



Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeisdref Sirol Blaenau Gwent

Habitat Regulation
Screening of Fe
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1.1 The HRA (undertaken by Capita Symonds) reported that the LDP would adversely affect the integrity of 4 of the 5 European Sites identified from the HRA screening report, when considered in isolation from other plans and projects. However when considering the imposition of conditions or restrictions (mitigation) on the way the plan is to be carried out (through policies) it is reported that there would be no adverse effects on the integrity of the sites (see main HRA report for detailed discussion of mitigation measures already incorporated into the Plan).

1.2 Further recommendations to remove remaining potential adverse impacts includes:

- The inclusion, as an LDP strategic policy, or a clear statement that the proposed LDP and its compone,DoxB-I9IT f lxxB/36l3IT dI [,Tj/,hj-,ejx-, jq6/,ijqx-,nj-,cjqx,lj

of the review are attached at Appendix 1. No changes are thought to have a Likely Significant Effect, when considering the existing mitigation measures provided for by the LDP in its policies, on any of

Appendix 1 – Screening of proposed Focused Changes

Change Number	Plan Section	Policy Paragraph Number	Proposed Change	Reason for change/Evidence	Additional HRA Screening Required
FC1.A	4. Vision and Objectives				



HABITAT REGULATION ASSESSMENT SCREENING OF FOCUSED CHANGES

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FC1.F	6.0 Strategic Policies	Para. 6.30	<p>a. Provision is made for the development of 3,932 new dwellings in order to deliver the 3,500 new dwellings required to increase the population to 70,849 by 2021;</p> <p>The LDP provides a framework for the development of 3,500 new dwellings in Blaenau Gwent over the Plan period. The construction and distribution of this number of dwellings will assist in halting the process of depopulation and ensure a stable level of growth in the future. According to the WAG 2008 population projection the population is estimated to rise from 68,914 in 2006 to 70,849 in 2021. The corresponding WAG household projection identifies that 3,925 households will be required to meet this growth in population. The housing requirement figure has been translated to a dwelling requirement of 3,500 due to the need to reduce the vacancy rate from 5.7% to 4% over the Plan period. To provide sufficient land to accommodate the projected growth, the LDP makes provision for the construction of 3,932 dwellings. This represents 432 (12%) units more than the requirement figure of 3,500, to allow for choice and flexibility. Full details of these calculations are provided in the Population</p>	<p><i>populations and housing projections based on national guidance and accords with the LDP strategy</i></p>	<p><i>The change will have no effect on the outcome of the HRA.</i></p>



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			<p>Lower Ebbw Fach 358 dwellings</p> <p>An allowance for completions to date, windfall contributions, small sites, conversions and demolitions totalling 826 dwellings is made across the County Borough.</p> <p>The delivery of the housing requirement figure will be increased in five-year periods recognising the step change required to reach the higher completion figures.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">700 1,300</p> <p>2016-2021 1,500</p>		
FC1.H	6.0 Strategic Policies	Para. 6.35	Amended version of paragraph moved to 6.30 (see FC1.F)	<i>Additional information - updated housing requirement figure in line with latest WG populations and housing projections based on national guidance and accords with the LDP strategy and national policy</i>	<i>No HRA screening required. The change will have no effect on the outcome of the HRA.</i>
FC1.I	6.0 Strategic Policies	Para. 6.36	In order to create a network of sustainable hubs, land has been allocated in the four hub areas in accordance with the capacity of the areas. Over 80% of the growth is located in the Heads of the Valleys area with 52% of the growth being centred within the principal hub of Ebbw Vale. This reflects the importance of Ebbw Vale, Brownfield opportunities and the limited number of suitable sites available in the South of the County Borough.	<i>Increase in new housing allocation in Ebbw Vale – updated housing requirement figure in line with latest WG populations and housing projections based on national guidance and reduction in number of houses in Tredegar area - accords with the LDP strategy and national policy</i>	<i>No HRA screening required. The change will have no effect on the outcome of the HRA.</i>
FC1.J	6.0 Strategic Policies	Para 6.37	In recognition of the step change required to increase the build rate from current low levels it is considered appropriate to increase the requirement figure over five year periods. This will in no way change the overall requirement for	<i>Clarifies the position on the Plans approach to phasing which is already set out in Delivery and Implementation.</i>	<i>No HRA screening required. The change will have no effect on the outcome of the HRA.</i>

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FC3.C	8.0 Allocations and Designations	Policy GT1	Land is allocated south of the Cwmcraehen Gypsy and Traveller Site to accommodate 4 pitches	<i>Reduction in number of pitches for gypsy and traveller accommodation – to ensure conformity with national guidance and provide further clarity, accordiR111)kH,H,H,2d r SM7VwFSk/,73,</i>	



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			respond to community needs and integrate environmental aspects for positive benefits.		
FC5.C	6.0 Strategic Policies	Policy SP10	<p>Blaenau Gwent's unique, natural environment and designated landscape will be protected, and, where appropriate, enhanced. This will be achieved through:</p> <p>Protecting national, European and international nature conservation sites in line with national planning policy as well as other species and habitats identified as priorities for nature conservation;</p> <p>Protecting those attributes and features which make a significant contribution to the character, quality and amenity of the landscape;</p> <p>Maintaining and enhancing the Green Infrastructure including creating a network of local wildlife sites and wildlife corridors, links and stepping stones;</p> <p>Ensuring that development retains, protects and enhances features of ecological or geological interest, and provides for the appropriate management of these features;</p> <p>Ensuring development seeks to produce a net gain in biodiversity by designing in wildlife, and ensuring any unavoidable impacts are appropriately mitigated for;</p>	<p><i>Additional information - to ensure conformity with national guidance and provide further clarity on the environment, according with LDP strategy and national policy</i></p>	<p><i>No HRA screening required.</i></p> <p><i>The change will have no effect on the outcome of the HRA.</i></p> <p><i>Additional text strengthens existing policy to protect and enhance biodiversity.</i></p>
FC5.D	6.0 Strategic Policies	Paragra. D	<p>E:P A-gEgEgECPnA:PaA-;P,AFPdA-'U:P;;C'PÂ8"gLlD8'::gUgFFD8DF t EgCCPaA-;PgA:PEE:ECA-gEg::PjA-;PbAF'gCUF' t 'PiA-gEg</p>		



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			<p>This will be achieved through the identification, protection and enhancement of international, European, national and locally important sites as well as habitats and species across the Borough.</p> <p>In accordance with the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) development will not be permitted where it adversely affects the integrity of these sites. Blaenau</p>		



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			be necessary to offset any negative effects and where this is not possible, compensatory provision equivalent in value ;;		



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	Development Management Policies		<p>They do not have an adverse impact upon the water environment or pose an unacceptable risk to the quality of controlled waters (including groundwater and surface water); and</p> <p>b. They contribute to improving water quality wherever practicable; and</p> <p>c. They do not result in airborne emissions which have an unacceptable effect on the health, amenity or natural environment of the surrounding area, taking into account cumulative effects of other proposed or existing sources of air pollution in the vicinity.</p>	<p><i>environment and improve water quality- to ensure conformity with national guidance to improve water quality, according with LDP strategy and national policy</i></p>	<p><i>The change will have no effect on the outcome of the HRA.</i></p> <p><i>The additional criterion strengthens policies, which provide for protection of the water</i></p>











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			this, the Council will consider an appropriate strategy for the future use and restoration of the site which may include a Prohibition		



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MC.6	6.0 Strategic Policies	Paragraph 6.17	<p>Abertillery District Town Centre will explore opportunities to develop complementary roles around leisure and tourism. The Guardian at Parc Arrael Griffin is already proving to be a popular tourist attraction which Abertillery should look to benefit from. One of the strengths of Abertillery District Town Centre is the position of the centre relative to woodland and upland landscapes. There are opportunities to develop new infrastructure to enable people to use these environments and to explore the scope for mountain biking as a way of 'opening up' the natural setting of the town. The recent refurbishment of the Metropole and investment in the town centre will enhance the cultural role of Abertillery, in terms of</p>		



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			FCA will need to be carried out to demonstrate that the risks and consequences of flooding can be managed appropriately. Any development would only be allowed where it can be justified in that location and satisfies a FCA.		
MC.9	6.0 Strategic Policies	Paragraph 6.59	The Business Competitiveness Study (2009) identified a shortfall in local cultural facilities. Projects such as Parc Bryn Bach, Abertillery's Metropole Cultural and Conference Centre and the Guardian at Parc Arrael Griffin are making a difference, but further opportunities exist. The sector can contribute effectively to addressing the issues of employability by offering opportunities for less experienced people as well as providing high, quality cultural and leisure jobs.	<i>Additional information – to provide further clarity, according with LDP strategy and national policy</i>	<i>No HRA screening required. The change will have no effect on the outcome of the HRA.</i>
MC.10	6.0 Strategic Policies	Paragraph 6.61	(subject to ministerial decision and Judicial Review)	<i>Deletion – to provide further clarity and update the plan, according with LDP strategy and national policy</i>	<i>No HRA screening required. The change will have no effect on the outcome of the HRA.</i>
MC.11	6.0 Strategic Policies	Policy SP11	SP11 Protection and Enhancement of the Historic Environment	<i>Additional information – to better reflect the content of the policy which relates to the broader historic environment, according with the LDP strategy</i>	<i>No HRA screening required. The change will have no effect on the outcome of the HRA.</i>
MC.12	6.0 Strategic Policies	Policy SP11	Amend Paragraph SP11 through the deletion of:		



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				<i>map, according with LDP strategy</i>	<i>The change will have no effect on the outcome of the HRA.</i>
MC.30	8.0 Allocations and Designations	Paragraph 8.79	In accordance with national planning policy the LDP identifies safeguarding areas. The areas identified are based on the 'Former Gwent Aggregates Safeguarding Study', this ruled out weaker sandstones and sand and gravel reserves. The areas mapped accord with those identified by the neighbouring authorities of Caerphilly and Torfaen (though Torfaen added a 200m buffer to the resource areas) but differs to Brecon Beacons National Park which safeguards different resources. The identification of safeguarding areas does not carry any presumption that planning permission would be granted for their extraction. The purpose of safeguarding is to ensure that known resources are not needlessly sterilised by permanent development (Policy DM20).	<i>Additional information – accord with national guidance and provide further clarity, according with LDP strategy</i>	<i>No HRA screening required.</i> <i>The change will have no effect on the outcome of the HRA.</i>
MC.31	Proposals Map		Amend the settlement boundary to include part of the Land adjacent to the former Reemploy Site	<i>Amendment in settlement boundary to include site – to enable the development of this brownfield land as part of the redevelopment of the former reemploy site, according with LDP strategy</i>	<i>No HRA screening required.</i> <i>The change will have no effect on the outcome of the HRA.</i>
MC.32	9.0 Delivery and Implementation		Amend phasing of development for ED1.2 as follows: Phase 3	<i>Additional information – to update the plan in relation to the timing of development at this site, according with LDP strategy</i>	<i>No HRA screening required.</i> <i>The change will have no effect on the outcome of the HRA.</i>



For further Information please contact:

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