Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) for the Replacement Local Development Plan

Scoping Report Non-Technical Summary

Caerphilly County Borough Council

February 2022

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Quality information

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Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Name	Position
V1	03.02.22	Draft for internal review	Rosie Cox	Environmental Planner
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1. Introduction

1.1   AECOM is commissioned to lead on Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) in support of Caerphilly County Borough Council's (CCBC's) 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan (2RLDP). ISA fulfils the requirements and duties for Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA) and Well-being of Future Generations (WBFG).

1.2   ISA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely effects of an emerging plan, and alternatives in terms of key sustainability issues. The aim of ISA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating negative impacts and maximising positive impacts. Through this approach, the ISA for the replacement LDP (2RLDP) seeks to maximise the developing plan's contribution to sustainable development.
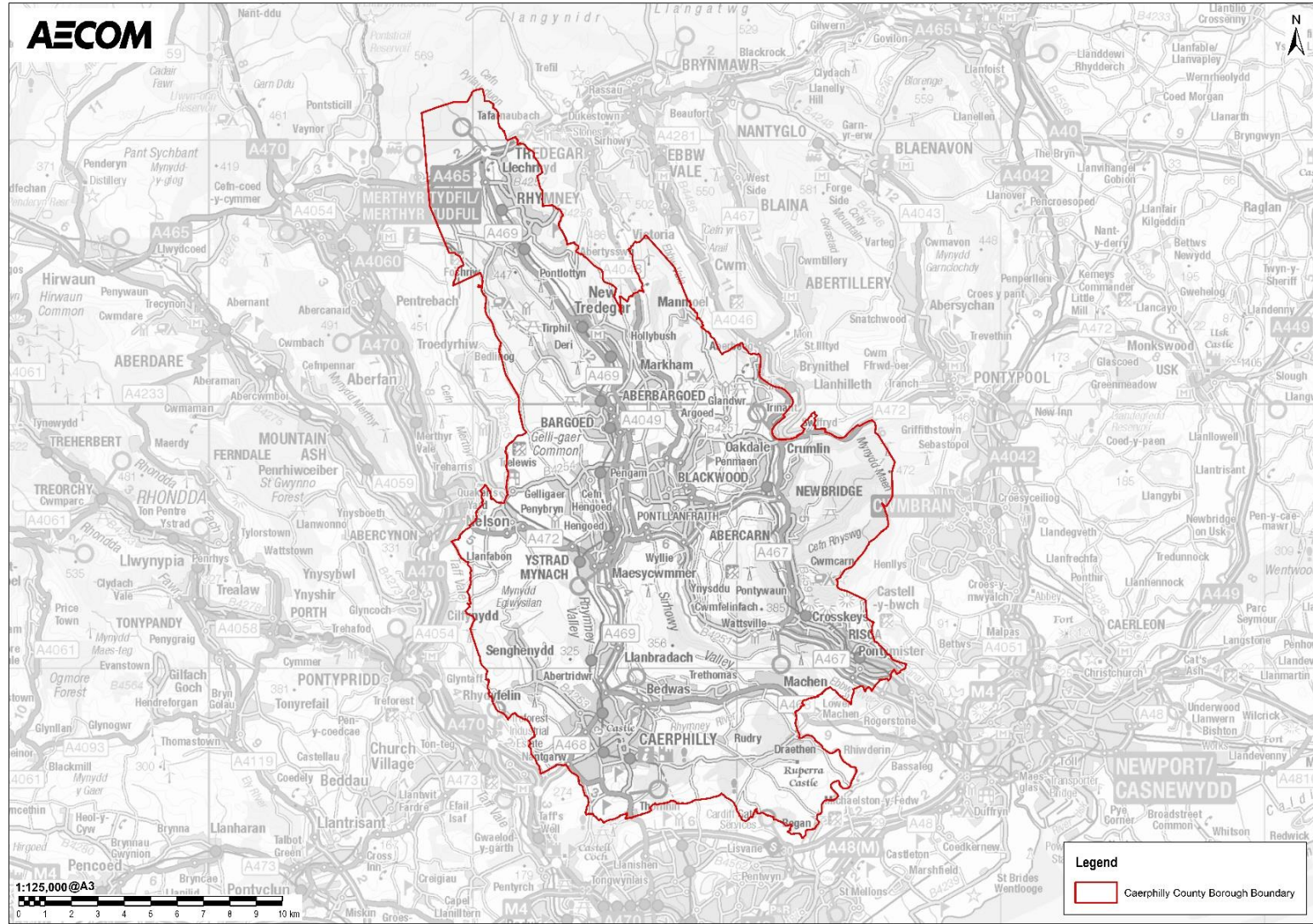
Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan

1.3   The Caerphilly Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted by the Council on the 23rd of November 2010 and sets out the Council's planning framework for the development and use of land in Caerphilly from that date, until superseded.. In accordance with statutory requirements the LDP has been monitored on an annual basis with nine Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs)[1] published to date.[2]

1.4   To ensure that Local Development Plans (LDP) are kept up to date, local planning authorities are required to review their LDPs at least once every four years following adoption. Subsequently, the draft review for the adopted LDP indicated that a full revision of the plan should be commenced immediately. CCBC are now in the process of undertaking preparation of the 2nd Replacement LDP (2RDLP). [3]

1.5   The 2RLDP will set out the Council's objectives and priorities for the development and use of land within the county borough for the period 2021 – 2035. The area covered by the 2nd Replacement LDP is shown in **Figure 1.1** overleaf.

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[1] Due to Covid-19, there was no requirement to publish an AMR for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. The Council have instead published a Housing Delivery Statement which provides a statement on housing delivery and sets out a housing trajectory.
[2] Caerphilly County Borough Council (2012 - 2019) LDP Annual Monitoring Reports [online] available at: Caerphilly - Caerphilly County Borough
[3] Caerphilly County Borough Council (2020): 'Local development plan review' [online] available at: https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Business/Planning-and-building-control-for-business/Local-Development-Plan/2nd-Replacement-LDP-up-to-2035/Local-Development-Plan-review

Figure 1.1 Caerphilly County Borough area

ISA explained

1.6 ISA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely effects of an emerging plan, and alternatives in terms of key sustainability issues. The aim of ISA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating negative impacts and maximising positive impacts. Through this approach, the ISA for the 2RLDP seeks to maximise the developing plan's contribution to sustainable development.

1.7 As identified above, the ISA seeks to fulfil the requirements and duties for SA, SEA, EqIA, HIA, WLIA and WBFG. The approach is to fully integrate these components to provide a single assessment process to inform the development of the 2RLDP. A description of each of the various components and their purposes is provided below.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

1.8 SA is undertaken to address the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations). SA is a legal requirement for Local Development Plans under Section 39 (2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

1.9 In line with the requirements of the SEA Directive, the two key steps in SA are that:

1.10 When deciding on 'the scope and level of detail of the information' which must be included in the SA Report there is a consultation with nationally designated authorities concerned with environmental issues; and

1.11 A report (the 'SA Report') is published for consultation alongside the Draft Plan that presents an assessment of the Draft Plan (i.e. discusses 'likely significant effects' that would result from plan implementation) and reasonable alternatives.

1.12 The Development Plans Manual Edition 3 (2020) states that SA, incorporating SEA, plays an important part in demonstrating that the LDP is sound by ensuring that it reflects sustainable development objectives and that it should be an integral element at each stage of plan-making.

Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

1.13 As a public-sector organisation, CCBC has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 and associated Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to ensure that the objectives and policy options within the 2RLDP avoid unlawful discrimination (direct and indirect), as well as advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between those with protected characteristics and all others.

1.14 In March 2021 the Socio-economic Duty Act commenced, which compliments the Equalities Act and PSED by further contributing towards Wales' long term well-being goals, in particular "A more equal Wales" and "A Wales of cohesive

communities". Further strengthening social partnership arrangements and advancing fair work ambitions.[4]

1.15 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is often used by public sector organisations to demonstrate how this duty has been met.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

1.16 The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 contains a provision to require a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to be carried out to assess the likely effect of the proposed development plan on health and mental well-being and inequality. The HIA process provides a systematic yet flexible and practical framework that can be used to consider the wider effects of LDP policies and how they, in turn, may affect people's health.

Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA)

1.17 The Welsh Government is committed to supporting the Welsh Language so that it can thrive and grow across Wales. The Welsh Language must be considered from the outset of the development plan process. It is a legislative requirement that the SA must include an assessment of the likely effects of the plan on the use of the Welsh language (The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 (Section 11).

1.18 Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (2020) sets the policy requirements for Welsh language. Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and the Welsh Language provides guidance on the consideration of Welsh language as part of the development plan process. The TAN provides advice on incorporating the Welsh language in development plans through the SA and the policy approach to anticipated windfall development. In summary, planning authorities must consider the likely effects of their development plans as part of the SA process and include a statement within the Deposit Plan on how this has been considered and/or addressed within the development plan. The SA process is the mechanism for considering how the scale and location of growth, the vision, objectives, policies, and proposals individually and in combination, impact on the Welsh language. Where evidence indicates a detrimental impact on the use of the Welsh language the LPA can assess whether the strategy should be amended, or mitigation measures should be identified.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

1.19 The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 sets out the definition of sustainable development for the planning system in Wales, mirroring the definition in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFGA).

1.20 "Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals".

1.21 The WBFGA sets seven well-being goals which all public bodies are required to achieve:

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[4] Welsh Government (2020) A more equal Wales: strengthening social partnership white paper'.
https://gov.wales/more-equal-wales-strengthening-social-partnership-white-paper

- A prosperous Wales.

- A resilient Wales.

- A healthier Wales.

- A more equal Wales.

- A Wales of cohesive communities.

- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.

- A globally responsible Wales.

1.22 The Act also identifies five ways of working which public bodies need to demonstrate they have carried out when undertaking their duty to achieve sustainable development. These are: involvement, collaboration, integration, prevention, and long-term factors. The well-being goals and the five ways of working can be used to inform and structure the ISA framework.

Approach to scoping for the ISA

1.23 Developing the draft scope has involved the following steps:

- Exploring the national, regional, and local policy context for the ISA, i.e., reviewing high level messages (e.g., from government departments and agencies in particular) with a view to gaining an understanding of broadly what the ISA needs to focus on. It is considered that national policy documents sufficiently deal with higher level (international) policy context.

- Establishing the baseline for the ISA, i.e., the current and further situation in the area in the absence of the 2RLDP, to help identify the plan's likely significant effects.

- Identifying particular problems or opportunities ('issues') that should be a particular focus of the ISA.

- Developing an ISA Framework comprising objectives and assessment questions based on these issues which can then be used to assess the 2RLDP and consider alternatives.

Structure of this NTS

1.24 The outcomes of the scoping elements introduced through steps 1 - 4 above have been presented in the ISA Scoping Report, under a series of ISA themes, as follows:

- Economy and employment

- Population and communities

- Health and wellbeing

- Equality, diversity and inclusion

- Transport & movement

- Natural resources (air, land, minerals and water)

- Biodiversity and geodiversity

- Historic environment

- Landscape

- Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)

1.25 The selected ISA themes incorporate the 'SEA topics' suggested by Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations[5] as well as fully integrating EqIA, HIA and Welsh language considerations (including the Councils relevant policies and strategies), and reflect the seven well-being goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

1.26 It is intended that presenting the scoping information under these themes will help enable the reader to easily locate the information of greatest interest to them. Once agreed (i.e. subsequent to the current consultation), the suggested scope presented under ten themes will provide a methodological 'framework' for the assessment of the draft replacement LDP and alternatives. The discussion of the scoping information (context review and baseline information) under each ISA theme is presented in Chapters 2 to 11 of the ISA Scoping Report.

1.27 This NTS sets out the key issues (problems and opportunities) that have been identified for each ISA theme through scoping, and subsequently presents the ISA Framework. The ISA Framework draws together the ISA objectives identified under each theme through scoping, with the aims of addressing the key issues identified.

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[5] The SEA Regulations are 'of a procedural nature' (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and do not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus on *'the environment, **including on issues such as** biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors'* [our emphasis]

2. Key issues for Caerphilly

2.1   Key issues (problems and opportunities) identified through scoping have been
set out by ISA theme below.

Economy and employment

- Although Caerphilly has similar levels of unemployment as Wales, Caerphilly has higher levels of economic inactivity due to the permanent sickness and/ or disability of residents. Employment has been linked to deprivation levels in the county borough, including low levels of education. Improved access to education and training opportunities could bring levels more in line with that experienced across Wales as a whole.

- Caerphilly has low self-containment with regards to employment; however there are reasonable commuter flows from Blaenau Gwent and Newport into Caerphilly.

- Housing affordability is a prevalent issue in the county borough, with historic data indicating a disparity between earnings and housing prices. Future development could seek to prioritise affordable housing to better support the needs of residents.

Population and communities

- Housing prices in Caerphilly have increased over the decade of 2008- 2018, a trend that is likely to continue into the 2RDLP period. The 2RLDP could seek to enhance policy provisions that deliver the right mix of housing types, tenures, and sizes according to local needs, in suitably connected places, as well as affordable housing for future residents.

- Community facilities in the county borough are unevenly distributed and are out of reach for many residents. Alongside this, the Household Survey (2017) indicated public perceptions of high crime. Plan making could seek to make Caerphilly safer and more accessible to improve the quality of life and community cohesion of residents, such as through safer pedestrian routes (see Chapter 6), high quality green open spaces (see Chapter 4) and measures which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.

- Population growth in Caerphilly is predicted to continue to increase, albeit it at a steadier rate than neighbouring authorities. To adapt to this increase, and encourage sustainable growth, plan making could seek to enhance and promote current community services, in addition to more houses

Health and wellbeing

- There is a large provision of medical services within Caerphilly and the GP to patient ratio is higher than average when compared with the six other health boards in Wales. However, these services are largely disparate and may be less accessible for some residents in the county borough.

- Some of the main challenges for Caerphilly with regards to health include overcoming high levels of both limiting long-term illness and mental health problems and low life expectancy.

- Overall, there is a low provision of playing pitches in the county borough. Areas of high health deficiency may therefore possess a population that does not participate in informal physical activity, alongside other effects associated with environmental inequality.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

- 62.7% of LSOAs within Caerphilly are in the 40% most deprived LSOAs in Wales (ranks 1-955) as per the 2019 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD). Two LSOAs in Caerphilly were determined to be within the 10 most deprived areas in Wales. Additionally, Caerphilly performs particularly poorly with regards to the Community Safety domain.

- Only a small proportion of residents in Caerphilly are within minority ethnic, racial, and religious groups; however the reliability of this data is uncertain.

- Compared with the figure for Wales, a slightly lower proportion of the population in Caerphilly are Welsh speakers. This may indicate a higher level of Anglicisation than other Welsh regions, although this is not atypical for a Valleys authority.

Transport and movement

- It is recognised that the emerging RTP, in addition to schemes outlined in the LTP, will help to alleviate road traffic issues associated with future development in the county borough. However it is also recognised that road infrastructure has historically struggled to keep pace with increases in road vehicles, therefore congestion and capacity issues are likely to be exacerbated by future growth.

- The 2011 Census indicated relatively low levels of active travel in Caerphilly, which may in part be exacerbated by the disparate active travel network in the county borough. Delivering the Active Travel Network Map is therefore important for the County Borough. Strengthening and improving active travel networks and increasing accessibility to these networks will support the shift to more sustainable forms of travel, in line with the WTS modal shift target.

- Opportunities for modal shift are identified through the South Wales Metro Project, which includes significant expansion and enhancement of the rail network, bus services and cycle and pedestrian networks. Growth should be coordinated with strategic transport infrastructure improvements to maximise opportunities for connected and accessible development.

- Consideration will also need to be given to the impact of Covid-19 and travel patterns, particularly in relation to public transport usage.

- Freezing of new road scheme proposals (pending a review by WG) will also be relevant.

Natural resources

- Policy approaches are pushing towards a holistic and sustainable approach to the management, protection and use of natural resources, including through targeted measures to improve environmental outcomes relating to

air quality, soil, land, water and waste in order to maximise beneficial outcomes to social, environmental and economic factors.

- Policy reinforces the need to consider the interrelationship between planned developments and the factors mentioned above, with emphasis being placed on the likely effects of climate change, the need for efficient uses of land, resource use efficiency and conserving the natural environment.

- Caerphilly has two AQMAs. The latest monitoring report (2019) has indicated that the Caerphilly Town Centre AQMA has shown a reduction in pollution levels. While the Hafod-yr-ynys Road AQMA has not improved over the previous five years (up to 2019), compulsory purchase of land has since taken place in Hafodyrynys to help address NO2 levels.

- There are three main rivers within the South East Valleys Management Catchment. Tributaries of the River Rhymney that run through Caerphilly are of poor overall quality.

- There are no Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) in the Plan area, however, the northernmost part of Caerphilly, near Trefil in Blaenau Gwent, falls within a Source Protection Zone (SPZ).

- The majority of land in the county borough is not suitable for agricultural uses due to its lower quality agricultural grading; however, there are some small areas of higher quality land at Draethen.

- A significant proportion of Caerphilly falls within coalfield 'Development High Risk Areas', particularly to the south and east of the County Borough.

Biodiversity and geodiversity

- The plan area contains many sites designated for biodiversity at the international, national and local level. It will be important that any new development does not undermine the integrity of designated sites.

- There are many priority habitats, urban and green spaces, ancient woodland, and waterbodies that support overall ecological connectivity in the plan area. It will be important for any new development to ensure that this ecological network is supported and enhanced both locally and sub-regionally.

- Future development should seek to maximise opportunities for biodiversity net gain, improving ecological links and minimise harm from atmospheric pollution, where possible.

Historic environment

- There is a rich variety and distribution of designated and non-designated heritage assets present within and surrounding the plan area; the significance and setting of which should be considered in, and positively impacted upon by, new development.

- Development should be sensitively designed to maintain a strong sense of place, using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit.

- Opportunities to enhance public understanding of heritage assets should be sought.

- The heritage assets at risk in Caerphilly could potentially deteriorate further without intervention or as a result of inappropriate development.

- All development should ensure that any necessary archaeological investigations are undertaken prior to any works.

- Access to key community and educational services to educate residents should be provided, and Welsh heritage should be promoted by preserving and restoring key cultural areas.

Landscape

- Land use in Caerphilly is varied. Areas outside of the main urban settlements are predominantly rural, with some ancient woodland areas in the south east.

- There are currently five Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) in the County Borough, covering a significant proportion of the County Borough, notably the very northern extent of the County Borough, and to the east, south, and central to the RLDP area. The SLAs play an important contribution to the visual context and setting of settlements and have recreational value. NH1.5 South Caerphilly notably forms an important buffer zone between Caerphilly and the M4 corridor.

- There are four Visually Important Local Landscapes within the County Borough, designated predominately for their strong landscape features/ character, including quality views, visual boundaries and distinctive field patterns.

- Climate change

- There is a need to decarbonise across all sectors of society (including the economy, energy, infrastructure, lifestyles), with further need to take measures to reduce the levels of carbon in the atmosphere. Energy reduction and efficiency measures are imperative if targets are going to be met.

- Planning must play a key role in ensuring that communities and infrastructure are resilient to the negative effects of climate change, by avoiding risk in the first instance and seeking to mitigate risk if options are unavoidable.

- There is a fairly significant amount of surface and fluvial flood risk across Caerphilly, with some areas in residential and economic land uses at risk.

- Although overall emissions have decreased over time, CO2 emissions data from 2018 indicates that Caerphilly has a higher proportion of carbon dioxide emissions (per km2) in comparison to Wales and the UK. It is however recognised that the situation may have changed since 2018, particularly given the Council's commitment to net zero by 2030 and strategies, projects, etc. implemented to help address this target.

3. ISA Framework

3.1 **Table 3.1** overleaf presents the sustainability topics, objectives and assessment questions that form the ISA framework. The ISA framework draws together the ISA objectives identified under each theme through scoping, with the aims of addressing the key issues identified for each theme. Taken together the ISA objectives form a methodological framework guiding the subsequent assessment.

Table 3.1: ISA objectives for the 2RDLP

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:
Economy and employment	Support a strong, diverse and resilient economy, with innovative responses to changing conditions and support for a strong future workforce.	• Provide sufficient land for businesses to grow and ensure alignment with housing/infrastructure? • Support the creation of accessible new jobs? • Ensure the capacity of educational facilities keep pace with population growth? • Enhance the vitality and resilience of the town centre and retail centres? • Safeguard existing employment areas?
Population and communities	To provide a sufficient quantity of good quality market and affordable homes, and community infrastructure, in sustainable locations to meet identified needs.	• Meet the identified housing needs, including affordable, for the county borough? • Ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures to meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities? • Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities, including specialist services?
	To enhance design quality to create places for people that maintain	• Improve connectivity between communities? • Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:
	and enhance community and settlement identity.	community facilities, including specialist services?
Health and wellbeing	To improve the health and wellbeing of residents within Caerphilly.	• Encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities? • Promote access to health, social, recreational and leisure facilities for all sectors of the community? • Enhance multifunctional green infrastructure networks throughout the plan area? • Provide and enhance the provision of community access to open/ green space? • Improve access to the countryside for recreation?
Equality, diversity, and inclusion	To reduce poverty and inequality; tackle social exclusion and promote community cohesion.	• Reduce inequalities and deprivation across Caerphilly? • Improve equality of opportunities amongst all social groups? • Contribute to a reduction in crime and social disorder and the fear of crime, promoting safer neighbourhoods? • Promote, strengthen and enhance the cultural identity of Caerphilly? • Protect and provide improved local, social, recreational and leisure facilities for all sectors of the community, and improve access to them to maximise opportunities for community development and social welfare? • Ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures to meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities? • Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:
		community facilities, including specialist services?
		• Promote Caerphilly's bilingual public services and increase the use of the Welsh language in Caerphilly?
Transport and movement	Increase sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	• Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development?
		• Encourage modal shift to more sustainable and active forms of travel?
		• Enable transport infrastructure improvements?
		• Extend or improve active travel networks?
		• Support the uptake of low carbon transport?
		• Contribute towards the EV charging network?
		• Facilitate working from home and remote working?
		• Provide improvements to and/ or reduce congestion on the existing highway network?
Natural resources	To identify and pursue any opportunities to reduce, or at least, minimise population exposure to air pollution.	• Reduce the need to travel?
		• Encourage journeys to be made by sustainable means (active travel or public transport)?
		• Avoid any adverse effects on air quality and for people exposed to poor air quality?
		• Improve air quality in areas identified as of concern?
		• Promote and facilitate the use of electric vehicles?
		• Promote good design to avoid impacts on air quality, such as the canyon effect, and incorporates and enhances green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:
		absorption and dissipation of NO_2 and other pollutants?
	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development and protecting, where possible, higher grade agricultural land.	• Minimise the loss of potentially high-grade agricultural land to developments which will not make use of the soil as an agricultural resource? • Encourage the use of previously developed land? • Encourage development-related remediation works which could reduce the presence of contaminated land in Caerphilly? • Avoid any adverse effects on coalfield 'Development High Risk Areas'?
	To support waste management/ reduction.	• Address waste by reducing and minimising waste as a priority? • Manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy and in the context of 'Towards Zero Waste'?
	To conserve, protect and enhance the water environment, water quality and water resources.	• Reduce water consumption? • Ensure an adequate supply of water can be provided to sustain the development considering current and future projections of water availability and water use? • Reduce the potential for contamination of waterbodies and courses? • Reduce the potential for agricultural practices to contribute towards nitrate-based pollution of waterbodies and courses?
Biodiversity and geodiversity	Protect and enhance biodiversity within and surrounding the plan area.	• Minimise impacts on designated and important biodiversity and provide net gains where possible? • Protect and enhance ecological networks, including those that cross administrative boundaries?

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:
Historic environment	Preserve and enhance Caerphilly's heritage resource, including its historic environment and archaeological assets.	• Conserve and enhance the significance of buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their setting? • Conserve and enhance the special interest, character and appearance of conservation areas and their settings? • Conserve and enhance archaeological remains, and archaeologically sensitive areas, and support the undertaking of archaeological investigations and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation strategies?
	Promote understanding of Caerphilly's cultural heritage.	• Support access to, interpretation, and understanding of the historic and cultural environment?
Landscape	To protect and enhance the quality and character of Caerphilly's landscape and townscape.	• Ensure that Caerphilly's most valuable landscapes, townscapes and seascapes are conserved and enhanced? • Use natural landscape features to mitigate any potential effects on nearby and distance interpretations of its landscapes?
Climate change	Support the resilience of the Caerphilly Area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding from fluvial, coastal and surface water sources.	• Increase resilience of the built and natural environment to the effects of climate change? • Ensure that the potential risks associated with climate change are considered in new development in the plan area? • Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support climate change adaptation? • Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff (either within the plan area or downstream)?

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:
		• Minimise flood risk for key infrastructures, such as transport and power?
	Reduce Caerphilly's contribution to climate change from activities which result in greenhouse gas emissions.	• Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change?
		• Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria?
		• Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable sources?
		• Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources?
		• Reduce the need to travel or the number of journeys made?
		• Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport?
		• Ensure rural development does not contribute towards further increases in high energy use and unstainable travel?

4. Next steps

Subsequent stages for the ISA process

4.1 Scoping (the current stage) is the first stage in a five-stage ISA process:

1. Scoping;

2. Appraise reasonable alternatives, with a view to informing preparation of the Pre-Deposit plan/ Preferred Strategy, and subsequent assessment of the Pre-Deposit plan/ Preferred Strategy;

3. Prepare the ISA Report with a view to informing consultation;

4. Consultation on the ISA Report; and

5. Publish a 'statement' at the time of plan adoption in order to 'tell the story' of plan-making/ ISA (and present 'measures decided concerning monitoring').

4.2 Accordingly, the next stage after scoping will therefore involve the development and assessment of reasonable alternatives. This includes Candidate Sites and strategic options for the overall level and distribution of growth.

Consultation on this Scoping Report

4.3 Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the ISA process. At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public. The statutory consultation bodies are Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Cadw.

4.4 The scoping consultation will run from Wednesday 23rd March to Wednesday 27th April.