strategy against the policies of Future Wales has been undertaken and is attached at Appendix 4.
- Future Wales Policies 1 and 33 (Where Wales Will Grow, and National Growth Area - Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys) recognise the Vale of Glamorgan as a part of the South East Wales Growth Area, a priority area for growth. Within the wider growth area, the focus is on strategic economic and housing growth; essential services and facilities; advanced manufacturing; transport and digital infrastructure. Policy 36 (South Wales Metro) states that SDPs and LDPs "should plan growth and regeneration to maximise the opportunities arising from better regional connectivity, including identifying opportunities for higher density, mixed use and car free development around new and improved metro stations". It is considered that the Preferred Strategy and its approach in aligning housing with other land uses to reduce the need to travel and locating developing in places well served by sustainable transport reflect these FW Policies and facilitate an appropriate level of housing and employment growth to address the Vale's local challenges and issues.
- The Strategic Policies underpinning the Preferred Strategy reflect those of Future Wales, for example, the important roles played by Cardiff Airport and Bro Tathan Enterprise Zone, and the Port of Barry which are set out in Future Wales Policy 10 (International Connectivity) are demonstrated in the preferred growth and spatial strategy, as well as the Vision and Objectives.
- More generally, the overarching policy framework of the Preferred Strategy is considered to align with the policy aims of the Future Wales, with many common policy themes running through both. Examples of this include the Strategic Policies for Sustainable Transport (SP10), Placemaking (SP12), and Climate Change (SP 14). Particularly relevant in a Vale context, however, is the policy focus on Affordable and Specialist Housing (Policy 8), which is a key challenge for the Local Authority. In this respect the Preferred Strategy is considered to set the strategic framework for delivering many of the policy objectives of Future Wales at a local level.

Test 1: Does the plan fit? (i.e. is it clear that the LDP is consistent with other plans?)

- Does it have regard to national policy (PPW and Future Wales)?
- Does it have regard to Well-being Goals?
- Does it have regard to the Welsh National Marine Plan?
- Does it have regard to the relevant Area Statement?
- Is the plan in general conformity with the NDF?
- Is the plan in general conformity with relevant SDP (when adopted)?
- Is it consistent with regional plans, strategies and utility programmes?
- Is it compatible with the plans of neighbouring authorities?
- Does it reflect the Single Integrated Plan (SIP) Well-being Plan or the National Park Management Plan (NPMP)?
- Has the LPA demonstrated it has exhausted all opportunities for joint working and collaboration on both plan preparation and the evidence base?

The formulation of the Preferred Strategy has been prepared with full regard to the relevant plans and strategies, whilst recognising that it will need to respond and develop as it progresses through its preparatory process. The national, regional and local plans are where relevant identified within the Preferred Strategy but also within the background and supporting documents and within the in-combination considerations of the ISA and HRA Reports. The ISA process reviews the relevant policies, plans and programmes and considers their implications in relation to the growth levels and spatial options considered and have subsequently informed the new Preferred Strategy and associated Strategic Policies.

Each of the Test 1 questions are discussed in turn:

Does it have regard to national policy (PPW11) and Future Wales?

- The Preferred Strategy considers the national policy and guidance set out in PPW11 and the associated Technical Advice Notes (TANs). The Preferred Strategy and supporting documents refer to relevant sections of PPW11 specific to the issue being discussed and the policy requirements of PPW11 have been considered and incorporated where relevant in the preparation of the Strategic Policies. The Preferred Strategy's conformity with Future Wales is explored in detail in Appendix 4 of this report. The RLDP Preferred Strategy is recognised as a key mechanism in delivering the planning policy priorities identified in national policy.

Does it have regard to the Well-being Goals?

- The Preferred Strategy has full regard to the provision of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and the well-being goals, as well as the five ways of working as demonstrated by the additional non-statutory consultation and engagement undertaken on the Issues, Vision and Objectives and the Growth and spatial Options. Appendix 1 of this report illustrates the relationship between the RLDP Strategic Policies and RLDP Objectives; and the links between the RLDP objectives and the Well-being goals are clearly set out in Table 2 of the Issues, Vision and Objectives Background Paper (2023).

Does it have regard to the Welsh National Marine Plan?

- The Strategic Policies of the Preferred Strategy span a number of key themes and issues which complement the Welsh National Marine Plan. In particular, Strategic Policies SP5 – Placemaking, SP15 – Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, SP18 – Green Infrastructure and SP19 – Biodiversity are particularly relevant to and supportive of the objectives and policies of the Welsh National Marine Plan in that they seek to direct new development away from areas of flood-risk, deliver high-quality, sustainable placemaking; adapt to and mitigate the causes and impacts of Climate Change and protect and enhance green infrastructure and biodiversity. The preparation of the detailed policies to be included within the Deposit RLDP will further enhance the Strategy’s relationship with the National Marine Plan.

Does it have regard to the relevant Area Statement?

- Along with Cardiff, Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf, the Vale of Glamorgan forms part of the South Central Area Statement which was published by Natural Resources Wales in March 2020. The Preferred Strategy has regard to the Area Statements strategic themes of Building Resilient Ecosystems, Connecting People with Nature, Working with Water, improving our Health and improving Air Quality through the Strategic Policies which seek to achieve many of the outcomes associated with each theme. Examples of this include Strategic Policies SP18 Green Infrastructure and SP19 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience which seek to protect and enhance biodiversity and the resilience of natural ecosystems and maximise green infrastructure provision throughout the Vale which is consistent with the outcomes of the Area Statement. Similarly Strategic Policies SP5 Placemaking, SP6 Creating Healthy and Inclusive Places and Spaces, SP7 Sustainable Transport and SP15 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation are consistent in their aims of improving health and well-being and air quality across the Vale of Glamorgan. It is therefore considered that the Draft Preferred Strategy is consistent with the key themes and objectives of the South Central Area statement.

Future Wales: The National Plan 2024 (February 2021)

- Conformity with Future Wales is discussed above and in Appendix 4.

Is the plan in general conformity with relevant SDP (when adopted)?

- The preparation of an SDP for the region has not yet formally commenced. However, the Vale of Glamorgan Council has been actively involved in the discussions and agreements put in place to date and Council has formally resolved to be part of the SDP.

Is it consistent with regional plans, strategies and utility programmes?

- The Preferred Strategy has been prepared within the context of relevant regional plans, strategies and utility provider programmes. Specific reference is made to the Cardiff Capital Region and the Vale's role in achieving its main objectives of connecting the region, supporting innovation and housing development.
- The initial Integrated Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment (ISA-HRA) have considered the in-combination effects of the Preferred strategy along with other plans and strategies and concluded that the Preferred Strategy is in line with both regional and local environmental protection objectives.
- The Council has engaged with utility providers in the development of the Preferred Strategy in order to ensure that it is compatible with their development programmes and their ability to accommodate new development e.g. through the availability of capacity at Waste Water Treatment Works (WwTW). Further detailed collaboration with utility providers will take place during the preparation of the Deposit Plan.

Is it compatible with the plans of neighbouring authorities?

- The Preferred Strategy takes into account cross-border issues and the plans of neighbouring authorities and reflects the discussions and agreements reached relating to cross-border issues. In recognition of the value of working with neighbouring authorities, and in response to PPW11 and the development Plans Manual (Ed 3, March 2020) emphasis on collaborative working, the Council has worked on or are working on several pieces of evidence in partnership with adjoining authorities. These include: a Development Viability Model; Renewable Energy Assessment; Regional Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment; common methodology to be used for the determination of

Affordable Housing Transfer values; Green Belt and Green Wedge Review and a Strategic Transport Assessment utilising a regional transport model. Regional work on the population, housing and employment growth has also been commissioned. A Regional Gypsy and Traveller Transit Site Study will also be commissioned in due course.

- Long standing regional working methods associated with areas such as waste and minerals are continued and reflected in the Preferred Strategy.
- The nature of this collaborative approach will contribute to develop throughout the preparation of the RLDP and will build on existing work undertaken by SEWSPG and topic-based Pathfinder groups. Such work has already helped to establish common approaches to various elements of Plan preparation such as settlement appraisals, candidate site assessments and employment land monitoring.
- Moving forward, consideration will be given to the emphasis on regional working in light of provisions for Strategic Development Plans.

Does it reflect the Single Integrated Plan (SIP) Well-being Plan or the National Park Management Plan (NPMP)?

- Single Integrated Plans has been replaced by Well-being Plans. The Council's 2nd Well-being Plan has recently been prepared by the Council's Public Services Board (PSB). The Well-being Plan covers the period 2023 – 2038 and has been informed by the results of the Well-being assessment conducted in 2022. This assessment draws on a range of data, research and evidence alongside the findings of the 'Let's Talk' engagement survey and considers the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being across the Vale of Glamorgan. The Well-being Plan and the Well-being Assessment proved integral to the identification of the key issues to be addressed in the Vale of Glamorgan and the subsequent creation of the RLDP Vision and Objectives; Appendix 2 outlines the relationship between the Strategic Policies and the Well-being Plan Objectives. This approach is reflective of the identification by Welsh Government in PPW11 of local well-being plans as a key source of evidence for LDP preparation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As well as producing the Well-being Plan, the Public Services Board (PSB) have also been involved in the preparation of the Preferred Strategy via participation at various RLDP engagement workshops. Indeed, members of the PSB participated in workshops held on the following topics: Overview of RLDP process; Issues, Vision and Objectives; Growth and Spatial Options; Health Impact Assessment and Preferred Strategy and Strategic Policies. • The Preferred Strategy has also been informed by the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Corporate Plan, for 2020 – 2025. In particular, this document influenced the preparation of the RLDP Vision and Objectives. <p>Has the LPA demonstrated it has exhausted all opportunities for joint working and collaboration on both plan preparation and the evidence base?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As demonstrated above, a significant amount of the evidence base has been commissioned on a regional basis. On-going meetings and collaboration are pursued through the longstanding South East Wales Strategic Planning Group (SEWSPG), the Planning Officers Society Wales (POSW) and the South East Wales Planning Officers Society (SEWPOS). The Vale of Glamorgan and neighbouring Cardiff have similar timescales for the preparation of their RLDPs, consequently planning officers from both authorities have held regular meetings to discuss each authority's emerging plans particularly in respect of cross boundary matters such as housing, employment and transport. A background paper has been prepared which explains the relationship between the two adjoining authorities and how both plans are considered to complement rather than compete with each other. Similarly, the Council has been in discussions with Rhondda Cynon Taf and Bridgend Council and this collaboration will continue as the RLDP develops.
<p>Test 2: Is the plan appropriate? (i.e. is the plan appropriate for the area in the light of the evidence?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it locally specific? • Does it address the key issues? 	<p>Is it locally specific?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Preferred Strategy builds upon the objectives of the Vale's Well-being Plan, Corporate Plan and Project Zero – the Council's Climate Change Challenge Plan. Along with a series of non-statutory engagement workshops with local stakeholders, these locally specific Plans have informed the key issues for the RLDP and directly influenced the Vision and Objectives within the Preferred Strategy.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it supported by robust, proportionate and credible evidence? • Can the rationale behind plan policies be demonstrated? • Does it seek to meet assessed needs and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development? • Are the vision and the strategy positive and sufficiently aspirational? • Have the 'real' alternatives been properly considered? • Is it logical, reasonable and balanced? • Is it coherent and consistent? • Is it clear and focused? 	<p>The Preferred Strategy has been informed by a robust and locally specific evidence base including the Issues, Vision & Objectives Background Paper (2023); Spatial Options; Growth Options; Demographic Evidence (February 2023); Housing Land Supply; Employment Land Study (October 2022), Settlements Appraisal Review (December 2022); Retail and Commercial Leisure Study (June 2023); Renewable Energy Assessment (2023); Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment; Urban Capacity Study for Penarth and Barry (2023).</p> <p>The Preferred Strategy responds to the locally specific issues and objectives identified within corporate plans and challenges that have been identified following stakeholder engagement and proposes a level and distribution of growth that contributes towards meeting the key challenges and issues facing the Vale of Glamorgan.</p> <p>Does it address the key issues?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Preferred Strategy has been developed to address the key issues identified through the plan preparation process including the review of national, regional and local policy objectives, stakeholder engagement and background evidence preparation and LDP Review Reports. The growth and spatial options that form the basis of the Preferred Strategy are considered to best address the key issues affecting the Vale of Glamorgan, including; an ageing population, an acute need for affordable housing, access to services and facilities, protecting the environment, mitigating and adapting to climate change and promoting active and sustainable travel choices. • Each Strategic Policy also links to the RLDP's overarching Objectives, as explained by Appendix 1. • The locally specific key Issues are referenced throughout the Preferred Strategy and have formed the reasoning for the policy approach taken. <p>Is it supported by robust, proportionate, and credible evidence?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An extensive and robust evidence base has been compiled to support and inform the Preferred Strategy, which has been published alongside the Preferred Strategy. In addition to the completed background studies detailed, further studies are currently being planned and/or undertaken which will further inform the Deposit Plan. These include: Strategic Transport Assessment (Stages 1 & 2), SINC Review, Open Space Review, Green Wedge Review, Infrastructure Assessment and a Settlement
---	--

Boundary Review. Additional work will be undertaken during the Plan preparation process as appropriate and necessary.

Can the rationale behind plan policies be demonstrated?

- The RLDP evidence base has informed the preparation of the Strategic Policies, which should be read together to fully understand the policy direction of the Preferred Strategy. Each strategic policy has a reasoned justification which explains and justifies the approach set out in the policy. The strategic policies have been grouped by the four overarching themes of PPW11 and Appendices 1 – 4 below illustrate how each policy relates to the overarching objectives of the RLDP, the PSB Well-being Plan Objectives and Priority Workstreams, the Vale of Glamorgan Council’s Corporate Plan Objectives and the conformity of the strategic policies with Future Wales – The National Plan 2040.

Does it seek to meet assessed needs and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development?

- The RLDP evidence base assesses the Vale’s needs, especially with regard to housing (market and affordable), employment, and areas of land to be protected.
- Population and household modelling has been completed, resulting in a number of housing and economic growth options being considered. In addition to this, the Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) provides key evidence on the need for affordable housing within the Local Authority. The LHMA identifies a requirement for 1,205 new affordable dwellings to be delivered per annum over 5 years. It will not be possible for the planning system to meet this requirement entirely, but the Strategy and policies seek to maximise the delivery of affordable housing. The latest LHMA is 2021 based. Since its publication, Welsh Government have issued a new methodology for LHMA’s, which will form part of the evidence base prior to an RLDP being placed on Deposit. The planning department will continue to work with the housing department to ensure that the updated LHMA informs the policies of the Deposit RLDP.
- An Employment Land Review has also been undertaken to establish the employment land requirement for the Plan period, based on Welsh Government Guidance on building an Economic Development evidence base. The balance between catering to the need for homes and jobs, and the need to protect land for agricultural, conservation and recreational uses is a key focus of the RLDP

and is considered to have been addressed by the Preferred Strategy's Sustainable Transport Led approach to growth.

- The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment identifies a need for 11 additional pitches over the RLDP plan period (9 pitches to 2026, and a further 2 pitches by 2036) . Land will be identified to accommodate any unmet Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need in the Deposit Plan.
- Sustainable development is at the heart of the Preferred Strategy and its policies, with the 'Sustainable Growth' strategy seeking to ensure that new development is located in sustainable places that are well served by public transport and active travel and ensuring that the right development is in the right location. In addition to sustainable transport, the policy framework, vision and objectives address a number of other facets of sustainable development including climate change mitigation and adaptation, green infrastructure, biodiversity, placemaking and sustainable waste management.
- The Integrated Sustainability Appraisal process is integral to the Plan. It has and will continue to monitor the sustainability of the RLDP's performance throughout its preparation.
- The Settlement Hierarchy has been developed taking into account the sustainability credentials of each settlement. The hierarchy acknowledges the availability of services and facilities, overall accessibility, and employment opportunities. This work, as part of the Settlements Appraisal Background Paper (December 2022), has informed the spatial strategy, with development being directed to the most sustainable Key and Service Centre Settlements.

Are the vision and the strategy positive and sufficiently aspirational?

- The Vision for the RLDP reflects the aspirations of the Vale of Glamorgan's communities and residents up to 2036 and has been formulated in response to the key issues and challenges facing the Vale of Glamorgan. The Vision supported by the strategic objectives translate how through land use planning, future development will contribute towards addressing the issues within the Vale and support the opportunities and ambitions of the Vale of Glamorgan over the lifetime of the Plan. The Vision seeks to maximise the opportunities within the Vale in order to create high quality sustainable and connected places that support the needs of residents,
- The Preferred Strategy is considered to be positive and sufficiently aspirational approach to meeting the needs of the Vale and achieving sustainable growth which contributes to addressing national, regional and local issues and challenges. Furthermore, the level of growth identified by the Preferred

Strategy is considered to be positive albeit sufficiently ambitious and realistic to support the Vale's designation as part of the National Growth Area in Future Wales, whilst at the same time being complementary to and not competing with Cardiff, which is identified as the primary settlement within the region. The approach to future growth is also deemed capable of addressing a number of key national and local issues identified within the authority including the delivery of affordable housing.

Have the 'real' alternatives been properly considered?

- As part of the preparation of the RLDP Preferred Strategy, four realistic spatial strategy options were considered for the Vale of Glamorgan. These were:
 - **Option 1** – Continuation of the adopted LDP Growth Strategy
 - **Option 2** – Dispersed Growth
 - **Option 3** – Focused Growth
 - **Option 4** – Sustainable Transport Oriented Growth
- An analysis of these four alternatives is conducted within the RLDP Spatial Options Background Paper. In addition to the four options listed, two further options were initially considered however these were discounted prior to detailed assessment as they were not considered to be realistic, developable or accord with national policy, these were a brownfield land only strategy and a new settlement led strategy. The Spatial Options Background Paper provides greater details on the four options considered and the reasons why Option 4 has been endorsed by the Council as the basis for the emerging RLDP. The strategy has been refined as a 'Sustainable Growth Strategy' where as well as focusing on sustainable transport, development is targeted to places that reduce the need to travel by co-locating housing, employment and other services and facilities.
- In terms of growth, a total of 12 growth scenarios were considered. These included 4 population and demographic scenarios, 3 trend based mitigation scenarios, 2 dwelling led scenarios and 3 employment led scenarios as follows:
 - **High growth:** 550 to 700 dwellings per annum and 400 to 500 new jobs per annum, (PG-5Y and Dwelling-led 5Y scenarios).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium growth: 400 to 550 dwellings per annum and 240 to 350 new jobs per annum (WG-2018, Employment-led ELR (CR 1-1), Dwelling-led 10Y, WG-2018-HIGHPOP, and Employment-led ELR scenarios). • Low growth: 150 to 400 dwellings per annum, and a reduction of 125 jobs to an increase of 210 jobs per annum (WG-2014, Employment-led OE, WG-2018-LOWPOP, PG-10Y, PG-Long Term scenarios) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following assessment of the 12 scenarios, the Council considered that the projected housing, employment and demographic forecasting presented by the 10 Year Dwelling scenario would represent the appropriate growth option for the RLDP. Further detail is provided within the Growth Options Background Paper (2023). • All of the above options were also evaluated against the ISA themes through the ISA process; the outcomes of this assessment can be found in the Initial ISA of the Draft Preferred Strategy which is available to view on the Council's website. <p>Is it logical, reasonable and balanced?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Preferred Strategy has been informed by a clear understanding of the key themes and issues at a national, regional and local level. Its preparation has considered a range of growth and spatial options for the Vale of Glamorgan and has incorporated views expressed during a number of consultation and engagement exercises undertaken with various stakeholders and it has been informed by a robust and detailed evidence base. It is considered to be logical and reasonable within the context of the Vale of Glamorgan and the key issues the authority faces. Furthermore, the Preferred Strategy is considered to offer a balanced approach that is reflective of national planning policy and guidance and the need to produce a sustainable and deliverable RLDP whilst also integrating cohesively with other local, regional and national plans and strategies. <p>Is it coherent and consistent?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Preferred Strategy sets the strategic direction that the Council will take in managing development within the Vale of Glamorgan up to 2036. It has been informed by, and is consistent with, the RLDP Vision, Objectives, strategic growth and spatial options, the wider RLDP evidence base and the principles for sustainability and placemaking set out in national guidance.
--	---

	<p>Is it clear and focused?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Preferred Strategy has been set out in a clear and logical format that illustrates the links between the various elements of the strategy whilst incorporating all the elements prescribed by national planning policy and guidance. It provides a clear focus of its purpose, identifying the Vision and Issues associated with the Plan and how the Preferred Strategy will seek to address these.
<p>Test 3: Will the plan deliver (i.e. is it likely to be effective?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it be effective? Can it be implemented? Is there support from the relevant infrastructure providers both financially and in terms of meeting relevant timescales? Will development be viable? Can the sites allocated be delivered? Is the plan sufficiently flexible? Are there appropriate contingency provisions? Is it monitored effectively? 	<p>Will it be effective?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Preferred Strategy has been informed by a broad, robust evidence base and seeks to reflect the needs of the communities of the Vale of Glamorgan and the challenges the authority faces. The strategy aims to integrate and support the delivery of other plans and strategies as part of an integrated approach to delivery, maximising the effectiveness of the Strategy's implementation. Provision has been made for approximately 8,679 homes (7,890 plus 10% flexibility), including a minimum of 2,000 affordable homes, throughout the duration of the Plan period. This level of growth should be effective in providing the opportunity for market and affordable housing provision to help address both the demand for affordable housing and unbalanced demography across the authority. However, if the housing requirement target of 7,890 is to be met, the new Plan will need to include new allocations for 2,600 new homes, reflecting the number of units already awarded planning permission or that will be delivered by other housing supply streams, such as windfall sites. These new allocations also offer the Council the chance to explore opportunities for strategic growth and to address other key issues such Climate Change and the need to encourage active travel. This Strategy also sets out the policy framework for facilitating the growth of the resident workforce in the Vale of Glamorgan to support more than 5,388 jobs across the new Plan period, reduce out-commuting and enhance the authority's economy. Also, it has been adjusted to reflect household membership rates for key younger age groups and the reduced level of commuting expected if more of the resident workforce is to be successfully retained. This level of job growth has been informed by a variety of different scenarios and influenced by a wide range of factors. However, it is considered to effectively align with the projected population and housing growth. <p>Can it be implemented?</p>

- The Preferred Strategy has been prepared with the clear intention that it will be implemented and that its policies and proposals will be delivered within the Plan period 2021-2036. The Preferred Strategy puts forward a realistic and deliverable spatial framework and strategic growth which is based on sustainability principles and responds to the needs of the Vale of Glamorgan. The policies and proposals (both strategic and eventually specific within the deposit Plan) will provide the framework through which the Plan's objectives will be implemented and the decision-making process undertaken. More detailed assessment work, covering issues such as viability, phasing and deliverability of sites will be undertaken to support the preparation of the deposit Plan.
- As part of the preparation of the Deposit LDP an effective and appropriate monitoring framework will be developed and included within the Plan. This will form the basis for undertaking the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR will represent the main method for measuring and assessing the progress in the implementation of the policies and proposals of the adopted Replacement LDP and will include appropriate indicators and triggers against which the success of the RLDP will be assessed.
- **Is there support from the relevant infrastructure providers both financially and in terms of meeting relevant timescales?** Infrastructure providers are an important component in developing the RLDP and are key stakeholders in developing the new Plan. In this respect they have and will continue to be engaged throughout the RLDP preparation process. Discussions are ongoing with relevant infrastructure and utility providers including Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, Transport for Wales and Western Power to ensure that plan development is fully evidenced and supported and to ensure that it is compatible with their development programmes and their ability to accommodate new development.
- The cost of site-specific infrastructure such as highways improvements and education provision will be identified as part of the ongoing viability work.

Will development be viable?

- The need for development to be viable is an important aspect in the preparation of the Plan. Work is currently being developed at a regional level to establish a robust and consistent methodology for assessing viability across local authorities in the southeast Wales region. This work will sit alongside the site-specific viability assessments that have utilised the Development Viability Model developed by

Burrows-Hutchinson Ltd on behalf of SEWSPG and which have been undertaken for each site included in the Preferred Strategy. Further site-specific allocations will be identified as a part of the Deposit Plan and these sites will be subject an appropriate level of viability testing.

Can the sites allocated be delivered?

- The need to demonstrate that allocated sites can be delivered is an important aspect in plan preparation. The Preferred Strategy identifies a Strategic Growth Area and allocates 5 Key Sites (Strategic Policy SP4 Key Housing-Led Sites refers). To inform the inclusion of these sites within the strategy, the sites have been supported by robust technical and viability evidence at an appropriate level including outline Masterplans, which will be further developed as the Plan progresses. Further site-specific allocations will be identified as a part of the Deposit Plan with their deliverability evidenced accordingly.

Is the plan sufficiently flexible? Are there appropriate contingency provisions?

- The Preferred Strategy provides a flexible policy framework which gives certainty on the level of growth planned and its general distribution throughout the Vale but is flexible enough to consider opportunities which may arise during the Plan period, such as windfall developments. The dwelling requirement figure includes a flexibility allowance to ensure that the Plan remains effective in the event of any unforeseen circumstances which might arise through the Plan period for example, the non-delivery of sites or delays.

Is it monitored effectively?

- An appropriate monitoring framework will be developed and included within the Deposit Plan which will form the basis for the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR is the primary mechanism for measuring and assessing the progress in the implementation of the policies and proposals of the adopted RLDP and for establishing whether any changes or revisions to the Plan are required. The monitoring framework will include appropriate indicators and triggers against which the implementation of the Plan will be assessed. In the meantime various annual monitoring exercises will continue to be undertaken to ensure that evidence is up-to-date. This includes annual housing surveys, retail surveys and preparation of the Adopted LDP AMRs. Production of the AMR will be in accordance with the Regulations and the AMR will be submitted to the Welsh Government by the 31st October each calendar year.

3. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Comparison of RLDP Strategic Policies against the RLDP Objectives

RLDP Strategic Policies	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
SP1: Growth Strategy										
SP2: Settlement Hierarchy										
SP3: Housing Requirement										
SP4: Key Housing Led Sites										
SP5: Placemaking										
SP6: Creating Healthy and Inclusive										

RLDP Strategic Policies	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
Places and Spaces										
SP7: Sustainable Transport										
SP8: Affordable and Specialist Housing										
SP9: Gypsy and Travellers										
SP10: Retail, Commercial and Service Centres										
SP11: Retail Floorspace										
SP12: Community Infrastructure and Planning Obligations										

RLDP Strategic Policies	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
SP13: Employment Growth										
SP14: Sustainable Tourism										
SP15: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation										
SP16: Sustainable Waste Management										
SP17: Sustainable Provision of Minerals										
SP18: Green Infrastructure										
SP19: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience										

Appendix 2: Comparison of RLDP Strategic Policies against the PSB Well-being Plan Objectives and Priority Workstreams

RLDP Strategic Policies	PSB Well-being Plan Objectives			PSB Well-being Plan Priority Workstreams		
	A more resilient and greener Vale	A more active and healthier Vale	A more equitable and connected Vale	Responding to the climate and nature emergencies	Working with the people who live in our communities that experience the highest levels of	Becoming an Age Friendly Vale
SP1: Growth Strategy						
SP2: Settlement Hierarchy						
SP3: Housing Requirement						
SP4: Key Housing Led Sites						
SP5: Placemaking						
SP6: Creating Healthy and Inclusive Places and Spaces						
SP7: Sustainable Transport						
SP8: Affordable and Specialist Housing						

SP9: Gypsy and Travellers						
SP10: Retail, Commercial and Service Centres						
SP11: Retail Floorspace						
SP12: Community Infrastructure and Planning Obligations						
SP13: Employment Growth						
SP14: Sustainable Tourism						
SP15: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation						
SP16: Sustainable Waste Management						
SP17: Sustainable Provision of Minerals						
SP18: Green Infrastructure						
SP19: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience						

Appendix 3: Comparison of RLDP Strategic Policies against the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Corporate Plan Objectives

RLDP Strategic Policies	VoG Council Corporate Plan Objectives			
	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
SP1: Growth Strategy				
SP2: Settlement Hierarchy				
SP3: Housing Requirement				
SP4: Key Housing Led Sites				
SP5: Placemaking				
SP6: Creating Healthy and Inclusive Places and Spaces				
SP7: Sustainable Transport				
SP8: Affordable and Specialist Housing				
SP9: Gypsy and Travellers				
SP10: Retail, Commercial and Service Centres				
SP11: Retail Floorspace				
SP12: Community Infrastructure and Planning Obligations				

SP13: Employment Growth				
SP14: Sustainable Tourism				
SP15: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation				
SP16: Sustainable Waste Management				
SP17: Sustainable Provision of Minerals				
SP18: Green Infrastructure				
SP19: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience				

Appendix 4: Comparison of RLDP Strategic Policies against the RLDP Objectives and general conformity with Future Wales - The National Plan 2040

Future Wales – the National Plan 2040 is our national development framework, setting the direction for development in Wales to 2040. It is a development plan with a strategy for addressing key national priorities through the planning system, including sustaining and developing a vibrant economy, achieving decarbonisation and climate resilience, developing strong ecosystems and improving the health and well-being of our communities. It is the highest tier of development plan in Wales and is focused on solutions to issues and challenges at a national scale. Future Wales sets out where nationally important growth and infrastructure is needed and how the planning system at a national, regional and local level can deliver it. It provides direction for SDPs and LDPs and supports the determination of Developments of National Significance.

General conformity with Future Wales is stipulated in primary legislation. Planning Policy Wales 11 (February 2021) and the Development Plans Manual Edition 3 (March 2020) provide guidance on how to assess such conformity. Indeed, the Development Plans Manual notes that “the fact that a development plan may be inconsistent with one or more policies in the upper tier plan, either directly or through the omission of a policy/proposal, does not, by itself, mean that the plan is not in general conformity. Rather, the fundamental point is how significant the inconsistency is from the point of view of delivery of the upper tier plan” (Paragraph 2.18). Furthermore, it states in “whilst it would be acceptable for the lower tier plan to provide further detail in relation to making it more locally distinctive, it fundamentally must not undermine the overarching strategy, policies or proposals in the upper tier plan(s)” (Paragraph 2.19).

General conformity with Future Wales is also a test of soundness and is tested through the examination process. This Appendix demonstrates that the Preferred Strategy supports the delivery of Future Wales and is in general conformity with its overarching strategy. The following section assesses whether the RLDP Objectives and Strategic Policies generally conform with Future Wales Policies using the colour coding system below:

RLDP Preferred Strategy is considered to be in general conformity with the Future Wales Policy.
RLDP Preferred Strategy is considered to make a neutral contribution to the Future Wales Policy.
RLDP Preferred Strategy is not considered to be in general conformity with the Future Wales Policy.

Future Wales Policy	General Conformity with FW Strategy	Relevant RLDP Objectives and Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies
<p>Policy 1 – Where Wales will grow. The Welsh Government supports sustainable growth in all parts of Wales. In three National Growth Areas there will be growth in employment and housing opportunities and investment in infrastructure. The National Growth Areas are:</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 Areas which will grow, develop and offer a variety of public and commercial services at regional scale. There are Regional Growth Areas in three regions:</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>As highlighted in the Future Wales South East Wales Regional Strategic Diagram, the Vale of Glamorgan has been identified as a national growth area. Therefore, this Preferred Strategy proposes a level of growth which should be sufficiently ambitious to accord with the aspirations for the Vale of Glamorgan within the national growth area, whilst also being complementary to and not competing with Cardiff, which has been identified as the primary settlement with the region.</p> <p>The Preferred Growth Option reflects what has been delivered in recent years and is considered to be realistic, deliverable and suitably ambitious. Furthermore, whilst it is deemed sufficiently ambitious to reflect the Vale’s position in the Future Wales national growth area, it is also considered capable of addressing the acute need for affordable housing and achievable within the constraints of the natural and built environment.</p> <p>This Preferred Strategy also details the Preferred Spatial Option and Strategic Growth Area for the RLDP, which delineates where the key elements of the Strategy will be achieved. The Strategic Growth Area encompasses</p>	<p>RLDP Objectives Objective 3 - Homes for All Objective 8 - Promoting Active and Sustainable Travel Choices Objective 9 - Building a Prosperous and Green Economy</p> <p>Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies SP1: Preferred Growth Strategy SP2: Settlement Hierarchy SP3: Housing Requirement SP4: Key Sites SP13: Employment Growth</p>

Future Wales Policy	General Conformity with FW Strategy	Relevant RLDP Objectives and Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies
	the locations where sustainable growth can be achieved The Preferred Strategy allows for small scale affordable housing led development in settlements outside the Strategic Growth Area at a scale proportionate to the size of settlement.	
<p>Policy 2 – 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.</p> <p>Urban growth and regeneration should be based on the 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 small plots, including for custom and self-builders; and 	The Preferred Strategy aims to deliver sustainable places at its core. The Strategic Policy Framework seeks to deliver placemaking and ensuring that the Vale’s communities are attractive places to live, work and visit in the long term. The Preferred Strategy is considered to reflect the objectives of Future Wales.	<p>RLDP Objectives</p> <p>Objective 1 - Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change</p> <p>Objective 2 - Improving Mental and Physical Health and Well-being</p> <p>Objective 3 - Homes for All</p> <p>Objective 4 – Placemaking</p> <p>Objective 5 - Enhancing the Natural Environment</p> <p>Objective 6 - Embracing Culture and Heritage</p> <p>Objective 7 - Fostering Diverse, Vibrant, and Connected Communities</p> <p>Objective 8 - Promoting Active and Sustainable Travel Choices</p> <p>Objective 9 - Building a Prosperous and Green Economy</p> <p>Objective 10 – Promoting Sustainable Tourism</p> <p>Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies</p> <p>SP2: Settlement Hierarchy</p> <p>SP5: Placemaking</p> <p>SP6: Promoting Health and Well-being</p> <p>SP7: Active and Sustainable Travel</p>

Future Wales Policy	General Conformity with FW Strategy	Relevant RLDP Objectives and Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies
<p>• integrating green infrastructure, informed by the planning authority's Green Infrastructure Assessment.</p> <p>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>		<p>SP12: Community Infrastructure and Planning Obligations</p> <p>SP18: Green Infrastructure</p>
<p>Policy 3 – 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.</p> <p>The public sector must show leadership and apply placemaking principles to support growth and regeneration for the benefit of communities across Wales.</p> <p>The public sector's use of land, developments, investments and actions must build sustainable places that improve health and well-being. 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>The Preferred Strategy seeks to deliver a sustainable level of growth supported by appropriate infrastructure across the plan period. A policy framework to support delivery of this ambition has also been established to ensure that such growth can be achieved whilst also addressing the key issues and challenges facing the Vale of Glamorgan. Furthermore, Objective 4 and Policy SP5 demonstrates the Council's explicit commitment to applying placemaking principles to growth and regeneration across the authority. Meanwhile, Objective 2 and Policy SP6 highlight the consideration given by this Preferred Strategy to the need for the RLDP to prioritise growth and regeneration that positively impacts public health and well-being. However, to achieve the other RLDP Objectives and enhance compliance with Policy 3, candidate sites allocated in the new Plan</p>	<p>RLDP Objectives</p> <p>Objective 1 - Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change</p> <p>Objective 2 - Improving Mental and Physical Health and Well-being</p> <p>Objective 3 - Homes for All</p> <p>Objective 4 – Placemaking</p> <p>Objective 5 - Enhancing the Natural Environment</p> <p>Objective 6 - Embracing Culture and Heritage</p> <p>Objective 7 - Fostering Diverse, Vibrant, and Connected Communities</p> <p>Objective 8 - Promoting Active and Sustainable Travel Choices</p> <p>Objective 9 - Building a Prosperous and Green Economy</p> <p>Objective 10 – Promoting Sustainable Tourism</p> <p>Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies</p> <p>SP1: Preferred Growth Strategy</p> <p>SP3: Housing Requirement</p>

Future Wales Policy	General Conformity with FW Strategy	Relevant RLDP Objectives and Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies
	<p>are required to demonstrate their viability and deliverability, with regard to the requirements for affordable housing provision and the need to deliver associated infrastructure.</p> <p>The Preferred Strategy identifies key and rolled forward residential led sites. Both land within the ownership of the Council and land within Welsh Government ownership has been identified for housing, together with land for employment use within the Enterprise Zone.</p>	<p>SP4: Key Sites SP5: Placemaking SP6: Promoting Health and Well-being SP8: Affordable and Specialist Housing SP13: Employment Growth</p>
<p>Policy 4 – Supporting Rural Communities The Welsh Government supports sustainable and vibrant rural communities. Strategic and Local Development Plans must identify their rural communities, assess their needs and set out policies that support them. Policies should consider how age balanced communities can be achieved, where depopulation should be reversed and consider the role of new affordable and market housing, employment opportunities, local services and greater mobility in tackling these challenges.</p>	<p>A number of the issues and challenges that the RLDP Objectives and Preferred Strategy Policies are seeking to address relate to the issues identified in Policy 4 of Future Wales. Furthermore, in an attempt to build sustainable and resilient communities across the authority, the Preferred Strategy proposes a level and distribution of growth that aims to address the Vale of Glamorgan’s affordable housing challenges, improve labour force retention, and reduce out-commuting rates.</p>	<p>RLDP Objectives Objective 7 - Fostering Diverse, Vibrant, and Connected Communities</p> <p>Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies SP1: Preferred Growth Strategy SP2: Settlement Hierarchy SP3: Housing Requirement SP5: Placemaking SP6: Promoting Health and Well-being SP7: Active and Sustainable Travel SP8: Affordable and Specialist Housing SP12: Community Infrastructure and Planning Obligations</p>
<p>Policy 5 – Supporting the rural economy. The Welsh Government supports sustainable, appropriate and proportionate economic growth in rural towns that is planned and managed through Strategic and Local Development Plans.</p>	<p>A key ambition for the RLDP is to support sustainable economic growth across the authority that can benefit all communities. However, as is identified in Policy 5 of Future Wales, there is a</p>	<p>RLDP Objectives Objective 7 - Fostering Diverse, Vibrant, and Connected Communities Objective 9 - Building a Prosperous and Green Economy</p>

Future Wales Policy	General Conformity with FW Strategy	Relevant RLDP Objectives and Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies
<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. 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>need to ensure that the authority's rural economy is also supported. That being said, the Preferred Strategy offers a policy framework capable of supporting the diversification of the rural economy, enabling opportunities to provide employment and business premises within rural settlements and facilitating the growth in rural enterprises. Also, the contribution of tourism to the Vale's economic well-being is also acknowledged and the Preferred Strategy intends to facilitate its growth in a sustainable way.</p>	<p>Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies SP1: Preferred Growth Strategy SP2: Settlement Hierarchy SP13: Employment Growth SP14: Sustainable Tourism</p>
<p>Policy 6 – Town Centre First Significant new commercial, retail, education, health, leisure and public service facilities must be located within town and city centres. They should have good access by public transport to and from the whole town or city and, where appropriate, the wider region. A sequential approach must be used to inform the identification of the best location for these developments and they should be identified in Strategic and Local Development Plans.</p>	<p>The Preferred Strategy sets out the Vale's retail hierarchy in line with PPW11, intending to maintain and enhance the Vale's retail, commercial and service centres as vibrant places. The hierarchy assists the implementation of the sequential approach and Town Centre First principle by directing retail and commercial development to the appropriate position in the hierarchy.</p>	<p>RLDP Objectives Objective 4 – Placemaking Objective 6 - Embracing Culture and Heritage Objective 7 - Fostering Diverse, Vibrant, and Connected Communities Objective 9 - Building a Prosperous and Green Economy Objective 10 – Promoting Sustainable Tourism</p> <p>Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies SP1: Preferred Growth Strategy SP2: Settlement Hierarchy SP5: Placemaking SP7: Active and Sustainable Travel</p>

Future Wales Policy	General Conformity with FW Strategy	Relevant RLDP Objectives and Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies
		SP10: Retail, Commercial and Service Centres SP11: Retail Floorspace SP12: Community Infrastructure and Planning Obligations
<p>Policy 7 – Delivering Affordable Homes The Welsh Government will increase delivery of affordable homes by ensuring that funding for these homes is effectively allocated and utilised. Through their Strategic and Local Development Plans planning authorities should develop strong evidence-based policy frameworks to deliver affordable housing, including setting development plan targets based on regional estimates of housing need and local assessments. In response to local and regional needs, planning authorities should identify sites for affordable housing led developments and explore all opportunities to increase the supply of affordable housing.</p>	<p>The Preferred Strategy establishes a policy framework that seeks to achieve an affordable housing target of 2,000 affordable homes across the plan period, through establishing affordable housing percentage thresholds for allocated sites for inclusion in the Deposit Plan. Additional opportunities to increase the supply of affordable housing will be explored in the Deposit Plan.</p>	<p>RLDP Objectives Objective 3 - Homes for All Objective 7 - Fostering Diverse, Vibrant, and Connected Communities</p> <p>Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies SP1: Preferred Growth Strategy SP2: Settlement Hierarchy SP3: Housing Requirement SP4: Key Sites SP9: Gypsy and Travellers</p>
<p>Policy 8 – Flooding Flood risk management that enables and supports sustainable strategic growth and regeneration in National and Regional Growth Areas will be supported. The Welsh Government will work with Flood Risk Management Authorities and developers to plan and invest in new and improved infrastructure, promoting nature-based solutions as a priority. Opportunities for multiple social, economic and environmental benefits must be maximised when investing in flood risk management infrastructure. It must be ensured that projects do not have adverse impacts on international and national statutory designated</p>	<p>The Preferred Strategy seeks to ensure new development considers current and future flood risk and the need to incorporate appropriate measures to mitigate this risk across the authority. Indeed, the preferred Growth Option that formulates a key part of this strategy seeks to avoid the location of new development in areas that are particularly vulnerable to flooding or that may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. Also, Policy SP18 acknowledges the capacity of Green Infrastructure to aid the sustainable</p>	<p>RLDP Objectives Objective 1 - Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change Objective 5 - Enhancing the Natural Environment</p> <p>Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies SP1: Preferred Growth Strategy SP4: Key Sites SP5: Placemaking SP15: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation SP18: Green Infrastructure</p>

Future Wales Policy	General Conformity with FW Strategy	Relevant RLDP Objectives and Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies
sites for nature conservation and the features for which they have been designated.	<p>mitigation of flood risk throughout the Vale of Glamorgan.</p> <p>Furthermore, in co-operation with other local authorities in the South-East Wales region, we have commissioned a Regional Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment (SFCA) to inform the RLDP. This assessment will assist with the identification of areas that can be deemed suitable for development.</p>	SP19: Biodiversity
<p>Policy 9 – 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, restoration or creation, to protect species, or which provide key ecosystems services, to ensure they are not unduly compromised by future development; and • identify opportunities where existing and potential green infrastructure could be maximised as part of placemaking, requiring the use of nature-based solutions as a key mechanism for securing sustainable growth, ecological connectivity, social equality and well-being. <p>Planning authorities should include these areas and/or opportunities in their development plan strategies and policies in order to promote and</p>	<p>As outlined in the Preferred Strategy, the RLDP seeks to protect and enhance the Vale of Glamorgan’s wealth of Green Infrastructure assets as well as its diverse natural landscapes and biodiversity. Policy SP19 seeks to protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and has been prepared in light of emerging changes to the biodiversity chapter of PPW.</p> <p>The strategy also recognises the capacity for Green Infrastructure and the authority’s ecological networks to help mitigate and adapt to climate change, promote active travel, improve health and well-being and aid place-making.</p> <p>The Council is in the process of preparing a Green Infrastructure Plan, which will offer an overarching</p>	<p>RLDP Objectives</p> <p>Objective 1 - Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change</p> <p>Objective 4 – Placemaking</p> <p>Objective 5 - Enhancing the Natural Environment</p> <p>Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies</p> <p>SP18: Green Infrastructure</p> <p>SP19: Biodiversity</p>

Future Wales Policy	General Conformity with FW Strategy	Relevant RLDP Objectives and Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies
safeguard the functions and opportunities they provide. In all cases, action towards securing the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity (to provide a net benefit), the resilience of ecosystems and green infrastructure assets must be demonstrated as part of development proposals through innovative, nature-based approaches to site planning and the design of the built environment.	framework for the protection, management and enhancement of Green Infrastructure in the Vale of Glamorgan.	
<p>Policy 10 – International Connectivity 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. Strategic and Local Development Plans should support the Strategic Gateways by maximising the benefits they provide to their respective regions and Wales. New development around the Strategic Gateways should be carefully managed to ensure their operation is not constrained or compromised.</p>	<p>Supporting the role of Cardiff Airport as a Strategic Gateway for international connectivity forms one of the six key elements of the Sustainable Growth Strategy.</p> <p>The Preferred Strategy supports the growth of high-quality employment opportunities and further development opportunities at the Cardiff Airport Enterprise Zone.</p>	<p>RLDP Objectives Objective 7 - Fostering Diverse, Vibrant, and Connected Communities Objective 8 - Promoting Active and Sustainable Travel Choices Objective 9 - Building a Prosperous and Green Economy</p> <p>Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies SP1: Preferred Growth Strategy SP4: Key Sites SP7: Active and Sustainable Travel SP13: Employment Growth SP14: Sustainable Tourism</p>
<p>Policy 11 – National Connectivity The Welsh Government will support and invest in improving national connectivity. Our priorities are to encourage longer-distance trips to be made by public transport, while also making longer</p>	The Preferred Strategy seeks to promote sustainable and active travel forms of transport and reducing the need to travel. The RLDP’s spatial strategy is to focus growth in the	<p>RLDP Objectives Objective 7 - Fostering Diverse, Vibrant, and Connected Communities Objective 8 - Promoting Active and Sustainable Travel Choices</p>

Future Wales Policy	General Conformity with FW Strategy	Relevant RLDP Objectives and Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies
<p>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> <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. Create a network of rapid-charging points to enable longer distance travel by electric vehicles throughout Wales. • National Cycle Network – Revitalise the National Cycle Network to create a network of traffic-free paths connecting cities, towns and countryside across Wales. <p>Planning authorities should support developments associated with improvements to national connectivity and, where appropriate, maximise the opportunities that arise from them. Planning authorities must ensure that, where appropriate, new development contributes towards the improvement and development of the National Cycle Network and key links to and from it.</p>	<p>locations which provide the best opportunities for achieving sustainable development through offering a choice of and contributing towards the development of a sustainable transport network and providing opportunities to enhance Active Travel Networks. The Vale of Glamorgan railway line provides connectivity across the South Wales region and further public transport nodes for national connectivity.</p>	<p>Objective 9 - Building a Prosperous and Green Economy</p> <p>Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies SP7: Active and Sustainable Travel</p>
<p>Policy 12 – Regional Connectivity The Welsh Government will support and invest in improving regional connectivity. In urban areas, to</p>	<p>The Preferred Strategy seeks to promote sustainable and active travel forms of transport and reducing the</p>	<p>RLDP Objectives Objective 7 - Fostering Diverse, Vibrant, and Connected Communities</p>

Future Wales Policy	General Conformity with FW Strategy	Relevant RLDP Objectives and Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies
<p>support sustainable growth and regeneration, our priorities are improving and integrating active travel and public transport. In rural areas our priorities are supporting the uptake of ultra-low emission vehicles and diversifying and sustaining local bus services. The Welsh Government will work with Transport for Wales, local authorities, operators and partners to deliver the following measures to improve regional connectivity:</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. • Bus – Improve the legislative framework for how local bus services are planned and delivered. We will invest in the development of integrated regional and local bus networks to increase modal share of bus travel and improve access by bus to a wider range of trip destinations. • Metros – Develop the South East Metro, South West Metro and North Wales Metro. We will create new integrated transport systems that provide faster, more frequent and joined-up services using trains, buses and light rail. • Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles – Support the roll-out of suitable fuelling infrastructure to facilitate the adoption of ultra-low emission vehicles, particularly in rural areas. <p>Planning authorities must plan the growth and regeneration of the National and Regional Growth Areas to maximise opportunities arising from the</p>	<p>need to travel. The RLDP’s spatial strategy is to focus growth in the locations which provide the best opportunities for achieving sustainable development through offering a choice of and contributing towards the development of a sustainable transport network and providing opportunities to enhance Active Travel Networks. The Vale of Glamorgan railway line provides connectivity across the South Wales region.</p> <p>The RLDP is supporting ongoing work within the region with regards to public transport network enhancements.</p>	<p>Objective 8 - Promoting Active and Sustainable Travel Choices Objective 9 - Building a Prosperous and Green Economy</p> <p>Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies SP1: Preferred Growth Strategy SP2: Settlement Hierarchy SP3: Housing Requirement SP4: Key Sites SP5: Placemaking SP6: Promoting Health and Well-being SP7: Active and Sustainable Travel</p>

Future Wales Policy	General Conformity with FW Strategy	Relevant RLDP Objectives and Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies
<p>investment in public transport, including identifying opportunities for higher density, mixed-use and car-free development around metro stations. Active travel must be an essential and integral component of all new developments, large and small. Planning authorities must integrate site allocations, new development and infrastructure with active travel networks and, where appropriate, ensure new development contributes towards their expansion and improvement. Planning authorities must act to reduce levels of car parking in urban areas, including supporting car-free developments in accessible locations and developments with car parking spaces that allow them to be converted to other uses over time. Where car parking is provided for new non-residential development, planning authorities should seek a minimum of 10% of car parking spaces to have electric vehicle charging points.</p>		
<p>Policy 13 – Supporting Digital Communications The Welsh Government supports the provision of digital communications infrastructure and services across Wales. Planning authorities must engage with digital infrastructure providers to identify the future needs of their area and set out policies in Strategic and Local Development Plans to help deliver this. New developments should include the provision of Gigabit capable broadband infrastructure from the outset.</p>	<p>The importance of digital connectivity is referenced in the key characteristics section, and within the Vision. Policy SP12 makes specific reference to digital infrastructure within the Community Infrastructure and Planning Obligations policy.</p>	<p>RLDP Objectives Objective 7 - Fostering Diverse, Vibrant, and Connected Communities</p>

Future Wales Policy	General Conformity with FW Strategy	Relevant RLDP Objectives and Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies
<p>Policy 14 – Planning in Mobile Action Zones The Welsh Government supports increased mobile phone coverage and the associated economic and social benefits it brings. The Welsh Government will identify Mobile Action Zones, showing locations where there is little or no mobile telecommunications coverage. The Welsh Government, planning authorities and mobile telecommunications operators must work together to achieve increases in mobile coverage within Mobile Action Zones.</p>	<p>Future Wales does not identify the Mobile Action Zones, although it is identified that the Welsh Government is working to establish the location of the zones and will engage with key stakeholders to finalise their exact whereabouts. Most Mobile Action Zones will be in areas where there is no mobile 4G coverage from any mobile network provider but where there is 'latent' demand such as homes, businesses, roads, rail, community and tourism sites. At this stage the RLDP is considered to have a neutral impact on achieving the policy aims, but this will be reviewed once the Mobile Action Zones are published.</p>	
<p>Policy 15 – National Forest The Welsh Government is committed to developing a national forest through the identification of appropriate sites and mechanisms. Action to safeguard proposed locations for the national forest will be supported.</p>	<p>WG have identified 14 National Forest Sites that are managed and maintained by Natural Resources Wales. Whilst none of these sites are within the Vale of Glamorgan authority boundary, the Vale has developed a 'tiny forest' at Pencoedre, Barry, which forms part of the wider designation. Policies SP18 and SP19 of the Preferred Strategy seek to protect and enhance Green Infrastructure assets and Biodiversity across the authority which is consistent with the aims of Future Wales Policy 15.</p>	<p>RLDP Objectives Objective 1 - Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change Objective 5 - Enhancing the Natural Environment</p> <p>Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies SP18: Green Infrastructure SP19: Biodiversity</p>
<p>Policy 16 – Heat Networks</p>	<p>Future Wales identifies Barry as a district heat network priority area. The</p>	<p>RLDP Objectives</p>

Future Wales Policy	General Conformity with FW Strategy	Relevant RLDP Objectives and Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies
<p>Within Priority Areas for District Heat Networks planning authorities should identify opportunities for District Heat Networks and plan positively for their implementation. Large scale mixed-use development should, where feasible, have a heat network with a renewable / low carbon or waste heat energy source. Planning applications for such development should prepare an Energy Masterplan to establish whether a heat network is the most effective energy supply option and, for feasible projects, a plan for its implementation.</p>	<p>Preferred Strategy provides the framework for renewable energy development and district heat networks within the Vale across the RLDP Plan period. A Local Area Energy Plan is being prepared alongside the RLDP, which includes a Feasibility Study on the potential for a District Heat Network in Barry.</p>	<p>Objective 1 - Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change Objective 4 – Placemaking Objective 9 - Building a Prosperous and Green Economy</p> <p>Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies SP5: Placemaking SP15: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</p>
<p>Policy 17 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy and Associated Infrastructure The Welsh Government strongly supports the principle of developing renewable and low carbon energy from all technologies and at all scales to meet our future energy needs. In determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon energy development, decision-makers must give significant weight to the need to meet Wales’ international commitments and our target to generate 70% of consumed electricity by renewable means by 2030 in order to combat the climate emergency. In Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy the Welsh Government has already modelled the likely impact on the landscape and has found them to be capable of accommodating development in an acceptable way. There is a presumption in favour of large-scale wind energy development (including repowering) in these areas, subject to the criteria in policy 18. Applications for large-scale wind and solar will not be permitted in National Parks and Areas of</p>	<p>As evidenced by the Regional Strategic Diagram in Future Wales, there are no Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy within the Vale of Glamorgan boundary. However, this Preferred Strategy outlines the Council’s policy framework for developing the utilisation of renewable energy across the authority throughout the plan period. In particular, Policy SP15 seeks to maximise the opportunities for renewable energy development. Furthermore, in line with Policy 17, a renewable energy assessment has been completed, using the Welsh Government Toolkit, to identify how the Vale of Glamorgan can contribute to ensuring that by 2030, 70% of Wales’ electricity is generated from renewable sources. The renewable energy assessment also identified specific areas of search in the Vale of</p>	<p>RLDP Objectives Objective 1 - Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change Objective 9 - Building a Prosperous and Green Economy</p> <p>Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies SP5: Placemaking SP15: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</p>

Future Wales Policy	General Conformity with FW Strategy	Relevant RLDP Objectives and Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies
<p>Outstanding Natural Beauty and all proposals should demonstrate that they will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the environment. Proposals should describe the net benefits the scheme will bring in terms of social, economic, environmental and cultural improvements to local communities. New strategic grid infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of energy should be designed to minimise visual impact on nearby communities. The Welsh Government will work with stakeholders, including National Grid and Distribution Network Operators, to transition to a multi-vector grid network and reduce the barriers to the implementation of new grid infrastructure.</p>	<p>Glamorgan, where renewable energy development is least constrained and determined achievable targets for renewable energy production have been determined. Further detail regarding these targets and how the RLDP can help achieve them will be explored in the Deposit Plan.</p>	
<p>Policy 18 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments of National Significance Proposals for renewable and low carbon energy projects (including repowering) qualifying as Developments of National Significance will be permitted subject to policy 17 and the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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); 2. there are no unacceptable adverse visual impacts on nearby communities and individual dwellings; 3. there are no adverse effects on the integrity of Internationally designated sites (including National Site Network sites and Ramsar sites) and the 	<p>Proposals for renewable and low carbon energy developments of national significance will be assessed in line with the criteria outlined within Policy 18 of Future Wales. Therefore, as there is already a framework for assessing such proposals prescribed by the Welsh Government, this Preferred Strategy is deemed as having a neutral impact on the delivery of Policy 18.</p> <p>However, it is important to note that to inform the RLDP, a Renewable Energy Assessment has been conducted. This assessment identifies the most appropriate areas for renewable and low carbon energy development, (including those of national</p>	<p>RLDP Objectives Objective 1 - Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change Objective 9 - Building a Prosperous and Green Economy</p> <p>Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies SP4: Key Sites SP5: Placemaking SP15: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</p>

Future Wales Policy	General Conformity with FW Strategy	Relevant RLDP Objectives and Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies
<p>features for which they have been designated (unless there are no alternative solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) and appropriate compensatory measures have been secured);</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>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, including the removal of infrastructure and effective restoration. The</p>	<p>significance), towards which such development should be targeted. The outcomes of this assessment, along with the emerging Local Area Energy Plan, will also heavily inform the Renewable Energy Background Paper prepared to support the Deposit Plan.</p>	

Future Wales Policy	General Conformity with FW Strategy	Relevant RLDP Objectives and Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies
cumulative impacts of existing and consented renewable energy schemes should also be considered.		
<p>Policy 19 – Strategic Policies for Regional Planning Strategic Development Plans should embed placemaking as an overarching principle and should establish for the region (and where required constituent Local Development Plans):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a spatial strategy; 2. a settlement hierarchy; 3. the housing provision and requirement; 4. the gypsy and traveller need; 5. the employment provision; 6. the spatial areas for strategic housing, employment growth and renewable energy; 7. the identification of green belts, green corridors and nationally important landscapes where required; 8. the location of key services, transport and connectivity infrastructure; 9. a framework for the sustainable management of natural resources and cultural assets; 10. ecological networks and opportunities for protecting or enhancing the connectivity of these networks and the provision of green infrastructure; and 11. a co-ordinated framework for minerals extraction and the circular economy, including waste treatment and disposal. <p>The Welsh Government requires the adoption of Strategic Development Plans in the North, Mid Wales, South West and South East regions.</p>	<p>Although a Strategic Development Plan is yet to be prepared for the South East Wales Region, the preparation of the Vale’s Preferred Strategy has involved a regional approach to the development of the evidence base. This allows for a consistent basis on which to consider the evidence and its implications on a regional basis, as well as locally. This approach will continue throughout the preparation of the Deposit Plan, with a number of jointly commissioned pieces of evidence already in progress, including a Development Viability Model, Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment and Green Wedge Methodology.</p> <p>Long standing regional methods associated with waste and minerals are continued and reflected in the Preferred Strategy.</p> <p>The regional approach to many of the policy areas within the RLDP will provide an evidence base for the Preparation of the Strategic Development Plan in the future.</p>	<p>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</p> <p>Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies SP1: Preferred Growth Strategy SP2: Settlement Hierarchy SP3: Housing Requirement SP4: Key Sites SP7: Active and Sustainable Travel SP9: Gypsy and Travellers SP10: Retail, Commercial and Service Centres</p>

Future Wales Policy	General Conformity with FW Strategy	Relevant RLDP Objectives and Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies
		SP12: Community Infrastructure and Planning Obligations SP13: Employment Growth SP15: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation SP16: Sustainable Waste Management SP17: Sustainable Provision of Minerals SP18: Green Infrastructure SP19: Biodiversity
<p>Policy 33 – National Growth Area – Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys will be the main focus for growth and investment in the South East region. Strategic and Local Development Plans should recognise the National Growth Area as the focus for strategic economic and housing growth; essential services and facilities; advanced manufacturing; transport and digital infrastructure. The Welsh Government will work with regional bodies and local authorities in the region and in neighbouring regions of England to promote and enhance Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys’ strategic role and ensure key investment decisions support places in the National Growth Area and the wider region. The Welsh Government supports Cardiff’s status as an internationally competitive city and a core city on the UK stage. Cardiff will retain and extend its role as the primary national centre for culture, sport, leisure, media, the night time economy and finance. The Welsh Government supports an increased strategic role for Newport as a focus for sustainable, long-term growth and investment.</p>	<p>The Vale of Glamorgan is identified as a growth area in Future Wales. The Preferred Strategy’s selected growth option is considered to be sufficiently ambitious to support this, whilst at the same time maintaining the Vale as complementary to, and not competing with Cardiff as the Primary Settlement within the Region.</p> <p>The Preferred Strategy seeks to build on the Vale’s key strategic location which benefits from good links to Cardiff and the wider South East Wales region.</p>	<p>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</p> <p>Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies SP1: Preferred Growth Strategy SP3: Housing Requirement SP4: Key Sites</p>

Future Wales Policy	General Conformity with FW Strategy	Relevant RLDP Objectives and Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies
<p>The Welsh Government will work with authorities within the region and in England to promote Newport's strategic role and ensure key investment decisions in Wales and England support Newport. The Welsh Government supports co-ordinated regeneration and investment in the Valleys area to improve well-being, increase prosperity and address social inequalities. The Welsh Government will work with regional bodies, local authorities, businesses, the third sector, agencies and stakeholders to support investment, including in the manufacturing sector, and to ensure a regional approach is taken to addressing socio-economic issues in the Valleys. The Welsh Government supports development in the wider region which addresses the opportunities and challenges arising from the region's geographic location and its functions as a Capital Region.</p>		<p>SP7: Active and Sustainable Travel SP10: Retail, Commercial and Service Centres SP11: Retail Floorspace SP12: Community Infrastructure and Planning Obligations SP13: Employment Growth</p>
<p>Policy 34 – Green Belts in the South East The Welsh Government requires the Strategic Development Plan to identify a green belt to the north of Cardiff, Newport, and the eastern part of the region to manage urban form and growth. The Strategic Development Plan must consider the relationship of the green belts with the green belt in the West of England. Local Development Plans and development management decisions should not permit major development in the areas shown for consideration for green belts, except in very exceptional circumstances, until the need for green belts and their boundaries has been</p>	<p>The South East Wales Regional Strategic Diagram indicates an area for consideration with the detailed boundary of the proposed Green Belt to be defined through the preparation of the Strategic Development Plan (SDP). This area lies outside the Vale of Glamorgan, and therefore this policy is considered to be neutral</p>	<p>RLDP Objectives</p>

Future Wales Policy	General Conformity with FW Strategy	Relevant RLDP Objectives and Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies
established by an adopted Strategic Development Plan.		
<p>Policy 35 – Valleys Regional Park The Welsh Government supports the establishment of the Valleys Regional Park. Strategic and Local Development Plans should embed its principles into their planning frameworks. The Welsh Government will work with local authorities, the third sector and key partners to support the Valleys Regional Park and maximise opportunities for new development.</p>	The Valleys Regional Park is not considered to be directly related to the Vale. As a result, the Preferred Strategy is considered to be neutral in delivering this.	
<p>Policy 36 – South East Metro The Welsh Government supports the development of the South East Metro and will work with Transport for Wales, local authorities and other partners to enable its delivery and maximise associated opportunities. Strategic and Local Development Plans must support the South East Metro. Planning authorities should plan growth and regeneration to maximise the opportunities arising from better regional connectivity, including identifying opportunities for higher density, mixed-use and car-free development around new and improved metro stations.</p>	Objective 8 demonstrates the Council’s commitment to encouraging sustainable travel across the authority. Furthermore, Policy SP7 outlines the policy framework for promoting sustainable methods of travel in with specific reference to supporting and facilitating the delivery of the South East Wales Metro. Indeed, this Preferred Strategy intends to focus development in locations that are well served by existing and proposed rail stations as part of the South East Wales Metro, project as well as in areas with good bus links. The Spatial Option outlined in this strategy also seeks to develop the role of certain settlements within the Vale of Glamorgan, to capitalise upon	<p>RLDP Objectives Objective 1 - Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change Objective 2 - Improving Mental and Physical Health and Well-being Objective 4 – Placemaking Objective 5 - Enhancing the Natural Environment 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</p> <p>Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies SP1: Preferred Growth Strategy SP4: Key Sites SP5: Placemaking</p>

Future Wales Policy	General Conformity with FW Strategy	Relevant RLDP Objectives and Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies
	opportunities to enhance connectivity both across the authority and regionally. The Preferred Strategy has also been devised in light of the objectives of the Wales Transport Strategy.	SP7: Active and Sustainable Travel

Appendix 5: Relevant Background Documents

RLDP Strategic Policies	Relevant Background Documents
<p>SP1: Preferred Growth Strategy</p>	<p>Engagement Background Paper Vision, Issues and Objectives Background Paper Health Impact Assessment of Preferred Strategy Assessment of Preferred Strategy against the Tests of Soundness and Future Wales Settlements Appraisal Spatial Options Background Paper Growth Options Background Paper Demographic Evidence (Edge Analytics) Housing Land Supply Background Paper Local Housing Market Assessment Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Employment Land Review (BE Group) Retail Assessment (Nexus) Renewable Energy Assessment (Wardell Armstrong) Candidate Site Methodology Candidate Sites Register Candidate Sites Stage 2 Assessment Urban Capacity Study Joint Position Statement with Cardiff South East Wales -Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment (Stage 1)Final Report Strategic Transport Assessment Stage 1</p>
<p>SP2: Settlement Hierarchy</p>	<p>Vision, Issues and Objectives Background Paper Settlements Appraisal</p>
<p>SP3: Housing Requirement</p>	<p>Engagement Background Paper Vision, Issues and Objectives Background Paper Demographic Evidence (Edge Analytics) Housing Land Supply Background Paper Local Housing Market Assessment Joint Position Statement with Cardiff</p>

SP4: Key Sites	Vision, Issues and Objectives Background Paper Settlements Appraisal Spatial Options Background Paper Growth Options Background Paper Housing Land Supply Background Paper Local Housing Market Assessment Employment Land Review (BE Group) Candidate Site Methodology Candidate Sites Register Candidate Sites Stage 2 Assessment South East Wales -Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment (Stage 1) Final Report
SP5: Placemaking	Vision, Issues and Objectives Background Paper
SP6: Promoting Health and Well-being	Vision, Issues and Objectives Background Paper Health Impact Assessment of Preferred Strategy
SP7: Active and Sustainable Travel	Vision, Issues and Objectives Background Paper Health Impact Assessment of Preferred Strategy Strategic Transport Assessment Stage 1
SP8: Affordable and Specialist Housing	Vision, Issues and Objectives Background Paper Housing Land Supply Background Paper Local Housing Market Assessment
SP9: Gypsy and Travellers	Vision, Issues and Objectives Background Paper Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment
SP10: Retail, Commercial and Service Centres	Vision, Issues and Objectives Background Paper Employment Land Review (BE Group) Retail Assessment (Nexus)
SP11: Retail Floorspace	Retail Assessment (Nexus)
SP12: Community Infrastructure and Planning Obligations	Vision, Issues and Objectives Background Paper Settlements Appraisal
SP13: Employment Growth	Vision, Issues and Objectives Background Paper Spatial Options Background Paper Growth Options Background Paper Demographic Evidence (Edge Analytics) Employment Land Review (BE Group)
SP14: Sustainable Tourism	Vision, Issues and Objectives Background Paper

	STEAM Report (August 2023)
SP15: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	Vision, Issues and Objectives Background Paper Health Impact Assessment of Preferred Strategy Renewable Energy Assessment (Wardell Armstrong) South East Wales -Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment (Stage 1) - Final Report
SP16: Sustainable Waste Management	Employment Land Review (BE Group)
SP17: Sustainable Provision of Minerals	Regional Technical Statement for Aggregates – 2nd Review for South Wales (September 2020) Regional Technical Statement for Aggregates – 2nd Review Policy Clarification letter (November 2021)
SP18: Green Infrastructure	Vision, Issues and Objectives Background Paper Green Infrastructure Plan (to be completed for Deposit)
SP19: Biodiversity	Vision, Issues and Objectives Background Paper SINC Review (to be completed for Deposit)



The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Directorate of Place
Dock Office
Barry Docks
Barry CF63 4RT

LDP@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

