



BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DRAFT TOILET STRATEGY
2019

Reasons for a Local Toilets Strategy

Part 8 of the **Public Health (Wales) Act 2017: Provision of Toilets** came into force on 31 May 2018 and places a duty on each local authority in Wales to prepare and publish a local toilets strategy for its area. The duty does not in itself require a Local Authority to provide and maintain public toilets themselves, but they are required to take a strategic view across their area on how these facilities can be provided and accessed by their local population.

This is intended to help address the current challenges regarding the provision of public toilet facilities within communities, which have often relied upon traditional stand-alone facilities that have been in decline in recent years, due to Local Authority financial pressures.

In 2010 Bridgend County Borough Council maintained 16 public conveniences and 9 urinals. Following various consultations, the urinals were demolished in 2013/14 due to unacceptable facility standards and the number of public conveniences reduced to 6 in 2015. After a further consultation in 2018, 4 toilets were closed in January 2019.

This doesn't mean that there are no available toilets within the borough and some of the responsibility for maintaining toilets has passed to Town and Community Councils. Larger shopping precincts, open spaces, parks and tourist attractions also provide these types of facility, which are generally not recorded or mapped.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is obliged:-

What we have to do

- To prepare and publish a strategy by 31st May 2019
- To include an assessment of need and steps to be taken to meet that need
- To periodically review the strategy
- To publish interim progress statements
- To consult any person they consider to be interested in the provision of toilets in their area before publishing the strategy
- To provide those persons with a draft copy of the strategy

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 puts in place a 'sustainable development principle' which tells public bodies how to go about meeting their duty under that Act. Local Authorities in Wales must apply the five ways of working when preparing, reviewing, consulting on and publishing their strategies:

- looking to the long term so we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;
- taking an integrated approach;
- working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions;

- involving a diversity of the population in the decisions affecting them; and acting to prevent problems from occurring or getting worse.
- act to prevent problems occurring or getting worse from starting in the first place.

The key prevention aims of this local toilets strategy are to:

- identify key toilet facilities in a location;
- identify facilities at risk of being lost to a location, and ways to preserve their use;
- identify alternative provisions if facilities must close;
- identify additional facilities that can be brought into wider use to supplement existing facilities or as a replacement for those that have been lost; and identify opportunities for creating new facilities to modern, inclusive specifications.

Preparation

Public conveniences, managed by BCBC, have undergone substantial budgetary cuts in the past few years. In order to accommodate these savings, facilities have been closed or transferred to allow them to be retained in some format. In order to achieve these financial savings, BCBC has carried out public consultations in 2007, 2015 and 2018, which assessed the public's views on toilet provision.

These public consultations were made available to the public via BCBC's online consultation portal, and hard copy, telephone and group meetings. A total of 271 responses were received in 2015 and 1137 in 2018. The responses were used to inform the content of this draft strategy. The list of organisations separately consulted as part of this strategy are detailed in **Appendix 1**.

In order to clarify what provisions are currently within the borough, the following information has been obtained:-

- Location of all public accessible toilets
- Surveyed condition of these facilities;
- Identify any facilities not currently in general public use;
- Consider requirements of the general population;
- Identify needs for particular user groups;
- Consider the analysis of former consultations;
- Advise on the provision of adequate temporary toilets by the promoters/organisers of one off events;

- Identify any gaps in current provision;
- Provide an assessment of need for toilets available for use by the public in their area;
- Identify steps setting out which BCBC proposes to take to meet this need;
- Provide any other information which BCBC considers appropriate to this review;
- Adopt and use of new technologies and communications that it is envisaged will lead to an increased awareness of the locations of local toilets;
- Engage with other public bodies, community groups, private enterprises.

Council priorities

BCBC's priorities and key objectives as detailed in BCBC's Corporate Plan are set out below:-

- Supporting a successful economy;
- Making smarter use of resources;
- Helping people to become more self-reliant.

A number of key principles underpin the priorities that BCBC has. These principles highlight the importance of working in partnership with citizens, communities and other organisations to develop and deliver services to meet local needs as best we can. These principles are:

- Wherever possible BCBC will support communities and people to create their own solutions and reduce dependency on BCBC;
- The BCBC will use good information from service users and communities to inform its decisions;
- BCBC will encourage and develop capacity amongst the third sector to identify and respond to local needs;
- BCBC will not let uncertainty over the future of public services prevent meaningful and pragmatic collaboration with other public sector bodies;
- BCBC will work as one Council and discourage different parts of the organisation from developing multiple processes or unnecessarily different approaches;
- BCBC will transform the organisation and many of its services and in so doing will deliver financial budget reductions as well as improvements;
- Finally we also have adopted a set of values that represent what we stand for and influence how we work;
- Fair - taking into account everyone's needs and situation;
- Ambitious - always trying to improve what we do and aiming for excellence;

- Citizen-focused - remembering that we are here to serve our local communities;
- Efficient - delivering services that are value for money.

Definition of Public Convenience

Historically, providing toilet facilities in separate buildings has been the model for many decades and this approach may still have a role in certain circumstances. However, there may be increasing benefits from co-located provision in existing buildings, to reduce some of the negative aspects such as anti-social behaviour, vandalism and its associated costs.

The British Toilet Association (BTA) makes recommendations on the number of toilet facilities needed in an area based on population density, gender mix and footfall. The ideal level is recommended as 1 cubicle per 550 females and 1 cubicle or urinal per 1100 males, which is a ratio of 2:1 in favour of women. One accessible toilet and also one baby change facility should be provided for every 10,000 population.

The BTA specifies that every toilet provided must adhere to a number of key legislative requirements including:

- BS 6465 – parts 1-4
- BS 8300
- Building regulations parts M & R
- Equalities Act
- British & European Standards

The Changing Places Toilet Map system was exclusively developed by the BTA in partnership with Mencap and Pamis, the two leading charities working in this field. This mapping system identifies larger toilet facilities that cater for thousands of individuals across the UK who are suffering from PMLD (Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties) and supporting their families and carers. There are two such toilets registered on their website in the county at Bridgend Train Station and Sarn Park Welcome Break Motorway Station.

Alongside commercial providers in retail centres, entertainment venues and visitor attractions, the case for publicly accessible toilets in a wider variety of community buildings and service centres will become stronger, drawing in a wider range of potential partners to fund and manage them.

Local councils are no longer the only providers of toilet facilities; the detail below describes other providers and options which allow access to facilities and help achieve the aims and objectives of the Local Toilets Strategy:-

A - Stand-alone

These are what many people would consider traditional public toilets. They have usually been stand-alone, purpose-built buildings providing separate areas for Ladies, Gents and sometimes an accessible unit for disabled people. However, BCBC is no longer responsible for any of these type of public conveniences.

B - Within public buildings

Toilet facilities may be made available to the general public at individual locations where access and circumstances allow i.e. council buildings, community centres, libraries, sports centres, event halls. This has often been part of a wider need to ensure that all services offered are accessible by members of the community. A list of public buildings with toilets available for general use is detailed in **Appendix 2**.

C - Commercial / Retail sector provision

Many toilet facilities provided by commercial and retail businesses have been primarily or solely for use by customers. Some traders within town centres understand that people come in to use the toilets and recognise that this may lead to people buying goods whilst inside. Out of town shopping centres and new mixed retail developments now generally make provision for toilet facilities for all visitors and shoppers. Most visitor/tourist attractions, entertainment venues such as cinemas, and railway/bus stations will also provide toilet facilities.

D – Partnership and voluntary schemes

Bridgend County Borough Council has a strong working relationship with partners such as Halo and Awen Cultural Trust who run the council's leisure facilities and libraries/theatres respectively, on behalf of the council. Changing Places facilities have been developed at various sites including Bryngarw Country Park and Pencoed Library as part of these partnerships.

Local Town and Community Councils play an important role in maintaining public toilet provision within the borough. Porthcawl Town Council and Cornelly Community Council now manage and operate public toilets in their respective areas following asset transfers. In addition, Pencoed Town Council have developed their own public toilet provision for their community.

Work is ongoing with Bridgend Town Council and local Traders to develop new public toilet provision in the indoor market area. Maesteg Town Council are also making a financial contribution towards the provision of public toilets at Maesteg Town Hall until the building is scheduled to be closed to redevelopment in the autumn of 2019. The

redeveloped building has new public toilets designed in which it is intended will be managed by Awen Cultural Trust.

From 2009 to 2014, Welsh Government funded a Public Facilities Scheme, which enabled BCBC to make small grants to businesses to permit the use of their toilets by the general public and after this period, this scheme was temporarily suspended.

Due to the closure of some public conveniences in 2015, a local 'Comfort Scheme' was re-established to support a small number of strategic sites where it is felt that the provision of publically accessible toilet facilities would be beneficial. Although initial take up by business of this scheme has been slow, the council intends reviewing its scheme the current year to make the terms more attractive moving forward, and targeting areas where there is more limited public toilet provision. The current scheme allows a nominal amount of funding to be allocated to encourage businesses to make their toilet facilities available for use by the public. They benefit from an annual payment of up to £500 per annum, depending on opening times and standards of facilities. The level of grant and the provision of the service is determined by the following criteria: -

- The range, number and quality of facilities in the local area
- Provision of soap, mirrors and other necessities
- The weekly hours of opening
- Suitability for disabled users and baby changing
- Maintenance of fabric and cleanliness
- Location of the premises in relation to the main community thoroughfares

Up to 10 points are allocated for each of the above criteria to give a maximum score of 60 points. The provision and the level of the grant will be determined by the number of points accrued as set out below.

No of Points	Award £
0 to 30	Premises unsuitable for grant
30 to 35	200
35 to 40	300
40 to 45	400
45 to 50	500

Locations

Following the public consultation in 2018 and the imminent closure of BCBC maintained facilities, local businesses were further approached to participate in BCBC's Comfort Scheme. There are a limited number of premises included in this scheme.



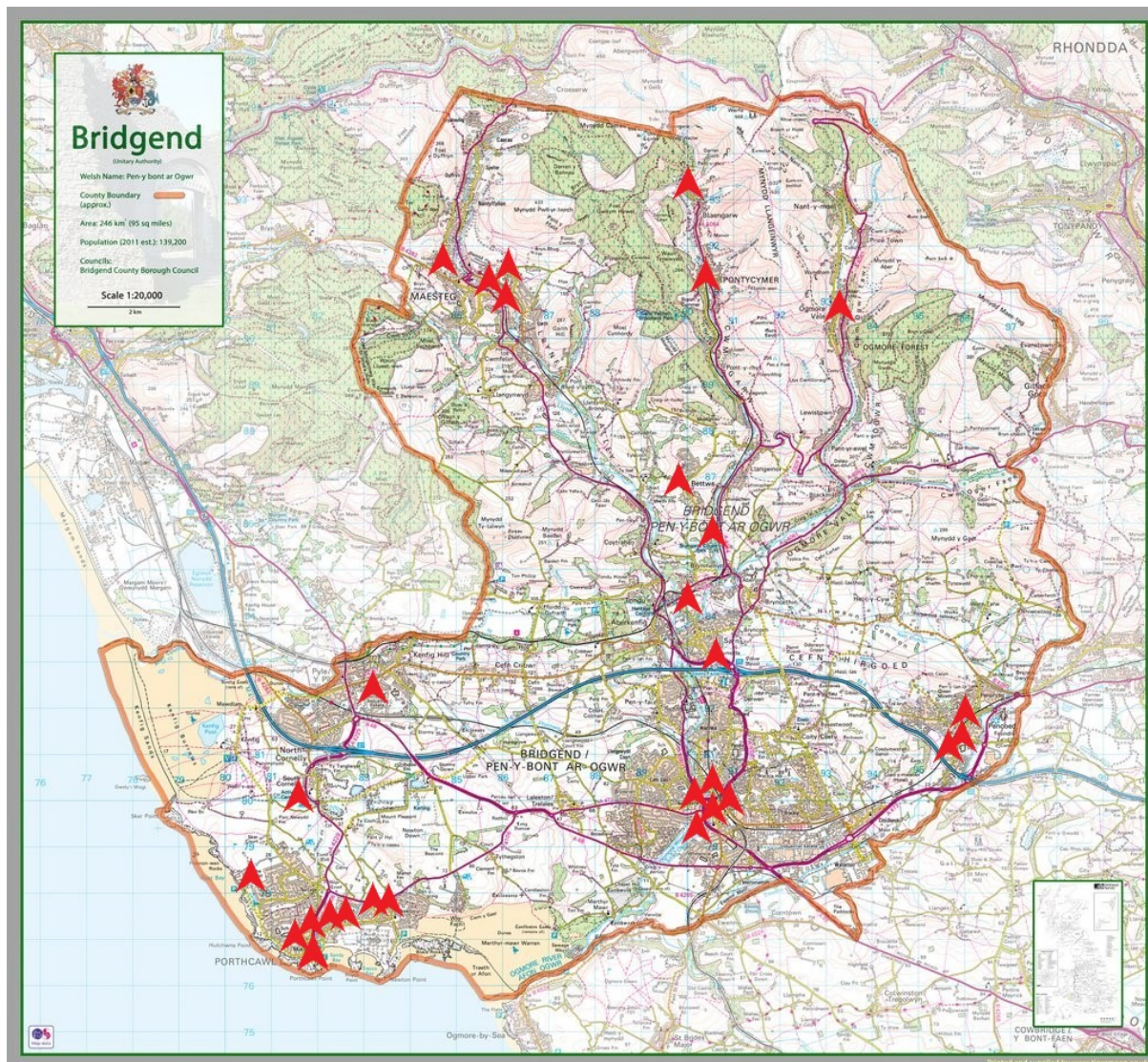
Each location is identified with opening times, accessibility and seasonal variations included. These facilities will be advertised on BCBC's website and in any national advertising schemes such as www.radarkey.org, www.toiletmap.org.uk or www.changing-places.org.

Premises participating in BCBC's 'Comfort Scheme' will display a sticker in a prominent position, indicating that the toilets are accessible to the public. The logo on the stickers will replicate those produced by the Welsh Government and BCBC will periodically review and update the Welsh Government "Lle" data repository to allow access to accurate information by guide and map publishers, residents and visitors. <http://lle.gov.wales/home>. The dataset will be available in Welsh and English. The public will be able to see and search the data as it appears on the Lle website, to see the whole of Wales or to look at particular areas.

As the data provided by local authorities is to be made available as open data, it will be available for reuse by third parties, either directly from BCBC's own website, or via the joined dataset behind the Lle map. This might include other online map services, app developers or commercial interests, as well as being available for reuse by other public sector organisations. For data to be classed as open data it must be made available under an open licence. Within the Public Sector this can be achieved by publishing data under the Open Government Licence (OGL).

Signs will be fitted on the outside of toilets giving information on opening hours, contact information for reporting problems and the specific facilities provided inside, such as whether there is a baby-changing room.

Toilets available for public use are identified on the following map:



Consultation Analysis

The Public Convenience consultation in 2015 resulted in 271 responses and 1137 responses in 2018, which represents one per cent of the Bridgend County Borough population.

General responses from 2018 supported town centre toilet provisions, with 95% of respondents believing that a minimum of two toilets should be provided in Porthcawl and Bridgend. There was also a general acceptance of introducing 'pay as you go' equipment to support these facilities.

BCBC's 'Comfort Scheme' was not well recognised and a large proportion of responses felt that BCBC should promote the scheme more widely. There was a general acceptance of using such facilities as an alternative to BCBC operated public toilets but the majority of respondents still expected traditional stand-alone public conveniences to remain open.

Following this consultation, the following actions were taken by BCBC:-

Maesteg Bus Station – These toilets were initially closed in January 2019 and were temporarily re-opened in May 2019 under the management of Awen Cultural Trust. An alternative provision will be designed into the planned re-development of Maesteg Town Hall.

Bridgend Bus Station – These toilet facilities would be retained and incorporated into the facilities management of the building and a 'pay as you go' system installed.

Cheapside, Bridgend - These toilets were closed in January 2019

Rest Bay, Porthcawl – Temporary toilets will remain open within the parks pavilion until the new Rest Bay Café and Watersports Centre development is due to be opened in the Summer of 2019. Thereafter, the public conveniences are due be managed by the tenant of the Watersports Centre premises, as one of the obligations of the tenant, under their proposed lease of part of the new building at Rest Bay. The public toilet facility at this site wil als incorporate a 'changing places' facility

Griffin Park, Porthcawl – These toilets were initially closed in January 2019 and were re-opened in April 2019 under a temporary licence and under the management of Porthcawl Town Council. An asset transfer of the facility is currently being considered.

John Street, Porthcawl – These toilets were initially closed in January 2019 and were re-opened in April 2019 under a temporary licence and under the management of Porthcawl Town Council. An asset transfer of the facility is currently being considered.

Strategic Review

It is the intention of this strategy to identify accessible locations of toilet provision and seek to promote:-

- **Clean, safe and well maintained facilities;**
- **Equal opportunities to provide appropriate, accessible and effective services;**
- **Facilities suitable for the location & signposted;**
- **Prioritise high footfall areas;**

- **Facilities at key transport interchanges;**
- **Sustainability where possible;**
- **Advertising the locations;**
- **Temporary facilities at Events;**
- **Co-operation with Town/Community councils and businesses;**
- **Further inclusion of traders in BCBC's Comfort Scheme;**
- **Inclusion of toilet facilities in future large scale developments.**

BCBC will publish this strategy by 31st May 2019 and thereafter prepare an interim progress report every two years. Publication should be within 6 months of the end date of the two year period.

The Local Toilet Strategy must also be reviewed within a year of each ordinary election for its area. The next election date in Wales is Thursday 5th May 2022, so the latest date for review is 4th May 2023. If no changes are made to the strategy following the post-election review, then BCBC must publish an interim progress statement covering a two year period, commencing from the date of the last election.

BCBC may review its strategy at any time following which it must publish a statement of the steps which it has taken in accordance with the strategy. If following a review BCBC decides to revise the strategy, it must publish the revised strategy and then prepare an interim progress report covering the two year period commencing from the date of publication.

Appendix 1

Consultees:

McCarthur Glen Shopping Centre	Bridgend
Coney Beach Management	Porthcawl
Awen Cultural Trust	
Halo Leisure	
Kenfig Nature Reserve Trust	
Pencoed Town Council	
Maesteg Town Council	
Porthcawl Town Council	
Coychurch Crematorium	BCBC
Facilities management	BCBC
Parks and Green Spaces	BCBC
Regeneration & Development	BCBC
Town Centre Manager	BCBC

Appendix 2

Location of publicly owned, occupied or funded premises.

Location	Address	Post code	Administration
Awel Y Mor Comm Centre	Hutchwns Terr, Porthcawl	CF36 5TP	Awen Cultural Trust
Betws Life Centre	Betws Road, Betws	CF32 8TB	Awen Cultural Trust
Blaengarw Workmens Hall	Blaengarw	CF32 8AW	Awen Cultural Trust
Bridgend Bus Station	Quarella Road, Bridgend	CF31 1JS	BCBC
Bridgend Life Centre	Angel Street, Bridgend	CF31 4AH	Halo
Bryngarw Country Park	Bryngarw	CF32 8UU	Awen Cultural Trust
Civic Offices	Angel Street, Bridgend	CF31 4HD	BCBC
Coity Higher & Litchard Comm Centre	Heol West Plas, Litchard	CF31 1PA	Awen Cultural Trust
Garw Valley Life Centre	Old Station Yard, Pontycymmer	CF38 8ES	Halo
Grand Pavilion	Esplanade Av, Porthcawl	CF36 3YW	Awen Cultural Trust
Kenfig Nature Reserve		CF36 3YW	
Maesteg Sports Centre	Old Forge Site, Nant y Crynwydd, Maesteg	CF34 9EB	Halo
Maesteg Swimming Pool	Alfred Street, Maesteg	CF34 9YW	Halo
Maesteg Bus Station	Maesteg	CF34 9DA	Awen Cultural Trust
Maesteg	Llynfi Retail Park	CF34 9DS	Maesteg Town Council
Ogmore Valley Life Centre	Aber Road	CF32 7AJ	Awen Cultural Trust
Pencoed Library	6 Penybont Rd, Pencoed	CF35 5RA	Awen Cultural Trust
Pencoed Swimming Pool	Felindre Rd	CF35 5PB	Halo
Pencoed Public Conveniences	Salem Chapel Vestry, Coychurch Rd	CF35 5LY	Pencoed Town Council
Pyle Life Centre	Helig Fan, Bridgend	CF33 6BS	Awen Cultural Trust
Pyle Swimming Pool	Marshfield Ave	CF33 6RP	Halo
Rest Bay Watersports Centre	Locks Common, Porthcawl	CF36 3UP	BCBC
Ynysawdre Swimming Pool	Heol Yr Ysgol	CF32 9ET	Halo

Location of Retail Centres, external providers and tourist attractions open to the public

Bridgend Train Station	Market St,Bridgend	CF31 1LL	Arriva Trains
Pier Hotel	38-39 Esplanade, Porthcawl	CF36 3YR	The Pier Hotel - BCBC Comfort Scheme
Sarn Park Motorway Station	Sarn	CF32 9SY	Welcome Break
The Three Horseshoes Public House	Bridgend	CF31 1HU	The Three Horseshoes Public House – BCBC Comfort Scheme
Ancient Briton	Porthcawl	CF36 5NT	The Ancient Briton Public House – BCBC Comfort Scheme

Appendix 4

		What facilities are available?														Do you have a changing place incorporating adult changing facilities, hoists etc for people with profound disabilities and their carers?
Name of Location	Postcode	Male only	Female only	Unisex toilet	Baby change					Disabled						
					male toilet	female toilet	unisex toilet	Separate to toilets	disabled toilet	Open access			Locked (RADAR)			
										male only	female only	unisex	male only	female only	unisex	
Ancient Briton	CF36 5NT	Yes	YES	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Awel y Mor Community Centre	CF36 5TN	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Betws Life Centre	CF32 8TB	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Blaengarw Workmens Hall	CF32 8AW	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Bridgend Bus Station	CF31 1JS	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

Bridgend County Borough Council – Local Toilet Strategy 2019



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										male only	female only	unisex	male only	female only	unisex	
Bridgend Life Centre	CF314AH	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Bridgend Train Station	CF31 1BN	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bryngarw Country Park	CF328UU	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Bridgend BCBC – Offices, Angel St, Bridgend	CF31 4WB	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Garw Valley Life Centre	CF38 8ES	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No



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										male only	female only	unisex	male only	female only	unisex	
Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl	CF36 3YW	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Griffin Park Toilets	CF36 5DN	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
John Street Toilets	CF36 3AJ	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Jolly Sailor Inn	CF36 5PD	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Kenfig Nature Reserve	CF33 4PT	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	NO	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Maesteg Sports Centre	CF34 9YW	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No



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										male only	female only	unisex	male only	female only	unisex	
Maesteg Swimming Pool	CF34 9YW	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Maesteg Bus Station	CF34 9DA	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Portoloo Llynfi Retail Park, Maesteg	CF34 9DS	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Ogmore Valley Life Centre	CF32 7AJ	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Pencoed Library	CF35 5RA	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes



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										male only	female only	unisex	male only	female only	unisex	
Pencoed Public Convenience	CF35 6LY	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Pencoed Swimming Pool	CF35 5PB	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Pier Hotel	CF36 3YR	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Pyle Swimming Pool	CF33 6RP	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Rest Bay Toilets	CF363UW	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
The Three Horseshoes	CF31 1HU	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No



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										male only	female only	unisex	male only	female only	unisex	
Sarn Park Motorway Services	CF329SY	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Ynysawdre Swimming Pool	CF32 9ET	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes



Appendix 5

Bridgend County Borough Council – Local Toilet Strategy 2019



***Ynysawdre
Swimming
Pool***

CF32 9ET 06:00 22:00 06:00 22:00 06:00 22:00 06:00 22:00 06:00 22:00 06:00 22:00 06:00 22:00 06:00 22:00

Appendix 7

(extract from Bridgend CBC's Local Development Plan)

BCBC is the unitary authority responsible for local government across a 255 sq. km area of South Wales. The county borough extends about 20 kilometres from east to west, encompassing the Ogmore, Garw and Llynfi valleys to the north and bordering the Bristol Channel to the south. The largest settlements are Bridgend, Maesteg and the seaside town of Porthcawl.

A dominant feature of the landscape is in fact the small valleys and associated uplands that form part of the former South Wales Coalfield. The settlement pattern and land use reflects the typical ribbon type associated with this area. Further south the landscape opens out into a fairly broad limestone plateau and runs down to the coast with a mixture of active sand systems (Kenfig), coastal beaches and rocky headlands.

BCBC is seen to be traversed by the M4 motorway, A48 trunk road and the Swansea-Paddington railway line, which all influence the surrounding landscape.

The authority hosts four lower level Town Councils and 16 Community Councils. The BCBC area is centred around the principal settlement of Bridgend, also taking in Maesteg, the seaside resort of Porthcawl, Pencoed to the east and Llynfi, Garw and Ogmore Valleys.

The estimated population is 143,400 (2016), around 4.6% of the total population of Wales (3,113,200). It is anticipated that the population will increase to 144,640 by 2021.



Population Projection for Bridgend County Borough

There are three housing market areas within the BCBC area, the North consisting of Ogmore, Garw and Upper Llynfi Valley and Western settlements, the West consisting of Porthcawl and rural east consisting of Bridgend, Pencoed & hinterland. In total, there are an estimated 62,482 dwellings of which approx. 70% are owner occupied, 16% privately owned and the remaining 14% rented from registered social landlords.

The local highway network connects local areas of population to the major settlements and comprises mainly the B road networks and all classified unnumbered routes within the BCBC area. These include the B4180, B4281, B4622, B4283 and B4282.

Public Transport

Bridgend has a mainline station on the Inter City rail service from London (Paddington) to Swansea (with connections to West Wales) and also provides direct services to many other major destinations. Hourly service operating from Maesteg to Cardiff stop at both Bridgend and Pencoed.

The Bridgend Town Centre's modern bus station provides comprehensive local, short and medium distance bus services, including direct services to Cardiff and Swansea.

There are various active travel routes within the BCBC area, the majority of these are located in Bridgend. Other active travel routes are present in Maesteg, Ogmore Vale, Pencoed, Pontycymer, Porthcawl and Pyle. Part of the active travel routes include Bridgend County's Coastal Path which is an 11.5 mile pathway which forms part of the All Wales Coastal Path, providing a continuous walking route around the whole of Wales and totals 870 miles.

Poverty and deprivation

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (2014) identifies deprivation pockets throughout Wales. In 2014, of the 88 LSOAs in the BCBC area, 9 were in the most deprived 10% of Wales; 20 were in the most deprived 20%; 37 were in the most deprived 30% and 50 were in the most deprived 50% LSOAs. The percentage of households that are workless in Bridgend is 4.7% which is above that for Great Britain. 16.1% of those in Bridgend of claiming government benefits; 1.7% above that for Wales and 5.1% above that for Great Britain. The level of worklessness is reflected through gross disposable household income (GDHI) per head, which is lower in Bridgend than the Wales average. GDHI has declined by £163 per household since 2010. In 2014, GDHI was £14,753.00. Median Weekly Wages in Bridgend in 2015 were £500, higher than that of Wales at £484.40.

The table below shows, for the WIMD 2014 Overall Index, the proportion of LSOAs in each local authority which were in the most deprived 10% (ranks 1-191), 20% (ranks 1-382), 30% (ranks 1-573) and 50% (ranks 1-955) categories within Wales.

WIMD 2014 Overall Deprived LSOAs by Local Authority

Local authority	Number of LSOAs in LA	% LSOAs in most deprived 10% (rank 1-191)	% LSOAs in most deprived 20% (rank 1-382)	% LSOAs in most deprived 30% (rank 1-573)	% LSOAs in most deprived 50% (rank 1-955)
Blaenau Gwent	47	23.4	46.8	68.1	85.1
Bridgend	88	10.2	22.7	42.0	56.8
Caerphilly	110	12.7	28.2	39.1	68.2
Cardiff	214	17.3	27.1	36.4	46.3
Carmarthenshire	112	4.5	10.7	22.3	52.7
Ceredigion	46	2.2	2.2	6.5	39.1
Conwy	71	5.6	12.7	23.9	42.3
Denbighshire	58	13.8	17.2	20.7	46.6
Flintshire	92	2.2	12.0	19.6	34.8
Gwynedd	73	4.1	4.1	5.5	34.2
Isle of Anglesey	44	2.3	15.9	18.2	45.5
Merthyr Tydfil	36	22.2	30.6	61.1	80.6
Monmouthshire	56	0.0	0.0	7.1	23.2
Neath Port Talbot	91	13.2	29.7	40.7	67.0
Newport	95	14.7	30.5	38.9	56.8
Pembrokeshire	71	5.6	8.5	15.5	36.6
Powys	79	1.3	3.8	11.4	20.3
Rhondda Cynon Taf	154	17.5	31.2	46.8	72.1
Swansea	148	12.2	24.3	28.4	47.3
Torfaen	60	5.0	25.0	38.3	56.7
Vale of Glamorgan	79	5.1	15.2	19.0	36.7

Wrexham	85	5.9	12.9	28.2	43.5
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As can be seen from this table, Bridgend County Borough has 56.8% of its LSOAs within the top 50% most deprived category – this is the fourth highest proportion in Wales after Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff.

Males born within the least deprived areas of Bridgend are expected to live 9.2 years longer than those born in the most deprived areas; while females born within the least deprived areas of Bridgend are expected to live 9 years longer than those born in the most deprived areas. Across Wales, the life expectancy gap for females is 7.3 years while the life expectancy gap for males is 8.9 years. Healthy life expectancy for males is ranked at 21.9, the second highest rank across Wales (Cardiff is the highest at 24.4) with Wales itself being ranked at 18.712. Healthy life expectancy for females is ranked at 16.2 below that for Wales at 18.2. This indicated that there is a higher level of inequality in a healthy life expectancy for males in Bridgend.

Economic activity

In 2017, the employment rate within the BCBC area was 70% which was lower than across Wales (74.1%) and Great Britain (76%), whilst the percentage of the working age population that is economically active was also lower. The official unemployment rate in the BCBC area stood at 5.2% for 2017 which was higher than the unemployment rate across Wales (4.8%) and Great Britain (4.4%). Related to this, in 2016 the BCBC area had a jobs density of 0.74 (ratio of jobs to resident working age population) compared with 0.76 across Wales and 0.84 in Great Britain.

Earnings and work related benefits

Income is probably the most important factor in meeting peoples' basic needs, and it can also increase the freedom they have to make choices about their lives. In 2016, the average gross weekly full-time pay in Caerphilly county borough was £483.90, third highest amongst the Gwent local authorities behind Monmouthshire (£623.40) and Torfaen (£492.20) but below the Wales average of £498.30.¹

The extent to which people of working age are reliant on welfare benefits can provide a further perspective on local economic well-being. The working age population (16-64 years) claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) has fallen from 4,179 in August 2014 to 2,006 in August 2018. This is equivalent to a fall from 3.7% to 1.8% of the working age population. The percentage of people claiming JSA is significantly lower than the proportion of residents who are unemployed, as JSA can only be claimed for a limited period of time and individuals must be willing and able to look for work to claim it.

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and Incapacity Benefit (IB) are work benefits that are also important in terms of potential income levels of local residents. Whilst there is a positive downward trend in claimants from 10.9% to 9.8% within Caerphilly county borough between May 2012 + May 2016, this still equates to just over 11,000 residents who were claiming these particular welfare benefits in May 2016, which is a significant number.

Health and lifestyle behaviours

BCBC's health infrastructure now falls within the remit of the Cwm Taf University Health Board, having previously been under the control of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board until April 2019. The Princess of Wales Hospital is a district general hospital which opened in 1985. The hospital is located on the outskirts of Bridgend town in South Wales, and provides acute health services to the local population.

Bridgend, Maesteg and Porthcawl-Pyle act as hubs for services, employment, housing and retail developments for the surrounding communities. Bridgend in particular, has an existing status as the major service centre for the Llynfi, Ogmere and Garw Valleys.

Bridgend Town Centre in particular is positioned at the top of the retail and commercial hierarchy of the County Borough and is defined as a Sub-Regional Centre. Maesteg, Porthcawl and the combined settlements of the Valleys Gateway²² play a strategic role within the County Borough as focus points for services, transport and community activity. Porthcawl equally plays an important role as a leisure and tourism destination.

The Valleys communities themselves consist of a high number of small communities with strong local characteristics which have faced, and will continue to face, challenging times (particularly following the closure of mining industries).

The existing LDP identifies four Strategic Regeneration Growth Areas (SRGAs) within the BCBC area; Porthcawl; Maesteg and the Llynfi Valley; and The Valleys Gateway together with four Strategic Employment Sites (Brocastle, Waterton, Bridgend Island Farm, Bridgend Pencoed Technology Park, Pencoed Ty Draw Farm, North Cornelly) which may have already benefited from planning permission.