

**TORFAEN
COUNTY
BOROUGH**



**BWRDEISTREF
SIROL
TORFAEN**



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

North Torfaen Holistic Area Regeneration Plan (HARP) Evaluation & Compatibility

Volume 2

December 2008

Report no: NE02861 - Vol 2



Consulting

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North Torfaen Holistic Area Regeneration Plan (HARP) Evaluation & Compatibility

Volume 2

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Report no: NE02861 - Vol 2

Date: December 2008

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Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Summary of Issues	1
2.1	Introduction.....	1
2.2	Summary of Baseline Review	1
3	Strategic Compatibility	12
4	Sustainability Appraisal	13
4.1	Introduction.....	13
4.2	SA Process.....	13
5	Strategic & Local Fit	28
6	Project Development	30
6.1	Introduction.....	30
6.2	Project List.....	30
7	Evaluation	53
7.1	Evaluation Criteria	53
7.2	Stage 1 - Conditions of Entry	55
7.3	Stage 2 – Deliverability.....	66
7.4	Stage 3 – Project Compatibility	79
7.5	Strategy Programmes and Projects.....	79
7.6	Priorities	80

1 Introduction

This report forms the second of three volumes that collectively comprise the North Torfaen HARP. It builds on and takes forward the earlier Baseline Assessment and Policy Review in ensuring, through a series of matrices, the compatibility of issues identified with plan objectives and in-turn their compatibility with other key strategy documents. This is underpinned by a Sustainability Appraisal of the Plan Objectives.

The volume also provides details of project opportunities for North Torfaen and undertakes an evaluation of each of the projects through a '3-step' evaluation process to determine their inclusion for implementation within the Strategy & Action Plan, which comprises Volume 3 of the HARP.

2 Summary of Issues

2.1 Introduction

This section presents a summary of issues identified within the Baseline Assessment Report across the HARPs area, highlighting the particular 'hot spots' of need at an individual ward level. For a full understanding of the issues, this section should be read in conjunction with the Baseline Assessment Report published as a separate volume.

The key issues set out below, are presented, for ease of reference under the same topic headings used within the Baseline Assessment Report.

2.2 Summary of Baseline Review

Population Demographics & Multiple Deprivation

- P1 Decreasing populations within the wards of Pontnewynydd and Trevethin based on 2005 mid-year estimates;
- P2 High proportions of people aged 0-15 (which is likely to impact on the level of working age population over the next 15 years);
- P3 High birth rates within the wards of Abersychan and Trevethin and high death rates within Snatchwood;
- P4 According to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation the HARPS area is more deprived than both Torfaen County Borough and Wales.
- P5 The ward area of Pontnewynydd scores lowest overall in terms of deprivation while the ward area of Trevethin scores highest followed by Snatchwood, Abersychan, and Blaenavon (See Figure 2.1).

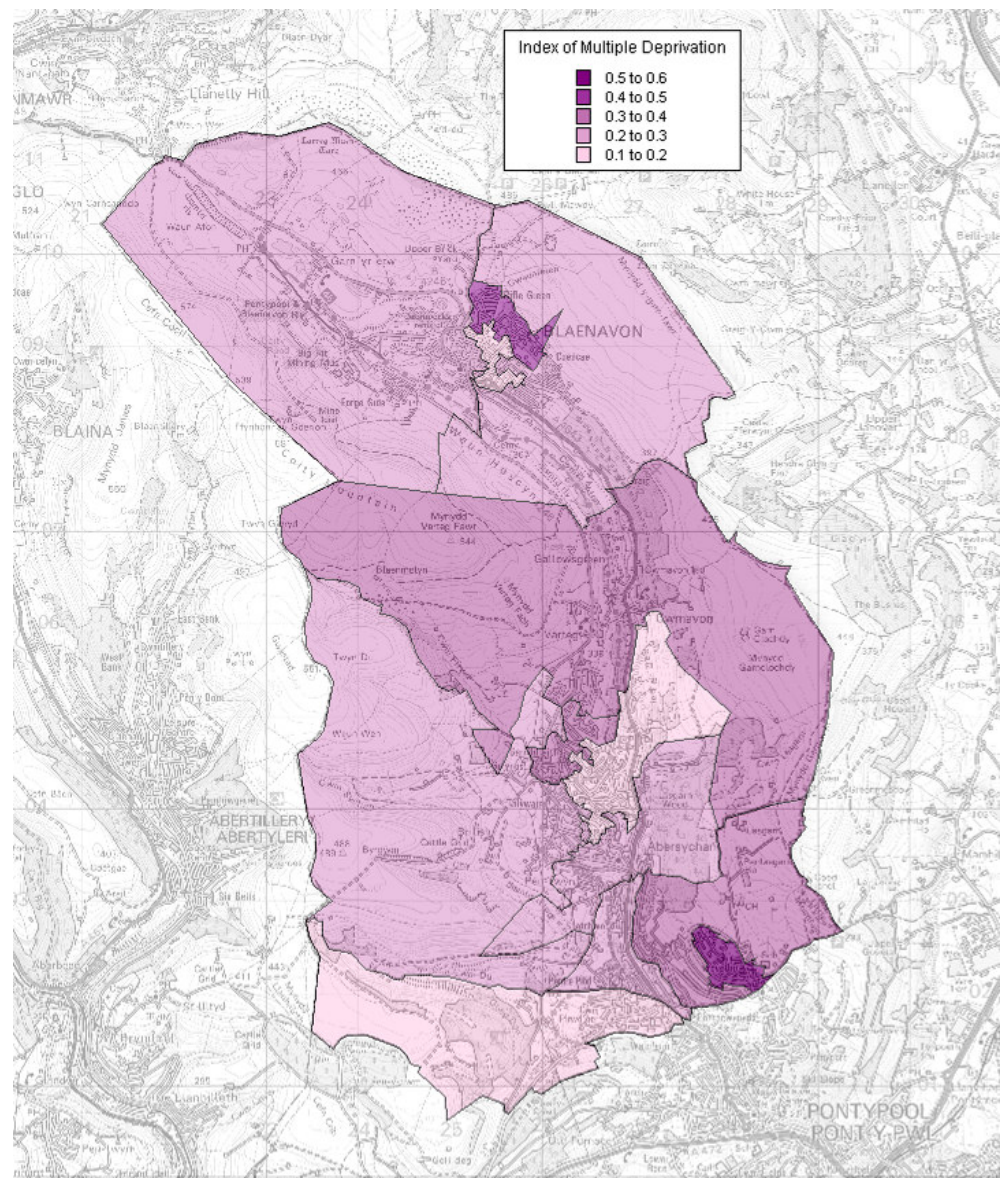


Figure 2-1 Multiple Deprivation

Business, Employment & Income

- B1** Economic inactivity in 2001 was highest in Trevechin (See Figure 4.2).
- B2** The North Torfaen HARP area overall has higher than average economic inactivity and unemployment compared to Torfaen and All-Wales.
- B3** Employment within the North Torfaen HARP area is over-represented in the manufacturing sector, particularly within Blaenavon ward.
- B4** There is limited employment in sectors classified as being part of the knowledge economy.

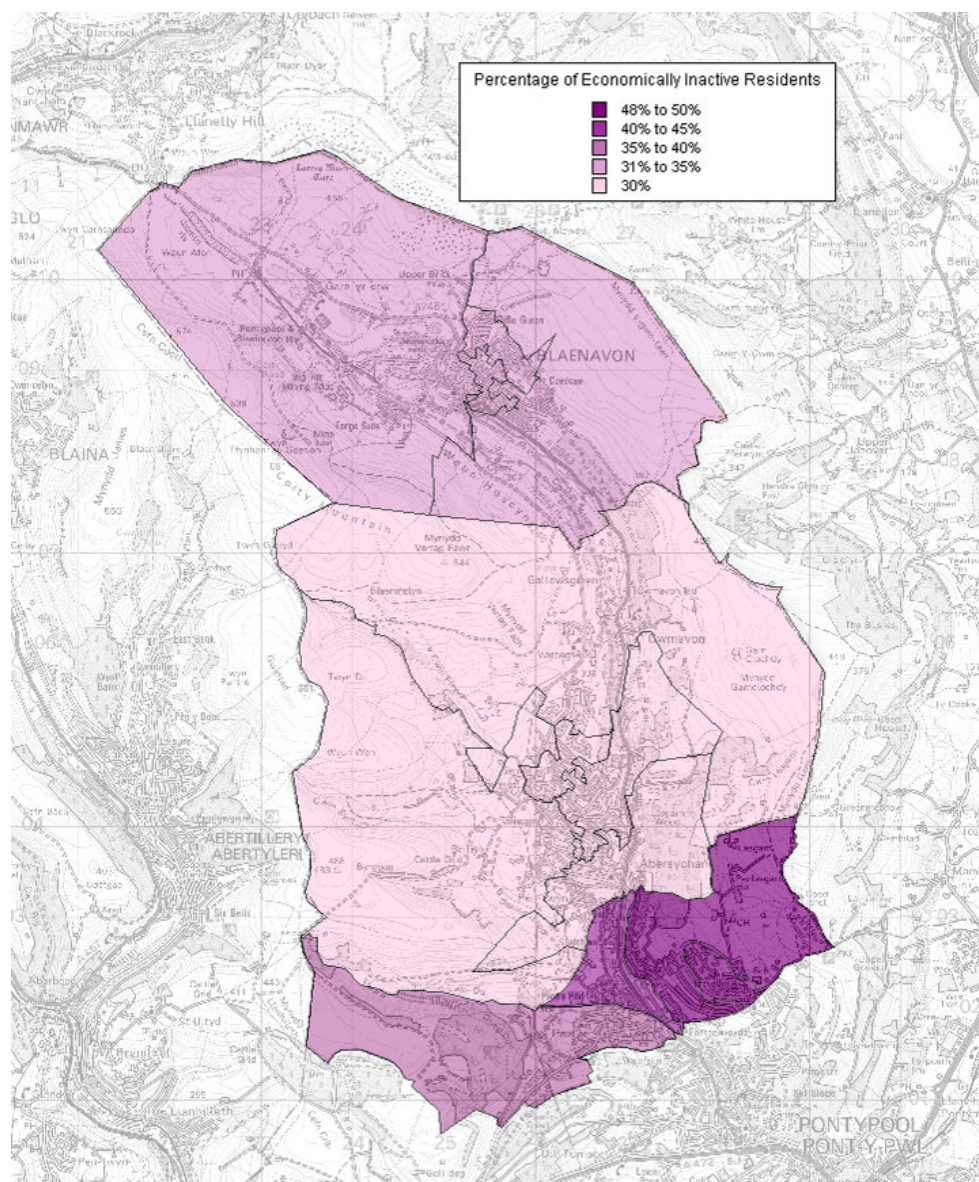


Figure 2-2 Economically Inactive

- B5** The North Torfaen area has a higher than average proportion of people permanently sick or disabled compared to Torfaen and All-Wales.
- B6** The area contains high proportions of people of working age who have been unemployed for more than a year.
- B7** North Torfaen HARP in January 2008 had a higher than average claimant count compared to Torfaen and All-Wales.
- B8** Male claimants were highest within the ward of Trevethin and lowest in the Pontnewynydd ward (See Figure 4.3).
- B9** The HARP area has lower than national average estimated weekly incomes.
- B10** Despite a willingness to learn, childcare and family commitments are reported to present barriers for some.

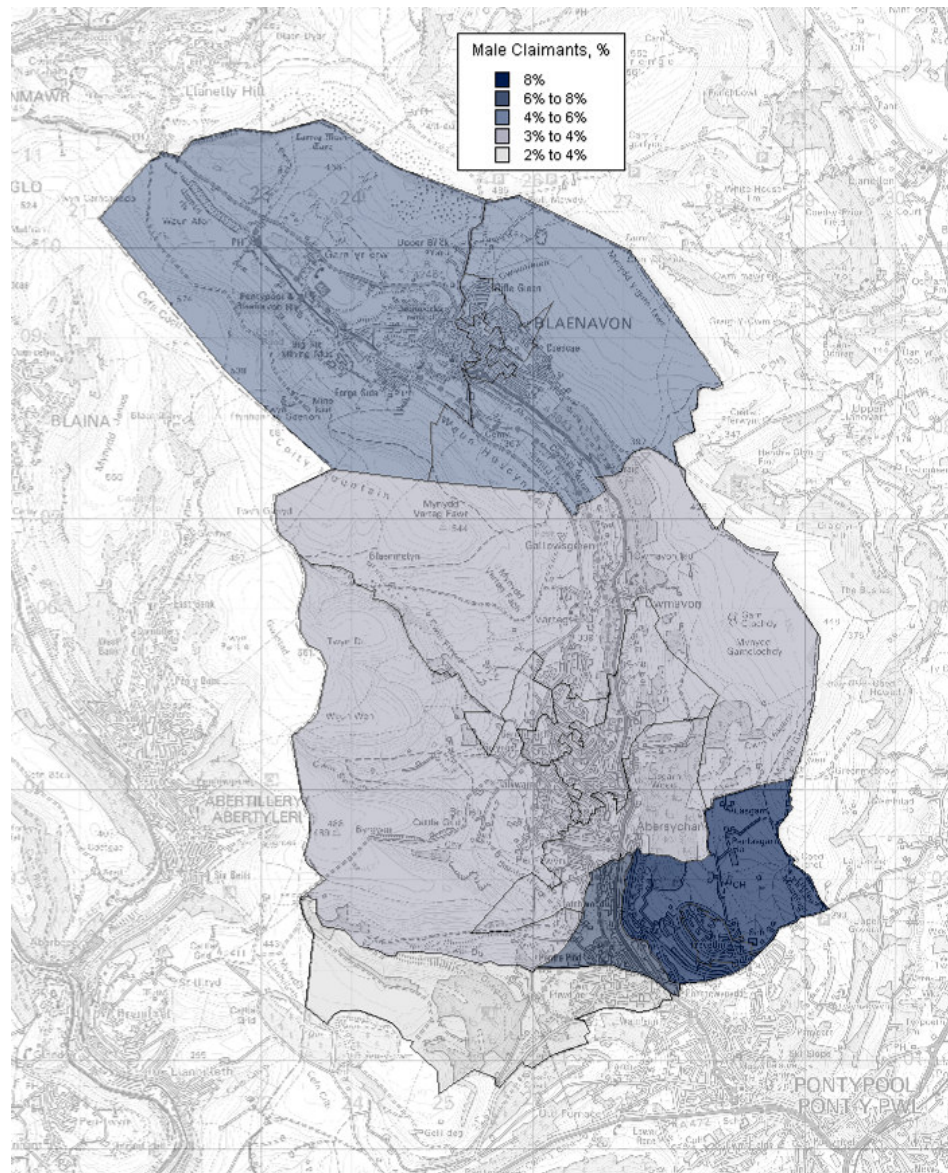


Figure 2-3 Male Claimants

Commercial Market Analysis

- C1 Study area characterised by small-level local development with limited market activity.
- C2 Strong competition from surrounding towns limits the extent of inward investment.
- C3 The study area is not recognised as a strong office location.
- C4 There is a need to upgrade many of the industrial estates within the area.

Health

- H1 Within Torfaen as a whole there is a higher incidence of death relating to lung cancer.
- H2 In the 2001 Census of population a high proportion of residents reported their health to be good or fairly good.
- H3 The North Torfaen HARP area has a higher proportion of people suffering from a limited long term illness when compared to the national average.
- H4 Pregnancy rates for those aged under 16, 18 and 20 are higher in Torfaen as a whole.
- H5 Main health facilities are located to the south of the County Borough, away from remote communities in North Torfaen.
- H6 Within Blaenavon specifically there is no dentistry provision and the doctors surgeries are above capacity.

Education, Skills & Training

- E1 Significant numbers of pupils in Torfaen as a whole have reading ages lower than their chronological age.
- E2 In 2005-06 a higher proportion of 16 year old school leavers left with no qualifications when compared to the national average.
- E3 The HARPs area currently does not contain an English medium sixth form facility.
- E4 The proportion of working age people with no or low qualification levels is higher in the HARPS area than in Torfaen as a whole.
- E5 The ward of Trevethin contains the highest proportion of residents with no qualifications. The ward of Blaenavon also contains a high proportion of residents with the same characteristic. The wards of Snatchwood and Pontnewynydd contain the lowest proportion of people with no qualifications (See Figure 4.4).
- E6 The school buildings and facilities within Blaenavon are elderly and due to their age of declining quality.

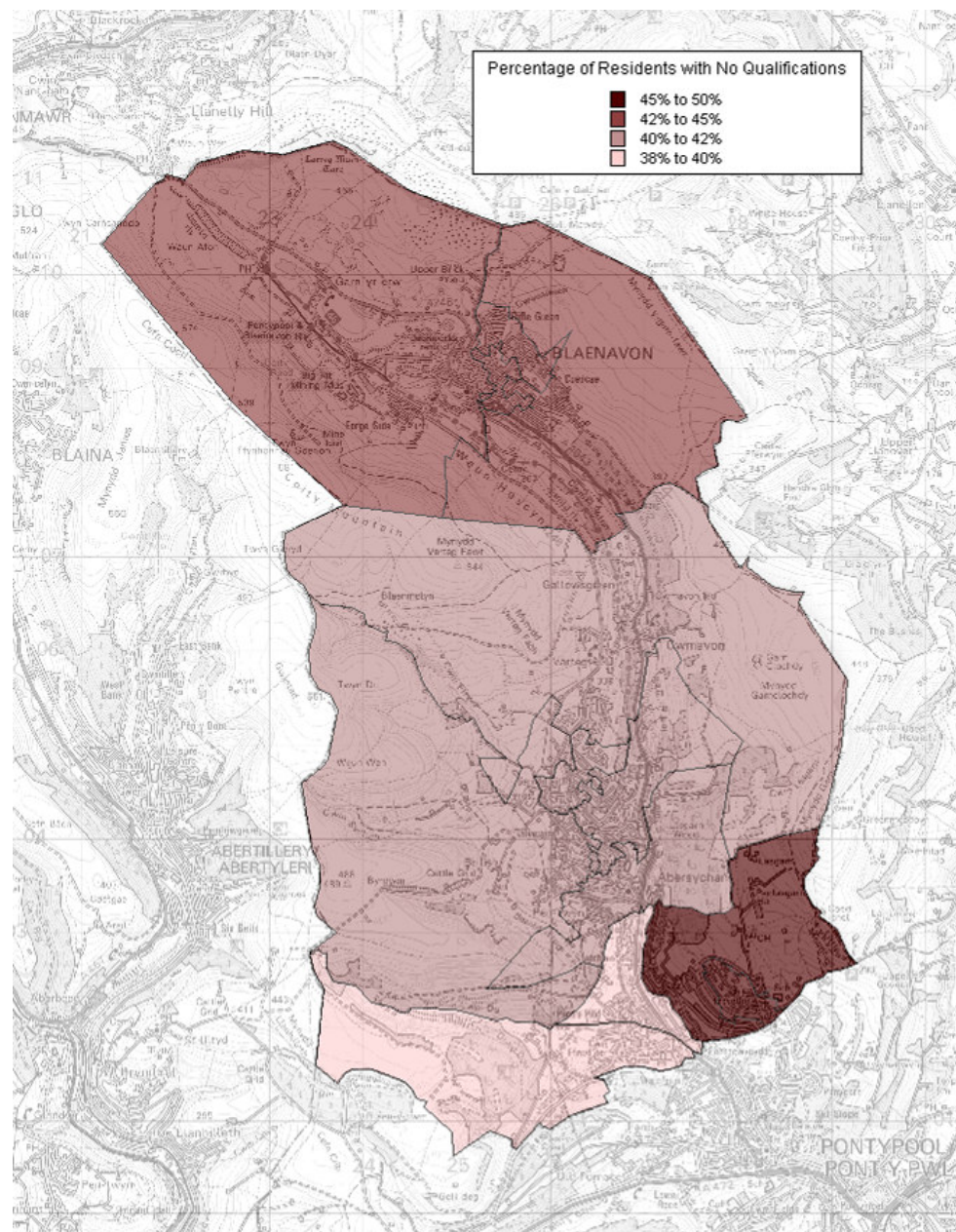


Figure 2-4 No Qualifications

Housing

- HO1 The HARP area contains a volume of public (Housing Association) housing which is above the average for both the wider HoV area and Wales.
- HO2 The area is characterised by dated (largely pre 1919) housing stock which typically offers smaller living accommodation.
- HO3 Communities are largely characterised by terraced properties, thereby, limiting the diversity of housing mix.

- HO4 The increasing affordability gap between house prices and incomes makes owning a property increasingly difficult.
- HO5 Housing stock conditions are particularly poor in Varteg and Forgeside.
- HO6 Reliance on future housing provision to be met on larger sites.

Retail & Town Centres

- R1 There is little by the way of critical mass of retail provision within the North Torfaen HARP area.
- R2 The southernmost wards of the HARP area tend to utilise Pontypool and Cwmbran as their main shopping destinations.
- R3 Blaenavon currently limits its market potential due to poor links between the retail centre and the main tourism / visitor attractions.
- R4 The neighbourhood centre of Abersychan is well provided for, although would benefit from some upgrading works.
- R5 The neighbourhood centres of Pontnewynydd and Trevethin and the local shopping centre at Garndiffaith face competition from larger settlements.
- R6 Activity within shopping centres across North Torfaen requires greater co-ordination to enable all centres to benefit from one another and to encourage communities to shop within their local centres.
- R7 Linkages between the main population centres and their retail provision are not always sufficient within North Torfaen, limiting the use of local centres by local residents.

Tourism & Heritage

- TH1 Lack of understanding of the term 'World Heritage Site' amongst visitors.
- TH2 The staying visitor / short break market is underdeveloped with limited accommodation and a high proportion of non-verified accommodation.
- TH3 Limited numbers of those visiting Big Pit visit other attractions within Blaenavon or the wider area.
- TH4 Poor linkages between Blaenavon's attractions and the town centre with limited visitor orientation and physical linkages.
- TH5 Insufficient capacity for coach trips with limited parking, particularly within Blaenavon.
- TH6 Outdated and limited signage within the area to depict gateways and key features.

TH7 Underutilised outdoor environment, linking with heritage attractions and opportunities to benefit from the growing activity tourism market.

TH8 Potential to build on 'events' for visitors and local residents.

Transportation & Movement

T1 Congestion along the A4043, particularly at it's junction with the A472 (also impacts negatively on bus services);

T2 Lack of overnight lorry parking facilities adjacent to the strategic highway network;

T3 Road signage (both directional and tourist) is limited and where in place can be confusing and poorly maintained;

T4 No long distance coach services currently operate to/from the study area and there are no coach parking facilities within Blaenavon town centre;

T5 There is a lack of cycle parking facilities generally within the study area;

T6 Inadequate provision for disabled parking both within Blaenavon and at tourist attractions;

T7 Incomplete Cycleway Network and limited number of bridleways.

T8 Safe routes to school initiatives not actively promoted.

T9 Within Trevethin ward, a significant number of residents (38%) do not have access to a car or van ([Figure 4.5](#))

T10 Need to improve road access to the British (key development site).

T11 Need to improve access to North Torfaen to the A4043 and take advantage of improved access to Blaenavon from the improved A465 HOV link.

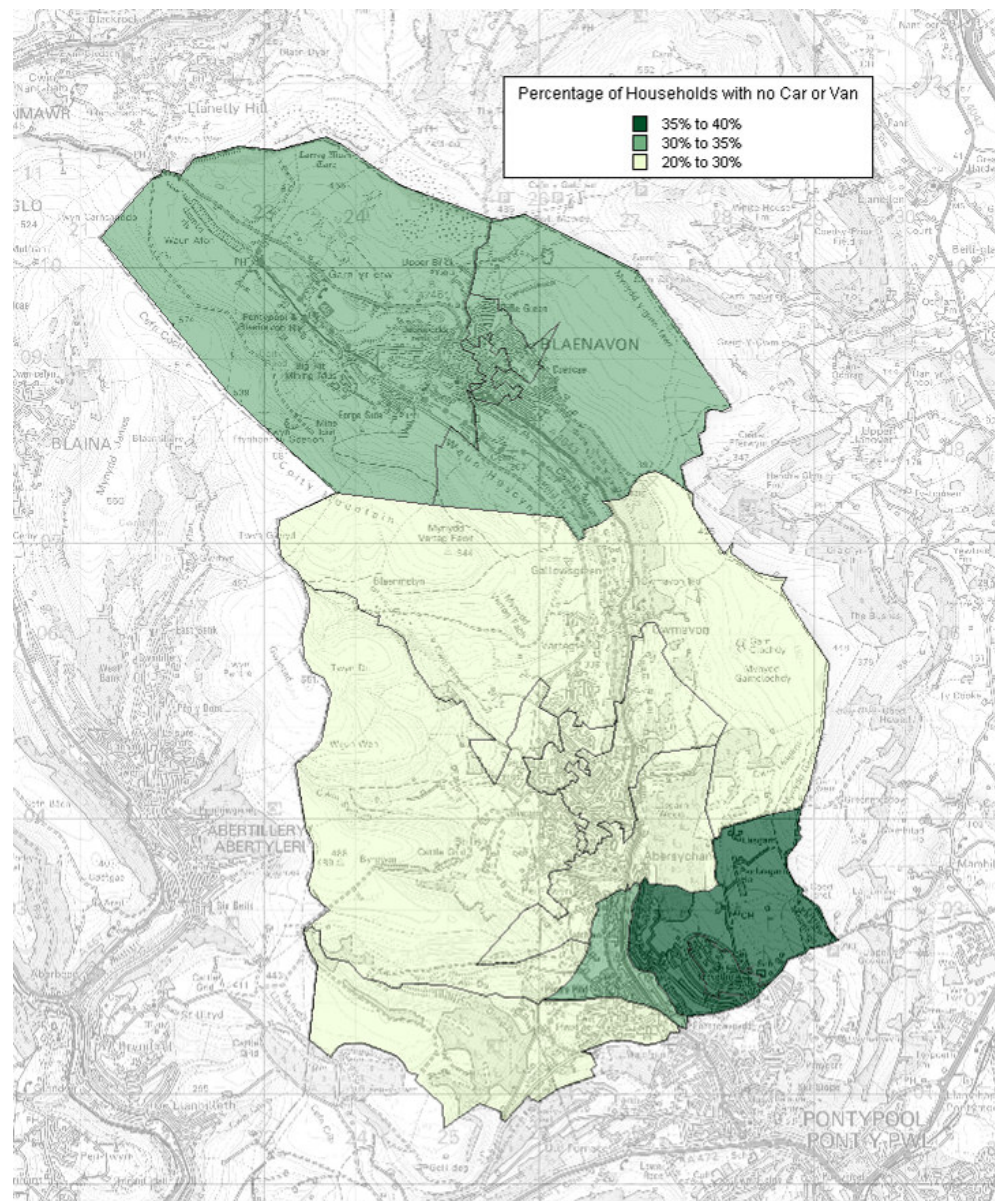


Figure 2-5 Car or Van Ownership

Natural & Built Environment

- EN1** Limited access in sections to ecologically important and attractive river corridors, particularly the Afon Llwyd.
- EN2** Need to ensure the heritage value of Blaenavon is understood, appreciated and preserved.
- EN3** The urban areas within North Torfaen are dominated by transport and communication corridors. There appears limited treatment and a lack of visual cohesion and legibility along these routes.
- EN4** Lack of definition and sense of arrival at key settlements and destination points.

- EN5 Industrial estates in need of further enhancement to enable occupiers and investors to benefit from of earlier improvements.
- EN6 Overall townscape quality in Blaenavon is undermined by a number of visual detractors.
- EN7 The quality of the neighbourhood centres in Trevethin and Pontnewynydd and the local centre in Garndiffaith are poor and requires upgrading.
- EN8 Many of the housing estates show a cluttered streetscape.
- EN9 Varying quality of the landscape and areas of nature conservation.

Community Infrastructure

- CI1 All wards within the HARPS area have witnessed a reduction in overall crime figures between 2006/07 and 2007/08.
- CI2 Problems of disorder and anti-social behaviour, along with indiscriminate parking are prevalent throughout the HARPS area.
- CI3 Limited number of sub-police stations within the HARPS area.
- CI4 Observed deficiencies in recreational space provision, especially within Blaenavon, with a general lack of floodlit facilities across the HARPS area.
- CI5 Major recreation / leisure facilities are located outside of the study area within the larger settlements of Pontypool Cwmbran, and Ebbw Vale.

Stakeholder Consultation

A list of the key issues raised during the various consultation exercises is presented below:

- S1 Blaenavon's tourism potential - key industrial heritage
- S2 Good range of basic shops and services along with some specialist independent shops, though lack of critical mass
- S3 Lack of joint marketing initiatives
- S4 Focus of World Heritage Centre – needs to be built upon
- S5 Lack of accommodation (serviced and non-serviced) to meet passive and active interests
- S6 Need for more cross valley public transport links with Abergavenny and other complementary destinations
- S7 Potential for Blaenavon as an outdoor activities hub
- S8 Good educational standards

- S9 Close working relationships with the local authority
- S10 Need to attract visitors into Blaenavon
- S11 Lack of street markets and festivals
- S12 Lack of play facilities/equipment
- S13 Schools to be used in training local residents in the use of ICT
- S14 Caravan sites/chalet developments
- S15 Adult education
- S16 Lack of swimming pool in Blaenavon
- S17 Lack of surgery in Pontnewnydd
- S18 Lack of parking and access to rear lanes

3 Strategic Plan Objectives

The overarching and strategic objectives for the North Torfaen HARP have developed from the earlier analysis of key issues and the consideration of policy requirements undertaken in Volume 1. The compatibility of the 10 objectives shown and the issues identified are set-out in the following Strategic Compatibility Table. In order to ensure the sustainability of the objectives developed, a sustainability appraisal has been undertaken which is presented in the compatibility matrix that follows.

The Plan's strategic objectives will describe the ultimate goals that the HARP aims to achieve, setting-out the desired improvements and changes to the issues identified in the longer term through the Plan Strategy.

4 Strategic Compatibility

The table below shows the compatibility of the issues identified in the previous section and the development of the HARPs Strategic Objectives.

	<i>SO1: A distinctive, (well used) and respected historic, natural and cultural environment that maximises benefit for local communities.</i>	<i>SO2: A prosperous economic landscape with strong links with its neighbours and a market that builds upon key sectors and links to training and skills provision.</i>	<i>SO3: A well educated, skilled population with adequate, high quality lifelong learning facilities and support for community education, vocational training and the development of skills required for the world of work.</i>	<i>SO4: A healthy population with open access to safe leisure and recreation facilities within local communities.</i>	<i>SO5: An empowered local community with a strong sense of involvement / engagement and linkages to adjoining communities, within and outside North Torfaen</i>	<i>SO6: A well connected and accessible area with high quality ICT links, as well as strong strategic and sustainable transport linkages, which are easily accessible.</i>	<i>SO7: A housing stock which provides high quality accommodation and offers a greater mix of tenures, ensuring that housing supply meets both current and future needs:</i>	<i>SO8: Provision of retail and community infrastructure that meets local needs and underpins tourism opportunities within the area.</i>	<i>SO9: A high quality natural and built environment that builds upon its proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park and the history of the area:</i>	<i>SO10: An area celebrated for its heritage and culture with a spirited and active community.</i>
Plan Issues	TH3, TH4, EN2, S4, S10,	P1, P2, P3, B1, B2, B3, B4, B9, C1, C2, C3, S3,	B6, B7, B8, E1, E2, E3, E4, E5, E6 S8, S13, S15,	P3, P5, B5, H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H6, T8, S7, S12, S16, S17	R3, R6, S9, TH8	R7, TH5, SO6, T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, T9, T10, EN1, S6, S18	HO1, HO2, HO3, HO4, HO6	R1, R2, R5, CI3, CI4, CI5, S3, S45,	C4, E6, HO5, R4, TH7, T7, EN3, EN4, EN5, EN6, EN7, EN8 EN9, S10, A14,	TH1, TH2, CI1, CI2, S1,

5 Sustainability Appraisal

5.1 Introduction

In an effort to ensure that the Strategy Objectives are consistent and compatible with national and regional sustainability objectives, it has been felt important to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal of these objectives. Although it is not a statutory requirement for a Sustainability Appraisal to be undertaken for the Strategy, the exercise adds value to the plan process.

Guidance is also provided by WAG on complying with the European Directive 2001/42/EC “*on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment*”, known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment or SEA Directive. The guidance has been developed for certain types of plans and programmes, particularly land use, spatial and transport planning. In accordance with this requirement, this strategy has been independently assessed by Torfaen CBC’s Planning Department, which has determined, “*that the North Torfaen HARP is unlikely to have significant effects on the environment and as such does not need to be subject to SEA. However a Sustainability Appraisal has been incorporated into the process.*”

5.2 SA Process

In undertaking the appraisal of the Strategy, the following tasks were completed:

- A review of environmental, social and economic baseline data for the strategy area, from which key issues and opportunities were identified.
- A review of relevant policy documents was undertaken to identify Sustainability Objectives which may influence or be influenced by the Strategy.
- Development of the SA Objectives and appraisal matrix
- Appraisal of the Strategy Objectives against the SA Objectives using the appraisal matrix.

Key Issues and Context

The review of relevant national, regional and local plans and programmes, considered the following documents:

- *One Wales (2007)*
- *Wales Spatial Plan (2008 Update Consultation)*
- *Torfaen Local Plan (Adopted 2000)*
- *Torfaen Local Development Plan, Preferred Strategy*

- *Wales: A Better Country, The Strategic Agenda of the WAG (2003)*
- *Starting to Live Differently: The Sustainable Development Scheme (2004)*
- *Creating Sustainable Places – Welsh Development Agency*
- *Environment Strategy for Wales (2006)*
- *Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future – Creating a Low Carbon Economy (2003)*
- *Climate Change: The UK Programme (2006)*
- *Wales Transport Strategy (Draft 2006)*
- *South East Wales Outline Regional Transport Plan – SEWTA (2007)*
- *A Winning Wales, National Economic development Strategy of WAG (2002)*
- *Wales: A Vibrant Economy. The Welsh Assembly Government's Strategic Framework for Economic Development (Consultation Draft, 2005)*
- *South East Wales Development Strategy: Enter the Dragon Economy*
- *Torfaen Community Strategy*
- *Torfaen Regeneration Strategy 2004-2016*

Section 3 summarises the key policy documents relevant to the Strategy.

Details of the key issues and opportunities identified through the review of baseline information are provided within the Baseline Assessment and summarised in Section 4. Some of the key issues and opportunities identified related to:

- The Blaenavon industrial landscape World Heritage Site
- Biodiversity designations of national and local importance
- Overall low levels of deprivation
- A low level of qualifications overall
- Limited range of local services
- Limited range of employment opportunities
- Relatively higher levels of economic inactivity
- Limited transport facilities
- Opportunities to further develop outdoor/countryside recreation
- Tourism

SA Framework

The SA Framework is the fundamental component of the assessment methodology. A series of environmental and socio-economic objectives, referred to as SA Objectives, have been developed to use as methodological yardsticks against which the Strategy Objectives were appraised.

Development of SA Objectives

The methodology used in the derivation and development of objectives was based on that which is outlined in the ODPM's guidance¹, and Draft guidance 'Sustainable Development and Strategic Environmental Assessment – DE&T Area Regeneration Strategies'². The development of the SA Objectives was informed by the issues and opportunities identified through the baseline data collection. This was supplemented with direction from the key national and regional planning documents identified.

The key policy document that influenced the development of the SA Objectives was the WDA document 'Working Differently'³. This document was developed in response to 'Learning to Work Differently'⁴ which sets out objectives for the promotion and delivery of sustainable development. The 'Working Differently' document provides guidelines for the achievement of this goal in regeneration and development activity. The four main sustainable development objectives as set out in the WDA guidance document are as follows:

- Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone
- Prudent use of natural resources
- Protection of the natural environment
- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth

Under each of these main objectives, the WDA guidance document lists additional, more specific objectives.

The SA Objectives have been checked against the WDA objectives to ensure that they are compatible and consistent.

¹ Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks – ODPM (2005)

² Sustainable Development and Strategic Environmental Assessment – DE&T Area Regeneration Strategies – A Best practice Note and Model Brief for Consultants (Draft – Issue 1 22/01/08)

³ Working Differently: Guide to Integrating Sustainable Development and Design into Regeneration and Development – WDA (2003)

⁴ Learning to Work Differently, Sustainable Development – WDA (2001)






Table 6.1: SA Objectives

SA Objectives
Social
1. To reduce poverty and social exclusion
2. To improve the health of the population overall
3. To provide a healthy and safe environment, including a reduction in anti-social activity.
4. To enable access to good quality, well designed, safe and affordable housing. To make the best use of refurbishment potential.
5. To improve the education and skills of the population overall
6. To improve accessibility to essential services and facilities, particularly for those most in need
7. To promote community viability and cohesion
8. To maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of town, district and local centres
Environmental
9. To reduce the need to travel and enable the use of more sustainable modes of transport
10. To improve water quality
11. To improve air quality
12. To maintain and enhance biodiversity, flora and fauna
13. To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes
14. To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and promote cultural heritage
15. To reduce contributions to and vulnerability to climate change
16. To help conserve natural resources and minimise the production of waste
Economic
17. To encourage a sustainable economy, with appropriate levels of growth.
18. To strengthen the local economy through business linkages
19. To ensure there is good access for all to employment
20. To provide appropriate transport infrastructure to encourage sustainable economic growth
21. To promote appropriate tourism

Appraisal Matrix

A matrix-based approach was used to test the Strategy Objectives against the SA Objectives to identify both potential synergies and inconsistencies. The method used for scoring is shown below. Commentary is provided within the matrix to explain the relationship between the objectives. The completed appraisal matrix is shown in Table 1.2 in Section 1.1.6.

Legend

	Compatible: the Strategy Objective will aid the achievement of the SA Objective
	Not compatible/potential conflict: the Strategy Objective will contribute negatively to the achievement of the SA Objective
	No relationship: the Strategy Objective does not have any influence on the achievement of the SA Objective
	Uncertain: the contribution of the Strategy Objective to the achievement of the SA Objective is uncertain. The relationship cannot be determined at this stage or more information is required.
	Potential conflict and compatible: the Strategy Objective could both aid the achievement or negatively contribute to the achievement of the SA Objective

5.2.1 Findings of the Appraisal

Social

The Strategy Objectives have been found to be mainly compatible with the social SA Objectives, or there has been found to be no relationship between them. No conflicts have been identified.

Environmental

The majority of the Strategy Objectives have been found to be compatible with the environmental SA Objectives, or no relationship between them has been identified. Several potential conflicts and areas of uncertainty have been identified; these are outlined in the following paragraphs.

The Strategy Objective for housing provision can be expected to both assist as well as negatively contribute to the achievement of some of the environmental SA objectives. Construction of housing is likely to have a negative effect in terms of air quality, water quality, biodiversity, climate change and resource use. However, the objective also includes aims to bring existing housing stock of public housing up to Welsh Housing Quality Standards. This is likely to have a positive impact on the environment, for example through improved energy efficiency of housing.

The Strategy Objectives for expansion of employment sites and provision of retail and community infrastructure are likely to negatively contribute to the

achievement of the biodiversity, resource use and minimisation of the production of waste objectives. This is the case as these Strategy Objectives are likely to involve construction of new infrastructure. The nature of the effects of the Strategy Objectives in terms of water and air quality, climate change, landscape and townscape, and the historic environment are uncertain. These will need to be considered at the project level. There is potential to reduce many of these effects through implementation of sustainable design and construction methods.

It is possible that expansion of employment sites could reduce the need to travel, by increasing local employment opportunities. This will depend on the location of the employment sites and the provision of sustainable transport links. Provision of retail and community infrastructure is also likely to reduce the need for people to travel in order to access these facilities.

The Strategy Objective for a distinctive, (well used) and respected historic, natural and cultural environment could both assist the achievement of the air quality SA Objective, through improving walking and cycling links, and negatively contribute to the achievement of the objective, through encouraging people to travel to and around the area. The Strategy Objective could also potentially negatively affect the achievement of the biodiversity SA Objective, unless visitors are appropriately managed.

Economic

The Strategy Objectives have been found to be mainly compatible with the economic SA Objectives, or there has been found to be no relationship between them. No conflicts have been identified.

5.2.2 Recommendations

The findings of the appraisal have identified potential conflicts and compatibility between the SA Objectives and some of the Strategy Objectives. From these findings several recommendations have been identified:

- Encouragement of the application of sustainable design and construction methods for development of retail and employment infrastructure, to minimise impacts on air and water quality, climate change, resource use and waste production
- Provision of siting guidance to ensure that employment land uses are developed in sustainable locations and are accessible by sustainable transport links.
- Promoting appropriate management of tourism to minimise any impact on the natural environment, particularly sites important for biodiversity.

Table 6.2: Compatibility Matrix

Strategy Objectives		Social		
SA Objectives	An area celebrated for its heritage and culture with a spirited and active community	0	0	0
	A high quality natural and built environment that builds upon its proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park and the history of the area	0	✓	✓
	Provision of retail and community infrastructure that meets local needs and underpins tourism opportunities within the area	✓	0	✓
	A housing stock which provides high quality accommodation and offers a greater mix of tenures, ensuring that housing supply meets both current and future needs	✓	✓	✓
	A well connected and accessible area with high quality ICT links, as well as strong strategic and sustainable transport linkages, which are easily accessible.	✓	0	0
	An empowered local community with a strong sense of involvement / engagement and linkages to adjoining communities, within and outside North Torfaen	✓	0	✓
	A healthy population with open access to safe leisure and recreation facilities within local communities	✓	✓	✓
	A well educated, skilled population with adequate, high quality lifelong learning facilities and support for community education, vocational training and the development of skills required for the world of work	✓	0	✓
	A prosperous economic landscape with strong links with its neighbours and a market that builds upon key sectors and links to training and skills provision.	✓	0	✓
	A distinctive, (well used) and respected historic, natural and cultural environment that maximises benefit for local communities	0	✓	✓
	1. To reduce poverty and social exclusion			
	2. To improve the health of the population overall			
	3. To provide a healthy and safe environment, including a reduction in anti-social activity.			

Strategy Objectives				
SA Objectives	An area celebrated for its heritage and culture with a spirited and active community	0	0	0
	A high quality natural and built environment that builds upon its proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park and the history of the area	✓	0	✓
	Provision of retail and community infrastructure that meets local needs and underpins tourism opportunities within the area	0	0	✓
	A housing stock which provides high quality accommodation and offers a greater mix of tenures, ensuring that housing supply meets both current and future needs	✓	0	✓
	A well connected and accessible area with high quality ICT links, as well as strong strategic and sustainable transport linkages, which are easily accessible.	0	0	✓
	An empowered local community with a strong sense of involvement / engagement and linkages to adjoining communities, within and outside North Torfaen	0	0	0
	A healthy population with open access to safe leisure and recreation facilities within local communities	0	0	✓
	A well educated, skilled population with adequate, high quality lifelong learning facilities and support for community education, vocational training and the development of skills required for the world of work	0	✓	0
	A prosperous economic landscape with strong links with its neighbours and a market that builds upon key sectors and links to training and skills provision.	0	✓	0
	A distinctive, (well used) and respected historic, natural and cultural environment that maximises benefit for local communities	0	0	0
	4. To enable access to good quality, well designed, safe and affordable housing. To make the best use of refurbishment potential.			
	5. To improve the education and skills of the population overall			
	6. To improve accessibility to essential services and facilities, particularly for those most in need			

Strategy Objectives					
SA Objectives	An area celebrated for its heritage and culture with a spirited and active community	✓	✓		0
	A high quality natural and built environment that builds upon its proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park and the history of the area	✓	✓	✓	
	Provision of retail and community infrastructure that meets local needs and underpins tourism opportunities within the area	✓	✓	✓	
	A housing stock which provides high quality accommodation and offers a greater mix of tenures, ensuring that housing supply meets both current and future needs	✓	✓	0	
	A well connected and accessible area with high quality ICT links, as well as strong strategic and sustainable transport linkages, which are easily accessible.	✓	✓	✓	
	An empowered local community with a strong sense of involvement / engagement and linkages to adjoining communities, within and outside North Torfaen	✓	✓	0	
	A healthy population with open access to safe leisure and recreation facilities within local communities	✓	✓	0	
	A well educated, skilled population with adequate, high quality lifelong learning facilities and support for community education, vocational training and the development of skills required for the world of work	✓	0	0	
	A prosperous economic landscape with strong links with its neighbours and a market that builds upon key sectors and links to training and skills provision.	✓	✓	?	
	A distinctive, (well used) and respected historic, natural and cultural environment that maximises benefit for local communities	✓	✓	✓	
	7. To promote community viability and cohesion				
	8. To maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of town, district and local centres				
The social SA Objectives are generally compatible with the Strategy Objectives, or there is no relationship between them.					
Environment					
	9. To reduce the need to travel and enable the use	✓		0	

Strategy Objectives					
SA Objectives	An area celebrated for its heritage and culture with a spirited and active community		0	0	0
	A high quality natural and built environment that builds upon its proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park and the history of the area		✓	✓	✓
	Provision of retail and community infrastructure that meets local needs and underpins tourism opportunities within the area		?	?	X
	A housing stock which provides high quality accommodation and offers a greater mix of tenures, ensuring that housing supply meets both current and future needs		X/✓	X/✓	X/✓
	A well connected and accessible area with high quality ICT links, as well as strong strategic and sustainable transport linkages, which are easily accessible.		✓	✓	✓
	An empowered local community with a strong sense of involvement / engagement and linkages to adjoining communities, within and outside North Torfaen		0	0	0
	A healthy population with open access to safe leisure and recreation facilities within local communities		0	0	0
	A well educated, skilled population with adequate, high quality lifelong learning facilities and support for community education, vocational training and the development of skills required for the world of work		0	0	0
	A prosperous economic landscape with strong links with its neighbours and a market that builds upon key sectors and links to training and skills provision.		?	?	X
	A distinctive, (well used) and respected historic, natural and cultural environment that maximises benefit for local communities		0	X/✓	?
	of more sustainable modes of transport				
	10. To improve water quality				
	11. To improve air quality				
	12. To maintain and enhance biodiversity, flora and fauna				

Strategy Objectives					
	An area celebrated for its heritage and culture with a spirited and active community	✓	✓	0	0
	A high quality natural and built environment that builds upon its proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park and the history of the area	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Provision of retail and community infrastructure that meets local needs and underpins tourism opportunities within the area	?	?	?	X
	A housing stock which provides high quality accommodation and offers a greater mix of tenures, ensuring that housing supply meets both current and future needs	X/✓	X/✓	X/✓	X/✓
	A well connected and accessible area with high quality ICT links, as well as strong strategic and sustainable transport linkages, which are easily accessible.	✓	✓	✓	✓
	An empowered local community with a strong sense of involvement / engagement and linkages to adjoining communities, within and outside North Torfaen	0	0	0	0
	A healthy population with open access to safe leisure and recreation facilities within local communities	0	0	0	0
	A well educated, skilled population with adequate, high quality lifelong learning facilities and support for community education, vocational training and the development of skills required for the world of work	0	0	0	0
	A prosperous economic landscape with strong links with its neighbours and a market that builds upon key sectors and links to training and skills provision.	?	?	?	X
	A distinctive, (well used) and respected historic, natural and cultural environment that maximises benefit for local communities	✓	✓	✓	?
SA Objectives					
13. To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes					
14. To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and promote cultural heritage					
15. To reduce contributions to and vulnerability to climate change					
16. To help conserve					

		Strategy Objectives									
SA Objectives		An area celebrated for its heritage and culture with a spirited and active community	A high quality natural and built environment that builds upon its proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park and the history of the area	Provision of retail and community infrastructure that meets local needs and underpins tourism opportunities within the area	A housing stock which provides high quality accommodation and offers a greater mix of tenures, ensuring that housing supply meets both current and future needs	A well connected and accessible area with high quality ICT links, as well as strong strategic and sustainable transport linkages, which are easily accessible.	An empowered local community with a strong sense of involvement / engagement and linkages to adjoining communities, within and outside North Torfaen	A healthy population with open access to safe leisure and recreation facilities within local communities	A well educated, skilled population with adequate, high quality lifelong learning facilities and support for community education, vocational training and the development of skills required for the world of work	A prosperous economic landscape with strong links with its neighbours and a market that builds upon key sectors and links to training and skills provision.	A distinctive, (well used) and respected historic, natural and cultural environment that maximises benefit for local communities
	natural resources and minimise the production of waste										
<p>The Strategy Objective for housing provision can be expected to both assist as well as negatively contribute to the achievement of some of the environmental SA Objectives. Construction of housing is likely to have a negative effect in terms of air quality, water quality, biodiversity, climate change and resource use. However, the objective also includes aims to bring existing housing stock of public housing up to Welsh Housing Quality Standards. This is likely to have a positive impact on the environment, for example through improved energy efficiency of housing.</p> <p>The Strategy Objective for expansion of employment sites is likely to negatively contribute to the achievement of the biodiversity, resource use and minimisation of the production of waste objectives. This is the case as the Strategy Objective is likely to involve construction of new infrastructure. The nature of the effect of the Strategy Objective in terms of water and air quality, climate change, landscape and townscape, and the historic environment objectives is uncertain. This will need to be considered at the project level. There is potential to reduce many of these effects through implementation of sustainable design construction methods. It is also possible that this Strategy Objective could reduce the need to travel, by increasing local employment opportunities. This will depend on the location of the employment sites and the provision of sustainable transport links.</p> <p>The Strategy Objective for the provision of retail and community infrastructure is likely to negatively contribute to the achievement of the biodiversity,</p>											

Strategy Objectives	
SA Objectives	<p>An area celebrated for its heritage and culture with a spirited and active community</p> <p>A high quality natural and built environment that builds upon its proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park and the history of the area</p> <p>Provision of retail and community infrastructure that meets local needs and underpins tourism opportunities within the area</p> <p>A housing stock which provides high quality accommodation and offers a greater mix of tenures, ensuring that housing supply meets both current and future needs</p> <p>A well connected and accessible area with high quality ICT links, as well as strong strategic and sustainable transport linkages, which are easily accessible.</p> <p>An empowered local community with a strong sense of involvement / engagement and linkages to adjoining communities, within and outside North Torfaen</p> <p>A healthy population with open access to safe leisure and recreation facilities within local communities</p> <p>A well educated, skilled population with adequate, high quality lifelong learning facilities and support for community education, vocational training and the development of skills required for the world of work</p> <p>A prosperous economic landscape with strong links with its neighbours and a market that builds upon key sectors and links to training and skills provision.</p> <p>A distinctive, (well used) and respected historic, natural and cultural environment that maximises benefit for local communities</p>
<p>resource use and minimisation of the production of waste objectives. This is the case as the Strategy Objective is likely to involve construction of new infrastructure. The nature of the effect of the Strategy Objective in terms of water and air quality, climate change, landscape and townscape and the historic environment objectives is uncertain. This will need to be considered at the project level, there is potential to reduce many of these effects through implementation of sustainable design and construction methods. Provision of retail and community infrastructure is likely to reduce the need for people to travel to access these facilities..</p> <p>The Strategy Objective for a distinctive, (well used) and respected historic, natural and cultural environment could both positively contribute to the achievement of the air quality objective, through improving walking and cycling links, and negatively contribute to the achievement of the objective, through encouraging people to travel to and around the area. The strategy could also potentially negatively contribute to the achievement of the biodiversity objective, unless visitors are appropriately managed.</p>	

Strategy Objectives				
SA Objectives	An area celebrated for its heritage and culture with a spirited and active community	✓	0	0
	A high quality natural and built environment that builds upon its proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park and the history of the area	✓	0	0
	Provision of retail and community infrastructure that meets local needs and underpins tourism opportunities within the area	✓	✓	✓
	A housing stock which provides high quality accommodation and offers a greater mix of tenures, ensuring that housing supply meets both current and future needs	✓	0	0
	A well connected and accessible area with high quality ICT links, as well as strong strategic and sustainable transport linkages, which are easily accessible.	✓	✓	✓
	An empowered local community with a strong sense of involvement / engagement and linkages to adjoining communities, within and outside North Torfaen	✓	✓	✓
	A healthy population with open access to safe leisure and recreation facilities within local communities	0	0	0
	A well educated, skilled population with adequate, high quality lifelong learning facilities and support for community education, vocational training and the development of skills required for the world of work	✓	✓	✓
	A prosperous economic landscape with strong links with its neighbours and a market that builds upon key sectors and links to training and skills provision.	✓	✓	✓
	A distinctive, (well used) and respected historic, natural and cultural environment that maximises benefit for local communities	✓	✓	✓
		Economic		
17. To encourage a sustainable economy, with appropriate levels of growth.	✓	✓	✓	
18. To strengthen the local economy through business linkages	✓	✓	✓	
19. To ensure there is	✓	✓	✓	

Strategy Objectives				
SA Objectives	An area celebrated for its heritage and culture with a spirited and active community		0	✓
	A high quality natural and built environment that builds upon its proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park and the history of the area		0	✓
	Provision of retail and community infrastructure that meets local needs and underpins tourism opportunities within the area		✓	✓
	A housing stock which provides high quality accommodation and offers a greater mix of tenures, ensuring that housing supply meets both current and future needs		0	0
	A well connected and accessible area with high quality ICT links, as well as strong strategic and sustainable transport linkages, which are easily accessible.		✓	✓
	An empowered local community with a strong sense of involvement / engagement and linkages to adjoining communities, within and outside North Torfaen		0	✓
	A healthy population with open access to safe leisure and recreation facilities within local communities		0	✓
	A well educated, skilled population with adequate, high quality lifelong learning facilities and support for community education, vocational training and the development of skills required for the world of work		0	0
	A prosperous economic landscape with strong links with its neighbours and a market that builds upon key sectors and links to training and skills provision.		✓	✓
	A distinctive, (well used) and respected historic, natural and cultural environment that maximises benefit for local communities		✓	✓
good access for all to employment				
20. To provide appropriate transport infrastructure to encourage sustainable economic growth				
21. To promote appropriate tourism				
There are no conflicts identified between the economic SA Objectives and the Strategy Objectives.				

6 Strategic & Local Fit

The following table lists the key headline objectives of the core strategy documents considered to be of relevance to the preparation of the HARPs to show the compatibility and consistency of the HARPs strategy, at a local, regional and national level.

One Wales	HOV Strategy (Turning Heads)	Torfaen Corporate Plan	Torfaen Community Strategy	North Torfaen HARP
A healthy future	SP7	A greater focus on vulnerable people and health	Health and well-being	SO4
A prosperous society	SP4, 5,6	A greater focus on learning, employment and regeneration	Economy, jobs and business	SO2, SO8
Living communities	SP1, 3	A greater focus on affordable housing and homelessness	Housing and the homeless	SO6, SO7
Learning for life	SP8	A greater focus on learning, employment and regeneration	Educational and training for life	SO3
A fair and just society	SP11, 12	A greater focus on learning, employment and regeneration	Working together and actual citizenship	SO5
A sustainable environment	SP2	A greater focus on waste management and energy efficiency	Enhancement and transport	SO9
A rich and diverse culture	SP9, 10	A greater focus on crime and safer neighbourhoods	Safer communities	SO1, SO9

Table 5.1: Policy Compatibility

7 Project Development

7.1 Introduction

The following section of the Report aims to present a range of projects and actions that have been identified:

- Through the many consultations undertaken as part of the study;
- Through a detailed review of various strategies, plans & policy documents;
- As project proposals or those included within the service delivery programme of the Local Authority; and
- Through our understanding and knowledge of the area resulting in identified project opportunities.

For the sake of clarity, the 'Long List' of projects and actions are confined to those that are, or are likely to be publicly/part publicly funded through the various WAG Departments or the local authority. Excluded from this list are projects and actions of the sponsoring bodies that are either legally or financially committed at the present time. All others are therefore included for evaluation as part of the strategy development.

For ease of reference at this stage, each project and action is shown under the topic headings already used within the baseline summary though grouped either strategically across the Study Area or locally within one of the three sub-areas, identified within the strategy vision.

In addition to the list of project headings, a brief description is provided. This is not intended to cover all aspects of the proposed project or action, but rather to identify and explain the nature of the proposal more fully. The evaluation progress is a critical stage in the strategy development and will determine which projects will progress for inclusion within the 3 year Action Plan.

7.2 Project List

Strategic (North Torfaen Wide)

Retail & Town Centres

1. Integrated Approach to Local Retail

Ensure that communities have access to shops and services through public transport improvements, home delivery/green box schemes, physical linkages in relation to pavements, pedestrian crossing points, cycle facilities and parking facilities. Throughout this action the needs of both visitors and locals should be considered.

2. Retail Audit

There is a need to undertake an audit of existing retail infrastructure within the respective communities of North Torfaen, in addition to local shopper surveys in order to identify possible gaps in provision and to develop a property and promotional strategy for investment. Where possible this audit should look to supplement previous work by GVA which was completed for Blaenavon, for which an agreed scope and methodology would need to be developed.

3. Joint Promotion / Marketing

The development of sustainable and viable shops and services within North Torfaen needs to be achieved through a series of networked local and neighbourhood centres in Blaenavon, Abersychan, Garndiffaith, Pontnewynydd and Trevethin that facilitates joint promotion through community shopping web-sites, joint home delivery schemes, local buying groups linked to social enterprises and local awareness raising campaigns, amongst other initiatives.

4. Street Markets

The need to develop outdoor markets that complement existing shops and services that provide places for new products, innovation, taster and the development of sectors such as arts and crafts, local produce, promotion of hospitality sector and linked to activities such as heritage based tourism and outdoor activities. An initial pilot linked to other strategic programmes and projects such as developing a high quality and diverse food and drink culture needs to be developed that develops a market development programme in relation to types of businesses, the role of markets in terms of business development, the capital infrastructure required to operate markets as well as marketing and promotion activities.

Employment & Training

1. Major Employment Sites – Enhancement & Expansion

To enhance the image, infrastructure and facilities amongst larger employment sites on the main A4043 corridor, specifically within Pontnewynydd, and Blaenavon in relation to signage, environmental improvements, business inventories, shared services – e.g conference and training facilities and undertake an audit of existing ICT facilities within SMEs to identify areas for improvement in terms of broadband capacity, local networks, etc.

2. Apprenticeships Support

To provide apprenticeship schemes, specifically in the construction sector, to aid succession within this industry, to include higher level courses ‘in-house’, increase capacity within the construction training route, develop a wider range of courses for Skill Build clients, improve off the job provision and facilities for electrical apprentices, liaise with partners on the development of town centres in relation to construction skills and develop workshop facilities for delivery of new woodworking standards

3. Training Initiatives for Business

Develop and co-ordinate a more strategic, sub regional approach to customer focused business support, aligning specific interventions on growth sectors and ensuring that specialist forms of support are available where appropriate. To develop training initiatives in relation to retail, hospitality and tourism sectors to include business development, understanding future markets and segments/visitor needs, joint marketing and promotion, use of ICT, develop green credentials, customer care and an awareness of local suppliers and producers

4. Marketing / Joint Promotion of Local Food Products

To develop a food sector programme that enables increased cooperation in the areas of production, brand development and marketing of local products, specifically in relation to food production, green and heritage based tourism and to foster relationships with neighbouring authorities on opportunities for joint processing, marketing and promotion, etc.

5. Eco Food Park Development

To undertake a feasibility study for the development of an eco-food park within North Torfaen that provides shared facilities, test kitchens, processing and food production facilities, training academy and conference facilities.

6. Childcare

To develop and enhance childcare initiatives within targeted communities such as flying start and sure start.

7. Develop Integrated Training for Target Groups

Forge stronger links with other agencies:

- a) Independent living courses to be offered through Llamau
- b) Counsellor to be made available for weekly counselling sessions
- c) Expertise at Torfaen Young Peoples Partnership to be used on a regular basis
- d) Work with JCP and A4E on the economic inactivity agenda

8. Promote Lifestyle Benefits of Outdoor / Tourism

To link tourism marketing campaigns targeted at young people to the lifestyle benefits of the area, particularly those related to the outdoors and tourism.

9. Young Person Entrepreneurship Scheme

Develop a young person's entrepreneurship scheme in relation to opportunities in outdoor pursuits, green tourism, arts and crafts, media sector, hospitality sector, etc.

10. Overcoming the Digital Divide

Increase the effective use of ICT by communities, enterprises, citizens and the voluntary sector and to develop this to contribute to

the local economy. The project is proposed to be split into 3 distinct phases as follows:

Education – Equipping schools and learning establishments with “enriched” technologies such as laptops and AV equipment which can provide flexible learning places which supports flexible learning and attitudes.

Housing and Community Empowerment – To enable every home in North Torfaen to connect to the Super Digital Highway working with world wide companies such as Microsoft to licence the community partnership and voluntary sector to work with a pre-selected refurbishment equipment supplier to provide ICT equipment for all.

Transport and Tourism – Introduce “dark fibre” cabling underground to provide intelligent CCTV combined with wireless hotspots to enable tourism access, access for small businesses and other services that could utilise the Super Highway and provide better customer services.

11. Skill Build

PAN Wales WAG sponsored project work-based training – Torfaen Training has a contact with DCELLS to deliver Skill Build in North Torfaen.

12. Bridges into Work

Provide a range of learning opportunities for unemployed / economically inactive to improve skills, qualifications and employability. Provide targeted recruitment by adult education specialists to encourage and enable adults with no/low qualifications to participate in the improvement of skills and qualifications. Provide a support and mentoring framework of specialist staff to sustain the above learners in their learning, address barriers and to encourage and enable retention, successful completion and progression to further education, employment and/or employment-related training.

13. SAVVY 2

To build on the present SAVVY project which provides job opportunities, training, educational activities and other support services for NEET young people, already provided at a number of venues as a multi-agency project across Torfaen.

14. Working Skills for Adults

Provide a range of learning opportunities in community and work-related settings for employed adults to improve literacy and numeracy, vocational and ICT skills and qualifications. Provide targeted recruitment by basic skills and adult education specialists to encourage and enable adults with no/low qualifications to participate in the improvement of literacy and numeracy, vocational and ICT qualifications and skills. Provide and support a mentoring framework of specialist staff to sustain the above learners in their learning,

remove barriers and encourage and enable retention, successful completion in CPD and other employment-related training.

15. Prevent

Provide in-school learning mentors at key stage 3 to work with young people who are vulnerable to under-achievement to reduce the likelihood of disaffection and truancy post 14. Target groups to include traveller children and all those showing signs of disengagement from mainstream schooling.

16. Jobmatch

Heads of the Valleys sponsored initiative to help economically inactive into work, focussing on providing transitional waged work opportunities for people at greatest distance from the labour market.

Education

1. Support the WAG 14-19 Pathways Agenda

To work with local education providers and employers to create flexible learning options tailored towards current and predicted employment growth sectors in the HARPS area.

2. Heritage Based Education

To develop curriculum based material within primary and secondary education on the industrial heritage of North Torfaen and to develop partnerships in creating learning hubs at the World Heritage Site Visitor Centre and with other organisations and heritage based attractors.

3. NEET Learning Packages

To work with the outreach provision offered by Job Match and the Community Engagement Project to reach the NEETs group, and to develop learning packages that are attractive to the NEET group of young people.

Housing

1. Shared Ownership Schemes

Expand the Help2Own shared equity scheme to increase the opportunity to purchase property, reducing the observed affordability gap within the study area.

2. North Torfaen Empty Property Toolkit

This toolkit will build upon the wider Torfaen Empty Property Strategy and look specifically at options for empty properties within the study area and provide guidance for owners of properties to enable their re-use.

3. Retro-fitting of Housing Existing Stock

Responding to the need to update the housing stock in North Torfaen, looking specifically to work in conjunction with Bron Afon to develop

renewable energies as part of a future programme rehabilitation works.

4. Regional Housing Enablers

Such a role would help deliver any housing-related policies in the HARPS strategy, but also those of other important policies. Specific responsibility for the delivery of targets set. Regional remit could relate to the Heads of the Valley area, or more specifically the Torfaen HARPs area.

5. Bron Afon Environmental Enhancements

Bron Afon Housing Association is proposing major upgrading works to their housing stock of 8315 properties transferred to them in order to ensure that all housing reaches the WHQS. Along side this they will also be carrying out environmental and highway works, including the creation of homezones, environmental improvements, street lighting, signage and the removal of Japanese Knotweed within housing areas in Blaenavon, Garndiffaith, Talywain, Varteg, St Cadoc, Trevethin Pengarn.

6. Housing Renewal Areas

Continue to support the Housing Renewal Area programme in North Torfaen through the designation of neighbourhood renewal areas in Forgeside, Garndiffaith and Varteg and the commissioning of a Renewal Area Assessment so as to ascertain the true extent of housing dilapidation.

Tourism & heritage

1. Tourist Transport Initiative

Provide a heritage bus shuttle service to link World Heritage Site attractions, notably the town centre, World Heritage Centre, the Ironworks, Blaenavon High Level Station, Big Pit, Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway, Garn Lakes, Keeper's Pond and Llanfoist Wharf, along with attractions outside the HARPs area including Clydach Gorge and the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. An initial phase could involve the purchase of a Land Train and bio fuel plant equipment, to operate within Blaenavon as a social enterprise, in providing employment and volunteering opportunities for local people.

2. Joint Ticketing

Promote the introduction of a ticketing passport scheme for heritage attractions, focussed on Blaenavon, though extending into other areas. (Applicable for those with an entry charge such as the Cordell Museum, Blaenavon Railway and the proposed heritage bus shuttle service).

3. Events, & Festivals and Marketing

Building on the existing events and develop a programme of coordinated, linked events and festivals across the HARPS area. Current / proposed events and festivals include the World Heritage

Day, Garn Lakes Country Fayre, a comprehensive programme of walks, and Halloween at the Ironworks. Develop joint marketing of World Heritage attractions through orientation leaflet linking Big Pit, World Heritage attractions and Town Centre. Develop concept of 'Passport' ticketing.

Natural & Built Environment

1. Afon Llwyd Access Improvements

Implementation of a phased programme of cycleway and footpath improvements, extending from Blaenavon to Pontnewynydd. Proposals to include surface improvements, signposting, vegetation management and public rights of way revisions. TCBC ecologists would play a key role due to the ecological importance of this corridor.

2. Afon Llwyd Japanese Knotweed Infestation Strategy

Programme of Japanese Knotweed eradication, to encompass initial survey work of the river corridor and a co-ordinated programme of knotweed eradication.

3. Nature Conservation Management

Prepare management plans for local authority owned sites of ecological interest and physical improvements particularly to Local Nature Reserves, upland commons of high ecological value, woodlands and post industrial sites such as Blaenserchan.

4. Churchyard Management

Encourage and implement, in conjunction with the Church Authorities, programmes of habitat management, improvement and visitor interpretation of historic churchyards.

5. Open Space and Recreational Needs Survey

Recent survey of recreational provision undertaken by the Council's Planning Department has indicated deficiencies in recreational provision within the study area. In order to meet the requirements of the LDP for a full and robust survey of recreational provision is required.

6. Route 46 Cycleway

Upgrade cycleway environment at key locations, particularly concentrating on creating 'Gateways' to and from the cycleway linking with other potential routes, viewpoints, historic features nearby, housing, tourist attractions and shopping areas. As part of the upgrading works, implementation of new interpretation and signage.

7. Highway Corridor Enhancements

Improve the quality of the landscape along key Highway corridors, particularly the A4043, B4248 (Garn Road), and Varteg Road which form very important transport links, as well as key entrance corridors for visitors, creating a first and lasting impression of the area.

8. Neglected Spaces Environmental Improvements

There are many small incidental open spaces which are currently in a very poor condition throughout the area. These are usually sites of old buildings or works that have become neglected, fly tipped on, or may have invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed. Many are currently not maintained and are often exposed to anti-social behaviour. All these are forgotten spaces which contribute to an air of neglect and give a poor impression of the area. Commission and undertake a neglected spaces study in order to map out sites; to include a land ownership check and ecological assessment in order to bring sites back to a standard which can be easily managed either for biodiversity or as general amenity sites of high quality.

9. Public Art Strategy

Implementation of a number of a major “signature” pieces of public art throughout North Torfaen. Works to be commissioned in line with the Council’s Public Art Strategy as part of a collective vision for the area.

Transport & Movement

1. North Torfaen Accessibility Study

In order to deliver the successful regeneration of the British for a mix of proposed after-uses, including residential, retail and commercial, along with the wider economic and community regeneration of the North Torfaen area, a transport and accessibility study is required to look at improvements to the existing road network to accommodate future transport demands.

2. Loops and Links

Implement the Loops and Links Action Plan to improve the public rights of way network, providing better access to the countryside and amenities within local settlements, along with identifying required improvements to the whole network system (e.g. signage, surfacing etc).

3. Trial Bike Provision

Explore the feasibility of establishing a site within the Authority to cater for off road motorised sports. If feasible, implement a scheme to establish a site and undertake a publicity programme to raise awareness of the facility. Work in partnership with the Police to deter illegal off-road vehicles using all other areas.

4. Entrance & Directional Signage

Develop a signage strategy for North Torfaen and look to improve sense of arrival / place, along with legibility and permeability within the HARPS.

5. User Infrastructure

Improve the availability of user infrastructure at key retail / neighbourhood centres and visitor destinations. This would include adequate parking (e.g. disabled / coach provision), along with secure cycle stands.

6. Safe Routes to School / Workplace

Build upon the work undertaken at Victoria Primary School, Pontnewynydd Primary School, and Abersychan Secondary School to develop and ensure safe routes to schools. Alongside this, work with local employers to develop safe routes to work, and develop guidance for future developments to ensure safety.

Blaenavon Settlement Area

Retail & Town Centres

1. Containment of Retail Centre

The physical containment of the existing shopping centre needs to be addressed to create a focus and a viable range of shops and services suitable for both local residents and visitors. This would be delivered through continued investment in shop fronts and upper storey usage across the town centre, robust linkages to and from the World Heritage site visitor centre through advanced and directional vehicular signage, pedestrian signage joint marketing and events and physical public realm works.

2. Local Passport Scheme

In addition to physical interventions the need to explore the development of a local “passport” scheme for visitors which has incentives for visiting the town centre and promotions amongst attractions should be pursued through the town’s marketing vehicle.

3. Making the Connections – Local Products and Town Centre

This project would encourage a more diverse range of quality independent services in Blaenavon through the development of food, arts and crafts and creative industries sector. This would include research into existing businesses within locality and hinterland, identification and development of potential local supply chains, investigate incubator units within shopping area; live/work units, develop a showcase facility within Broad Street for collective promotion, demonstrations, tastings, training events, etc. The project would also explore links with outdoor activities sector and how it could relate to the town centre.

4. Live Work Units within Shopping Area

As part of investing in upper storey usage and opportunities for local enterprise, and working with the proposed young entrepreneurship project linked to outdoor activities and leisure, media, arts and crafts, etc, this specific project would look at the opportunities for live/work units.

5. Showcase Facility on Broad Street

To investigate whether any vacant or underused buildings could become a focal point for the creative industries showcasing local artisan products from businesses that are located within and around Blaenavon town and providing a venue for bespoke training / support. This could be developed through a local producers group, with the

facility offering retail, demonstration facilities and joint marketing, linked to site and town specific events and tasters.

6. Putting Blaenavon on the Menu

A targeted programme that aims to improve the quality and diversity of Blaenavon's food and drink offer through local awareness raising campaigns, linkages with heritage offer, targets existing food and drink businesses with capital investment, training and development, customer care, marketing support, etc. It also explores the role of events and festivals around food and its relationship to industrial heritage and could work towards developing links with Abergavenny as a food tourism destination in terms of networks, suppliers, joint marketing and events.

7. Town Centre Living Museum

Investigate the feasibility within the town centre for a permanent living museum that acts as a portal for the other attractions. This could incorporate an element of retail, historical interpretation, storytelling and a local showcase facility.

8. Marketing Vehicle for the WHS

To develop further the marketing partnership for the WHS to include the town. The partnership act as an umbrella for key agencies to ensure co-ordination and consistency in relation to quality, marketing and promotion and wider accessibility. Tasks to include targeted marketing in relation to arts and crafts, books, speciality food – targeted marketing, a co-ordinated events programme, the development of an integrated destination based web-site and to explore the use of ICT such as i-pod and gaps technology to extend visitor stay and exploration across the whole destination.

Employment & Training

1. Enhance the Infrastructure of Key Employment Sites

To enhance the initial entrances and corridors into key employment sites such as Gilchrist Thomas and Kays and Kear and to undertake an audit of existing ICT facilities within SMEs to identify areas for improvement in terms of broadband capacity, local networks, etc.

2. Develop a Network of Employers

Develop a local employers network with such as Doncasters to address future training and skills needs, shared services, supply opportunities, etc.

3. Food & Drink Cluster

To develop a cluster of food based businesses within Blaenavon, with the development of shared facilities, test kitchens, processing and food production facilities, training academy and conference facilities, thereby building an identity for local food production that is linked to the town centre economy. This project could be linked to a showcase facility within a vacant building on Broad Street.

4. Skills Transfer

To explore the feasibility of skills transfer within the manufacturing /engineering sector and the market demand for the production of outdoor pursuits related products such as the manufacture of bespoke mountain bikes, paragliding equipment and other outdoor related products.

5. Pre-employment Routes

To work with local learning providers to deliver pre-employment training focused on hospitality, leisure and tourism, to ensure a supply of work-ready staff for new employment sites.

6. Role Models

To identify a cohort of role models from targeted employment sectors and arrange sessions in local schools for them to mentor young people at risk of entering the NEET category.

Education

1. Awareness Raising

To foster links between primary education and emerging food and artisan type businesses in terms of awareness raising of local businesses and their role within the local community.

2. Pathways to Training (Outdoor recreation, Hospitality, Food & Drink)

To develop an awareness raising and training and development programme for encouraging young people into retail and service sector, in addition to training for existing staff – added value initiatives, welcome host, herrian initiative (green guiding), etc. Communities First wards – creating pathways to training in outdoor recreation, hospitality and food and drink.

3. Blaenavon Forest School

Upgrade facilities within the Blaenavon Community Wood including the outdoor classroom, shelter, and toilets, to enable further development of the forest school activity.

4. Countryside Skills Development

Create a programme for the development of countryside skills such as the management of woodland and upland moors, hedge laying, drystone walling and fencing. This programme could be run for both volunteers, and those seeking a route to employment as an Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) style programme.

5. Blaenavon Community Campus

Proposals to create a hub development based on the co-location of educational, health and leisure uses within a campus style development. This will include a Primary Care Resource Centre providing GP and Nursing Services; a replacement 450 place primary school and 130 place nursery school, along with leisure facilities to include a sports hall, dance studios and MUGA. An adjoining parcel

of land is to be developed to provide a 40 bed extra care unit with links to the Learning Campus.

Housing

- 1. Living Over the Shops (LOTS)**
Extend the living over retail shops initiative in Blaenavon town centre, in partnership with Bron Afon.
- 2. Housing Design Guidance**
In line with the town's location within the world heritage landscape and the designation of the town centre as a conservation area, the preparation of design guidance to both guide and set the standards for future housing developments within the World Heritage Site.

Tourism & heritage

- 1. "Friends of Blaenavon"**
Develop a "Friends of Blaenavon" concept, capitalising on the growing number of voluntary rangers, locally based visitors and tourists, with funding support for training, materials and equipment.
- 2. Blaenavon Heritage E Trail**
Implement a heritage E Trail, operated from the World Heritage Centre. This will aim to encourage visitors to explore the town and its historic buildings, whilst providing footfall for and promoting local businesses.
- 3. Blaenavon Ironworks**
Continue to work and support Cadw in developing the visitor experience at Blaenavon Ironworks as one of the major industrial heritage attractions and another key focus for heritage visitors. Further restoration of the cottage and additions to the visitor experience should be progressed alongside improvements to physical linkages and signage between the ironworks and the new World Heritage Site Visitor Centre. Restoration of the Workers Cottages to the rear has allowed improved access to the Balancing Tower and further interpretation of the site, including Truck Shop and further refurbishing which has already taken place.
- 4. Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway**
Current proposals for extending the railway and improving the facilities are already being supported. This project relates to a further stage of development – extending the railway line northwards to Waunafon and Brynmawr.
- 5. Centre for Outdoor Activity**
Proposed centre for outdoor activity, located in close proximity to the town. This could include exploring the potential for developing the Ramfield Centre and Ty Mawr House. Proposal to include up-market bunk-house accommodation/YHA and to act as a base for outward bound pursuits.

6. Invest in Accommodation increasing Validation

To support the evidence that the private sector is willing to invest in accommodation, particularly B&B's, there is a need to encourage validation of provision and incentivising a drive to becoming validated with key bodies such as Visit Wales.

7. Visitor Accommodation in Key Buildings

Support proposals for improved visitor accommodation in key buildings within the town. Such buildings include the Lion Hotel looking to convert a derelict pub into a quality guest house / hotel (12 bedroom hotel with restaurant, lounge, and fitness suite).

8. Renovation of Caretakers House

Explore the feasibility of the renovating the Caretakers house adjacent to the Workmen's Hall which could be linked to offering an improved catering facility, enabling the Workmen's Hall to develop its range of services. Project would need to support landscape improvements to the frontage and consider disabled access.

9. World Heritage Centre

Develop the World Heritage Centre as a hub from which to explore the surroundings. Provide coach / bus parking facilities to the rear of the building and promote countryside recreation activities from the centre.

10. Iron Mountain Trail

Re-route the current Iron Mountain Trail to run through Blaenavon to include the World Heritage Centre, and the Ironworks. Associated with this re-routing, re-design and re-print literature for this trail.

11. Historic Monuments in the Landscape

Conserve and promote the series of historic monuments and features in the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape / World Heritage Site. For example, opening of the southern portal of the Pwll Du tunnel and link to Blaenavon Ironworks, with associated interpretation.

12. Police Station Building

Re-location of the existing part-time police station would permit the conversion and re-use of this historic building as a museum. This would allow the Cordell Museum to expand its current operation and provide permanent exhibition space in proximity to the newly opened WHC and in support of the proposed Heritage Precinct concept.

13. St Peter's Churchyard

Undertake a programme of habitat management in conjunction with the opening-up of the Churchyard to permit an attractive and accessible footpath route between the Church Road car park and the newly opened WHC.

14. Tourist Transport Initiative

Provide a bus service to link World Heritage Site attractions, notably the town centre, World Heritage Centre, the Ironworks, Blaenavon High Level Station, Big Pit, Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway, Garn Lakes, Keeper's Pond and Llanfoist Wharf, along with attractions outside the HARPs area including Clydach Gorge and the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. An initial phase could involve the purchase of a Land Train and bio fuel plant equipment, to operate within Blaenavon as a social enterprise, in providing employment and volunteering opportunities for local people.

Natural & Built Environment

1. Gilchrist Thomas Landscaping Scheme

Introduction of further phases of landscape improvements, including tree and groundcover planting, signage scheme, improved linkages and artworks.

2. Kays and Kears Enhancements

Advance landscaping within the main part of site to include access and open space provision.

3. Blaenavon Ironworks Bridge

Creation of pedestrian footbridge over Estate Road connecting the Ironworks site and the car parking area to the south. Opportunity to create iconic structure in keeping with its historic setting and iron-making associations.

4. Forgotten Landscapes Project

Major programme of heritage conservation of the landscape, its habitats and historic features. Promotion of public access, interpretation and community involvement as key components of the programme strategy.

5. Blaenavon Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI)

Progression of a THI funding application within Blaenavon town centre, in conjunction with a review / appraisal of the town's conservation area boundary.

6. Blaenavon Heritage Precinct

The purpose of the 'precinct' is to provide a strong link between the World Heritage Centre and the town centre. It will provide a focus for the promotion of the heritage of the area.

7. Blaenavon Public Arts Initiative

The development, in conjunction with the local community of a public arts strategy in the town, highlighting and connecting key spaces, routes and attractions.

- 8. Blaenavon Urban Fringe Environmental Improvements**

Implement a series of environmental and access improvements at the boundary between the Blaenavon urban area and the upland landscape. Much of this area is currently blighted by poor quality environment such as broken signs and fencing, littering and poor access. This project should improve environmental quality and encourage access to natural green space for healthier living.
- 9. Blaenavon Gateways**

Major scheme of enhancement works focussed on unsightly buildings and spaces along road corridors to Blaenavon. Proposals to include appropriate redevelopment and improvements such as the Caddick Building site. Also hard and soft landscape works, boundary treatments and signage improvements.
- 10. Forgeside Approaches and Settlement**

Continuation of improvements undertaken at junction of Forge Side Road and Varteg Road. Landscaping proposals based on boundary enhancements and road surface improvements.
- 11. Blaenavon Signage Strategy**

Development of a signage strategy for the town, focussed on improving visitor orientation to the town centre and key heritage attractions.
- 12. Waun Afon Bog**

Creation of a nature reserve encompassing new habitats, cycleway provision, access and environmental improvements.
- 13. Elgam Ravine Pocket Park**

Creation of a Pocket Park on land at Elgam Ravine. Area would come under the ownership and management of the local community, (in conjunction with Blaenavon Communities First) with funding to support enhancement works.
- 14. Garn Lakes Local Nature Reserve**

Comprehensive programme of improvements to upgrade the infrastructure of this area, particularly focussed on improving facilities for fishing and biodiversity, signage, site furniture, and promotional material for the area.
- 15. Blaenavon Town Open Spaces Environmental Improvements**

Implement a comprehensive programme of improvements to upgrade the open spaces and general environment of areas outside the town centre. The programme could include upgrading of footpaths, road / street signage and open spaces such as Elgam Ravine to significantly upgrade the quality of the environment and to engender community pride.

16 Hydro Electric Power (HEP) Scheme

Take forward findings of a recent assessment which indicated that it may be possible to establish a micro HEP scheme running from Balls Pond to Elgam Ravine.

17. Town Centre Enhancement

Environmental improvement within the town centre such as enhancement works along James Street.

Transport & Movement

1. Access Improvements

Initiate study for improved access to Blaenavon from the up-graded Heads of the Valleys Road via the B4248.

2. Route 46, National Cycle Route

Complete the missing link on National Cycle Route 46 between Blaenavon and Brynmawr. Upgrade the environment of current cycle route by improvements to fencing, management of verges, installation of seating, signage and interpretation, and creation of 'Gateways' onto and from the network to other routes, viewpoints, historic features, housing, tourist attractions and retail areas.

3. Off Road Vehicles

Develop and implement a comprehensive programme of initiatives to prevent illegal off road vehicle use in the landscape; including education, physical measures and police operations.

Community Infrastructure

1. Blaenavon Swimming Pool – Feasibility Study

To undertake a feasibility study to investigate the viability of a swimming pool in Blaenavon. (*Study now completed and conclusions taken into account in the Acton Plan*).

2. Youth Facilities

Provide leisure and recreational facilities for young people in Blaenavon Communities First Area. Take advantage of the offer of a Scansis pitch from the Football Association of Wales and provide appropriate lighting and security. Recruit and train volunteers to assist in the usage of the Scansis pitch and provide a youth shelter for young people to meet.

3. Community Gym

Explore the potential of leasing and refurbishing a property on Broad Street to convert to a community gym, utilising existing equipment from the demolished leisure centre and encourage local residents to utilise the facility. Look to develop a sustainable social enterprise engaging partners such as local sports clubs, Communities First, PACT Youth, and Jobmmatch etc.

Cwmavon Settlement Area

Retail & Town Centres

1. **Physical Retail Linkages**

Projects to ensure that communities have access to shops and services through public transport improvements, home delivery/green box schemes, physical linkages in relation to pavements, pedestrian crossing points, cycle facilities and parking facilities.

Employment & Training

1. **Tourism Business**

To scope opportunities for a local cluster of tourism businesses within the lower A4043 corridor and along the upper B4246, specifically accommodation, food and drink outdoor activities development of products from natural resources, and heritage based tourism.

Housing

1. **Housing Renewal Area**

Support the designation of a neighbourhood renewal area in Varteg through the commissioning of a Renewal Area Assessment so as to ascertain the true extent of problems of housing dilapidation.

2. **Green Housing Corridor**

Linked to the woodland / 'green' nature of the area, encourage / promote the benefits of small scale renewable energy technology and develop alongside retro-fitting, clear guidance on what is appropriate within this area of conservation and heritage value.

3. **Woodland Management**

To ensure this area maintains its green linking corridor role, undertake a programme of woodland management in conjunction with local landowners.

Tourism & heritage

1. **Camping/Caravanning**

Potential to establish camping site provision on land between Blaenvon and Cwmavon, immediately to the west of Cwmavon Road. Investigate opportunities with local landowners and undertake market analysis.

Natural & Built Environment

1. **Varteg Village Green**

Environmental Improvement Scheme, aimed at enhancing the village environment and creating a sense of arrival through improved landmark structures, boundary treatments to roadways, and soft and hard landscaping works.

2. Forgotten Landscapes

Major programme of heritage conservation of the landscape, its habitats and historic features. Promotion of public access, interpretation and community involvement as key components of the programme strategy

3. Cwmavon Local Nature Reserve

Develop and implement a programme of improvements to upgrade infrastructure of the LNR, focussed particularly on improving facilities and biodiversity, signage, site furniture and promotion of the area.

Transport & Movement

1. Route 46, National Cycle Route

Upgrade the environment of this route by improving fencing, management of verges, installation of seating, signage and interpretation, and creation of 'Gateways' onto and from the cycleway.

Abersychan Settlement Area

Retail & Town Centres

1. Trevethin Shopping Centre Enhancement Scheme

The physical redevelopment of the main neighbourhood shopping area and village core in partnership with Bron Afon HA. Proposals to include landscaping of the site, lighting, signage, etc and an assessment of the physical structure of the layout and condition of the built fabric in light of existing occupiers and future retail and community requirements. Improvements to shops should consider new frontages, roof structures, and car parking. The project would also include refurbishment of the Housing Office, Police Station, garage, and Working Men's club and should consider the creation of small business units. The marketing and promotion of local shops and services within community, linked to other campaigns linked to healthy living, employment opportunities and other community based initiatives.

2. Continued Investment in Abersychan Neighbourhood Centre

The development of a strong identity for Abersychan as a key strategic Torfaen valleys centre that is underpinned by tradition, quality and customer care. Projects to include improved gateway signage – local shops and services and links to cycle and walking routes, the local promotion of shops and services, specifically local produce and specialist products, to investigate potential for holding specialist markets and to maximise its position on the A4043 in relation to visitors.

3. Physical Enhancement of Pontnewynydd Neighbourhood Centre

Comprehensive enhancement of this southern entrance into North Torfaen to include shop-front improvements, management of on-

street parking, development of upper storey use, improved gateway signage and better signage to off-street parking provision.

4 Shopping Precinct on Glen View

Redevelopment and refurbishment plan for Glen View, exploring options for renewing shop fronts and providing more attractive security, fencing and street finishes. Also explore the potential to improve residents board office to increase user capacity as a meeting space.

Employment & Training

1. Employment Site Enhancement

Enhance the image, infrastructure and facilities amongst larger employment sites on the main A4043 corridor, e.g. (name estates). Undertake an audit of existing ICT facilities within SMEs to identify areas for improvement in terms of broadband capacity, local networks, etc.

2. Pre-Employment Routes

To work with local learning providers to deliver pre-employment training focused on hospitality, leisure and tourism, to ensure a supply of work-ready staff for new employment sites.

3. Wiltan SME

Proposed improvements to an industrial unit on the Pontnewynydd Industrial Estate, occupied by a local manufacturer, Wiltan to enable the company to expand its current training programme to other local businesses.

Education

1. Abersychan Community School

A significant opportunity to provide a real focal point for the community to engage in all aspects of life long learning, particularly ICT training opportunities. The potential to develop Abersychan Secondary School as a 'Beacon of Excellence'.

2. Pontnewynydd & Penygarn Primary Schools

Improvements to provide disabled access and demountable classroom at Pontnewynydd School, along with measures to stimulate learning and play and encourage children and nurturing creative talent.

Proposed design and creation of a community meeting and events facility and training room in the newly created community focussed school at Penygarn.

Housing

1. Trevethin Housing Estate – Environmental Improvements

Comprehensive programme of enhancements to improve the overall residential environment, focussed on boundary and open space treatments, selective avenue tree planting, signage to the main

facilities, improved pedestrian access and linkages to the surrounding countryside.

2. **Living Over the Shops (LOTS)**
Explore the potential of better utilising spaces over retail shops as residential properties within the neighbourhood centres, working in partnership with Bron Afon.
3. **The British (Phase 1)**
Reclamation of this currently derelict site is required in order to create the necessary landform prior to its development.
4. **The British (Phase 2)**
Following reclamation of the British redevelopment of the site is to be taken forward in a joint venture partnership with a private sector developer and the Welsh Assembly Government, to provide a range of proposed after-uses including residential, retail and commercial.

Natural & Built Environment

1. **Varteg Road Corridor Enhancement Scheme**
Hard and soft landscaping proposals incorporating boundary and edge treatments, tree planting, artworks, improved signage, and access improvements along the length of the main road corridor between Abersychan and Varteg village.
2. **Bailey Street/Stanley Street – Enhancement Programme**
Commission an urban design study for this important local shopping area and engage the community to develop a series of small scale projects / streetscape improvements to include:
 - Hard and soft landscaping works, improved street lighting, street furniture, footpath links and signage;
 - Development of a community gardening enterprise within Sardis Grave Yard;
 - A feasibility study into the creation of a medium sized centre for art / creative industries and history;
 - A feasibility study for the refurbishment / re-use of Ty-Rosser Gwyn to create a more accessible / functional community facility; and
 - Undertake work at the Bakery Fields to upgrade the existing playing field for the use of the community and young people in the area.
3. **Pontnewynydd Gateway Scheme**
Range of design measures aimed at improving the overall townscape quality at this key gateway location. To include landscape enhancement proposals in order to reduce the impact of poor building frontages and under-used spaces, boundary improvements, artworks, pedestrian and cycleway linkages and street furniture. Also address

management of on-street parking and development of upper storey use.

- 4. Garndiffaith Viaduct – Enhancement Scheme**
Enhancement of key historic landmark structure to include landscape proposals, access improvements, lighting and surface treatments.
- 5. Abersychan Enveloping Scheme**
Co-ordinated and comprehensive refurbishment of commercial properties along the main road corridor through Abersychan and enhancement of the existing car park area through hard and soft landscaping. The aim is to create more of a town square feel with the potential for holding specialist markets events.
- 6. Pontnewynydd Baths Park and Riverside Improvements**
Improvements to the park opposite Hardy Court to include new play area, possible multi use play area, access signage, and other environmental improvements. The project should be run in partnership with the community and should also include upgraded access between the park and other areas such as the river, particularly to Pontypool, Abersychan, and Blaenavon.
- 7. Blaenserchan Valley**
Comprehensive safety, slope stabilisation, community development, ecological habitat, access and interpretation works to the former coal mining valley that has been abandoned for some time. The site is an excellent example of a post industrial landscape which is rich in history and of high biodiversity value and could become an important Local Nature Reserve, based on the management plan that has recently been completed.
- 8. Abersychan sub area Urban Fringe Environmental Improvements**
Implement a series of environmental and access improvements at the boundary between the urban area and the upland landscape. Much of this area is currently blighted by poor quality environment through broken signs and fencing, litter and poor access.
- 9. Trevethin Village Centre Community Garden**
Commission landscape designers to make good the damaged mosaic and create a sensory garden to encourage insects and other local wildlife back into the area. As part of the project look to create high profile features such as sun clocks and involve young people in the design / build process.
- 10. Central Drive Park**
Proposals to include park resurfacing and new durable community garden equipment. To include employment of a seasonal worker to work with the community and schools in the design and creation of spaces and park furniture.

Transport & Movement

- 1. Route 46, National Cycle Route**

Upgrade the environment of this route by improving fencing, management of verges, installation of seating, signage and interpretation, and creation of 'Gateways' onto and from the cycleway.
- 2. Trevethin Landscape Infrastructure**

Opportunity to undertake a comprehensive review of the landscape infrastructure of Trevethin, including the residential areas, shopping area and access to the natural green space. Work with the community to engender pride in the local environment and implement significant environmental improvements.
- 3. American Gardens / The Woodlands**

Improvements to the access road from Channel View to the back of the Woodlands. Enhance local pride in an area currently a hotspot for fly tipping and vandalism. Generally enhance the attractiveness of the access to the American Gardens along the eastern boundary and implement significant park restoration, and interpretation in partnership with the local community and landowners.
- 4. Town Open Spaces Environmental Improvements**

Implement a comprehensive programme of improvements to upgrade the open spaces and general environment in areas outside the core of the town centres. These could include upgrading of footpaths, road / street signage, and open space to significantly upgrade the quality of the environment and to engender community pride.

Community Infrastructure

- 1. Garndiffaith Corn Bin**

Potential to develop a 'signature building' that would support for new community businesses, training and learning, information resources and bespoke business support advice with an emphasis on the development of micro-renewables.
- 2. Cold Barn Farm Development**

Improvement of ICT links into Cold Barn Farm for training and conferencing events, including interactive white boards and PowerPoint displays for young people. Alongside this internal development, construct a multi-use play facility to meet current demands for additional play provision on land adjoining Cold Barn Farm.
- 3. Trevethin Health Learning Station**

A local authority project to provide facilities for adult education with a strong focus on health education. Facilities to include healthy cooking, certain medical facilities (ie. immunisation of children), young mothers advice, a crèche, allotments etc.
- 4. Penygarn Chapel and St Cadoc's Church Facilities Project**

Refurbishment of the former Penygarn Chapel on the site of the former Trevethin Comprehensive School into a community learning

and meeting space. Phase one would include the reconnection of services, and refurbishment of key features, doors, windows and security measures. Enhancement of St Cadoc's Church as a concert venue is proposed to include facilities to screen films within the only cinema-scale venue in the Penygarn/Trevethin area.

5. St Cadoc's Play Park

Refurbishment of a currently derelict play park to include provision of safety fencing and low amenity planting.

6. Penygarn Healthy Eating Project

Improvements to community allotments including access, raised bedding, tool storage, boundary fencing, scrub clearance, and ground preparation.

7. Pentwyn Wellbeing Centre

Design and construction of a new Health and Wellbeing Centre in partnership with Pentwyn Cricket Club, incorporating innovative sustainable building technologies, comprising log construction with air source heat pump; ICT training suite, exercise equipment room and community meeting space.

8. Lasgarn Sports Facilities

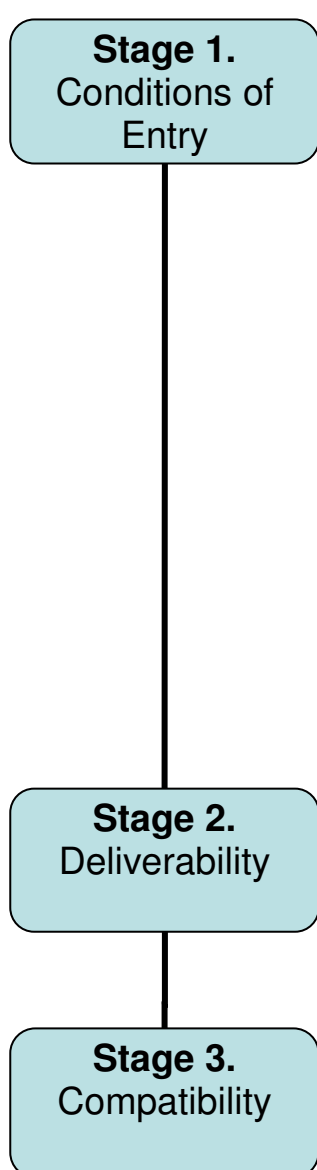
The Trevethin Communities First Partnership Board has identified the poor condition of the football pitches near Lasgarn wood as being in a dangerous condition. Proposals include the redevelopment of the pitches and support for grounds keeping and facility management training.

8 Evaluation

8.1 Evaluation Criteria

It is proposed that the evaluation of projects and programmes to be included within the HARPS three year Action Plan be appraised by reference to a 3 stage evaluation process. Acceptance at each stage will allow progression through to the next. The 3 stages are as follows:

1. Conditions of Entry
2. Deliverability
3. Compatibility with Plan Objectives



Stage 1 Conditions of Entry

Projects / Actions must meet the following entry criteria to the HARPS programme in order to be accepted for further plan evaluation:

- Evidence of need by reference to key issues, including responses received through stakeholder workshops and consultation (as highlighted within the Baseline Assessment Report)
- Evident lack of provision (as set-out in Government legislation/programmes/guidance)
- Consistency with the Plan's spatial strategy

The evaluation is based on a scoring system on the extent to which each project addresses the issues identified, as follows:

✓✓✓	Strong Need
✓✓	Medium Need
✓	Weak Need

Only those projects that are considered to meet a strong identified need (✓✓✓ or above – ie equivalent to addressing 4 or more key issues) are to be taken forward to the next stage of project evaluation.

Stage 2 Deliverability

By reference to various deliverability indicators, an assessment is made of the likely timescales for project/action implementation within or outside the 3 Year Action Plan period.

Stage 3 Compatibility with Plan Strategy and Objectives

Stage 3 evaluation is concerned with ensuring that the thematic programmes (developed under Section 7.5) within which individual projects/actions sit are compatible with the strategy objectives.

The assessment of compatibility is based on a straightforward assessment of the degree to which individual projects and hence the strategy programmes as a whole either directly or indirectly meet each stated objective (as a measure of their holistic performance).

8.2 Stage 1 - Conditions of Entry

Table 7.3.1 – Conditions of Entry: Strategic Projects

Project Opportunities	Identified Need	Addressing the Issues	Progress to Next Stage?
Integrated Approach to Local Retail	✓✓✓	T5, R3, TH4, T6, R7	✓
Retail Audit	✓✓✓	R1, R2, R3, R4, R5	✓
Joint Promotion / Marketing	✓✓	R6, TH3, S3	x
Street Markets	✓✓✓	R1, R2, H3, S11	✓
Major Employment Sites - Enhancement	✓	C4, EN5	x
Apprenticeships Support	✓	E2, E4	x
Training Initiatives for Business	✓✓	C2, C1, S15	x
Marketing / Joint Promotion of Local Food Products	✓	R6, S3	x
Eco Food Park Development	✓	B2, B4	x
Childcare	✓✓✓✓	B1, B2, B6, B7, B10, P3, H4, S15	✓
Develop Integrated Training for Target Groups	✓✓✓✓	P2, B1, B2, B3, E1, E2, E4, S15	✓
Promote Lifestyle Benefits of Outdoors / Tourism	✓✓✓	B3, B4, TH1, TH7, H3	✓
Young Persons Entrepreneurship Scheme	✓✓✓✓	B3, B4, B10, E2, E4, E5, TH2, TH7	✓
Overcoming the Digital Divide	✓✓✓	E2, E4, B4, S13	✓

Project Opportunities	Identified Need	Addressing the Issues	Progress to Next Stage?
Skill Build	✓✓✓	B2, B3, B4, B7, E4	✓
Bridges to Work	✓✓✓	B1, B2, E1, E2, E4	✓
SAVVY 2	✓✓✓	B1, B2, B6, B7, E2, E4, E5	✓
Working Skills for Adults	✓✓✓	E1, E2, E4, E5	✓
Jobmatch	✓✓✓	B1, B2, B6, B7	✓
Prevent	✓✓✓	E1, E2,	✓
Regional Housing Enablers	✓✓✓✓	HO1, HO2, HO4, C1	✓
Housing Renewal Areas	✓✓✓	HO5, EN8, HO1, S18	✓
Tourist Transport Initiative	✓✓✓	R3, TH3, TH4, TH5, TH8, T4	✓
Joint Ticketing	✓✓✓	TH3, TH4, TH5, S3, S10	✓
Events & Festivals	✓✓✓	R3, TH3, TH7, S1, S3	✓
Afon Llwyd Access Improvements	✓✓✓	EN1, H3, T5, T6, T8, H1	✓
Afon Llwyd Japanese Knotweed Infestation Strategy	✓	EN9	x
Nature Conservation Management	✓	EN9	x
Churchyard Management	✓	EN9	x
Open Space and Recreational Needs Survey	✓✓✓✓	S12, T5, T7, C4, S11, H3, CI5	✓
Route 46 Cycleway	✓✓✓	H2, H3, TH7, T7, S7	✓

<i>Project Opportunities</i>	Identified Need	Addressing the Issues	Progress to Next Stage?
Highway Corridor Enhancement	✓✓	TH6, T3, EN3, EN4	x
Neglected Space	✓✓✓	EN5, EN6, EN7, EN8, EN9	✓
Public Art Strategy	✓✓✓	TH6, EN2, EN4, EN6	✓
Bron Afon Environmental Enhancements	✓✓✓	H05, T9, EN8, S18	✓
Loops & Links	✓✓✓	T5, T7, T8, T11, E1, S6	✓
Trial Bike Provision	✓	T10, TH7	x
Entrance & Directional Signage	✓✓✓	T3, EN3, EN4, EN9, TH6	✓
Safe Route to School/Workplace	✓	T8	x
User Infrastructure	✓	T6, T7	x

Table 7.3.2 – Conditions of Entry: Blaenavon Settlement Area

Project Opportunities	Identified Need	Addressing the Issues	Progress to Next Stage?
Containment of retail Centre	✓✓✓	C2, R3, R6, EN4, EN6, TH4	✓
Local Passport Scheme	✓✓✓	R6, TH3, TH4, S3	✓
Making the Connections – Local Products & Town Centre	✓✓✓	B3, B4, R1, R6, TH3, TH4	✓
Live Work Units within Shopping Area	✓✓	B3, B4, B10, E5	x
Showcase Facility on Broad Street	✓✓✓	B3, R3, R6, TH3, TH4, TH7	✓
Putting Blaenavon on the Menu	✓✓✓	C2, R3, TH2, TH4, S3	✓
Town Centre Living Museum	✓✓✓	R3, TH1, TH3, TH4, E2, E6	✓
Marketing Vehicle for the World Heritage Site	✓✓✓	R3, R6, TH1, TH3, TH4, TH7	✓
Enhance Image / Infrastructure of Key Employment Sites	✓✓✓	B4, C1, C3, C4, EN5	✓
Develop a Network of Employers	✓✓✓	P2, B2, B3, B4, C1, EN5	✓
Food & Drink Cluster	✓	B3, C1,	x
Skills Transfer	✓	B3, TH7	x
Pre-Employment Routes	✓✓✓✓	P2, B2, B6, B7, E2, E4, B5	✓
Role Models	✓✓✓	B2, B6, B7, E2, E4	✓
Awareness Raising	✓✓✓	P2, P3, B2, TH1, Th7	✓
Pathways to Training	✓✓✓	P2, P3, B3, B4, E2, E4	✓

Project Opportunities	Identified Need	Addressing the Issues	Progress to Next Stage?
Blaenavon Forest School	✓	E1, E2	x
Countryside Skills Development	✓✓✓	B2, B6, B7, E4, S15	✓
Blaenavon Community Campus	✓✓✓✓	P5, B5, E1, E6, C5, S12, H1, H3, H4, H5, H6	✓
Living Over the Shops	✓	R7	x
Housing Design Guidance	✓✓✓	EN2, EN6	✓
“Friends of Blaenavon”	✓	S4, S10, TH1	x
Blaenavon Heritage E Trail	✓	TH3, TH4, S10	x
Blaenavon Ironworks	✓	EN2, S11, S10	x
Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway (Second Phase)	✓✓✓	EN2, S1, S10, T7, TH3	✓
Centre for Outdoor Activity	✓	TH2, S7	x
Invest in Accommodation Increasing Validation	✓✓✓	TH2, S1, S3, S10, C2	✓
Visitor Accommodation in Key Buildings	✓	TH2, S5	x
Renovation of Caretakers House	✓	EN6	x
World Heritage Centre	✓✓✓	TH1, TH4, TH5, TH7, S4	✓
Iron Mountain Trail	✓✓✓	TH7, EN2, S1, S4, S7	✓
Historic Monuments in the Landscape	✓✓✓	TH1, TH7, EN2, S1, S10	✓
Police Station Building	✓✓✓✓	R3, TH3, TH4, EN2, EN4, S1, S4, S10	✓

Project Opportunities	Identified Need	Addressing the Issues	Progress to Next Stage?
St Peter's Churchyard	✓✓✓	EN9, TH3, TH4, EN2, S4	✓
Tourist Transport Initiative	✓✓✓	R3, TH3, TH4, TH5, TH8, T4	✓
Gilchrist Thomas Landscaping Scheme	✓	C4, EN5	x
Kays & Kears Enhancement	✓	C4, EN5	x
Blaenavon Ironworks Bridge	✓✓✓	R3, S1, T8, TH4, EN2, S10	✓
Forgotten Landscapes	✓✓✓	EN2, S1, T8, TH3, TH7, S10	✓
Blaenavon Townscape Heritage Initiative	✓	EN2, EN6	x
Blaenavon Heritage Precinct	✓✓✓	TH4, EN2, EN4, S1, S4, S10	✓
Blaenavon Public Arts Initiative	✓	EN2, EN6	x
Blaenavon Urban Fringe Environment Improvements	✓	EN9	x
Blaenavon Gateways	✓✓✓	EN3, EN4, S1, S10, EN9	✓
Forgeside Approaches	✓✓✓	T3, EN3, EN4, EN9, TH6	✓
Blaenavon Signage Strategy	✓✓✓	T3, TH4, TH6	✓
Waun Afon Bog	✓	EN1, EN9	x
Elgam Ravine Pocket Park	✓✓✓	EN9, S9, S12, C4, CI4	✓
Garn Lakes Local Nature Reserve	✓✓✓	CI4, S7, EN1, EN2, EN9	✓
Blaenavon Town Open Spaces Environmental	✓	EN9	x

Project Opportunities	Identified Need	Addressing the Issues	Progress to Next Stage?
Improvements			
Hydro Electric Power (HEP) Scheme	✓✓✓	Lack of Provision	✓
Town Centre Enhancements	✓	EN6	x
Access Improvements	✓✓✓	TH6, EN4, T1, TH4, TH2	✓
Route 46 – Blaenavon to Brynmawr	✓✓✓	H2, H3, TH7, T7, S7	✓
Off Road Vehicles	✓	CI2, TH7	x
Blaenavon Swimming Pool Feasibility Study	✓✓	S16, CI4, H3	x
Youth Facilities	✓✓✓	S12, P2, P3, CI2, CI4	✓
Community Gym	✓✓✓	CI5, H3, H2, B2, B3	✓

Table 7.3.3 – Conditions of Entry: Cwmavon Settlement Area

Project Opportunities	Identified Need	Evidence	Progress to Next Stage?
Physical Retail Linkages	✓✓✓	R1, R5, R6, TH6, S3	✓
Sustainable Tourism Business	✓	B2, C2	x
Housing Renewal Area	✓✓	HO2, HO3, HO5	x
Green Housing Corridor	✓✓✓	Lack of Provision	✓
Woodland Management	✓	EN9	x
Camping / Caravanning	✓	S14, TH2, S5	x
Varteg Village Green	✓	EN3, EN4	x
Forgotten Landscapes	✓✓✓	S1, S4, S10, TH4, EN2, EN4	✓
Cwmavon Local Nature Reserve	✓	EN1, EN9	x
Route 46, National Cycle Route	✓✓✓	H2, H3, TH7, T7, S7	✓

Table 7.3.4 – Conditions of Entry: Abersychan Settlement Area

Project Opportunities	Identified Need	Addressing the Issues	Progress to Next Stage?
Trevethin Shopping Centre Enhancement Scheme	✓✓✓	C2, R1, R2, R5, EN7	✓
Abersychan Neighbourhood Centre	✓	EN4, S3	x
Pontnewynydd Neighbourhood Centre	✓✓	R5, T3, EN3, EN7	x
Shopping Centre on Glen View	✓✓	R5, T3, EN3, EN7	x
Employment Site Enhancement	✓	C4, E5	x
Wiltan SME	✓✓✓✓	B2, B4, B6, B7, E2, E4, S15	✓
Pre-Employment Routes	✓✓✓✓	P2, B2, B5, B6, B7, E2, E4	✓
Abersychan Community School	✓✓✓✓	S15, E2, E4, E5, E6	✓
Pontnewynydd & Penygarn Primary Schools	✓✓✓	E1, E6, P2, P3, S13	✓
Trevethin Housing Estate – Environmental Improvements	✓	T9	x
Living Over the Shops (LOTS)	✓	HO3	x
The British (Phase 1)	✓✓✓	HO3, C1, C2, R1, B6, B7	✓
The British (Phase 2)	✓✓✓	HO3, C1, C2, R1, B6, B7	✓
Varteg Road Corridor Enhancement Scheme	✓	EN3, EN4	x
Bailey Street / Stanley Street Enhancement Programme	✓✓✓✓	R1, H2, H3, E4, R5, EN3, EN4, CI4	✓
Pontnewynydd Gateway Scheme	✓✓✓	EN3, EN4, EN7, R5, T3	✓

<i>Project Opportunities</i>	Identified Need	Addressing the Issues	Progress to Next Stage?
Garndiffaith Viaduct Enhancement Scheme	✓	TH7, EN2	x
Abersychan Enveloping Scheme	✓✓✓	EN4, R1, R2, R4, S11	✓
Pontnewynydd Baths Park and Riverside Improvements	✓✓✓	C4, EN1	✓
Blaenserchan Valley	✓	EN1, EN9	x
Abersychan sub Urban Fringe Environmental Improvements	✓	EN9	x
Trevethin Village Centre Community Garden	✓✓✓	EN7, EN9, B1, B6, E5	✓
Central Drive Park	✓	EN9	x
Route 46, National Cycle Network	✓✓✓	H2, H3, TH7, T7, S7	✓
Trevethin Landscape Infrastructure	✓✓	S9, EN4, EN7, EN9	x
American Gardens / The Woodlands	✓✓	S9, EN9	x
Town Open Spaces Environmental Improvements	✓✓	EN7, EN9, EN4	x
Garndiffaith Corn Bin	✓✓✓	B4, E2, E4, E5, R4, S15	✓
Cold Barn Farm Development	✓✓✓	P2, E1, E2, S12, S15, CI4	✓
Trevethin Health Learning Station	✓✓✓✓	EN7, H1, H4, H5, R5, T9, P3, P5, B5	✓
Penygarn Chapel and St Cadoc's Church Facilities Project	✓✓✓	S15, S9, B1, B8, C12	✓
St Cadoc's Play Park	✓✓	S12, C5	x

<i>Project Opportunities</i>	Identified Need	Addressing the Issues	Progress to Next Stage?
Penygarn Healthy Eating Project	✓✓✓	H3, H5, B5, B1, B8	✓
Pentwyn Wellbeing Centre	✓✓✓	H3, H4, S15, B5, S15, E2	✓
Lasgarn Playing Facilities	✓✓✓	S12, C14, H3, B5, B1	✓

8.3 Stage 2 – Deliverability

In order to assess the likely timescale of project and action delivery, each proposal has been appraised against a set of key delivery indicators. These represent key stages along the course of project development and, based on the extent to which each one has been progressed an assessment is made on the likelihood of delivery within the 3 year Action Plan period.

Based on an understanding of the current status of each proposed project and action, it is possible to determine the timelines for delivery within or outside the 3 year Action Plan period and hence recommendations for inclusion within the HARP Funding Programme.

Table 7.4.1 – Deliverability: Strategic Projects

Project Opportunities	Deliverability					
	Feasibility / Further Development Work Undertaken?	Design Work in Place?	Potential for more than 1 source of funding?	Planning Permission Secured?	Land Owner Consent / Buildings Acquired?	Potential to be Delivered in 3 Years?
Integrated Approach to Retail	No	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Retail Audit	No	n/a	No	n/a	n/a	✓
Street Markets	n/a	n/a	No	No	n/a	✓
Develop Integrated Training for Target Groups	n/a	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Childcare	n/a	No	Yes	n/a	Unknown	✓
Promote Lifestyle Benefits of Outdoors / Tourism	n/a	n/a	No	n/a	No	✓
Young Persons Entrepreneurship Scheme	n/a	n/a	Yes	n/a	No	✓
Overcoming the Digital Divide	no	n/a	yes	n/a	no	✓

Project Opportunities	Deliverability					
	Feasibility / Further Development Work Undertaken?	Design Work in Place?	Potential for more than 1 source of funding?	Planning Permission Secured?	Land Owner Consent / Buildings Acquired?	Potential to be Delivered in 3 Years?
Skill Build	no	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Bridges into Work	no	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	✓
SAVVY 2	no	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Working Skills for Adults	no	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Jobmatch	no	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Prevent	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Housing Renewal Area	no	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Bron Afon Environmental Enhancements	n/a	no	yes	No	n/a	✓
Events & Festivals	No	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Afon Llwyd Access Improvements	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	X
Open Space & Recreational	No	n/a	No	n/a	n/a	✓

Project Opportunities	Deliverability					
	Feasibility / Further Development Work Undertaken?	Design Work in Place?	Potential for more than 1 source of funding?	Planning Permission Secured?	Land Owner Consent / Buildings Acquired?	Potential to be Delivered in 3 Years?
Needs Survey						
Route 46 Cycleway	n/a	No	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	✓
Neglected Space	n/a	n/a	No	n/a	n/a	✓
Public Art Strategy	n/a	No	yes	No	n/a	✓
Loops & Links	Yes	No	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Accessibility Study	Being Commissioned	No	Yes	No	Unknown	✓
Entrance & Directional Signage	n/a	No	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓

Table 7.4.2 – Deliverability: Blaenavon Settlement Area

Project Opportunities	Deliverability					
	Feasibility / Further Development Work Undertaken?	Design Work in Place?	Potential for more than 1 source of funding?	Planning Permission Secured?	Land Owner Consent / Buildings Acquired?	Potential to be Delivered in 3 Years?
Containment of Retail Centre	n/a	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Local Passport Scheme	Yes	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Making the Connections - Local Produce and the Town Centre	n/a	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Showcase Facility	No	No	Yes	No	No	X
Putting Blaenavon on the Menu	n/a	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Town Living Museum	No	No	Yes	No	No	X
Marketing Vehicle	n/a	n/a	No	n/a	n/a	✓
Employment Sites Enhancement	No	No	Yes	No	n/a	✓
Networked	n/a	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓

Project Opportunities	Deliverability					
	Feasibility / Further Development Work Undertaken?	Design Work in Place?	Potential for more than 1 source of funding?	Planning Permission Secured?	Land Owner Consent / Buildings Acquired?	Potential to be Delivered in 3 Years?
Employers						
Pre-Employment Routes	n/a	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Role Models	n/a	n/a	No	n/a	n/a	✓
Awareness Raising	n/a	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Pathways to Training	n/a	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Countryside Skills Development	Yes	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Blaenavon Community Campus	Yes	Yes (Initial Phase)	Yes	No	Yes	✓
Housing Design Guidance	No	No	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway (Phase 2)	Yes (initial)	Yes (Initial)	Yes	No	n/a	✓
Invest in Accommodation	n/a	n/a	No	n/a	n/a	✓

Project Opportunities	Deliverability					
	Feasibility / Further Development Work Undertaken?	Design Work in Place?	Potential for more than 1 source of funding?	Planning Permission Secured?	Land Owner Consent / Buildings Acquired?	Potential to be Delivered in 3 Years?
Increasing Validation	n/a	n/a	No	n/a	n/a	✓
World Heritage Centre	n/a	No	Yes	No	Unknown	✓
Iron Mountain Trail	n/a	n/a	No	n/a	n/a	✓
Historic Monuments in the Landscape	n/a	No	Yes	Unknown	n/a	✓
Police Station Building	No	No	Yes	No	No	X
St Peter's Churchyard	No	No	Yes	n/a	No	✓
Blaenavon Ironworks Bridge	n/a	No	Yes	No	n/a	✓
Forgotten Landscapes	Yes	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Blaenavon Heritage Precinct	No	No	Yes	No	No	X
Blaenavon	n/a	No	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	✓

Project Opportunities	Deliverability					
	Feasibility / Further Development Work Undertaken?	Design Work in Place?	Potential for more than 1 source of funding?	Planning Permission Secured?	Land Owner Consent / Buildings Acquired?	Potential to be Delivered in 3 Years?
Gateways						
Forgeside Approaches	n/a	No	Yes	No	Unknown	✓
Blaenavon Signage Strategy	n/a	No	Yes	No	n/a	✓
Elgam Ravine Pocket Park	No	No	Yes	n/a	Yes	✓
Garn Lakes Local Nature Reserve	No	No	Yes	No	n/a	✓
Hydro Electric Power Scheme	No	No	Yes	No	Unknown	X
Access Improvements	n/a	n/a	No	n/a	n/a	✓
Route 46 – Blaenavon to Brynmawr	n/a	No	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Youth Facilities	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Unknown	✓
Tourist Transport Initiative	No	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓

Project Opportunities	Deliverability					
	Feasibility / Further Development Work Undertaken?	Design Work in Place?	Potential for more than 1 source of funding?	Planning Permission Secured?	Land Owner Consent / Buildings Acquired?	Potential to be Delivered in 3 Years?
Community Gym	n/a	unknown	Yes	No	No	✓

Table 7.4.3 – Deliverability: Cwmavon Settlement Area

Project Opportunities	Deliverability					
	Feasibility / Further Development Work?	Design Work?	Potential for more than 1 source of funding?	Planning Permission?	Land / Buildings Required?	Potential to be Delivered in 3 Years?
Physical Retail Linkages	No	n/a	Yes	No	Yes	✓
Green Housing Corridor	n/a	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Forgotten Landscapes	Yes	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Route 46, National Cycle Network	n/a	No	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓

Table 7.4.3 – Deliverability: Abersychan Settlement Area

Project Opportunities	Deliverability					
	Feasibility / Further Development Work Undertaken?	Design Work in Place?	Potential for more than 1 source of funding?	Planning Permission Secured?	Land Owners Consent / Buildings Acquired?	Potential to be delivered in 3 years?
Trevethin Shopping Centre Enhancement Scheme	n/a	No	Yes	No	n/a	✓
Pre-Employment Routes	n/a	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Abersychan Community School	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	✓
Pontnewynydd & Penygarn Primary School	No	No	Yes	No	No	X
The British (Phase 1)	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	✓
The British (Phase 2)	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	X
Bailey Street/ Stanley Street Enhancement	No	No	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓

Project Opportunities	Deliverability					
	Feasibility / Further Development Work Undertaken?	Design Work in Place?	Potential for more than 1 source of funding?	Planning Permission Secured?	Land Owners Consent / Buildings Acquired?	Potential to be delivered in 3 years?
Scheme						
Pontnewynydd Gateway Scheme	n/a	No	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	✓
Abersychan Enveloping Scheme	n/a	No	Yes	No	No	X
Pontnewynydd Baths Park and Riverside Improvements	No	No	Yes	n/a	No	✓
Wiltan SME	n/a	n/a	Yes	No	n/a	✓
Garndiffaith Corn Bin	n/a	No	Yes	n/a	Yes	✓
Route 46, National Cycle Network	n/a	No	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Cold Barn Farm	Yes (Initial)	No	Yes	No	Unknown	✓
Trevethin Health Learning Station	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	✓

Project Opportunities	Deliverability					
	Feasibility / Further Development Work Undertaken?	Design Work in Place?	Potential for more than 1 source of funding?	Planning Permission Secured?	Land Owners Consent / Buildings Acquired?	Potential to be delivered in 3 years?
Pentwyn Wellbeing Centre	Yes	No	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	✓
Trevethin Community Garden	n/a	No	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Penygarn and St Cadoc's Facilities Project	n/a	No	Yes	n/a	no	✓
Penygarn Healthy Eating Project	n/a	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	✓
Lasgarn Sports Facilities	n/a	No	yes	n/a	n/a	✓

8.4 Stage 3 – Project Compatibility

The evaluation of each of the themed strategy programmes is the final stage in the appraisal process and assesses the extent to which these (and hence the individual projects and actions) meet the stated strategic objectives of the Plan. [Table 7.6.1](#) that follows shows the compatibility of strategy programmes with the plan strategy and objectives.

8.5 Strategy Programmes and Projects

Each of the strategy programmes and individual projects and actions are set out below. These are presented both strategically (relating to the Study Area) or locally (in relation to settlement areas).

North Torfaen Spatial Scale

- NT1 – An Accessible and Vibrant Retail Offer
- NT2 – A Well Resourced & Connected Community
- NT3 – Linking People to Work
- NT4 – A Community & Workforce for the Future
- NT5 – Housing for Growing, Sustainable Communities
- NT6 – Realising Heritage & Landscape Assets
- NT7 – An Integrated Visitor Offer, Underpinned by its Environment

Blaenavon Sub Area

- BP1 – Blaenavon - An Accessible & Vibrant Retail Offer
- BP2 – A High Quality, Diverse Food & Drink Culture
- BP3 – An Integrated Visitor Offer, Underpinned by its Environment
- BP4 – Housing for a Growing, Sustainable Community
- BP5 – Linking People to Work
- BP6 – Developing Accessible, High Quality Employment Sites
- BP7 – A Community & Workforce for the Future
- BP8 – Realising Heritage & Landscape Assets

Cwmavon Sub Area

- CP1 – Housing for a Growing, Sustainable Community
- CP2 – Realising Strong Heritage & Landscape Assets
- CP3 – An Integrated Visitor Offer, Underpinned by its Environment

Abersychan Sub Area

- AP1 – A Sub Area Strategy for Neighbourhood Retail & Service Provision
- AP2 – Realising Heritage & Landscape Assets
- AP3 – Housing for a Growing, Sustainable Community
- AP4 – A Community and Workforce for the Future
- AP5 – Realising Heritage and Landscape Assets

8.6 Priorities

It is important to appreciate that as well as a number of individual projects under the above programme headings which will all produce a range of benefits, it is essential that some 'big hit projects' are identified. These are the type of projects that will have a real and lasting impact on the residents, visitors and businesses in North Torfaen. Projects that will address the key issues / problems identified, significantly improve the economic position of the area and importantly improve the quality of life and opportunities for local residents. The six key priorities that would meet the above are:

- The Blaenavon Community Campus
- The development of the British
- The Trevethin Health Learning Station
- The development of Abersychan Secondary School as a 'Beacon of Excellence'
- Improved connections between Pontypool and Abersychan
- The digitising of North Torfaen

A number of the 'smaller' projects identified are compatible and would build on the above.

Table 7.6.1: Compatibility with Plan Strategy and Objectives

Programmes	SO1: A distinctive, (well used) and respected historic, natural and cultural environment that maximises benefit for local communities.	SO2: A prosperous economic landscape with strong links with its neighbours and a market that builds upon key sectors and links to training and skills provision.	SO3: A well educated, skilled population with adequate, high quality lifelong learning facilities and support for community education, vocational training and the development of skills required for the world of work.	SO4: A healthy population with open access to safe leisure and recreation facilities within local communities.	SO5: An empowered local community with a strong sense of involvement / engagement and linkages to adjoining communities, within and outside North Torfaen	SO6: A well connected and accessible area with high quality ICT links, as well as strong strategic and sustainable transport linkages, which are easily accessible.	SO7: A housing stock which provides high quality accommodation and offers a greater mix of tenures, ensuring that housing supply meets both current and future needs:	SO8: Provision of retail and community infrastructure that meets local needs and underpins tourism opportunities within the area.	SO9: A high quality natural and built environment that builds upon its proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park and the history of the area:	SO10: An area celebrated for its heritage and culture with a spirited and active community.
NT1 - An accessible and vibrant retail Offer	✓	✓		✓				✓		✓
NT2 – A well resourced and connected community		✓		✓	✓	✓				
NT3 – Linking people to work		✓	✓		✓	✓				
NT4 – A community and workforce for the future		✓	✓		✓	✓				

<p>Programmes</p>	<p>SO1: A distinctive, (well used) and respected historic, natural and cultural environment that maximises benefit for local communities.</p>	<p>SO2: A prosperous economic landscape with strong links with its neighbours and a market that builds upon key sectors and links to training and skills provision.</p>	<p>SO3: A well educated, skilled population with adequate, high quality lifelong learning facilities and support for community education, vocational training and the development of skills required for the world of work.</p>	<p>SO4: A healthy population with open access to safe leisure and recreation facilities within local communities.</p>	<p>SO5: An empowered local community with a strong sense of involvement / engagement and linkages to adjoining communities, within and outside North Torfaen</p>	<p>SO6: A well connected and accessible area with high quality ICT links, as well as strong strategic and sustainable transport linkages, which are easily accessible.</p>	<p>SO7: A housing stock which provides high quality accommodation and offers a greater mix of tenures, ensuring that housing supply meets both current and future needs:</p>	<p>SO8: Provision of retail and community infrastructure that meets local needs and underpins tourism opportunities within the area.</p>	<p>SO9: A high quality natural and built environment that builds upon its proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park and the history of the area:</p>	<p>SO10: An area celebrated for its heritage and culture with a spirited and active community.</p>
<p>NT5 – Housing for growing sustainable communities</p>	✓						✓		✓	✓
<p>NT6 – Realising heritage and landscape assets</p>	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓
<p>NT7 – An integrated visitor offer underpinned by its environment</p>	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓
<p>BP1 – Blaenavon – an accessible and vibrant retail offer</p>	✓	✓		✓				✓		✓

Programmes	<i>SO1: A distinctive, (well used) and respected historic, natural and cultural environment that maximises benefit for local communities.</i>	<i>SO2: A prosperous economic landscape with strong links with its neighbours and a market that builds upon key sectors and links to training and skills provision.</i>	<i>SO3: A well educated, skilled population with adequate, high quality lifelong learning facilities and support for community education, vocational training and the development of skills required for the world of work.</i>	<i>SO4: A healthy population with open access to safe leisure and recreation facilities within local communities.</i>	<i>SO5: An empowered local community with a strong sense of involvement / engagement and linkages to adjoining communities, within and outside North Torfaen</i>	<i>SO6: A well connected and accessible area with high quality ICT links, as well as strong strategic and sustainable transport linkages, which are easily accessible.</i>	<i>SO7: A housing stock which provides high quality accommodation and offers a greater mix of tenures, ensuring that housing supply meets both current and future needs:</i>	<i>SO8: Provision of retail and community infrastructure that meets local needs and underpins tourism opportunities within the area.</i>	<i>SO9: A high quality natural and built environment that builds upon its proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park and the history of the area:</i>	<i>SO10: An area celebrated for its heritage and culture with a spirited and active community.</i>
BP2 – A high quality diverse food and drink culture	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓		✓
BP3 – An integrated visitor offer underpinned by its environment	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓
BP4 – Housing for a growing sustainable community	✓						✓		✓	✓
BP5 – Linking people to work		✓	✓		✓	✓				

Programmes	SO1: A distinctive, (well used) and respected historic, natural and cultural environment that maximises benefit for local communities.	SO2: A prosperous economic landscape with strong links with its neighbours and a market that builds upon key sectors and links to training and skills provision.	SO3: A well educated, skilled population with adequate, high quality lifelong learning facilities and support for community education, vocational training and the development of skills required for the world of work.	SO4: A healthy population with open access to safe leisure and recreation facilities within local communities.	SO5: An empowered local community with a strong sense of involvement / engagement and linkages to adjoining communities, within and outside North Torfaen	SO6: A well connected and accessible area with high quality ICT links, as well as strong strategic and sustainable transport linkages, which are easily accessible.	SO7: A housing stock which provides high quality accommodation and offers a greater mix of tenures, ensuring that housing supply meets both current and future needs:	SO8: Provision of retail and community infrastructure that meets local needs and underpins tourism opportunities within the area.	SO9: A high quality natural and built environment that builds upon its proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park and the history of the area:	SO10: An area celebrated for its heritage and culture with a spirited and active community.
BP6 – Developing accessible, high quality employment sites	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	
BP7 – A community and workforce for the future		✓		✓	✓					
BP8 – Realising heritage and landscape assets	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓
CP1 – Housing for a growing sustainable community	✓						✓		✓	✓

Programmes	<i>SO1: A distinctive, (well used) and respected historic, natural and cultural environment that maximises benefit for local communities.</i>	<i>SO2: A prosperous economic landscape with strong links with its neighbours and a market that builds upon key sectors and links to training and skills provision.</i>	<i>SO3: A well educated, skilled population with adequate, high quality lifelong learning facilities and support for community education, vocational training and the development of skills required for the world of work.</i>	<i>SO4: A healthy population with open access to safe leisure and recreation facilities within local communities.</i>	<i>SO5: An empowered local community with a strong sense of involvement / engagement and linkages to adjoining communities, within and outside North Torfaen</i>	<i>SO6: A well connected and accessible area with high quality ICT links, as well as strong strategic and sustainable transport linkages, which are easily accessible.</i>	<i>SO7: A housing stock which provides high quality accommodation and offers a greater mix of tenures, ensuring that housing supply meets both current and future needs:</i>	<i>SO8: Provision of retail and community infrastructure that meets local needs and underpins tourism opportunities within the area.</i>	<i>SO9: A high quality natural and built environment that builds upon its proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park and the history of the area:</i>	<i>SO10: An area celebrated for its heritage and culture with a spirited and active community.</i>
CP2 – Realising strong heritage and landscape assets	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓
CP3 – An integrated visitor offer underpinned by its environment	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓
AP1 – A sub area strategy for neighbourhood retail and service provision		✓		✓	✓			✓		✓
AP2 – Realising heritage and landscape assets	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓

<p>Programmes</p>	<p>SO1: A distinctive, (well used) and respected historic, natural and cultural environment that maximises benefit for local communities.</p>	<p>SO2: A prosperous economic landscape with strong links with its neighbours and a market that builds upon key sectors and links to training and skills provision.</p>	<p>SO3: A well educated, skilled population with adequate, high quality lifelong learning facilities and support for community education, vocational training and the development of skills required for the world of work.</p>	<p>SO4: A healthy population with open access to safe leisure and recreation facilities within local communities.</p>	<p>SO5: An empowered local community with a strong sense of involvement / engagement and linkages to adjoining communities, within and outside North Torfaen</p>	<p>SO6: A well connected and accessible area with high quality ICT links, as well as strong strategic and sustainable transport linkages, which are easily accessible.</p>	<p>SO7: A housing stock which provides high quality accommodation and offers a greater mix of tenures, ensuring that housing supply meets both current and future needs:</p>	<p>SO8: Provision of retail and community infrastructure that meets local needs and underpins tourism opportunities within the area.</p>	<p>SO9: A high quality natural and built environment that builds upon its proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park and the history of the area:</p>	<p>SO10: An area celebrated for its heritage and culture with a spirited and active community.</p>
<p>AP3 – Housing for a growing sustainable community</p>	<p>✓</p>						<p>✓</p>		<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>AP4 – A community and workforce for the future</p>		<p>✓</p>		<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>					