



North Torfaen Holistic Area Regeneration Plan (HARP) Strategy & Action Plan

Volume 3

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Executive Summary

HARP Context Spatial Location

The North Torfaen Holistic Area regeneration Strategy (HARP) has emerged from an earlier emphasis by the public sector and its partners on project based regeneration activity, to a more holistic and integrated approach, tailored to meeting the future needs and challenges of communities throughout the Heads of the valleys (HOV) Programme area. This has provided a new direction and focus to the regeneration agenda and has sought to encourage a more inclusive and collaborative working across public sector agencies, as well as community and voluntary organisations.

The product of this approach is a long term HARP strategy and vision and targeted action plan that will provide a clear framework in guiding and influencing future public and private sector interventions and decision-making at a sub-regional and local level.

The HARP Strategy and Action Plan has evolved systematically, from an understanding of the contextual background and identification of key issues, to the development of a range of actions necessary to deliver the North Torfaen HARP and the wider HOV Programme.

Fundamental to this is a recognition of the importance attached to Torfaen County Borough Council's corporate priorities, identified as "big hit projects," from which a range of wider initiatives are to be realised. It is hoped that this will have a real and lasting impact on the residents, visitors and businesses of North Torfaen.

The Council's six key priority projects for the North Torfaen HARP 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

The development of these projects through the HARP is evidenced in the work that follows, demonstrating the truly holistic nature of the process in supporting a range of initiatives in addressing the range of key issues identified that aim to significantly improve the economic position of the area and as importantly improve the health and quality of life for its residents.

HARP Process

Fundamental to the delivery of real and lasting change on the ground is having a sound and well researched evidence base on which to build a Strategy and Action Plan for the future. This HARP has been informed by extensive analysis of the economic, social, physical and environmental factors and through consultation with a wide range of public, private and community organisations in drawing-out the key issues and challenges facing the North Torfaen area. This has also highlighted at a local, Ward level "Hot Spots" of need in which urgent actions are required to address particular issues.

From this analysis, a "long-list" of potential projects has emerged, to be the subject of detailed evaluation and scrutiny to determine their inclusion within the Strategy Action Plan. This has been based on an assessment of their "eligibility" for inclusion, through a "3 Stage Evaluation Process". The outcome of this process is the development of a wide-ranging programme of potential projects that not only address the key issues identified through the earlier baseline analysis, but are able to demonstrate their deliverability within the 3 year Action Plan.

Through the strategic framework, 10 key strategic objectives have been developed, to guide the delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan and to monitor its progress. These have been the subject of sustainability "testing" to ensure their compatibility with identified and agreed sustainability objectives.

HARP Product

The HARP Strategy and Action Plan provides a summation of the earlier stages of work and sets-out a series of actions in the form of inter-linked programmes and projects that will turn the plan into reality. This is based on a focussed and prioritised programme of regeneration, the delivery of which will require the input and support from a wide spectrum of organisations and agencies.

Significantly, at this stage it is possible to highlight individual projects for implementation within the short term that either meet an identified "hotspots" of need or are currently awaiting funding approval. For others, implementation will be dependent on the decisions of individual sponsoring bodies and their partnerships in demonstrating the truly holistic nature of their programmes in order to be taken forward.

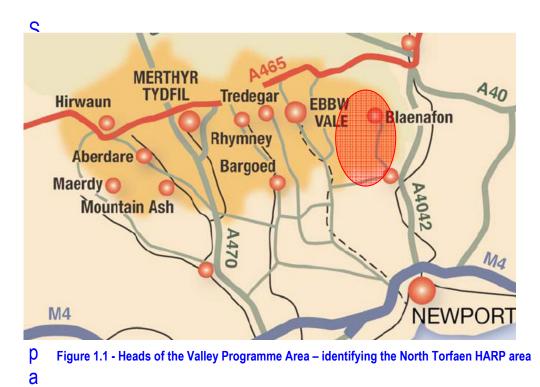
The Strategy has also developed an understanding of the key settlements within the area and has identified distinct but complimentary roles for each. As a final component, the Strategy has sought to measure the success of its actions through a series of outputs and outcomes.

1 Introduction

The North Torfaen Holistic Area Regeneration Strategy (HARP) is the key document to guide the future investment Torfaen County Borough Council, the Welsh Assembly Government and their partners in the Heads of the Valleys (HOV) area. This Strategy and Action Plan forms part of the three documents that collectively comprise the North Torfaen Holistic Area Regeneration Plan (HARP). This volume represents the final stage in the process and is the outcome of the earlier stages of work which include the Baseline Assessment and Policy Review (Volume 1) and the Evaluation and Compatibility (Volume 2).

This HARP represents a step change in the regeneration process and seeks to provide a more integrated and co-ordinated approach based on a commitment to pursue sustainable, holistic regeneration in which physical, economic, social as well as community aspirations are fully integrated and where regeneration priorities are delivered in a more structured and co-ordinated way.

This is to be achieved through a Plan Strategy up to 2020, supported by a 3 year Action Plan commencing in 2009/10. This strategy will play a pivotal role in informing the investment plans of the Heads of the Valleys Programme, other Assembly Departments, local authority and community/voluntary organisations and will address the range of programmes set out in the HOV Turning Heads Strategy 2020 and more recently "One Wales" documents.



Spatial Location

Strategically, North Torfaen is located on the eastern boundary of the Heads of the Valley's programme area to the north west of Newport. The area is connected by road, via linkages south through the County Borough to the M4 Corridor and connections north to the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road.

The Ward map below shows the five wards of Blaenavon, Abersychan, Trevethin, Snatchwood and Pontnewynydd contained within the North Torfaen HARP Area. The area is also located close to the neighbouring settlements of Ebbw Vale, Brymnawr, Pontypool, Abergavenny and Abertillery and to the Brecon Beacons National Park, which shares a common boundary with North Torfaen. This Park offers a spectacular natural environment to which the HARP area provides the northern gateway from Torfaen.

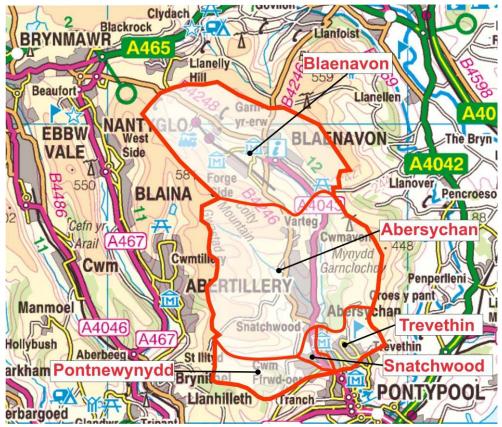


Figure 1.2 - North Torfaen HARP Wards

2 Key Issues

Many of the key issues identified from the Volume 1 Baseline Assessment and consultation process relate to the whole of the North Torfaen HARP, however, others relate to particular 'hot spots', in which the issues are concentrated spatially within individual wards. In summary these can be described as follows:

Socio-Demographics

Overall, the socio-demographic characteristics of North Torfaen fare worse than averages for the wider County Borough and Wales. Despite this, many of the statistics illustrate a better performing area when compared to averages for all of the HoV wards. The wards of Pontnewynydd and Trevethin are experiencing declining populations, and Pontnewynydd scores lowest in terms overall deprivation. In general the North Torfaen area contains high proportions of people aged between 0-15 which is likely to positively impact on the level of working age population in the future. This trend is reinforced by high birth rates within the wards of Abersychan and Trevethin.

Business, Employment & Income

In general, employment within North Torfaen is focussed around the manufacturing sector, particularly within the Blaenavon ward. There tends to be limited employment within sectors within the growing knowledge economy. Overall, the North Torfaen area has higher than average economic inactivity and unemployment rates when compared to Torfaen CBC and Wales averages. At a lower spatial scale, economic inactivity is highest in the ward of Trevethin.

Reflecting these trends the area has lower than average estimated weekly incomes and higher than average proportions of people who are permanently sick or disabled when compared to Torfaen CBC and Wales. Despite a perceived willingness among the resident population to learn and up-skill, childcare and family commitments are reported to present barriers.

Commercial Market Analysis

North Torfaen is characterised by small-scale local development with limited market activity. Strong demand from surrounding towns outside the HARPs area limits inward investor interest and the area is not recognised for office development. Many of the existing industrial estates are in need of upgrading.

Health

The main health facilities in Torfaen are located within the south of the County Borough which can limit access for the more remote communities of North Torfaen. Generally the area has a higher than average number of people suffering from limiting long term illness and a higher incidence of death relating to lung cancer. Despite this the 2001 Census of population reported high proportions of people with good or fairly good health.

Education, Skills & Training

Data for North Torfaen shows higher proportions of 16 year olds leave school and therefore the working age population have low levels of or no qualifications when compared to wider Torfaen CBC & Wales averages. This is particularly evident in the wards of Trevethin and Blaenavon. Generally within Torfaen significant numbers of pupils have reading ages lower than their chronological age. At present, North Torfaen does not contain an English Medium Sixth Form facility. The building fabric of some of the existing schools is very poor (external toilets) and there are plans to demolish two primary schools.

Housing

The North Torfaen area is characterised by dated (largely pre 1919) housing stock with many communities characterised by terraced style housing and limited housing mix. As with many other areas across Wales the affordability gap between house prices and incomes has grown in recent years. The area contains large volumes of public housing (Housing Association) and due to topography, reliance on future housing provision is being placed in larger sites within the area. Specifically, the areas of Varteg and Forgeside contain the poorest quality housing stock.

Retail & Town Centres

The southernmost wards of the HARP area tend to utilise Pontypool and Cwmbran as their primary shopping destinations. The neighbourhood centre of Abersychan is well provided for, whereas the local centres of Pontnewynydd and Trevethin face greater competition from larger towns there are also local shopping facilities at Garndiffaith. In the north, Blaenavon currently limits its market potential due to poor links between the retail centre and the main tourist / visitor attractions.

Tourism & Heritage

It is considered that the staying visitor / short break market is underdeveloped within North Torfaen, alongside the day visitor market to attractions such as Big Pit which fails to draw visitors to other attractions or retail centres. Issues surrounding these general trends are poor linkages between attractions and town centres, a high proportion of non-verified accommodation and insufficient capacity at attractions for coach trips within the study area.

In relation to the outdoor environment it is considered that this resource is generally underutilised in North Torfaen, with greater opportunities to develop activity tourism.

Transportation & Movement

The main issue associated with transport and movement in North Torfaen is accessibility. Congestion at peak times along the A4043, particularly at its junction with the A472 in Pontypool is a major issue. Alongside congestion, car ownership within the area also restricts accessibility to key services, particularly within the Trevethin ward where car ownership is at its lowest. Also impacting on accessibility is the limited directional and tourist road signage within the area.

In relation to non-car use, a lack of cycle infrastructure and limited promotion of safe routes to school / employment restricts the use of non-motorised modes of transport.

Natural & Built Environment

The highest quality natural environment in North Torfaen is focussed around the World Heritage Site, although there is a need to ensure its heritage value is understood and properly conserved. Other issues within the HARP area include limited access to ecologically important and attractive river corridor environments and the varying quality of the wider landscape.

Outside the historic core of the areas main settlements, much of the built environment is characterised by:

- Lack of definition and sense of arrival within settlements;
- Domination of transport / communication routes;
- Lack of visual cohesion within the urban fabric;
- Poor quality and dated employment sites; and
- Poor quality neighbourhood centres in Pontnewynydd & Trevethin.

Community Infrastructure

Currently major recreational and leisure facilities are located outside North Torfaen and in general deficiencies in recreational space exist throughout the area, particularly in the provision of all-weather floodlit facilities.

In relation to crime and disorder there are number of sub-police stations within the HARP area, however, reported problems of disorder and anti-social behaviour are still apparent. Despite this, the North Torfaen area witnessed an overall reduction in crime figures between 2006/07 and 2007/08.

A detailed review of current strategies and plans has revealed a number of major proposals and initiatives of relevance to the North Torfaen HARP. Whilst some of these lie outside North Torfaen, their impacts are likely to be of wider sub-regional importance and will need to be considered in the context of this strategy. Proposals of most relevance to the future of the HARP area include:

- Housing Growth The LDP Preferred Strategy makes provision for 900 dwellings in the North Torfaen Housing Market Area (Blaenavon and Abersychan Wards). Two strategic housing sites are identified to accommodate a proportion of this provision, the Boral Edenhall and Candlewick Site in Blaenavon and The British in Talywain. Also within the HARP area but outside of the North Torfaen Housing Market area is the former Trevethin Comprehensive School site for which provision is made for 140 units.
- Employment Land The LDP Preferred Strategy identifies a number of strategic employment sites within the County Borough, two of which are within the North Torfaen area including Kays and Kears in Blaenavon and The British, Abersychan.
- Gwent Specialist Critical Care Centre (SCCC) Land has been identified to the south of the HARP area at Llanfrechfa Grange for a new 450 bed SCCC. This development will potentially benefit the County Borough as a whole in relation to improved healthcare, employment and for skills and training opportunities.
- The British Located in Talywain to the west of Abersychan, this site provides a major development opportunity in North Torfaen. The site has been acquired by Spring UR who plan to undertake a three year land reclamation / coal recovery operation between 2009 and 2012. Following reclamation, the land will be developed for a mix of uses, including residential, retail and some commercial / business uses.
- Retail Expansion: Cwmbran A planned expansion of comparison retail floorspace in Cwmbran totalling some 300,000 sq ft. is proposed to the east of the town centre. This is likely to impact on retailing patterns throughout the County Borough as well as providing increased employment opportunities.

In addition, the following proposals to the north of the County Borough are likely to influence future regeneration activity in North Torfaen, including:

- Heads of the Valleys Road (A465) Dualling Scheme currently underway to dual the length of the A465 from Abergavenny to Hirwaun.
- Former Ebbw Vale Steelworks Site The planned redevelopment of the former steelworks to include a mix of uses including a Learning Campus, Local General Hospital, Leisure Centre and sports pitches, a Theatre, high quality offices and around 500 homes.
- South Sebastopol Housing / Mixed Use Development of approximately 1200 dwellings along with new nursery and primary school facilities, a community centre, neighbourhood shopping precinct and various

improvements to the Brecon - Monmouthshire Canal. Construction is yet to commence.

 Pontypool Regeneration – The Regeneration Strategy for Pontypool Town Centre promotes a vision which views Pontypool as the creative heart of Torfaen and a focal point for creativity in the South Wales Valleys. Projects within the strategy aim to bring Pontypool Park and the Afon Llwyd into the heart of the town, creating connecting spaces alongside diverse and interesting independent shops and services.

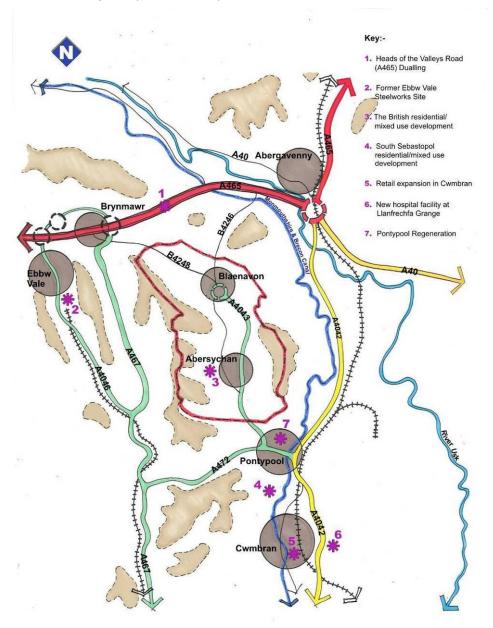


Figure 3.1 - Strategic Planning Context

4 Local Planning Context

A summary of the main land-use allocations and designations contained within the Adopted Local Plan, along with other plan commitments, key facilities and attractions is shown below. This highlights the main influences on future development and project opportunities within the North Torfaen HARP area at the present time.

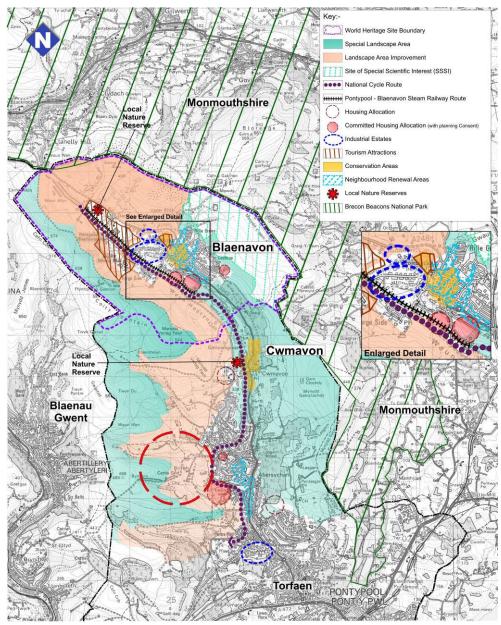


Figure 4.1 - Local Planning Context

Roles & Functions

The identification of roles and functions for settlements within the North Torfaen HARP has been based on the strategic approach adopted within the HOV "Turning Heads" document based on the *establishment of sustainable and balanced communities throughout the area.* It also builds on the spatial context set out in the HOV Spatial Strategy, though it has been further refined, following more detailed analysis and an understanding of the distinguishing features and characteristics of the area. The result is a more broadly based definition of strategy areas, based around key settlements, reflecting the diversity found within the Study Area.

Arising from the preceding analysis and the assessment of key issues, 3 distinct, but related settlement character areas can be defined and are shown on the plan below.

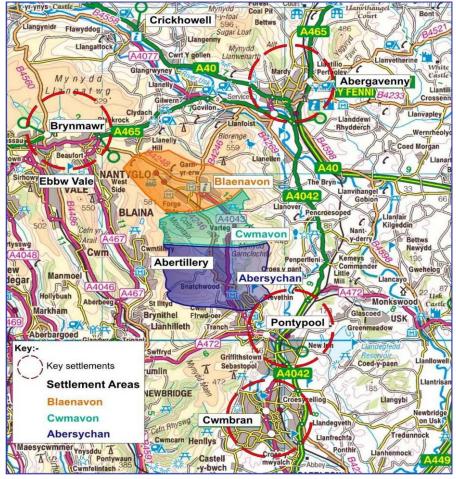


Figure 4.2 - Strategy Sub Areas

Pen Portraits

A "pen-portrait" of each settlement area is presented below, highlighting their defining characteristics, reflecting the way the North Torfaen Area and its component parts currently function and operate. This approach reflects the different needs and opportunities across the HARP area and provides the basis for a differential approach to strategy implementation. This in-turn will provide the context for a more detailed consideration of project development in spatial terms as the plan develops.

At the same time an important spatial context is provided by the relationship of the North Torfaen HARP and its adjoining areas, (also highlighted on the Spatial Plan Map) both within and outside the HOV Programme Area. It is important therefore to consider the wider sub-regional context in which this Strategy sits by understanding the relationships with adjoining settlements and crossboundary linkages outside the HARP area as they are important factors in defining the future role and function of the settlement areas.

Cwmavon Settlement Area

- Forms a transitional area of largely open countryside, providing a more rural and landscape setting to the valley-floor settlement of Cwmavon and the hillside settlement of Varteg.
- The area is an important connecting corridor (both natural and man-made) between Abersychan and Blaenavon and is characterised by the intrinsic quality of its natural environment.



"These distinguishing features should continue to be protected and enhanced in order to reinforce the sense of local identity and to ensure that any changes do not adversely impact on wider conservation and cultural interests".

Blaenavon Settlement Area

- This area forms the northernmost part of the HARP and comprises the main settlement of Blaenavon and the outlying communities of Forgeside and Garn Yr Erw.
- The area, and in particular Blaenavon functions on a number of levels. On the one hand, as a focus, both nationally and internationally for heritage tourism and on the other, as a local service centre for shopping, education, services and health, along with a significant manufacturing sector.
- The town's enhanced role as a tourism destination is disproportionate to its local services and infrastructure provision.
- The relative proximity of the area to the neighbouring centres of Ebbw Vale, Brynmawr and Abergavenny provides a draw and key functional relationship for a range of facilities, outside the HARP area and Torfaen's administrative boundary to the north and includes, business, further education, retail and hospital services.
- The area's wider strategic relationship has strengthened with the recent opening of major foodstores in Brynmawr and Ebbw Vale, and is likely to continue with the planned developments on the former Garden Festival Site in Ebbw Vale and the dualling the Heads of the Valleys Road.



"This dynamic suggests there is a need for Blaenavon and its hinterland to complement its heritage asset through meeting the needs of the town and the surrounding area as a place to live and work. This will provide for a more balanced and self-containing community, whilst minimising its dependency on surrounding settlements".

Abersychan Settlement Area

- The southernmost area within the HARP area and includes the settlements of Abersychan, Pontnewynydd, Trevethin, Snatchwood, Victoria Village, Talywain and Garndiffaith.
- The area functions largely as a dormitory housing area, focussed predominately on Pontypool and Cwmbran to the south, to which it is better connected.
- The location of Abersychan at a central point along the main transportation route through the valley and for connecting roads to outlying settlements provides the town with a focus for local employment and shopping, offering an increased range of services and facilities to those in neighbouring settlements.
- The provision of local facilities to serve the needs of smaller, outlying communities can be found in Garndiffaith and Pontnewynydd.



"The dependency of these areas and their traditional relationships should continue to function, with the potential for Abersychan to develop an enhanced role, as a local hub in support of these local communities".

A summary of the primary roles and functions of the 3 settlement areas is provided in the table below:

Settlement Areas: Roles and Functions												
	Heritage Tourism	Education	Residential	Leisure	Conservation Heritage	Landscape	Employment	Connectivity	Local Shopping	Services	Manufacturing	Countryside Recreation
Blaenavon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
Cwmavon			0		0	0	0	0				0
Abersychan		0	0	0			0		0	0		

Table 5.1: Roles & Functions

6 Strategic Objectives

Set out below are the strategic objectives that provide a future direction for the North Torfaen HARP. They have been informed by the preceding analysis and assessment and relate to the wider spatial planning framework. The key strategic objectives for the HARP are:

SO1: A distinctive, (well used) and respected historic, natural and cultural environment that maximises benefit for local communities through:

- Better linking of attractions / landscapes to town centres and neighbourhood areas;
- Improving and promoting walking & cycling links both locally and connecting to the wider region;
- Broadening and integrating the benefits of Blaenavon's World Heritage status and associated visitor attractions across the North Torfaen area and outlying areas.
- Better promoting attractions within North Torfaen using Blaenavon World Heritage Centre as a place for orientation from which to explore the area; and continuing to use Big Pit as a referral point to other places of interest; and
- Promote the restoration and re-use of key historical, natural, cultural and environmental sites and premises.

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, through:

- Upgrading and expansion of existing employment sites and premises;
- Focussed expansion providing accommodation for small to medium sized business, reflecting the demand within the area;
- Promotion & development of the social economy / third sector;
- Provision of associated infrastructure that supports business start ups and growth through ICT improvements, clustering, shared service support, etc
- Development of quality employment within the service tourism sector; and
- Employment opportunities linked directly to skills / training provision through pre employment and apprenticeship schemes within growth sectors.

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, through:

- Access to high quality pre and post 16 education and a good choice of academic and vocational education opportunities;
- Access to a wide range of work based training and life long learning;

• Access to training programmes that encourage employer specific up-skilling, encouraging those currently out of work back into the labour market.

SO4: A healthy population with open access to safe leisure and recreation facilities within local communities, through:

- Ensuring people have the knowledge to make informed decisions in relation to health;
- Ensuring recreational routes and facilities are well maintained and safe, encouraging people to pursue active lifestyles; and
- Improving a sense of well-being through ensuring access to work, training, social and health facilities and community involvement.

SO5: An empowered local community with a strong sense of involvement / engagement and linkages to adjoining communities, within and outside North Torfaen, through:

- Community & Stakeholder engagement within the decision making process;
- Community & Stakeholder involvement and support to enable buy-in to key growth sectors such as tourism; and
- Better co-ordination between community and stakeholder groups (e.g. Blaenavon & Abergavenny Tourism).

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, through:

- Improve bus linkages from the north of the study area to key destinations / public transport nodes;
- Improvements to strategic signage and local level signage of walking / cycling linkages;
- Ensuring all households have access to high quality Broadband connections;
- Ensure accessibility to existing and future key tourism destinations and between these destinations and town centres; and
- Local highway improvements to facilitate improved access to employment opportunities and other key attractions.

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, through:

- Ensure that the existing stock of public housing (now transferred to Bron Afon Housing Association) meets the required Welsh Housing Quality Standards by 2012;
- Ensure future housing development considers the needs of the population and adds to the mix and diversity of hosing provision in North Torfaen; and
- Ensure affordability requirements of the local population are met in future housing provision.

• Explore the opportunities afforded within the private housing stock for housing renewal area designation.

SO8: Provision of retail and community infrastructure that meets local needs and underpins tourism opportunities within the area, through:

- Consolidation of Blaenavon as a local shopping destination that is underpinned by key shops and services;
- The development a distinctive, independent retail and hospitality offer that complements the heritage and cultural tourism opportunities

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, through:

- Raising the standard of design in new developments and promoting more sustainable construction principles;
- Ensure that the distinctive landscape character of the study area is proactively conserved and managed; and
- Undertake a targeted programme of environmental enhancements throughout the HARP area.

SO10: An area celebrated for its heritage and culture with a spirited and active community, through:

• Maintain the vernacular design character through new developments within the historically recognised environment of North Torfaen.

7 Strategy Development

The initial stages of strategy development involved the assembly of a long list of project opportunities and actions arising:

- 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 other statutory authorities; and
- Through our understanding, internal team meetings and knowledge of the area resulting in identified project opportunities.

Each of these opportunities has subsequently been assessed through a detailed evaluation process, outlined in Volume 2 (*Evaluation & Compatibility*) to establish firstly their compatibility in relation to identified issues, and secondly their deliverability. This process has ensured that the list of project proposals is both holistic and deliverable within the plan period.

Presented below are the resulting overarching thematic programmes, shown at both a strategic (HARP-wide) and sub-area level. These provide the cornerstone of the Plan Strategy and will help shape each individual project into a fully integrated and connected strategy programme. They have been informed by the wide range of issues and opportunities identified during the earlier stages of the strategy development.

Importantly, they align themselves with the HOV 'Turning Heads' document and will facilitate delivery of the Council's 6 key priority projects established through the Corporate Plan.

It is to be noted that not all strategy programmes set out below have been identified with project proposals. This is the case where projects have not progressed beyond the evaluation stage for implementation within the initial funding period of this strategy.

The delivery of the plan strategy will be realised, in the shorter term by a number of linked projects and actions identified through the 3 year Action Plan.

North Torfaen Spatial Scale

NT1 – An Accessible and Vibrant Retail Offer

Target investment across the settlements and retail centres of North Torfaen in order to ensure all communities have easy access to retail provision and services, as well as ensuring that retail centres provide vital and vibrant shops and services and that retailers benefit from local people shopping locally, as well as visitors due to good range, choice and quality of the retail offer.

• Integrated Approach to Retail

Improved access to local retail provision and development of local retail schemes.

Retail Audit:

Undertake an audit of existing retail infrastructure to identify gaps in provision and strategies for future investment.

• Street Markets

Develop outdoor markets to support local produce, arts and crafts and innovation

> NT2 – A Well Resourced & Connected Community

Alongside wider health objectives and the improvements proposed to retail centres and attractions, ensure that all amenities and facilities are well networked to enable the population to easily and safely access key facilities, as well as encouraging use of the outdoors for recreation and health benefits.

• Open Space & Recreational Need Survey:

Comprehensive survey of recreational provision in support of the LDP

• Route 46 Cycleway:

Upgrade cycleway environment at key locations.

• Neglected Space;

Undertake neglected spaces study and restore sites to beneficial use.

• Accessibility Study:

Identify improvements to the existing road network to meet future transport demands, particularly to serve the British.

• Loops & Links

Implement the Loops & Links Action Plan in order to improve the public rights of way network.

Entrance & Directional Signage

Implement new entrance and directional signage to improve sense of arrival and ease of movement.

• Overcoming the Digital Divide

Increasing accessibility and use of ICT for education, housing, business, transport and tourism.

> NT3 – Linking People to Work

Reflecting on economic activity levels and low car ownership within the study area, look to ensure long term opportunities exist for individuals and businesses to up-skill to either find work or develop further. Work with key service providers to ensure that training programmes and investment focuses specifically on those individuals currently out of work (unemployed / NEETs), those who are long term unemployed or where unemployment is generational, and those businesses looking to grow or positioned within growth sectors.

• Integrated Training for Target Groups:

Forge stronger links with other training agencies.

• Skill Build

Provision of work-based training through Torfaen Training

Bridges into Work

Addressing barriers into work through providing learning opportunities in improving skills and qualifications.

• SAVVY 2

Providing job opportunities, training, educational and other support services for NEET young people.

• Jobmatch

Support for economically inactive, providing transitional waged work opportunities for people at greatest distance from the labour market.

• Prevent

Provide in-school learning mentors working with young people vulnerable to under-achievement and disengagement from school

> NT4 – A Community & Workforce for the Future

In line with the wider strategic positioning, target resources and develop educational programmes / courses which provide the community with an understanding of potential growth sectors, whilst enabling and providing the opportunities necessary for local people to become skilled to participate in the future economy of North Torfaen.

• Childcare:

Develop and enhance childcare initiatives within targeted communities

Promote Lifestyle Benefits of Outdoors / Tourism:

Link tourism marketing to lifestyle benefits of the area

• Young Persons Entrepreneurship Scheme:

To be developed in relation to key employment sectors

• WAG 14-19 Agenda:

Create flexible learning options tailored to current and predicted employment growth sectors

Heritage Based Education:

Develop an educational curriculum based on the area's industrial heritage

• NEET Learning:

Develop learning packages attractive to the NEET's group

• Working Skills for Adults

Provide learning opportunities for employed adults to improve literacy, numeracy, vocational and ICT skills and qualifications.

> NT5 – Housing for Growing, Sustainable Communities

Reflecting on present population growth trends look to ensure the diversity of housing tenures and the range of ownership options required to create a sustainable community going forward. Alongside this, look to utilise empty spaces / properties and, wherever possible, incorporate small scale renewable energy components into the housing stock.

• Retro-Fitting:

Work with Bron Afon HA to develop renewable energy as part of future refurbishment works

• Regional Housing Enablers:

Key role in delivering housing related policies within the area

Housing Renewal Areas

Support the designation of housing renewal areas in Varteg, Garndiffaith and Forgeside.

> NT6 – Realising Heritage & Landscape Assets

North Torfaen benefits from a plethora of historic features and landscape assets, many of which are focussed around the World Heritage Site in the north of the area. The area also benefits from its proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park and its connections to adjoining valley corridors which also offer attractive built and natural environments. Building on the existing offer, improve, manage and promote the areas heritage and landscape assets.

> NT7 – An Integrated Visitor Offer, Underpinned by its Environment

At present North Torfaen's visitor offer is based largely in the north of the study area, focussed around the World Heritage Site. Reflecting on the potential to grow the visitor market within the area, utilising the environment, look to create a more attractive, integrated visitor offer throughout the area, based on the principles of Integrated Quality Management (IQM).

• Historic Shuttle Bus:

Provide links to attractions within and outside the HARP.

• Joint Ticketing;

Introduce ticketing passport scheme for the area's heritage attractions

• Events & Festivals:

Develop a programme of co-ordinated events and festivals across the HARP.

• Public Art Strategy

Implementation of a number of major "signature" public art projects.

Bron Afon Environmental Enhancements

Upgrading of housing stock and associated highway and environmental improvements.

Blaenavon Settlement Area

> BP1 – Blaenavon - An Accessible & Vibrant Retail Offer

The need to continue with previous investment for Blaenavon town centre, with a specific focus on containment and identity for the main shopping streets, so that there is a cohesive offer that is linked to the world heritage site infrastructure. To identify how other town centre uses can enhance diversity, create sustainable places and generate opportunities for local enterprise specifically artisan food production, arts and craft studio space and live/work units.

• Containment of the Retail Centre:

Implement a series of measures to focus the town's shopping centre.

• Local Passport Scheme:

Provide incentives for visiting the town centre and other attractions.

• Making the Connections:

Encourage a diverse range of retailing and services in Blaenavon.

• Putting Blaenavon on the Menu

Programme to improve the quality and diversity of Blaenavon's food and drink offer

• Marketing Vehicle for the World Heritage Site

Develop a marketing partnership for the WHS

> BP2 – A High Quality, Diverse Food & Drink Culture

The development of a food and drink offer that meets the needs of local residents and visitors that raises the quality of produce and develops healthy living and builds a critical mass of businesses within the food and drink and hospitality sector.

> BP3 – An Integrated Visitor Offer, Underpinned by its Environment

As a focus for visitor trips within North Torfaen, build upon the visitor offer provided by the World Heritage Site, and continue to develop and grow the current visitor market interest, focussed on Blaenavon's market position, in creating a more attractive and integrated product offer. Also seek to support and encourage the validation of new accommodation provision.

Blaenavon Heritage Precinct

Provide a physical and promotional focus for the WHC and its links to the town centre

• Route 46 – Blaenavon to Brynmawr

Complete missing section of cycleway and upgrade the environment

• World Heritage Centre

Develop the WHC as a hub for countryside recreational activities

• Invest in Accommodation increasing validation

Measures to encourage the validation of accommodation

• Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway (Phase 2)

Extending line northwards linking this attraction to a wider network of facilities / attractions.

BP4 – Housing for a Growing, Sustainable Community

Building on the housing market situation within Blaenavon, look to address the increasing demand for housing within the local community and ensuring that a range and diversity of housing types and tenures is provided, whilst looking also at the potential for the conversion of empty and underused properties in the town. Any future capacity should reflect growth in population rather than encourage displacement. In line with the town's location within a World Heritage landscape that a design guide is prepared to both guide and set the standards for future hosing developments.

• Housing Design Guidance

To guide and set the standards for future housing within the WHS

BP5 – Linking People to Work

Reflecting on Blaenavon's low economic activity levels and the range of local employers, look to ensure that long term opportunities exist for individuals and businesses to up-skill to either find work or develop further. Work with key service providers to ensure that training programmes and investment focuses specifically on those individuals currently out of work (unemployed / NEETs), those who are long term unemployed or where unemployment is generational, and those businesses looking to grow or positioned within growth sectors.

Networked Employers

Develop a network of employers to address training, skills, services and supplies.

• Pre-employment Routes

Work with local learning providers to deliver pre-employment training

• Role Models

Identify role models to mentor young people at risk of entering NEET category.

> BP6 – Developing Accessible, High Quality Employment Sites

Acknowledging the presence of key manufacturers and SME's within the area, ensure that local employment sites are accessible to all and that they present an attractive and well-maintained appearance.

• Employment Site Enhancement

Enhancement of key employment sites and improved broadband capacity.

BP7 – A Community & Workforce for the Future

Recognising the opportunities presented within the locality for skills transfer and with the focus on Communities Next Wards, target resources and develop educational programmes / courses which provide the local community with an understanding of potential growth sectors, whilst enabling and providing the opportunities necessary for local people to become skilled to participate in the future economy of the area.

Awareness Raising

Foster links between primary education and emerging food and artisan businesses

• Pathways to Training:

Develop awareness training to encourage young people into retail and service sectors

Countryside Skills Development

Programme for the development of countryside skills.

Blaenavon Community Campus

Hub development based on the co-location of education, health and leisure facilities

• Youth Facilities

Develop with the Football Association a new Scansis mini football pitch alongside a new youth shelter and a programme of volunteers.

• Community Gym

Conversion of a property on Broad Street as a community gym

BP8 – Realising Heritage & Landscape Assets

Building upon the town's unique heritage assets, and heritage tourism developments, take forward a range of linked project opportunities both within the town and the surrounding landscape.

Iron Mountain Trail

Re-route existing trail to run through Blaenavon and past the WHC.

• Historic Monuments in the Landscape

Conserve and promote historic monuments and features within the industrial landscape.

• Blaenavon Ironworks Bridge

Create a pedestrian footbridge linking the Ironworks Site and car park area to the south

• Forgotten Landscapes

Major programme of heritage conservation, access and interpretation.

Blaenavon Gateways

Enhancement works along the main road corridors to Blaenavon.

• Forgeside Approaches

Landscape proposals including boundary treatments and road surface improvements

Access Improvements

Study to explore access improvements from Blaenavon to the Heads of the Valleys Road via the B4248.

• St Peter's Churchyard

Provide an accessible footpath link between the Church Road car park and the WHC along with improved coach parking facilities.

Tourist Transport Initiative

Operation of a land train service linking key heritage attractions within Blaenavon

Blaenavon Signage Strategy

Develop a strategy based on visitor orientation and heritage attractions

• Elgam Ravine Pocket Park

Creation of a Pocket Park

• Garn Lakes Local Nature Reserve

Programme of enhancements to upgrade the infrastructure of the area

Cwmavon Settlement Area

> CP1 – An Accessible & Vibrant Retail Offer

In order to ensure adequate access to retail services throughout the sub area, explore potential improvements to physical linkages.

• Physical Retail Links

Promote improved physical walking / cycling links and associated infrastructure in retail centres for cyclists. Also review public transport.

> CP2 – Housing for a Growing, Sustainable Community

Reflecting upon the range of housing tenures and condition of properties found within the area, look to ensure a diversity of housing tenures and that the range of ownership options is maintained in creating a sustainable community going forward. Alongside this, look to develop within this "green corridor", small scale renewable energy components into the housing stock.

• Green Housing Corridor

Promote benefits of small scale renewable technologies.

> CP3 – Realising Strong Heritage & Landscape Assets

Recognising the areas special landscape quality and its strong community focus continue to support appropriate actions and initiatives that reinforce these unique environmental and social characteristics.

• Forgotten Landscapes

Major programme of heritage conservation, access and interpretation.

> CP4 – An Integrated Visitor Offer, Underpinned by its Environment

Recognising that the World Heritage Site extends outside Blaenavon and within this area, develop the potential and exploit the visitor market opportunities through enhancing its unique environmental and landscape qualities.

• Route 46 – National Cycle Network

Upgrade cycle environment and accessibility.

Abersychan Settlement Area

> AP1 – An Accessible & Vibrant Retail Offer

In order to ensure adequate access to retail services throughout the sub area, and with planned residential growth in mind, follow a strategic approach to retail provision / enhancement and development. The following recommendations are made:

• Trevethin Shopping Centre

Enhancement of shopping precinct and marketing of local shops and services.

Bailey Street/Stanley Street Enhancement Programme

Commission urban design study to develop streetscape improvements and include feasibility studies for a community garden enterprise and an arts / history centre along with specific improvements to the Bakery Field.

> AP2 – Linking People to Work

Reflecting Abersychan's low economic activity levels and the range of local employers, look to ensure that long term opportunities exist for individuals and businesses to up-skill to either find work or develop further. Work with key service providers to ensure that training programmes and investment focuses specifically on those individuals currently out of work (unemployed / NEETs), those who are long term unemployed or where unemployment is generational, and those businesses looking to grow or positioned within growth sectors.

Pre-employment Routes

Work with local learning providers to deliver pre-employment training

> AP3 – A Community and Workforce for the Future

Recognising the opportunities presented within the locality by the local SME base for skills transfer and the focus on Communities First Wards, target resources and develop educational programmes / courses which will provide the local community with an understanding of potential growth sectors, whilst enabling and providing the opportunities necessary for local people to develop entrepreneurship skills to participate in the future economy of the area.

• Abersychan Community School

Develop life-long learning particularly ICT

• Wiltan SME

Improvements to an existing industrial unit to expand current training programme.

• Garndiffaith Corn Bin

"Signature building" to support new community businesses focussed on micro-renewables.

• Trevethin Health Learning Station

Provision of facilities for adult education focussed on health.

• Cold Barn Farm

New IT suite / learning facility and improved recreational offer on adjacent land.

• Trevethin Community Garden

Restoration of community garden

Lasgarn Sports Facilities

Restoration and enhancement of existing playing fields

Penygarn Healthy Eating Project

Improved community allotments, including access improvements and disabled facilities

Penygarn and St Cadoc's Church Facilities

Refurbishment and provision of community and cinema facilities

> AP4 – An Integrated Visitor Offer Underpinned by Environment

As a focus for visitor trips within the North Torfaen area, and connecting the Abersychan area to the rest of North Torfaen, develop recreational connections.

• Route 46 – National Cycle Network

Upgrade cycle environment and access.

> AP5 – Realising Heritage & Landscape Assets

The range of historic features and landscape assets extends beyond Blaenavon. Building on the opportunities found within the area, improve, manage and promote the area's heritage and landscape assets through a range of environmental and heritage based projects.

• Pontnewynydd Gateway Scheme

Improve overall townscape quality at key gateway location.

• The British (Phase 1)

Reclamation of derelict site to create new landform for future development.

Pontnewynydd Baths Park and Riverside Improvements

Improvements to the Park including new play area, upgraded access and environmental enhancements.

> AP6 – Housing for a Growing, Sustainable Community

Acknowledging the largely residential nature of the area, look to ensure that the diversity of housing tenures and range of ownership options is in place to maintain a sustainable community into the future. Also look to incorporate small scale renewable energy components into the housing stock.

The successful implementation of programmes and projects identified within the Action Plan will play a major part in delivering the Plan's strategic objectives in line with the Plan's spatial strategy.

However, it is recognised that delivery of the Action Plan (as shown in the Implementation Plan) is dependant on the resolution of a number of detailed considerations, most noticeably funding, which will impact greatly on project timescales. In order to ensure that the strategy remains genuinely holistic and meets the regeneration needs of the area, it is important that priority is afforded to individual projects and programmes within the framework set. It is therefore suggested that the priority of projects for future funding is based on the following criteria:

- 1. Identified "Hot Spots." Individual projects highlighted as meeting an identified "hotspot" need.
- 2. Funding Application Pending. Individual projects currently awaiting funding approval in whole or in part.
- 3. "Holistic" Projects. Where individual projects can be "packaged" together both thematically across programme areas and spatially within physically defined areas.

Whilst those projects listed under criteria 1 and 2 have been identified at this stage and are highlighted (in yellow) within the Implementation Plan, the packaging of projects to be taken forward under criteria 3 will be dependant on the decisions of individual organisations. It is important however that a collaborative approach is taken between the sponsoring bodies, funding organisations and stakeholders to ensure that such projects can adequately demonstrate that they are fully integrated, are able to deliver linked benefits, and will result in real and lasting change on the ground.

It must be recognised that the HARP is not a static document and that the Plan must be able to respond to new initiatives and opportunities as they arise during the course of the 3 year funding period. Where such opportunities arise, projects will need to be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation criteria setout in Volume 2 in order to be considered for inclusion within the Action Plan for implementation.

The Action Plan also includes, for monitoring purposes, information on project outputs and outcomes. For each project, a range of quantitative outputs is provided, showing the products or services resulting from the particular activity. These relate to the desired outcomes which reflect the anticipated change in the longer term and are shown as either qualitative (where the impacts will be difficult to measure), or quantitative (where the impacts will be more clearly defined) as a measure of the change achieved as a result of the HARP strategy. Further definition is given to this through the range of performance indicators shown as a measure of their success over the 3 years of the Action Plan.

8.1 Implementation

North Torfaen Strategic Area

Projects	Project Lead & Partners	Responsible Officer	Timescales	Potential Funding Source
Integrated Approach to Retail	TCBC Private Sector		2009/10 – 2011/12	HOV DE&T Blaenavon Regeneration Partnership Blaenavon Traders and Tourism Association
Retail Audit	TCBC HOV		2009/10	HOV DE&T Regeneration Partnership
Accessibility Study				
Regional Housing Enablers	ТСВС		2008/09	HOV TCBC
Joint Ticketing	TCBC		2009/10	TCBC WAG/HOV, Visit Wales, Tourism Operators, Heritage Providers
Events & Festivals	TCBC		2009/10 – 2011/12	TCBC, HOV, Communities First WAG, ACW, RDP, VRP
Street Markets	TCBC Private Sector Communities Next		2009/10 – 2010/11	HOV DE&T RDP
Open Space & Recreational Need Survey	ТСВС		2008/09	ТСВС
Promote Lifestyle Benefits of Outdoors / Tourism	ТСВС		2009/10 – 2011/12	HOV Regeneration Partnerships Visit Wales
Loops & Links	ТСВС		2009/10 – 2011/12	TCBC HOV Sustrans VRP WAG Convergence - Tourism
Neglected Space	TCBC Bron Afon Community Housing Communities Next		2009/10 – 2011/12	HOV Bron Afon Community Housing Regeneration Partnerships DE&T
Entrance & Directional Signage	TCBC	HOV DE&T	2009/10 – 2011/12	

Projects	Project Lead & Partners	Responsible Officer	Timescales	Potential Funding Source
		Convergence – Tourism		
Public Art Strategy				
Bron Afon Environmental				
Enhancements				
Integrated Training for	ТСВС		2009/10 -	ТСВС
Target Groups			2011/12	WAG Convergence - ESF
Childcare	тсвс		2009/10 -	TCBC
	HOV WAG		2011/12	HOV, WAG Convergence - ESF
Young Persons Entrepreneurship	TCBC Torfaen Training		2009/10 2011/12	TCBC – Torfaen Training HOV, WAG
Scheme	Tonaen fraining		2011/12	Private Sector
Jobmatch				
WAG 14-19 Agenda	TCBC – Torfaen		2009/10 -	WAG – Decells
Skill Build	Training		2011/12	Convergence - ESF
Bridges into work				
Housing Renewal Areas				
Heritage Based	TCBC at BWHC		2008/9	НОУ
Education				Cadw TCBC
NEET Learning	тсвс		2009/10 -	WAG – Decells Torfaen
			2011/12	Training Convergence – ESF??
Retro-Fitting	тсвс		2009/10 -	HOV
	Bron Afon Community Housing		2011/12	Bron Afon Community Housing
	Drag Afen		0000/10	WAG
	Bron Afon Community Housing		2009/10 – 2011/12	HBFH TCBC
Tourism Transport	тсвс		2009/10 -	TCBC, HOV
Initiative			2011/12	Bus Operators Visit Wales
				Blaenavon Communities First
Overcoming the Digital				Convergence – Tourism
Divide				

Projects	Project Lead & Partners	Responsible Officer	Timescales	Potential Funding Source
SAVVY 2				
Working Skills for Adults				
Prevent				

Blaenavon Settlement Area

Projects	Project Lead & Partners	Responsible Officer	Timescales	Potential Funding Source
Containment of Retail Centre	TCBC Blaenavon Traders and Tourism Association	Head of Environmental Regeneration Head of Leisure & Community Services Head of European Policy, External Funding & Community Networks	2009/10 – 2011/12	HOV, DE&T, WAG Blaenavon Regeneration Partnership, Blaenavon Traders and Tourism Association
Local Passport Scheme	TCBC Blaenavon Traders and Tourism Assocation Tourism Operators, National Museum for Wales, Cadw, P&B Railway		2009/10	TCBC, HOV, WAG Blaenavon Town Council, Blaenavon Traders and Tourism Association, National Museum for Wales
Making the Connections	TCBC HOV Convergence Blaenavon Trader and Tourism Association Communities First		2009/10 – 2011/12	TCBC HOV Convergence DE&T WAG
Putting Blaenavon on the Menu	TCBC HOV Convergence Blaenavon Traders and Tourism Association Communities First		2009/10 – 2011/12	TCBC HOV Convergence DE&T WAG
Marketing Vehicle for the WHS	Blaenavon WHS Partnership		2009/10 – 2011/12	HOV, Cadw, Big Pit National Museum Blaenavon Regeneration Page 32

Projects	Project Lead & Partners	Responsible Officer	Timescales	Potential Funding Source
				Partnership ACW, Forgotten Landscape, VRP
Blaenavon Heritage Precinct	TCBC	Head of Environmental Regeneration	2009/10 — 2011/12	TCBC, HOV, DE&T
World Heritage Centre	TCBC		2009/10 – 2011/12	TCBC, DE&T, HOV, WAG, Cadw, Blaenavon WHS Partnership
Invest in Accommodation	TCBC Visit Wales		2009/10 - 2011/12	HOV, Visit Wales, Private Sector
Countryside Skills Development	TCBC Torfaen Training		2009/10 – 2011/12	TCBC, VRP, WAG, HOV
Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway (Phase 2)	Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway Society TCBC		2009/10 – 2011/12	HOV Convergence - Tourism
Historic Monuments in the Landscape	TCBC, Cadw	Head of Environmental Regeneration	2009/10 – 2011/12	Cadw, HLF, VRP
Blaenavon Ironworks Bridge	TCBC, Cadw	Head of Environmental Regeneration	2009/10 — 2011/12	HOV, Convergence Tourism, ACW, DE&T, VRP
Forgotten Landscapes	TCBC, Blaenavon WHS Partnership, Land Owners Blaenavon Traders and Tourism Association	Head of Environmental Regeneration	2008/9 – 2011/12	HLF, VRP, TCBC, BBNP, Land Owners, CCW, Cadw, HOV, WAG
Blaenavon Gateways	TCBC, Local Land Owner Community First	Head of Environmental Regeneration	2009/10 — 2011/12	TCBC, HOV, DE&T, Blaenavon Regeneration Partnership
Forgeside Approaches	TCBC Local Land Owner Community First	Head of Environmental Regeneration	2009/10 – 2011/12	TCBC, HOV, DE&T, Blaenavon Regeneration Partnership
Blaenavon Signage Strategy	As above	Head of Environmental Regeneration	2008/9 — 2010/11	HOV, DE&T Convergence – Tourism
Route 46 – Blaenavon to Brynmawr	TCBC		2009/10 – 2011/12	HOV DE&T/WAG Sustran VRP
Elgam Ravine Pocket Park	Local Community Blaenavon Communities First TCBC	Head of European Policy, External Funding & Community	2009/10 – 2011/12	HOV, DE&T

Projects	Project Lead & Partners	Responsible Officer	Timescales	Potential Funding Source
		Networks		
Garn Lakes Local Nature Reserve	TCBC, CCW, Land Owners	Head of Environmental	2008/09 – 2009/10	HOV, DE&T
Access Improvements	As above	Regeneration Head of Environmental Regeneration	2009/10 - 2011/12	HOV, DE&T
St Peter's Church Yard	TCBC, Land Owner, Volunteers	Head of Environmental Regeneration	2009/10 – 2010/11	HLF, HOV, Blaenavon Regeneration Partnership, St Peters Church
Employment Site Enhancement	TCBC WAG		2009/10 – 2011/12	TCBC, HOV, DE&T, WAG, Local Employers
Housing Design Guidance	TCBC, DE&T, WAG	Head of Environmental Regeneration Housing Strategy Manager	2008/09	DE&T, Blaenavon Regeneration Partnership
Networked Employers	TCBC – Econ Dev	Head of Torfaen Training Head of Adult Education	2009/10 – 2011/12	TCBC Employers
Pre-Employment Routes	TCBC Torfaen Training	Head of Economic Development	2009/10 – 2011/12	TCBC, HOV, WAG, Convergence, ESF
Role Models	ТСВС	Head of Environmental Regeneration	2009/10 – 2011/12	TCBC Children and Young Peoples Partnership Convergence - ESF
Awareness Raising	TCBC WAG	Head of European Policy, Eternal Funding & Community Networks	2009/10 – 2011/12	WAG, TCBC, HOV
Pathways to Training	TCBC Torfaen Training		2009/10 – 2011/12	TCBC, WAG
Blaenavon Community Campus	TCBC TLHB Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust and Heddlu Gwent Police			TCBC Torfaen Local Health Board HOV
Youth Facilities	TCBC Communities First		2008/09	HOV
Community Gym Iron Mountain Trail	Iron Mountain Trail	Head of Environmental Regeneration	2008/09	HOV

Cwmavon Settlement Area

Projects	Project Lead & Partners	Responsible Officer	Timescales	Potential Funding Source
Physical Retail Linkages	TCBC, Private Sector	Head of Environmental Regeneration	2009/10 - 2011/12	TCBC, HOV, WAG, Private Sector
Forgotten Landscapes	TCBC, Blaenavon WHS Partnership	Head of Environmental Regeneration	2008/9 – 2012/13	HLF, HOV, VRP, DE&T, Blaenavon WHS Partnership
Green Housing Corridor	TCBC, Bron Afon, Local Residents	Housing Strategy Manager Director of Bron Avon RSL?	2009/10 – 2011/12	
Route 46 – National Cycle Network	TCBC Sustrans	Head of Environmental Regeneration	2009/10 – 2011/12	HOV, VRP, TCBC, DE&T

Abersychan Settlement Area

Projects	Project Lead & Partners	Responsible Officer	Timescales	Potential Funding Source
Trevethin Shopping	TCBC, Bron Afon	Head of European	2009/10 -	HOV, Bron Afon Community
Centre	Community Housing	Policy, Eternal	2010/11	Housing
	Communities First	Funding &		Convergence – ERDF
	Local Shopkeepers	Community		
		Networks		
Bailey Street/Stanley	As above	Chief Officer	2008/9 -	HOV, Convergence – ERDF
Street Enhancement		Regeneration	2010/11	
Scheme		Head of Leisure &		
		Community		
		Services		
Pre-Employment Routes	тсвс	Head of Torfaen	2009/10 -	HOV, WAG, TCBC
	HOV	Training	2011/12	Convergence – ESF
Abersychan Community	ТСВС	Chief Regeneration	2010/11 -	HOV Convergence
School	School Governors	Officer	2014/15	тсвс
		Head of ICT		
		Operations		
Wiltan SME	TCBC	Head of Adult	2009/10 -	HOV, Convergence – ERDF
	WAG	Education	2010/11	
	HOV			
	Convergence			
Garndiffaith Corn Bid	ТСВС	Head of Leisure &	2009/10 -	Convergence – ERDF
	HOV	Community	2011/12	HOV
	Convergence	Services		
	WAG			
	Carbon Trust			
Trevethin Health	ТСВС	Head of	2008/9 -	TCBC, WAG, HOV, Carbon

Projects	Project Lead & Partners	Responsible Officer	Timescales	Potential Funding Source
Learning Station		Environmental	2009/10	Trust
		Regeneration		
Cold Barn Farm	ТСВС	Head of European		
	Community First	Policy, Eternal		
		Funding &		
		Community		
		Networks		
Route 46 – National		Head of		
Cycle Network		Environmental		
		Regeneration		
Community Garden	ТСВС	Head of European	2008/09	HOV
	HOV	Policy, Eternal		
	Communities First	Funding &		
		Community		
		Networks		
Lasgarn Sports Facilities	ТСВС	Head of European	2010/11 -	HOV
	HOV	Policy, Eternal	2011/12	Convergence
	Communities First	Funding &		
		Community		
		Networks		
Healthy Eating Project	ТСВС	Head of European	2009/10 -	HOV
	HOV	Policy, Eternal	2010/11	Convergence
	Communities First	Funding &		
		Community		
		Networks		
Pontnewnydd Baths Park	ТСВС	Head of	2010/11 -	HOV, Convergence, Splash
and Riverside		Environmental	2011/12	
Improvements		Regeneration		
Penygarn and St Cadoc's Facilities	TCBC Communities First	Head of European Policy, Eternal	2009/10 - 2010/11	HOV
	HOV	Funding & Community		
		Networks		
Pontnewynydd Gateway	TCBC	Head of	2010/11 -	HOV, Convergence, Splash
Scheme		Environmental Regeneration	2011/12	
The British (Phase 1)	ТСВС	Head of	2009/10 -	HOV, WAG, Private
	WAG HOV Community	Environmental Regeneration	2014/15	Developers, Convergence - ERDF

8.2 Monitoring

North Torfaen Strategic Area

Projects	Project Outputs	Project Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Baselin	e Indicator I	Review	Source
				Indicator	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	
Integrated Approach to Retail Retail Audit	 Retail delivery schemes in place Public transport improvements Improved cycle and parking facilities Retail study undertaken Shoppers surveys undertaken Property and promotional strategy prepared Improvements to highway 	 People in North Torfaen enjoy a vibrant economy 	 % increase in retail floorspace % increase of people visiting tourist destinations No. of markets established % quality of highways 					
Regional Housing Enablers	 Level of housing development Provision of housing types to meet identified needs Increased levels of developer interest 							

Projects		Project Outputs		Project Outcomes		Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Baselin	e Indicator F	Review	Source
							Indicator	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	
Joint Ticketing Events & Festivals	•	Number of ticketing passports issued Number of linked events and festivals									
Street Markets	•	New outdoor markets Levels of pedestrian footfall	•	People in North Torfaen enjoy a vibrant economy People in North Torfaen eat healthily	• • • • • •	As above No. primary schools meeting Appetite for Life food standard No. secondary schools meeting Appetite for Life food standard % adults achieving 5 a day nutritional standard % children eating five or more portions of fruit & vegetables previous day % adults overweight or obese % children overweight or obese					
Open Space & Recreational Need Survey	•	Improved recreational and open space provision	•	People in North Torfaen are physically active	•	% adults taking part in physical activity, sufficient to confer					
Promote Lifestyle Benefits of Outdoors / Tourism	•	Targeted marketing campaigns			•	health benefit % children reported meeting physical					

Projects Project Outputs Project Outcomes Loops & Links • Improved sections of public rights of way network • Project Outcomes Neglected Space • Areas of land enhanced • People in North Torfaen enjoy a go quality environme (Built and Rural) Public Art Strategy • Physical Improvements undertaken • Bron Afon • Enhanced areas of • People in North	on Outcome l	Indicators	Baseline	Baselin	e Indicator I	Review	Source
Neglected Space • Areas of land enhanced • People in North Entrance & Directional • Directions and information signage provided • Prople in North Public Art Strategy • Physical Improvements undertaken (Built and Rural)		Indicators	Indicator	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Jource
Bron Afon	past week Level of C Health Sta achieved Number of days lost absence p LA emplo No. of me of the cyc ment No. of health % increase visiting to destinatio % change of the are No. of neg upgraded Improved value % increase	Corporate tandard award I by LA of working to sickness per full time byee etres upgraded cleway lith se in people burist ons ed perceptions ea – survey eglected areas d d biodiversity sed use of ide / landscape					
Environmental land/open space Torfaen enjoy a go	As above						

Projects	Project Outputs	Project Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Baselin	e Indicator R	leview	Source
				Indicator	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Course
Enhancements	 Provision of new signage Access improvements Property refurbishment 	quality environment (Built and Rural) People in North Torfaen live in good quality homes	 households living in unsuitable housing % households reported at least one serious problem with their property % private sector dwellings vacant more than 6 months returned to occupation during year by LA No. unfit private sector dwellings in homes 					
Integrated Training for Target Groups	 Training programmes provided Qualifications attained 		 % people of working age in employment % working age 					
Childcare Young Persons Entrepreneurship Scheme	 New and enhanced childcare facilities Support schemes developed Number of young people engaged 	• People in North Torfaen are employed	 population claiming Job Seekers Allowance Number of new businesses started Number of new jobs created 					
Jobmatch	 Numbers engaged in employment 							

Projects	Project Outputs	Project Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Baselin	e Indicator I	Review	/ Source
				Indicator	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Course
WAG 14-19 Agenda	 Training/Learning courses delivered Number of qualified trainees 	 Adults in North Torfaen undertake appropriate training for employment 	 No. awards of key skills, qualifications, all levels No. people participating in work based training 					
Skill Build	 Training/Learning courses successfully delivered Qualifications attained 							
Prevent	Qualifications attained							
Bridges into work	 Training/learning courses successfully delivered Qualifications attained 	 Adults in North Torfaen undertake appropriate training for employment People in North Torfaen live in good quality homes 	 As above No. established households living in unsuitable housing % households reported at least one serious problem with their property % private sector dwellings vacant more than 6 months returned to occupation during year by LA No. unfit private sector dwellings in homes 					

Projects	Project Outputs	Project Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Baselin	e Indicator I	Review	Source
				Indicator	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	
Housing Renewal Areas	Housing Assessments undertaken	People in North Torfaen live in good quality homes	As above					
Heritage Based Education	 Training/Learning courses delivered Number of participants 	Children and young people in North Torfaen engage in education	 No. schools receiving Healthy Schools accreditation % pupil attendance in: a) primary schools b) secondary schools 					
NEET Learning	 Training/Learning courses delivered Qualifications attained 	Children and young people in North Torfaen achieve their full potential	 % pupils in schools achieving 5 or more GCSE's at grades A – C or vocational equivalent % pupils who reach 16 leaving full time education training or work based learning without approved qualification % all pupils full time education without approved qualification No. pupils not entering work based learning or 					

Projects	Project Outputs	Project Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Baselin	e Indicator I	Review	Source
				Indicator	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	
			continuing full time education without recognised qualification • Reception Baseline Assessment – % pupils achieving Level 2+: - Oracy A - Oracy B - Number • Key Stage 1 -% pupils achieving level 2+ -English -Welsh -Maths					
Retro-Fitting	 Numbers of housing stock refurbished Number of energy efficiency schemes introduced Number of training opportunities linked to new energy technologies 	 Adults in North Torfaen undertake appropriate training for employment People in North Torfaen live in good quality homes 	 No. awards of key skills, qualifications, all levels No. people participating in work based training No. established households living in unsuitable housing % households reported at least one serious problem with their 					

Projects	Project Outputs	Project Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Baselin	e Indicator I	Review	Source
				Indicator	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	oouroc
Tourism Transport Initiative	Number of services operating between kervisitor attractions	 People in North Torfaen enjoy a vibrant economy People in North Torfaen are reducing their car travel 	 property % private sector dwellings vacant more than 6 months returned to occupation during year by LA No. unfit private sector dwellings in homes % increase in retail floorspace % increase of people visiting tourist destinations No. of markets established % quality of highways Reduction in emissions from staff business and commuting travel Volume traffic on major roads No. schools with travel plans 					
Overcoming the Digital Divide	 Numbers of users lin Super Digital Highwa Numbers of residents 	Torfaen undertake	 No. schools receiving Health Schools accreditation 					

Projects	Project Outputs	Project Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Baselin	Source		
				Indicator	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	
SAVVY 2	 young people engaged Training/learning courses successfully delivered Reduction in numbers entering NEET 	for employment Children and young people in North Torfaen engage in education	 % pupil attendance in: a) primary schools b) secondary schools 					
Working Skills for Adults	 Qualifications attained Training/learning courses successfully delivered Qualifications attained 							

Blaenavon Settlement Area

Projects	Project Outputs	Project Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Baselin	Source		
Hojodo				Indicator	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Course
Containment of Retail Centre	 Retail centre expenditure Vacancy levels Retail centre footfall 	 People in North Torfaen enjoy a vibrant economy 	 % increase in retail floorspace % increase of people 					
Local Passport Scheme Making the Connections	 Number of ticketing passports issued Number of independent retailers within the town centre 		 visiting tourist destinations No. of markets established % quality of highways 					
Putting Blaenavon on the Menu	 Number of awareness raising campaigns Number of training programmes 							
Marketing Vehicle for the WHS	 Number of marketing campaigns Delivery of an integrated website Number of events held 							
Blaenavon Heritage Precinct	 Physical improvements undertaken 							
World Heritage Centre	 Provision of car parking facilities Marketing literature produced 							

Projects	Project Outputs	Project Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Baseline	e Indicator R	leview	Source
				Indicator	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	
Invest in Accommodation	 Increased numbers of validated visitor accommodation 							
Countryside Skills Development	 Number of countryside skills courses developed Numbers of jobs created/volunteers engaged 							
Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway (Phase 2)	 Provision of new railtrack 							
Historic Monuments in the Landscape	Conservation and promotion of historic monuments	People in North	% increase in retail floorspace					
Blaenavon Ironworks Bridge	 Provision of a new footbridge 	Torfaen enjoy a vibrant economy	 % increase of people visiting tourist 					
Forgotten Landscapes	 Restored areas of nature conservation Historic features preserved Access improvements interpretation provided 	People in North	 destinations No. of markets established % quality of highways 					
Blaenavon Gateways	 Enhanced areas of land/open space Derelict land improvements 	Torfaen enjoy a good quality environment (Built and Rural)	 No. of metres upgraded of the cycleway % of health % increase in people 					
Forgeside Approaches	 Enhanced areas of land/open space Derelict land improved 		visiting tourist destinations • % changed perceptions					

Projects	Project Outputs	Project Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Baseline	e Indicator F	Review	Source
				Indicator	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	
Blaenavon Signage Strategy	Provision of new signage and interpretation		of the area – survey No. of neglected areas upgraded Improved biodiversity value % increased use of countryside / landscape environment					
Route 46 – Blaenavon to Brynmawr	 Sections of cycleway improved Improved connectivity to key facilities 	People in North Torfaen are physically active	 % adults taking part in physical activity, sufficient to confer health benefit % children reported meeting physical activity guidelines in past week Level of Corporate Health Standard award achieved by LA Number of working days lost to sickness absence per full time LA employee 					

Projects	Project Outputs	Project Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Baselin	e Indicator Review	Source
				Indicator	2009/10	2010/11 2011	
Elgam Ravine Pocket Park	 Areas of land restored and enhanced Community ownership of the Park Volunteers engaged 	• People in North Torfaen enjoy a good quality environment (Built and Rural)	 No. of metres upgraded of the cycleway % of health % increase in people visiting tourist destinations % changed perceptions of the area – survey No. of neglected areas upgraded Improved biodiversity value % increased use of countryside / landscape environment 				
Garn Lakes Local Nature Reserve	 Infrastructure upgraded promotional material produced Provision of access and facilities for all 						
Access Improvements St Peter's Church Yard	 Improvements to existing highway Area of land enhanced and access improved 						

Projects	Project Outputs	Project Outcomes Outcome Indicators Baseline Baseline			Review	ew Source		
				Indicator	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	
Employment Site Enhancement	Areas of employment land improved							
Housing Design Guidance	Published design guidance							
Networked Employers	 Numbers of local employers sharing resources, training opportunities and learning 	 Adults in North Torfaen undertake appropriate training for employment Homes and businesses in North Torfaen (including the Council) are energy efficient 	 No. awards of key skills, qualifications, all levels No. people participating in work based training Average No. of staff attending the Energy Champions Group Cost of energy use in all operational buildings Amount of energy used in all operational buildings Cost of water use in all operational buildings Volume of water used in all operational buildings Volume of water used in all operational buildings % of municipal waste used to recover heat and power 					

Projects	Project Outputs	Project Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Baselin	e Indicator R	leview	Source
				Indicator	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	
			 % reduction in carbon dioxide emissions in non domestic public building stock % reduction in energy use in all domestic properties 					
Pre-Employment Routes	 Numbers of pre- employment training provided 	 Adults in North Torfaen undertake appropriate training for employment 	 No. awards of key skills, qualifications, all levels No. people participating in work based training 					
Role Models	 Numbers of local role models participating Reduction in numbers entering NEET 	People in North Torfaen are employed	 % people of working age in employment % working age population claiming Job Seekers Allowance Number of new businesses started Number of new jobs created 					

Projects	Project Outputs	Project Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Baseline	e Indicator Review	Source
				Indicator	2009/10	2010/11 2011	
Awareness Raising	Links developed between schools and food and artisan businesses	People in North Torfaen eat healthily	 No. primary schools meeting Appetite for Life food standard No. secondary schools meeting Appetite for Life food standard % adults achieving 5 a day nutritional standard % children eating five or more portions of fruit & vegetables previous day % adults overweight or obese % children overweight or obese 				
Pathways to Training	 Number of training and development programmes 	 Adults in North Torfaen undertake appropriate training for employment 	 No. awards of key skills, qualifications, all levels No. people participating in work based training 				

Projects	Project Outputs	Project Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Baselin	e Indicator R	eview	Source
				Indicator	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	
Blaenavon Community Campus	Provision of education, health and leisure facilities	 Children and young people in North Torfaen engage in education People in North Torfaen are physically active 	 Adults in Torfaen undertake appropriate training for employment Children and young people in North Torfaen engage in education % adults taking part in physical activity, sufficient to confer health benefit % children reported meeting physical activity guidelines in past week Level of Corporate Health Standard award achieved by LA Number of working days lost to sickness absence per full time LA employee 					
Youth Facilities	 Provision of a new Scansis Pitch and youth shelter 							

Community Gym	 Refurbished property Provision of leisure equipment Number of users 	 People in North Torfaen are physically active 	As above		
Iron Mountain Trail	Re-routed trail into town centre				

Cwmavon Settlement Area

Physical Retail Linkages	 Number of home delivery schemes Improved physical linkages Improved public transport services 	 People in North Torfaen enjoy a vibrant economy 	 % increase in retail floorspace % increase of people visiting tourist destinations No. of markets established % quality of highways 		
Forgotten Landscapes	Restored areas of nature conservation				

	 Historic features preserved Access improved Interpretation provided 		
Green Housing Corridor	 Guidance produced on renewable energy technologies 	 Adults in North Torfaen undertaken appropriate training for employment 	 No. awards of key skills, qualifications, all levels No. people participating in work based training
Route 46 – National Cycle Network	 Sections of cycleway improved Improved connectivity to key facilities 	 People in North Torfaen are physically active 	 % adults taking part in physical activity, sufficient to confer health benefit
		People in North Torfaen are reducing their car travel	 % children reported meeting physical activity guidelines in past week Level of Corporate Health Standard award achieved by LA Number of working days lost to sickness absence per full time LA employee

	 Reduction in emissions from staff business and commuting travel Volume traffic on major roads No. schools with travel plans 			

Abersychan Settlement Area

Projects	Project Outputs	Project Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Baseline Indicator Review			Source
FIOJECIS		roject outcomes		Indicator	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Jource
Trevethin Shopping Centre Bailey Street/Stanley Street Enhancement Scheme	 Area of land improved Retail properties refurbished Land improved retail properties refurbished Feasibility studies undertaken 	 People in North Torfaen enjoy a vibrant economy People in North Torfaen enjoy a good quality environment (built and rural) 	 % increase in retail floorspace % increase of people visiting tourist destinations No. of markets established % quality of highways No. of metres upgraded of the cycleway % of health % increase in people 					
	 Upgraded playing field Biodiversity initiative 		 % increase in people visiting tourist destinations % changed perceptions of the area – survey No. of neglected areas upgraded Improved biodiversity value % increased use of countryside / landscape environment 					

Projects	Project Outputs	Project Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Baseli	eline Indicator Review		Source
				Indicator	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	oource
Pre-Employment Routes	 Training programmes in place Qualifications in place 	 People in North Torfaen are employed Adults in Torfaen undertake appropriate training for employment 	 % people of working age in employment % working age population claiming Job Seekers Allowance Number of new businesses started Number of new jobs 					
Abersychan Community School	 Training programmes provided Numbers of attendees and qualifications attained 	Schools in North Torfaen provide excellent learning environments	 created No. pupils per teacher in secondary schools maintained by LA No. school staff received accreditation in Higher Level Teaching Assistant training No. pupils per teacher in schools maintained by LA: a) primary schools b) secondary schools 					

Projects	Project Outputs	Project Outcomes Outco	Outcome Indicators	Baseline Indicator	Baseli	Source		
					2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	
Wiltan SME	 Training programmes provided Numbers of attendees and qualifications attained 	 Adults in Torfaen undertake appropriate training for employment 	 No. awards of key skills, qualifications, all levels No. people participating 					
Garndiffaith Corn Bid	 Training programmes provided Numbers of attendees and qualifications attained 	 Children and young people in North Torfaen engage in education 	 in work based training Adults in Torfaen undertake appropriate training for employment Children and young people in North Torfaen engage in education 					
Trevethin Health Learning Station	 Education programmes provided 							
Cold Barn Farm	 New ICT Suite / Learning Facility New Recreational provision 	 People in North Torfaen are physically active 	 % adults taking part in physical activity, sufficient to confer health benefit % children reported meeting physical activity guidelines in past week Level of Corporate Health Standard award achieved by LA Number of working days lost to sickness 					

Projects	Project Outputs	Project Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Baseline Indicator Review			Source
				Indicator	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	
Route 46 – National Cycle Network	 Sections of cycleway improved Improved connectivity 		absence per full time LA employee					
Community Garden	 Land improved Training programmes developed Volunteers engaged 	 People in North Torfaen enjoy a good quality environment (Built and Rural) 	 No. of metres upgraded of the cycleway % of health % increase in people visiting tourist destinations % changed perceptions of the area – survey No. of neglected areas upgraded Improved biodiversity value % increased use of countryside / landscape environment 					
Lasgarn Sports Facilities Healthy Eating Project	 Land improved Allotment users Disabled facilities provided Footpaths improved 	 People in North Torfaen enjoy a good quality environment (built and rural) 	 As above % adults taking part in physical activity, sufficient to confer health benefit 					

Projects	Project Outputs	Project Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Baseline Indicator Review			Source
				Indicator	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Source
Pontnewnydd Baths Park and Riverside Improvements	Improved recreational facilities Improved access	People in North Torfaen are physically active	 % children reported meeting physical activity guidelines in past week Level of Corporate Health Standard award achieved by LA Number of working days lost to sickness absence per full time LA employee 					
Penygarn and St Cadoc's Facilities	 Area of land enhanced Refurbishments undertaken Facilities provided Users of facilities 	 People in North Torfaen enjoy a good quality environment (Built and Rural) People in North Torfaen are reducing their car travel 	 As above Reduction in emissions from staff business and commuting travel Volume traffic on major roads No. schools with travel plans 					

Project Outputs	Project Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Baseline		Baseline Indicator Review			
			Indicator	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Source	
Enhanced areas of land / open space Buildings refurbished	 People in North Torfaen enjoy a vibrant economy 	 % increase in retail floorspace % increase of people 						
Land reclaimed		visiting tourist destinationsNo. of markets established						
	open space Buildings refurbished	open spaceTorfaen enjoy a vibrantBuildings refurbishedeconomy	open spaceTorfaen enjoy a vibrantfloorspaceBuildings refurbishedeconomy% increase of peopleLand reclaimedvisiting touristdestinations% No. of markets	Enhanced areas of land / open space • People in North • % increase in retail floorspace Buildings refurbished • Conomy • % increase of people Land reclaimed • No. of markets established • No. of markets established	Enhanced areas of land / open spacePeople in North Torfaen enjoy a vibrant economy• % increase in retail floorspaceImage: ConomyLand reclaimed• No. increase of people visiting tourist destinations• No. of markets established• No. of markets established	Enhanced areas of land / open spacePeople in North Torfaen enjoy a vibrant economy• % increase in retail floorspaceImage: ConomyImage: ConomyLand reclaimed• No. of markets established• No. of markets 	Enhanced areas of land / open spacePeople in North Torfaen enjoy a vibrant economy• % increase in retail floorspaceImage: ConomyImage: ConomyLand reclaimed• No. of markets established• No. of markets established<	

