

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

Scoping Report Non-Technical Summary

Vale of Glamorgan Council

June 2022

Quality information

Prepared by	Checked by	Verified by	Approved by
Emily Baker Graduate Environmental Planner	Rosie Cox Senior Environmental Planner	Alastair Peattie Associate Director	Alastair Peattie Associate Director

Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Name	Position
V1	21.06.2022	Draft for internal review	Emily Baker	Graduate Environmental Planner
V2	22.06.22	Final for consultation	Rosie Cox	Senior Environmental Planner

Prepared for:

Vale of Glamorgan Council

Prepared by:

AECOM Limited
3rd Floor, Portwall Place
Portwall Lane
Bristol BS1 6NA
United Kingdom

T: +44 117 901 7000
aecom.com

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1. Introduction

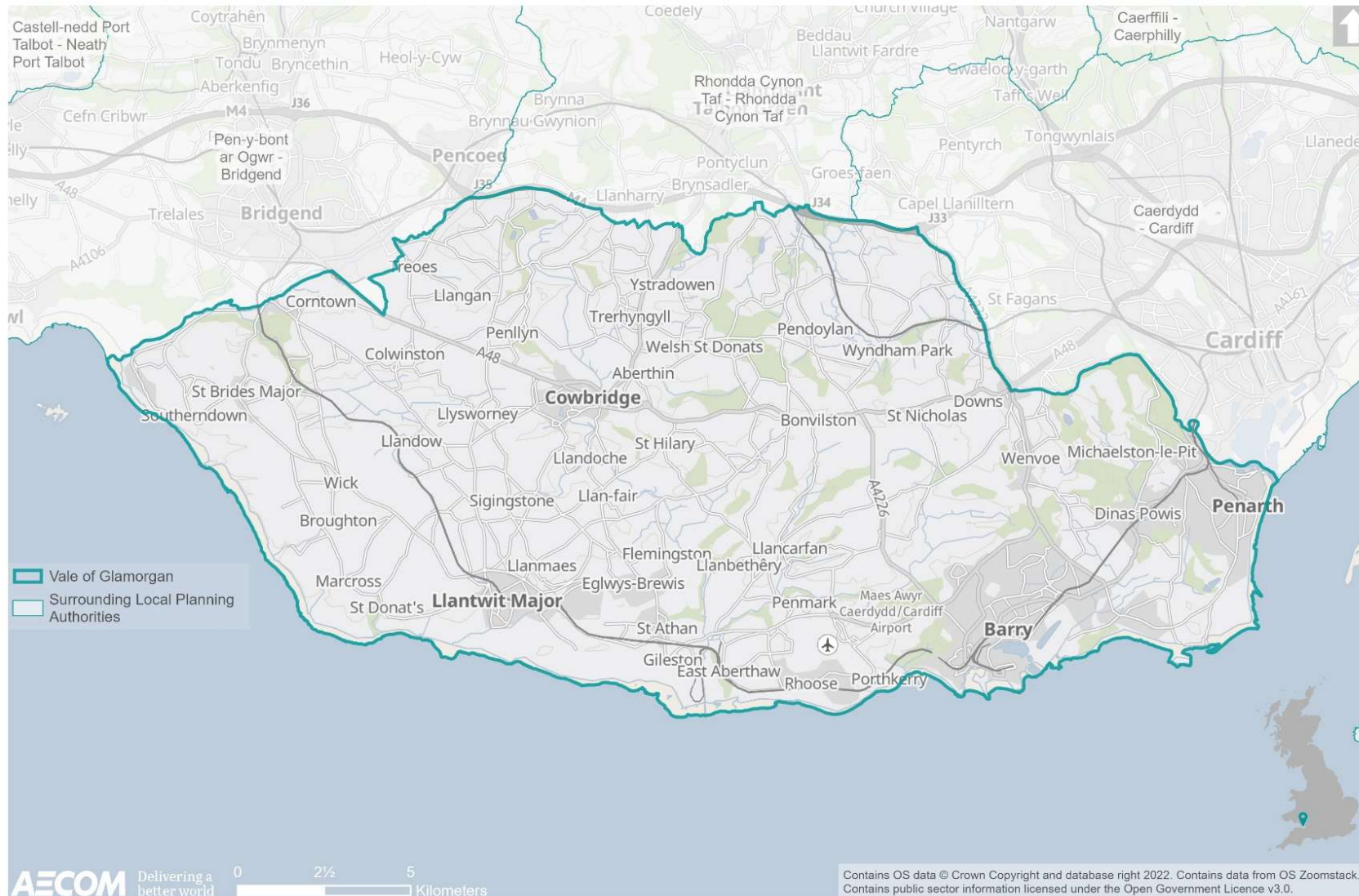
- 1.1 AECOM is commissioned to lead on Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) in support of Vale of Glamorgan Council's (the Council) Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP). The ISA fulfils the requirements and duties for Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA) and Well-being of Future Generations (WCFG).
- 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 (RLDP) seeks to maximise the developing plan's contribution to sustainable development.

Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan

- 1.3 The Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011 - 2026 (LDP) was adopted on the 28th June 2017 and sets out the Council's planning framework for the development and use of land in Vale of Glamorgan from that date, until superseded. In accordance with statutory requirements the LDP has been monitored on an annual basis with three Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs) published to date.¹
- 1.4 To ensure that Local Development Plans (LDP) are kept up to date, Section 69 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a Local Planning Authority to undertake a full review of a LDP at least once every four years following plan adoption.
- 1.5 Accordingly, in June 2021 the Vale of Glamorgan Council commenced its formal review of the adopted LDP, with the draft Review Report having been made available for consultation between 05th November 2021 and 31st January 2022. The Review Report considered the effectiveness of the adopted LDP and recommended that a full revision of the LDP is undertaken.
- 1.6 The Vale of Glamorgan Replacement LDP (RLDP) formally commenced on the 04th May 2022 following the Welsh Government's approval of the RLDP Delivery Agreement, which includes the timetable and Community Involvement Scheme. The RLDP will set out the Council's objectives and priorities for the development and use of land within the authority for the period 2021 to 2036. The area covered by the RLDP is shown in **Figure 1.1** overleaf.

¹ Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council (2021) Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011-2026 3rd Annual Monitoring Report

Figure 1.1 Vale of Glamorgan Council administrative area



ISA explained

- 1.7 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 RLDP seeks to maximise the developing plan's contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.8 As identified above, the ISA seeks to fulfil the requirements and duties for SA, SEA, EqIA, HIA, WLIA and WCFG. The approach is to fully integrate these components to provide a single assessment process to inform the development of the RLDP. A description of each of the various components and their purposes is provided below.

Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.9 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.
- 1.10 In line with the requirements of the SEA Directive, the two key steps in SA are that:
- 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
 - 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.
- 1.11 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)

- 1.12 As a public-sector organisation, the Vale of Glamorgan Council 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 RLDP 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.
- 1.13 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.²

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

Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

- 1.15 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)

- 1.16 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)).
- 1.17 Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (February 2021) (PPW) 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

- 1.18 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).
- 1.19 *“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”.*

² Welsh Government (2020): ‘A more equal Wales: strengthening social partnership white paper’, [online] available to access via [this link](#)

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

- 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; and
- A globally responsible Wales.

1.21 The Act 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 (see Appendix A).

1.22 Adding to this, Chapter 2.9 of PPW states that *“the most appropriate way to implement these requirements through the planning system is to adopt a placemaking approach to plan making, planning policy and decision making”*.

1.23 The PPW sets out the following key planning principles, which focus on sustainable development and placemaking:

- Growing our economy in a sustainable manner.
- Making best use of resources.
- Facilitating accessible and healthy environments.
- Creating and sustaining communities; and
- Maximising environmental protection and limiting environmental impact.

Approach to scoping for the ISA

1.24 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 RLDP, to help identify the plan’s likely significant effects.
- Identifying particular problems or opportunities (‘issues’) that should be a particular focus of the ISA; and
- Developing an ISA Framework comprising objectives and assessment questions based on these issues which can then be used to assess the RLDP and consider alternatives.

Structure of this NTS

1.25 The outcomes of the scoping elements introduced above have been presented under a series of ISA themes, as follows:

- Economy and employment.
- Population and communities.
- Health and wellbeing.
- Equality, diversity, and inclusion.
- Climate change (mitigation and adaptation).
- Transport & movement.
- Natural resources (air, land, minerals, and waste).
- Biodiversity and geodiversity.
- Historic environment; and
- Landscape.

1.26 The selected ISA themes incorporate the 'SEA topics' suggested by Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations³ as well as fully integrating EqIA, HIA and Welsh language considerations (including the Council's relevant policies and strategies) and reflecting the seven well-being goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

1.27 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.

1.28 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.

³ 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 Vale of Glamorgan

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

Economy and employment

- The Vale's location within the Cardiff Capital City Region gives it access to an investment programme of £1.2 billion, including the delivery of the South Wales Metro which will improve connectivity throughout the region.
- The Vale of Glamorgan is identified within Southeast Wales Growth Area, future growth shall need to consider how the needs of the community are aligned with sustainable development and climate change objectives.
- The employment rate in the Vale of Glamorgan has been consistently above that of the Welsh employment rate, and broadly in-line with the GB employment rate. However, high levels of unemployment exist in the county borough, in addition to low levels of income and educational deprivation, notably in certain areas within Barry.
- Cardiff Airport and Bro Tathan Enterprise Zone include 550 ha of employment space. Future development/ expansion of these areas will deliver significant aviation related economic growth throughout the region, support high quality jobs and training/ education for Vale residents.
- Agile working patterns catalysed by digitalisation and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic will need to be reflected in local planning policy.
- Continued rise in leisure and office floorspace, with town and district retail centres diversifying from the traditional A1 retail uses in part as a response to changing shopping habits. The RLDP will need to consider how policy can accommodate trends in shopping habits and the changing nature of retail and the evolving role of our town, district and local centres.
- Access to broadband varies throughout the Vale; however, it is noted that the Council is working with Welsh Government through the 'local broadband fund' to improve internet access in areas where infrastructure is more difficult to establish. This will be important if the Vale of Glamorgan wishes to capitalise on the economic opportunities created through home and distance working.
- The Vale has a range of attractions for tourists that utilise the natural environment to improve the area's economic well-being. It will be important for the Vale to utilise its assets in a sustainable way to ensure future social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being throughout communities is enhanced and the integrity of the assets maintained and improved.

Population and communities

- There has been positive population growth in the Vale of Glamorgan each year since 2002 (other than 2017), with the 65+ age group notably increasing by 9.8% between 2015 and 2020 and expected to rise further by 2030
- There is notable growth projected for the population aged 65-84 and 85 and over. Between 2019 and 2039 it is estimated that the population aged 65-84 will grow by 5,266 people and the population aged 85 and over will grow by 2,904 people. This suggests the Vale has an ageing population and there needs to be consideration of their specific needs in areas such as housing, health and care provision, but also to recognise the positive contribution of the older people in the community.
- High property prices contribute to an increase in the number of residents unable to enter the private property market. Household projections show a year-on-year growth in the numbers of households, while projections for average household size show a year-on-year decrease. The RLDP 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.
- The Vale is made up of distinct rural and urban settlements; towns and villages divided into three community areas - Barry, Eastern Vale and Western Vale. The Vale's four town centres are Barry, Penarth (Eastern Vale), Llantwit Major (Western Vale) and Cowbridge (Western Vale). Barry has the highest share of the Vale of Glamorgan's population and has been designated as a regeneration area.
- There has been positive net migration in the last five years, with **Table 3.3** above showing that the population of the Vale is growing at a comparatively high rate for its size.
- The Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) (2022) shows an affordable housing need across the Vale of Glamorgan, comprising 76% social rented accommodation, 18% intermediate rented housing, and 7% low-cost home ownership.⁴ The need for general social rented accommodation remains at its highest in the Barry and Penarth and Llandough housing market areas, although there are varying levels of affordable housing need across the authority
- The adopted LDP currently identifies seven Green Wedges which retain the integrity and identity of key settlements. It is important that this policy is taken forward within the RLDP to support strategic, sustainable growth throughout the Vale in the long term. Access to services is a key issue, and the sustainable location of new development will be essential in ensuring residents can meet their day-to-day needs via sustainable modes of transport.

⁴ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2022); 'Local Housing Market Assessment'

Health and wellbeing

- General health of Vale of Glamorgan residents is good. Adults record good health when compared to different areas of Wales, and for both females and males, the Vale of Glamorgan records one of the highest average life expectancies at birth.
- Publicly accessible open space is present throughout the Vale with the greatest provision seen to the southeast, owing to the two large Country Parks present. Although in the urban areas open space is fragmented and lacks connectivity. Common land and green space are also rich to the northwest of the Vale near St Brides Major.
- The Council's Play Sufficiency Assessment highlight that in rural areas some children and young people experience difficulties accessing play opportunities due to their limited ability to travel to their desired locations, and that many children in both rural and urban settlements considered the condition of play equipment to be poor.
- Active travel networks are good, notably the PRoW network extends throughout the Vale, with local active travel routes focused on the main settlements. This provision connects people and places, delivering health improvements through a modal shift, particularly for shorter journeys. The Council continues to develop an active travel network within the authority through Welsh Government grant and via section s106 monies secured by the Council as part of new developments.
- There is a large provision of healthcare facilities within the Vale of Glamorgan. Health facilities are concentrated around the main centres of Barry, Cowbridge, Penarth and Llantwit Major. LDP will play an important role in addressing this issue, particularly through appropriate housing and facilities for people who fall within this category.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

- The Vale of Glamorgan exhibits considerable socio-economic diversity containing some of the most affluent and the most deprived communities in Wales. Three of the most deprived areas in Wales are within/ surrounding Barry, as shown in the latest 2019 Welsh IMD. 2019 data shows that inequalities exist in the Vale, not only linked to healthy lifestyles but across a wide range of indicators that impact upon an individual's well-being. Our built and natural environment can play a huge part in contributing towards well-being and evidence shows that many of the Vale's deprived areas have a poor-quality environment with less access to green spaces.
- The areas of the Vale which observed the lowest household incomes are also those with the lowest employment rates, and those with the lowest levels of educational attainment. The influence of socio-economic factors in the early years can be crucial in determining the life chances and opportunities of the future generations.
- Only a small proportion of residents are within minority ethnic, racial, and religious groups; however, the reliability of this data is arguably uncertain.

- Compared with the figure for Wales (29.2%), in 2020, a lower proportion of the population in the Vale (18.8%) are Welsh speakers. This may indicate a higher level of Anglicisation than other Welsh regions.
- The Vale has an ageing population, and it will therefore be important to ensure that future development proposals within the RLDP and service provision can meet the changing needs of the population as they grow older.

Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)

- In support the implementation of the Welsh Government's new Low Carbon Delivery Plan, 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 being explored/ implemented throughout the Vale in line with the Project Zero Challenge Plan, with many operational large scale energy schemes in place.
- The need to ensure that existing natural resources are managed and protected in recognition of the significant role they have in providing natural solutions for mitigating the impact of climate change as well as supporting a wealth of biodiversity and improving wellbeing.
- 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 (e.g., by utilising green infrastructure). In this respect, it is recognised that the adopted LDP target of granting planning permissions sufficient to meet 10.6% (56.68 GWh) of projected electricity demand through renewable energy sources by 2020 has been met.⁵
- Principal sources of flood risk within the Vale are from surface water and fluvial flood risk, the latter primarily along river corridors which pose a risk to some settlements. Coastal flooding is also a risk to some existing residential and employment areas notably parts of Barry Docks and Atlantic Trading Estate lie within high flood risk areas.
- Although overall emissions in the Vale have decreased over time, CO2 emissions data from 2016 to 2018 appear to be levelling off for all emission sources. 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. Notably, climate change has a knock-on effect on biodiversity, which is extremely sensitive to changes in the natural environment, including temperature, rainfall, humidity and wind speed. In this respect, it will be important that the relationship between these two SEA topics, especially in relation to the distinct climate / biodiversity in the Vale, is highlighted.

⁵ New Civil Engineer (2022): 'Decommissioned Welsh power station to be converted into £36M green energy hub', [online] available to access via [this link](#).

Transportation

- 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 authority. 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 to some extent by future growth.
- Access and frequency of public transport is varied across the Vale of Glamorgan, within rural services being less frequent than those within urban settlements
- Currently, the highest proportion of residents commute via car, reflecting the semi-rural nature of the Vale. The replacement LDP will need to consider the impact of Covid-19 on travel patterns, particularly in relation to public transport usage, as well as the shift seen to working from home.
- Opportunities for modal shift are identified through the South Wales Metro Project⁶, 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.
- In terms of active travel the Vale has a vast walking and cycle network, which includes 55km of PRoW and NCN route 88, connecting residents across settlements within and outside of the Vale. However it is noted that the NCN is piecemeal beyond the main south east settlement. Tailored 'active travel schemes' are being explored and implemented throughout the Vale including Cowbridge and Llantwit Major.

Natural resources (air, land, minerals and waste)

- Although there are no AQMAs present in the Vale, air emissions are higher in the south and east of the authority, including Barry. Emissions should be proactively managed and monitored through the forthcoming RLDP.
- Water quality in the Vale is generally good, including bathing waters.
- Five Ground Water Source Protection Zones are present in the Vale.
- Approximately 85% (28,132 hectares) of land within the Vale is agricultural land, much of which is Grade 2 or 3 and contributes towards belowground carbon storage.
- The Vale of Glamorgan is an important contributor to the regional supply of minerals and includes several active mineral sites.
- There are two recycling centres in the Vale and it is noted that the site in Llandow urgently needs replacing.
- When considering the above key issues, it is recognised that policy approaches are pushing towards a holistic and sustainable approach to the management, protection and use of natural resources.

⁶ Welsh Government (no date): 'Rolling out our metro', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

This includes through targeted measures to improve environmental outcomes relating to air quality, noise, 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.

Biodiversity and geodiversity

- There are a vast number of designated sites for biodiversity within the county borough, including the Severn Estuary SPA, RAMSAR and SAC, Dunraven Bay SAC and the adjoining Merthyr Mawr National Nature Reserve, and 27 SSSIs. Locally, biodiversity assets include over 300 SINCs, 12 RIGS, and several LNRs. It will be important that any new development does not undermine the integrity of designated sites.
- There are many priority habitats and species present throughout the Vale. Priority habitats, urban and green spaces, coastal areas, and waterbodies all deliver ecological connectivity, supporting joined-up, connected places where biodiversity can thrive. It will be important for any new development to ensure that this ecological network is protected and enhanced both locally and sub-regionally.
- Future development should seek to maximise opportunities for biodiversity net gain, improving ecological links, protect and minimise harm from atmospheric pollution, where possible. In turn, this will bring positive effects for climate change adaptation, whilst tackling habitat fragmentation.

Historic environment

- The Vale has a rich variety and distribution of historic assets, including 740 listed buildings, over 100 SMs, 40 Conservation areas, 18 areas included in the Register of Landscapes of Historic Parks and Gardens, and two areas on the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales. The significance and setting of these assets 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.
- All development should ensure that any necessary archaeological investigations are undertaken prior to any relevant works.

Landscape

- The Vale has a high quality, varied landscape, much of which is designated/ recognised nationally for its special qualities, and character including heritage and marine.
- The SLAs play an important contribution to the visual context and setting of settlements and have recreational value, while registered landscapes of special interest hold historic significance as well as landscape qualities. The Vale's coastal areas are of significant value, supporting a distinct and unique seascape. It will be important for the RDLP to ensure their long-term protection and enhancement of these assets.

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 RDLP

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:	Relevant wellbeing goals
Economy and employment	Support a sustainable, diverse, and resilient economy, with innovative responses to changing conditions and support for a strong future workforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide sufficient land for businesses to grow and ensure alignment with housing/infrastructure? • Support the creation of accessible new jobs and facilitate home and distance working? • Support the Cardiff Airport and Bro Tathan Enterprise Zone, reflecting its regional importance in terms of attracting inward investment? • Ensure that town centres are considered first for new commercial, retail, education, health, leisure and public service facilities? • Ensure the capacity of educational facilities keep pace with population growth? • Enhance the vitality and resilience of town centre and retail centres, supporting diversification in line with changing needs? • Safeguard existing employment areas? • Create an attractive tourism destination? • Encourage sustainable development and quality facilities to enrich the experience for visitors and residents? • Promote a green economy and decarbonisation? • Ensure the economy grows in a sustainable manner? • Promote a prosperous Wales? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Prosperous Wales • A Resilient Wales • A More Equal Wales • A Wales of Cohesive Communities • A Globally Responsible Wales
Population and communities	To provide enough good quality market and affordable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the identified housing needs, including affordable, older person housing and accommodation needs of gypsy traveller community? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Resilient Wales • A Healthier Wales • A More Equal Wales

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:	Relevant wellbeing goals
	homes, and community infrastructure, in sustainable locations to meet identified needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types, and tenures to meet the needs of all sectors of the community, particularly the rapidly growing older population? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities? • Promote transit orientated development such as the 20-minute neighbourhood? • Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities, including specialist services? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Wales of Cohesive Communities • A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language
	To enhance design quality to create natural beautiful places for people that maintain and enhance community and settlement identity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve connectivity between communities and facilitate social interaction? • Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities, including specialist services? • Protect and enhance community identity and distinctiveness and support opportunities for recreation and tourism? • Prevent the coalescence of settlements and retain the openness of land, green infrastructure and habitat connectivity? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Prosperous Wales • A Resilient Wales • A Healthier Wales • A Wales of Cohesive Communities • A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language
Health and wellbeing	To improve the health and wellbeing of residents within Vale of Glamorgan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities through provision of open space, play spaces, food growing, and community spaces? • Facilitate good access to healthcare, social, recreational and leisure facilities for all sectors of the community? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Resilient Wales • A Healthier Wales • A More Equal Wales • A Wales of Cohesive Communities

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:	Relevant wellbeing goals
	<p>promoting healthy and sustainable places.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance multifunctional green infrastructure networks and connectivity throughout the plan area? • Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green spaces? • Improve access to open spaces, the countryside and leisure and recreation facilities? • Support healthy / active and inclusive environments? • Support the creation of cohesive, connected communities? • Provide formal and informal, and natural play spaces for children which are safe and easy and safe to access? • Reduce health inequalities across the County? • Support active travel and improvements to air quality? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language
<p>Equality, diversity and inclusion</p>	<p>To reduce poverty and inequality; tackle social exclusion and promote community cohesion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce inequalities and deprivation across the Vale of Glamorgan, particularly in the most deprived wards and hidden areas of deprivation? • Improve equality of opportunities amongst those social groups most in need? • Contribute to a reduction in crime and social disorder and the fear of crime, promoting safer neighbourhoods? • Promote, strengthen, and enhance placemaking? • Protect and provide improved local, social, recreational and leisure facilities and access to the natural environment for all sectors of the community, and improve access to them to maximise opportunities for community development and social welfare? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:	Relevant wellbeing goals
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Vale’s bilingual public services and increase the development and use of the Welsh language in Vale of Glamorgan? • Support the aging population to ensure they do not become socially excluded? 	
Climate change	Support the resilience of Vale of Glamorgan to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding from fluvial, coastal and surface water sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding, considering the likely future effects of climate change? • Increase resilience of the built and natural environment to the effects of climate change particularly in areas where coastal and fluvial flooding is identified? • Ensure that the potential risks associated with climate change are considered in new development in the plan area? • Protect, improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support climate change adaptation? • Utilise green infrastructure to sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff, whilst creating opportunities for habitat creation, tree planting and open spaces? • Minimise flood risk for key infrastructures, such as transport and power? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Resilient Wales • A Healthier Wales • A More Equal Wales • A Wales of Cohesive Communities • A Globally Responsible Wales

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:	Relevant wellbeing goals
	<p>Reduce Vale of Glamorgan’s contribution to climate change from activities which result in greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to meeting the Council’s target of net zero.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 unsustainable travel? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Prosperous Wales • A Resilient Wales • A Healthier Wales • A More Equal Wales • A Wales of Cohesive Communities • A Globally Responsible Wales
<p>Transport and movement</p>	<p>Increase sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development? • Provide opportunities to improve frequency and availability of public transport services particularly for rural communities? • Encourage modal shift to more sustainable and active forms of travel, such as walking and cycling and use of public transport? • Support opportunities for modal shift as set out in the South Wales Metro Project? • Prioritise sustainable transport options over car use where possible, including provision of adequate cycle parking and storage options? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Prosperous Wales • A Resilient Wales • A Healthier Wales • A More Equal Wales • A Wales of Cohesive Communities • A Globally Responsible Wales

Theme ISA objective Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to: Relevant wellbeing goals

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:	Relevant wellbeing goals
Natural resources	To identify and pursue any opportunities to reduce, or at least, minimise population exposure to air pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable transport infrastructure improvements? • Deliver and where necessary improve active travel networks? • Support the uptake of low carbon transport such as E-bikes and electric buses? • 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? • Contribute to green infrastructure networks? <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 and noise reduction and protects, incorporates and enhances green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of NO2 and other pollutants? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Resilient Wales • A Healthier Wales • A More Equal Wales • A Wales of Cohesive Communities • A Globally Responsible Wales
	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise the loss of potentially high-grade agricultural land to developments? • Protect and minimise loss of the soil resource and encourage appropriate management to enhance its carbon sequestration and water management functions? • Encourage the use of previously developed land? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Resilient Wales • A Wales of Cohesive Communities • A Globally Responsible Wales

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:	Relevant wellbeing goals
	<p>minimise pressure for greenfield development and protecting, where possible, higher grade agricultural land.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage development-related remediation works which could reduce the presence of contaminated land in Vale of Glamorgan? 	
	<p>To protect mineral resources and support waste management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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’? • Avoid the sterilisation of mineral resources where possible? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Resilient Wales • A Globally Responsible Wales
	<p>To conserve, protect and enhance the water environment, water quality and water resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Resilient Wales • A Globally Responsible Wales

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:	Relevant wellbeing goals
Biodiversity and geodiversity	Protect and enhance biodiversity within and surrounding Vale of Glamorgan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise impacts on designated and important biodiversity features and provide net gains where possible? Protect and enhance ecological networks, including those that cross administrative boundaries? Support opportunities for green infrastructure, which have knock-on benefits for wildlife, connecting habitats and avoiding habitat fragmentation? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A More Equal Wales A Globally Responsible Wales
Historic environment	<p>Preserve and enhance Vale of Glamorgan’s heritage resource, including its historic environment and archaeological assets.</p> <hr/> <p>Promote understanding of Vale of Glamorgan’s cultural heritage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve and enhance the significance of buildings and structures of architectural and/ or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their setting? Preserve 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? Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic and cultural environment, including the Welsh language? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language A Globally Responsible Wales <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:	Relevant wellbeing goals
Landscape	To protect and enhance the quality and character of Vale of Glamorgan’s landscape, seascape and townscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that Vale of Glamorgan’s most valuable landscapes, townscapes and seascapes are conserved and enhanced? • Use new and existing natural landscape features to mitigate any potential effects on nearby and distance interpretations of its landscapes? • Provide opportunities for linking existing fragmented woodland, introduction of new woodland, improving woodland and hedgerow management • Preserve and enhance the special interest, character and appearance of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast and its setting? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Globally Responsible Wales • 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

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:

- Scoping.
- 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.
- Prepare the ISA Report with a view to informing consultation.
- Consultation on the ISA Report; and
- 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 report public consultation will run for five weeks from **24/08/22** to **29/09/22**.

