

Bridgend Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033



Background Paper 1: Vision and Objectives

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BRIDGEND REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP) 2018-2033

BACKGROUND PAPER 1: VISION AND OBJECTIVES

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report evaluates the Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) Vision and Objectives.

2. Replacement Local Development Plan Vision

- 2.1 Informed by the identification of relevant LDP Issues and Drivers in Chapter 3 of the LDP Deposit Plan, Chapter 4 of the document sets out a new LDP Vision statement to underpin the emerging Replacement LDP. This Vision covers the plan period 2018-2033 and is designed to integrate the Bridgend Replacement LDP with the Bridgend Local Wellbeing Plan, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Welsh Government's National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes and thematic priorities within 'Future Wales' (National Development Framework NDF) and Planning Policy Wales (PPW). In consequence, the proposed LDP Vision is based around using placemaking to achieve economic and spatial outcomes in tandem.

- 2.2 The proposed LDP Vision explains that the County Borough is undergoing incremental, long-term socio-economic renewal, such that the Bridgend Replacement LDP should support existing regeneration efforts and further growth without imposing fundamental change. However, a new LDP Vision is set out which appropriately addresses the key spatial challenges and opportunities facing the County Borough, including existing economic strengths in advanced manufacturing and the need for improved infrastructure, new employment opportunities and the decarbonisation of key sectors, each of which will have spatial implications, to deliver sustainable economic growth. The proposed LDP Vision also calls for Bridgend, Porthcawl, Maesteg and the Llynfi Valley to accommodate the majority of growth and have distinct roles within a coherent network of settlements. In addition to supporting economic growth, the proposed LDP Vision recognises that this approach will maximise positive wellbeing outcomes and help to protect environmentally sensitive areas.

- 2.3 As a high-level statement focused around using placemaking to achieve regeneration and economic growth, the LDP Vision supports a greater emphasis on the delivery of a refreshed spatial strategy and place-based policies within the Replacement LDP than the existing adopted LDP, which enhances local distinctiveness and the ability to meet the differential needs of communities. The proposed LDP Vision is therefore considered to be appropriate and compatible with achieving sustainable development.

2.4 The Replacement LDP Vision is set out below:

Vision for 2033

Since the turn of the millennium, Bridgend and the wider County Borough has been on a journey to expand access to key services, enhance physical environmental quality and improve quality of life for residents, workers and visitors. This transformation will continue throughout the LDP period, resulting in the continued development of a safe, healthy and inclusive network of communities that connect more widely with the regions to enable sustainable economic growth.

Council Priorities

The County Borough is already a major regional employment hub, with specific strengths in advanced manufacturing. These socio-economic assets will be enhanced to progressively improve the County Borough's economic competitiveness whilst significantly contributing to the success of the Cardiff Capital Region and Swansea Bay Region. Encouraging inward investment to improve infrastructure, employment provision and lifelong learning opportunities will attract and retain skilled workers that will in turn encourage businesses to bring further skilled employment into the area. Bridgend County Borough Council also has a vision to make Bridgend a decarbonised, digitally connected smart County Borough. In doing so it will transition to a low carbon, decentralised energy system that works for its individuals, communities and businesses. In achieving its vision of a decarbonised, digitally connected smart county borough, the Council aims to:

- *decarbonise the energy sector and seek to deliver net zero carbon homes,*
- *stimulate economic growth,*
- *provide new job opportunities, and*
- *attract new and existing businesses to trial initiatives and grow within the county borough*

Spatial Vision

Bridgend will remain the principal town, and supplementary growth will build on its success as a regional employment, commercial and service centre. Additional employment, commercial and residential development will be focussed around other established towns to achieve sustainable patterns of growth that support existing local services and facilities. Regeneration-led growth will also be channelled towards Porthcawl through redevelopment of its waterfront to capitalise on the town's role as a premier seaside and tourist destination. In addition, the valley settlements will be earmarked for sustainable regeneration, with a recognition that Maesteg and the Llynfi Valley has the largest potential capacity and infrastructure to accommodate future growth. This vision will be achieved through maintaining and developing strong, interdependent, connected and cohesive settlements, whilst also protecting and enhancing the County Borough's environmental and heritage assets. This will offer people:

- *the best start in life by providing effective learning environments to secure the best possible outcomes for learners;*
- *opportunities to reduce social and economic inequalities; and*
- *an improved quality of life and a healthy environment for all people living, working, visiting and relaxing in the area.*

3. Replacement Local Development Plan Objectives

3.1 Strategic Objectives and Specific Objectives

3.1.1 The LDP Vision will be delivered through the achievement of 4 Strategic Objectives, which will be underpinned by 35 Specific Objectives. These seek to reflect updated national policy and legislation and address the issues facing the County Borough. The development of the Objectives has also been informed by the SA/SEA process, particularly the succinct set of key sustainability issues which should be addressed in the Replacement LDP. These identified issues have been carried forward to underpin the SA process, thereby shaping the following four Strategic Objectives, which are central to the LDP:

- **SOBJ1: To Create High Quality Sustainable Places (Placemaking)**
- **SOBJ2: To Create Active, Healthy, Cohesive and Social Communities**
- **SOBJ3: To Create Productive and Enterprising Places**
- **SOBJ4: To Protect and Enhance Distinctive and Natural Places**

3.1.2 The Strategic Objectives have been defined to reflect identified key issues, align with national policy and ensure an appropriate balance between the different elements of sustainability. They are cross-cutting in their nature and also cross-reference the goals and objectives of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and Bridgend Local Well-being Plan (LWBP). Acting together, the Vision and Strategic Objectives provide an overarching framework to underpin all other components of the Replacement LDP. Reflecting their importance, the Strategic Objectives have been subject to iterative testing and refinement through the SA process in tandem with preparing the Deposit Plan. Whilst necessarily high level, the resulting Strategic Objectives provide good coverage of all key sustainability issues which the Replacement LDP needs to address.

3.1.3 In turn, the Vision and 4 Strategic Objectives are supported by 35 Specific Objectives. These have been devised to create the right conditions to address the various social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being outcomes. The objectives will also form part of the basis for monitoring the implementation of the Plan, once adopted and operational.

SOBJ 1	To Create High Quality Sustainable Places (Placemaking)
OBJ 1a	

	<i>To promote Bridgend as the Primary Key Settlement of the County Borough where major employment, commercial and residential development is focused.</i>
OBJ 1b	<i>Develop a strategic hub in the northern part of the County Borough of Bridgend, focusing on employments sites, energy projects, residential developments, tourism and culture.</i>
OBJ 1c	<i>To revitalise Maesteg by recognising its role as the principal settlement serving the Llynfi Valley which has the potential capacity and infrastructure to accommodate future growth.</i>
OBJ 1d	<i>To realise the potential of Porthcawl as a premier seaside and tourist destination by prioritising the regeneration of its waterfront and investing in key infrastructure. This will also improve the attractiveness of the town as a place to live and work, whilst enhancing the vibrancy of the Town Centre</i>
OBJ 1e	<i>To promote sustainable and attractive valley settlements with improved access to jobs and services.</i>
OBJ 1f	<i>To recognise the strategic potential of Pencoed within the wider Cardiff Capital Region.</i>

SOBJ 2	To Create Active, Healthy, Cohesive and Social Communities
OBJ 2a	<i>To provide a land use framework that recognises the needs of deprived areas within the County Borough, which affords those communities the opportunities to tackle the sources of their deprivation.</i>
OBJ 2b	<i>To ensure that there is equality of access to community services for all sectors of the community, addressing the particular needs of younger people, families, older people and those with disabilities.</i>
OBJ 2c	<i>To deliver the level and type of residential development to meet the identified needs of the County Borough ensuring that a significant proportion is affordable and accessible to all.</i>
OBJ 2d	<i>To enable Bridgend Town to become an attractive and successful regional retail and commercial destination within the Cardiff Capital Region which also meets the needs of its catchment, supported by a network of viable town, district and local centres that serve their local communities.</i>
OBJ 2e	

	<i>To provide for the required quantity and range of accessible education, leisure, recreational, health, social and community facilities throughout the County Borough.</i>
OBJ 2f	<i>Promote accessibility for all by supporting the transport hierarchy (set out in PPW) that prioritises walking and cycling (active travel), then public transport and finally motor vehicles. New development should be located and designed in accordance with this hierarchy to prioritise the use of sustainable transport, reduce related airborne pollution, reduce the need to travel and reduce the dependency on private vehicles.</i>
OBJ 2g	<i>To ensure that new development helps deliver active travel routes in the County Borough.</i>
OBJ 2h	<i>Create walkable neighbourhoods, where a range of facilities are within walking distance of most residents, and the streets are safe, comfortable and enjoyable to walk and cycle.</i>
OBJ 2i	<i>Resolve localised junction capacity issues at Junction 36 of the M4 and the Penprysg Road Railway Bridge, Pencoed to improve extant traffic flow issues and enhance sustainable growth opportunities within the respective settlements in the future.</i>
OBJ 2j	<i>Promote new development that is designed to minimise the impact of transport emissions.</i>

SOBJ 3	To Create Productive and Enterprising Places
OBJ 3a	<i>To build a more diverse, dynamic and self-reliant economy and business environment.</i>
OBJ 3b	<i>To provide a realistic level and variety of employment land to facilitate the delivery of high quality workspaces and job opportunities.</i>
OBJ 3c	<i>Deliver a balanced portfolio of new and modern employment buildings with a focus on small to medium enterprises and start-up businesses.</i>
OBJ 3d	<i>Provide effective learning environments to secure the best possible outcomes for learners.</i>
OBJ 3e	<i>Promote and support the refurbishment of existing employment floor space.</i>

OBJ 3f	<i>Develop a commercial and education cluster around Bridgend train station with a focus on commerce and education.</i>
OBJ 3g	<i>To bring the benefits of regeneration to the valley communities by directing new development to those areas at a scale which acknowledges their geographical constraints and infrastructure capacity.</i>
OBJ 3h	<i>Develop a strong rural economy to support sustainable and vibrant rural communities, recognising the role of leisure and tourism.</i>
OBJ 3i	<i>Support transport infrastructure and fast communication networks to facilitate necessary improvements and development to support the growth aspirations of the Cardiff Capital Region.</i>
OBJ 3j	<i>Promote developments that are well located and designed to assist in meeting energy demand with renewable and low carbon sources in accordance with the energy hierarchy for planning' (set out in PPW), thereby helping to both mitigate the causes of climate change and tackle the 'climate emergency' declared by Welsh Government and the Council.</i>
OBJ 3k	<i>To meet the Council's regional and local commitments for mineral resources, waste management and waste disposal.</i>
OBJ 3l	<i>Promote the circular economy and make the best use of material resources for the benefit of both the built and natural environments.</i>
OBJ 3m	<i>Follow the priority order of the waste hierarchy in waste prevention and management – prevention, re-use, recycling, treatment, recovery and disposal.</i>
OBJ 3n	<i>To counter-balance the locally ageing population by accommodating sustainable levels of growth to attract and retain economically active households, ensuring the County Borough remains an attractive prospect for employers to expand within and move into.</i>

SOBJ 4 To Protect and Enhance Distinctive and Natural Places	
OBJ 4a	<i>To promote, conserve and enhance the natural, historic and built environment of the County Borough.</i>
OBJ 4b	<i>To safeguard the quality of water, air and soil and tackle all sources of pollution, including noise pollution.</i>
OBJ 4c	<i>Ensure adequate water supply, sewerage and drainage infrastructure (including sustainable drainage systems).</i>
OBJ 4d	<i>Promote multi-functional green infrastructure with an emphasis on its integration with existing and new development.</i>
OBJ 4e	<i>To manage development in order to avoid or minimise the risk and fear of flooding and enable and improve the functionality of floodplains.</i>

3.1 A detailed assessment of the compatibility and coverage of the proposed LDP Strategic Objectives against the SA Objectives from the Bridgend LDP Review SA Framework is provided in **Table D** of the Sustainability Appraisal. Table 2 summarises this appraisal and indicates the coverage of key sustainability objectives across the suite of proposed LDP Strategic Objectives.

Table 2: Relationship between LDP Strategic Objectives and SA Objectives

SA Objectives	LDP Strategic Objectives Demonstrating Compatibility	Incompatibilities or Gaps in Coverage?
1. Health and Wellbeing: Improve the health and wellbeing of the population, including with respect to physical and mental health, social wellbeing and community safety.	SOBJ1 SOBJ2, 2a, 2b, 2g, 2h, 2o, 2q SOBJ3 SOBJ4, 4b	None identified
2. Equality and Social Inclusion: Reduce poverty and inequality, tackle social exclusion and	SOBJ1, 1e SOBJ2, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2g, 2h, 2o SOBJ3, 3g, 3h, 3p SOBJ4	None identified

<p>promote community cohesion, including through enhancing access to community facilities.</p>		
<p>3. Employment and Skills: Increase the number and quality of employment opportunities to meet identified needs, whilst improving the level of educational attainment and skills amongst residents.</p>	<p>SOBJ1, 1a,1b,1c,1d,1e,1f SOBJ2, 2a,2b,2d,2g SOBJ3, 3a,3b,3c,3d,3f,3g,3h,3i,3l,3p SOBJ4</p>	<p>None identified</p>
<p>4. Transport and Communications: Enhance the accessibility of public services, economic opportunities and markets through improving infrastructure and creating a sustainable transport network, whilst also ensuring access to high quality communications and utilities.</p>	<p>SOBJ1, 1b,1c,1d,1e,1f SOBJ2, 2b,2c,2d,2g,2h,2o2p2q SOBJ3, 3f,3g,3h,3i,3l SOBJ4,e</p>	<p>None identified</p>
<p>5. Housing: Provide a sufficient quantum and range of good quality and affordable housing in sustainable locations to meet identified needs.</p>	<p>SOBJ1, 1a,1b,1e SOBJ2, 2c,2o SOBJ3,3p SOBJ4</p>	<p>None identified</p>

<p>6. Economic Growth: Deliver sustainable economic growth and maximise the economic contribution of the BCBC area to the Cardiff Capital Region, including through diversifying and strengthening the local economic base.</p>	<p>SOBJ1,1a,1b,1c,1d,1e,1f SOBJ2,2d,2h,2p SOBJ3,3a,3b,3c,3d,3e,3f,3g,3h,3i,3j,3k,3l,3m,3n,3o,3p SOBJ4</p>	<p>None identified</p>
<p>7. Air Quality: Prevent and reduce emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants and minimise exposure to poor air quality.</p>	<p>SOBJ1 SOBJ2, 2q SOBJ3 SOBJ4, 4a,4b</p>	<p>None identified</p>
<p>8. Climate Change: Adopt appropriate mitigation and adaption measures to reduce and respond to the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>SOBJ1 SOBJ2,2h,2p,2q SOBJ3,3l SOBJ4</p>	<p>None identified</p>
<p>9. Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Soil: Conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity interests, including through safeguarding important sites and species, improving green infrastructure provision and safeguarding</p>	<p>SOBJ1 SOBJ2,2q SOBJ3 SOBJ4,4a,4b,4c,4d,4e,4f</p>	<p>None identified</p>

important soil resources.		
<p>10. Water and Flood Risk: Conserve, protect and enhance water and coastal environments, water quality and water resources, whilst reducing the risk of flooding. Development must be located so as not to increase the risk of flooding and should be steered away from areas of greatest risk.</p>	<p>SOBJ1 SOBJ2 SOBJ3 SOBJ4,4b,4d,4f</p>	<p>None identified</p>
<p>11. Materials and Waste: Contribute to the implementation of the circular economy, manage waste with minimal environmental impacts and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, including for energy generation and providing an adequate supply of minerals and materials for construction.</p>	<p>SOBJ1 SOBJ2 SOBJ3,3m,3n,3o SOBJ4</p>	<p>None identified</p>
<p>12. Sustainable Placemaking: Maximise the efficient use of land and infrastructure and enhance design quality to create</p>	<p>SOBJ1,1a,1b,1c,1d,1e,1f SOBJ2,2o,2q SOBJ3 SOBJ4</p>	<p>None identified</p>

	great places for people.		
13.	Cultural Heritage: Conserve, protect and enhance the historic environment and cultural assets, including the use of the Welsh language.	SOBJ1,1b,4b SOBJ2 SOBJ3 SOBJ4	None identified
14.	Landscape: Protect and enhance the landscape character, visual amenity and legibility of settlements in the BCBC area.	SOBJ1 SOBJ2 SOBJ3 SOBJ4,4a,4e	None identified

3.2 Table 2 demonstrates that, whilst individual LDP Objectives relate to specific topics, taken together the 35 LDP Objectives provide strong coverage of most of the SA Objectives and there are no complete gaps. Indeed, the wording of some proposed LDP Objectives closely matches the corresponding thematic SA Objectives. Read as a whole, the proposed Strategic Objectives therefore appropriately respond to identified key sustainability issues and planning problems.

4. Conclusion

4.1 The proposed LDP Vision and objectives are aspirational and focused on placemaking: the 7 LDP Objectives under SO1 – Placemaking explicitly identify spatial priorities in the growth of key settlements, whilst many other LDP Objectives seek socio-economic, environmental, cultural or infrastructure changes in specific places within the Bridgend County Borough area. The spatial rather than solely thematic nature of many LDP Objectives support the implementation of the LDP Vision and help to avoid tensions between underlying economic or environmental policies.