



Bridgend Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033



Background Paper 23: RLDP
Conformity With the National
Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes

Table of Contents

1. Purpose of the Assessment.....	1
2. Introduction.....	1
3. Distribution of Development.....	2
4. Placemaking Principles within the RLDP.....	16
5. PPW 11 Placemaking Outcomes Conformity Assessment.....	18
6. Conclusion.....	22

BRIDGEND REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (RLDP) 2018-2033

BACKGROUND PAPER 23: RLDP CONFORMITY WITH THE NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE PLACEMAKING OUTCOMES

1. Purpose of the Assessment

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to assess whether the Replacement Local Development Plan's (RLDP, 2018-2033) rationale for the distribution of new development is consistent with Planning Policy Wales 11's (PPW 11) National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The primary objective of PPW 11 is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, as required by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and other key legislation and resultant duties such as the Socio-economic Duty. A well-functioning planning system is fundamental for sustainable development and achieving sustainable places.
- 2.2 The national sustainable placemaking outcomes for Wales, included within PPW 11, seek to outline what a sustainable place will look like, characterised by the planning principles they relate to. PPW 11 states that the national sustainable placemaking outcomes should be used to inform the preparation of development plans and the assessment of development proposals. The outcomes provide a framework which contains those factors which are considered to be the optimal outcome of development plans and individual developments. These outcomes, whilst highlighting the sustainable features of the place development plans and decisions help create, should be the starting point for plan makers and decision takers and be considered at the earliest possible opportunity.

2.3 This Paper has been prepared to further articulate the rationale for the distribution of development within the RLDP and to demonstrate that the approach is consistent with the principles contained within the National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes.

3. Distribution of Development

3.1 The thirty-seven National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes are grouped into five key categories in PPW 11 as summarised below. The following section provides a commentary on how the distribution of development allocated within the RLDP is consistent with each of the National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes, highlighting key components of the RLDP evidence-base to demonstrate alignment.

Growing our Economy in a Sustainable Manner

3.2 *“The planning system should enable development which contributes to long term economic well-being, making the best use of existing infrastructure and planning for new supporting infrastructure and services. Communities, national and local government, businesses, and the third sector must work together to take a long-term view, integrating and aligning priorities through greater collaboration to achieve sustainable economic benefits for all in line with the well-being goals.” (PPW 11, p17)*

RLDP Growth Strategy

3.2.1 The economy of Bridgend County Borough is relatively more reliant on the manufacturing sector than Wales as a whole and there is need for the area’s strong manufacturing base to be maintained within sustainable locations, whilst supporting the socio-economic renewal of deprived communities. It is equally important to diversify the employment sector and attract inward investment across the locality through sustainable economic growth. The RLDP has a key role in this respect, notably in safeguarding existing employment provision, allocating suitable sites for development and delivering the infrastructure required to boost socio-economic opportunities and enhance connectivity. This inter-related approach is key to meeting the needs and requirements of a range of future potential employment scenarios, thereby ensuring the RLDP can enable economic recovery from the pandemic and ongoing prosperity.

3.2.2 On this basis, a Mid-Growth Strategy (refer to Background Paper 2 – Strategic Growth Options), is evidenced as the most effective strategy to facilitate delivery of sustainable levels of economic growth that best achieves an equilibrium between new homes and employment provision, balanced against other key infrastructure requirements. Allocation of 71.7 hectares of employment land will provide the flexibility to accommodate up to 500 new jobs per annum without constraining economic opportunity or unduly preventing the release of land for other uses. In this regard, apportioning sustainable growth into the key settlements of Bridgend, Pencoed and Pyle, Kenfig Hill and North Cornelly will induce a local multiplier effect to increase revenue for and therefore viability of local business and services. This will sustain economic development and incite job creation as these areas would increasingly be seen as attractive places for business to locate, given the growing employment base and availability of skilled labour.

Employment Land Supply

3.2.3 The Strategic Employment Sites allocated within the RLDP are distinguished from other employment sites on the basis of their physical and locational characteristics, particularly their prominent locations adjacent to areas of countryside, and their proximity to the strategic road network. They represent the greatest assets to the area in terms of their propensity to attract high quality businesses plus investment and therefore generate high levels of jobs in a manner that will contribute to the local and wider economy. Given the sensitive locations of these sites, the requirement for consistently high design and environmental standards within an overall concept framework is a prerequisite for development, including access by means other than the car. This will create a mix of employment opportunities for the local labour force in a high-quality environment, meeting the employment objectives of the RLDP.

3.2.4 Bridgend is distinguished as the Primary Key Settlement on the basis that it accommodates just over a third of the County Borough's population and is the focus of employment, services and retail serving the whole of the County Borough. Bridgend therefore demonstrates the highest propensity to accommodate sustainable growth in a manner that will both support and build on its success as a regional employment, commercial and service centre. The RLDP will therefore utilise Bridgend's strategic location along the M4 corridor to maintain and enhance the

settlement's role as a major regional employment hub, with specific strengths in advanced manufacturing. The existing significant Industrial Estates of Bridgend, Waterton, Brackla and Litchfield will continue to fulfil this wider employment function and thus be protected from alternative uses. Further opportunities exist for the promotion of strategic employment sites which represent a natural urban extension, notably at Brocastle Estate, which will enable further consolidation and enhancement of Bridgend's role as a major focus for employment and new inward investment. Additionally, Pencoed Technology Park is allocated as a Strategic Employment Site due to its direct access to the M4 at Junction 35 and close proximity to public transport facilities including Pencoed Railway Station. The site contains substantial existing infrastructure to support future growth and represents a significant redevelopment opportunity in conjunction with allocated residential development in Pencoed.

- 3.2.5 In order for Bridgend County Borough to retain its competitive employment base, it is imperative for the area to offer a broad portfolio of sites. Therefore, in addition to the Strategic Employment Sites, the plan also identifies a variety of allocated employment sites suitable for all types of employment uses of varying size and type. This approach focuses employment, commercial and residential development around established settlements that already contain the necessary infrastructure to achieve sustainable patterns of growth and support existing local services and facilities.

Making Best Use of Resources

- 3.3** *“The efficient use of resources, including land, underpins sustainable development. The planning system has a vital role to play in making development resilient to climate change, decarbonising society and developing a circular economy for the benefit of both the built and natural environments and to contribute to the achievement of the well-being goals. The proximity principle must be applied to ensure problems are solved locally rather than passing them on to other places or future generations. This will ensure the use of land and other resources is sustainable in the long term.” (PPW 11, p17)*

Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Agricultural Land

3.3.1 Throughout preparation of the RLDP, careful consideration has been given to the Plan's potential impact on BMV agricultural land. This was demonstrated during the site search sequence undertaken as part of the Candidate Site Assessment (CSA), which identified any environmental designations present within the vicinity of candidate sites and ensured these sites were protected from development. The main purpose of this exercise was to, wherever possible, remove or otherwise mitigate significant adverse effects from proposed site allocations within the RLDP, including on BMV agricultural land. As part of this process, extensive geographic information system (GIS) analysis of the Predictive Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Map for Wales (Version 2) has been undertaken to provide a broad overview of the location and classification of agricultural land in the County Borough. The RLDP Spatial Strategy seeks to minimise the loss of BMV agricultural land unless there is an overriding need for development in the area in accordance with Welsh Government Guidance. This has served to both enhance the sustainability of the RLDP and minimise the loss of BMV agricultural land, a principle that has been embedded into the site selection process from the outset. Refer to Background Paper 15: The Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land.

RLDP Spatial Strategy

3.3.2 The RLDP Spatial Strategy prioritises the development of land within or on the periphery of sustainable urban areas, considering previously developed brownfield sites in the first instance. This approach ensures that development is located in areas that are within close proximity to existing facilities and services, are capable of accommodating additional growth and contain the necessary infrastructure to allow residents to meet their needs through sustainable means of travel. In this regard, the Spatial Strategy demonstrates accordance with the principles of the 20-Minute Neighbourhood (Background Paper 19), which emphasises giving people the ability to access key services and facilities within a 20-minute walk or cycle ride from home, with safe cycling and local transport options. To further support this principle, the RLDP aims to reduce private car reliance and help the County Borough achieve the principles set out by the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. As part of this process, Active Travel Network Maps have been produced as part of the RLDP process to

identify the walking and cycling routes required to create fully integrated networks for walking and cycling to access work, education, services and facilities.

Policy SP13 – Decarbonisation and Renewable Energy

3.3.3 The Council is in the process of producing a roadmap to Carbon Neutral Bridgend County Borough by 2030 and will work jointly with the Public Services Board to produce a Decarbonisation Strategy to co-ordinate efforts across the County Borough. The strategy will bring together a plethora of environmental projects and ensure alignment with the aspirations set out in the Council's Climate Emergency Response Programme. The RLDP Spatial Strategy also recognises the urgent need to tackle the climate emergency and contribute towards meeting national renewable and low carbon energy generation targets by taking advantage of the County Borough's topography. The Council has an aspiration for all new homes to be net zero carbon in the first instance, meanwhile, appropriate locations to support opportunities for district heating, local renewable and low carbon energy projects, as well as to encourage an element of local ownership have also been identified within the Plan. In this regard, the Bridgend Renewable Energy Assessment (2020) identifies the most appropriate low-carbon heating solution for the RLDPs Strategic Sites (refer to PLA1-5), whilst the development of Local Search Areas to support renewable energy projects will also assist in co-ordinating strategic action, bringing a critical mass of new renewables developments together to build the case for new or reinforced grid infrastructure.

3.3.4 To ensure the RLDP plays a significant role in achieving the climate targets outlined by Welsh Government and Future Wales in reducing future energy demand, strict Development Management policies have also been introduced that seek to maximise the energy efficiency of new development, integrate energy generation into wider development proposals, and ensure that low carbon heating systems are installed. This commitment is demonstrated in Strategic Policy 4 (SP4) of the Plan, which stipulates that all development proposals must clearly demonstrate how they contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. This policy seeks to encourage renewable and low/zero carbon energy generation technology to help ensure that new development is designed to be resilient to future climate change effects. As part of the Council's holistic approach to the decarbonisation of heat, Policy ENT10 also

seeks to ensure that low carbon heating technologies are installed as part of all new major development (heat networks below this threshold will also be encouraged).

Mitigating the Impact of Climate Change

3.3.5 A key role of the RLDP is to put in place resource efficient and climate change resilient settlement patterns that minimise land take and urban sprawl. Put simply, this means locating development in settlements which are accessible to a range of services and facilities whereby people can reduce private car usage and thereby reduce the harmful effects of carbon emissions. Policy SP4 also seeks to encourage renewable and low/zero carbon energy generation technology, subject to a range of material planning considerations. Such policy approaches can also help ensure that new development is designed to be resilient to future climate change effects. The RLDP spatial strategy helps to mitigate the impacts of climate change by attributing growth and development to existing settlements that are already generally self-contained and provide the services and facilities required for individuals to meet their needs without promoting vehicle use. Additionally, allocated housing sites are strategically located to ensure that infringement on natural greenspaces is minimised and green infrastructure is incorporated into the design process.

Facilitating Accessible and Healthy Environments

3.4 *“Our land use choices and the places we create should be accessible for all and support healthy lives. High quality places are barrier-free and inclusive to all members of society. They ensure everyone can live, work, travel and play in a way that supports good physical and mental health. Our built and natural environments should be planned to promote mental and physical well-being. The best way of achieving this is to involve and collaborate with others to ensure issues are understood and prevented at the earliest opportunity through effective engagement with those affected by or having an interest in the development concerned.” (PPW 11, p17)*

RLDP Stages of Consultation

3.4.1 The various stages of public consultation during preparation of the RLDP have provided residents with the opportunity to engage with the Council on local issues and future development across the Borough. For example, during the deposit

consultation stage, the Council was in receipt of 1,221 representations from a wide range of stakeholders throughout the community. This process has enabled the Council to gain a firm understanding of residents view on how future development should shape the Borough during the RLDP period. The consultation process has been wide-ranging and adopted an inclusive approach, involving liaison with a diverse demographic including among others the Gypsy and Traveller community and Bridgend Youth Forum. This approach builds upon the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment, which reviewed and identified the likely impact of the Plan on existing and future communities, considering relevant evidence in order to understand the likely or actual effect of policies and practices on a range of population groups.

Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)

3.4.2 In the context of the RLDP, the CIS is a statement of how the Council intends to involve members of the community and relevant stakeholders throughout the preparation of the RLDP. Contained within the Replacement Delivery Agreement (RDA), the CIS outlines the Council's principles of community engagement, its approach in relation to who, how and when it intends to engage with the community and stakeholders; how it will respond to representations and how these representations will inform later stages of plan preparation. The Council is committed to improving the quality of stakeholder and community involvement in plan making. Early and continued community involvement should help in addressing contentious issues and assist in resolving conflicts throughout plan preparation. It can also help in identifying common ground, and shared goals.

RLDP Public Engagement

3.4.3 Public engagement in the preparation of the RLDP has taken place in accordance with the guidelines set out in the CIS. The Council recognise that engagement must be designed to make a difference, the main objectives for involving the community in the RLDP preparation process can therefore be identified as:

- To involve people at the earliest opportunity, in time to shape plan preparation work;
- That consultation takes place before decisions are made and that such decisions are made in an open and transparent manner;

- To provide an accessible consultation process and adapt this as necessary to account for individual needs;
- To encourage and enable everyone with the opportunity to be involved if they so choose;
- Adopt alternative approaches to ensure hard to reach groups are involved from the outset;
- Draw on local knowledge to improve decision making and help the realistic implementation of decisions;
- That the planning system should help implement the community's vision for the area;
- To seek consensus and strengthen community involvement;
- To engage as full a spectrum of the community as possible in strategic issues; and
- To provide two-way dialogue by responding to comments received and publishing responses in a report of consultation.

Active Travel

3.4.4 The RLDP seeks to reduce car dependencies and improve active travel infrastructure; deliver improved and expanded transport links, public transport, and enhanced transport infrastructure, both to communities within the Council area and to key destinations in neighbouring authorities. Development Management policies within the plan such as Strategic Policy 5 ensure that potential development is prioritised in sustainable locations that reduce car dependency and provide access to facilities and services via means of active travel. This policy aligns with the aims of the Placemaking Outcomes contained within PPW 11 by assisting to create neighbourhoods at a walkable scale, with homes, local facilities and public transport within walking distance of each other. Additionally, Policy PLA8 of the RLDP identifies and allocates existing transportation proposals which will provide improvements to the public transport network and deliver more sustainable travel within the county borough. The availability of efficient and effective public transport is an important part of ensuring a place is sustainable and accords with PPW's aim to maximise opportunities to improve inter-connectivity within the wider region.

Recreation Space Provision

3.4.5 Recreational spaces are vital for health, well-being, amenity and can contribute to an area's green infrastructure. They provide a place for play, sport, healthy physical activity, contribute to quality of life and are a key ingredient of 'placemaking'. Networks of high quality, accessible recreation spaces also promote nature conservation, biodiversity and provide enjoyable opportunities for residents and visitors to participate in a wide range of physical activities. These activities are important for the well-being of children and adults and for the social, environmental, cultural and economic life of Bridgend and Wales. To support the delivery of the RLDP and to identify how recreational space can be used to contribute towards addressing some of the key national and local issues, the Council undertook an Outdoor Sports & Children's Playspace Audit (2021). The Audit findings indicated that there is an under supply in the range of recreational space provision across the area, including playing pitches, other outdoor sports, equipped / designated play areas, other outdoor provision and of allotments. As a result, all greenspaces will be protected within the RLDP and opportunities to create new public greenspace will be sought when sites are brought forward for development. The Council will work with developers to maintain an optimal level and balance of good quality outdoor recreation space for all residents and the required standards for provision are outlined in Policy COM10 of the RLDP, which has been informed by the findings of both the Audit and the Green Space Infrastructure Assessment (2022).

3.4.6 Development proposals will be expected to maintain, protect and enhance Bridgend's green infrastructure network whilst ensuring that individual recreation areas are retained wherever possible and integrated into any new development. This has been a key consideration in both the site selection and master-planning process of Strategic Sites allocated for development within the RLDP, with early consideration of how provision will be integrated into a development, as well as the subsequent management and maintenance of recreational spaces allowing the Council to ensure that provision not only meets the required standards but is also appropriate for the scale and location of each site.

Creating & Sustaining Communities

- 3.5** *“The planning system must work in an integrated way to maximise its contribution to well-being. It can achieve this by creating well-designed places and cohesive rural and urban communities which can be sustained by ensuring the appropriate balance of uses and density, making places where people want to be and interact with others. Our communities need the right mix of good quality/well designed homes, jobs, services, infrastructure and facilities so that people feel content with their everyday lives.” (PPW 11, p17)*

Settlement Hierarchy

3.5.1 The RLDP identifies and differentiates between the sustainability of places by defining a settlement hierarchy. This is informed by the conclusions of the Bridgend County Borough Settlement Assessment (2019, revised in 2021), which reflects Bridgend’s historical and functional settlement pattern and seeks to achieve more sustainable places in a number of ways. The scale and type of growth apportioned to settlements is dependent upon their individual roles, functions and positions within the Settlement Hierarchy. This is to ensure the RLDP directs the majority of growth towards areas that already benefit from good infrastructure, services and facilities, or where additional capacity can be provided.

3.5.2 Bridgend is classified as the Primary Key Settlement, along with five additional Main Settlements, which include the Valleys Gateway, Porthcawl, Maesteg, Pencoed and the grouped settlement of Pyle, Kenfig Hill and North Cornelly. All six of these settlements are relatively well self-contained, demonstrating a strong employment function with an existing concentration of businesses plus a notable variety of shopping and community services. The facilities they contain meet the individual needs of these settlements and those of their wider surrounding environs, further bolstered by a range of sustainable travel opportunities that connect to neighbouring areas and the wider regions.

Regeneration and Sustainable Growth Strategy

3.5.3 The RLDP Regeneration and Sustainable Growth Strategy aims to ensure that development is directed towards environs conducive to sustainable placemaking that

facilitate a balance of environmentally friendly, economically vibrant, and socially inclusive characteristics, aiming to benefit current inhabitants and future generations alike. Sustainable placemaking is therefore an overarching concept that underpins the RLDP, specifically seeking to create places that:

- Meet the needs of all members of the community;
- Promote balanced economic growth that provides access to employment opportunities;
- Provide for active travel and integrated Green Infrastructure networks;
- Provide appropriate infrastructure and services;
- Provide a range of high quality private and affordable housing; and
- Are resilient and adaptable to change and support the Councils vision to make Bridgend a decarbonised, digitally connected smart County Borough.

Affordable Housing

3.5.4 The RLDP has a key role in ensuring new housing development incorporates a mix of market and affordable housing, thereby contributing to the development of sustainable, cohesive communities. This includes incorporation of a range of tenures and property sizes, to cater for the plethora of housing needs identified across the County Borough. The overall affordable housing target specified within the RLDP has been determined by taking these inter-related components of evidence into account. This has informed development of a robust housing trajectory to illustrate the rate of housing delivery for both market and affordable housing for the RLDP period (refer to the Housing Trajectory Background Paper).

3.5.5 In order to identify an appropriate strategy for the delivery of housing within the borough, a Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) was undertaken to inform the housing trajectory contained within the RLDP. The LHMA evidently revealed significant shortfalls of affordable housing provision within Bridgend, Porthcawl, Pencoed, and Pyle, Kenfig Hill and North Cornelly. Moderate housing need was also identified in Maesteg and the Llynfi Valley, as was the need to diversify the dwelling stock within Valleys Settlements. The scale and location of need identified by the LHMA has subsequently influenced the Growth and Spatial Strategy of the RLDP

(refer to the Strategic Growth Options and Spatial Strategy Options Background Papers, respectively).

20-Minute Neighbourhood Principle

3.5.6 The 20-minute neighbourhood encapsulates ‘living locally’— giving people the ability to meet most of their daily needs within a 20-minute walk or cycle ride from home, with safe cycling and local transport options. In the context of the county of Bridgend, a 20-minute neighbourhood is defined as the ability to access services within a 20-minute period either by walking or cycling, with public transport provision also available as a fallback option to ensure there is a range of sustainable travel options available within each neighbourhood. This principle ensures that development is located close to nearby facilities and services with good active travel connections and public transport provision.

3.5.7 The sites allocated within the RLDP have been identified to ensure they are within close proximity of local services, facilities and active travel opportunities. All sites can be accessed via sustainable means of travel, either by walking or cycling, within a 20-minute period. This is evidenced in maps contained within Background Paper 19 (The 20-Minute Neighbourhood), which illustrate the associated services, facilities and sustainable travel options within close proximity to each site.

Maximising Environmental Protection and Limiting Environmental Impact

3.6 *“Natural, historic and cultural assets must be protected, promoted, conserved and enhanced. Negative environmental impacts should be avoided in the wider public interest. This means acting in the long term to respect environmental limits and operating in an integrated way so that resources and/ or assets are not irreversibly damaged or depleted. The polluter pays principle applies where pollution cannot be prevented and applying the precautionary principle ensures cost effective measures to prevent environmental damage.” (PPW 11, p17)*

RLDP Spatial Strategy

3.6.1 For development to be sustainable, it needs to be soundly based on good environmental assessments, and to be well planned and controlled with regard to its environmental impact, in order to conserve and enhance biodiversity. The County

Borough contains significant areas of international and national statutory environmental designations, as well as many sites of local wildlife importance, which are identified within the RLDP to ensure their protection, and, where possible, enhancement. This process has in turn informed the RLDP Spatial Strategy, which prioritises previously developed sites and underutilised land within settlements before considering land on the edge of settlements and greenfield sites. This approach enables the protection of natural and historic assets within the Borough by ensuring that development is directed away from environmentally sensitive areas.

3.6.2 Additionally, regeneration-led strategies for Porthcawl and Maesteg also minimise pressure on BMV agricultural land within these environs. The Regeneration Growth Areas and Sustainable Urban Extensions allocated for development within the RLDP are directed away from the natural assets identified within the Borough to ensure they are protected from negative environmental impacts as a result of development.

Policy DNP8 - Green Infrastructure Approach

3.6.3 Green Infrastructure is a network of multifunctional green spaces, natural features and environmental management systems which help to provide a natural life support system for people and wildlife. They can provide opportunities for recreation and tourism, public access, education, biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, water management, the protection and enhancement of the local landscape and mitigation of and adaption to climate change. Policy DNP8 of the RLDP seeks to ensure that Bridgend's green infrastructure assets are valued, protected, enhanced and managed through a green infrastructure network. At the landscape scale green infrastructure assets can comprise entire ecosystems such as wetlands, woodlands, heathlands and waterways. At a local scale, it might comprise of parks, fields, footpaths, Public Rights of Way, cycle ways, common land, open access land, allotments, cemeteries, landscaped areas and gardens. At smaller scales, individual urban interventions such as street trees, roadside verges, and green roofs can all contribute to green infrastructure networks. The County supports a wealth of Green Infrastructure assets that together comprise the strategic network, which is set out in the Green Infrastructure Assessment (2022).

3.6.4 The Regeneration and Sustainable Growth Areas described in Policy SP1, and Strategic sites set out in Policy SP2 of the RLDP provide significant opportunities to integrate Green Infrastructure networks into allocated development within the Borough given their strategic nature and scale. This approach is demonstrated within the placemaking principles of Thematic Policies (PLA1-PLA5), which detail the site-specific requirements for each of the mixed-use Strategic Development Sites in Regeneration Growth Areas and Sustainable Growth Areas and contain guidance on the implementation of a Green Infrastructure approach.

3.6.5 Additionally, Background Paper 20 - Biodiversity Net Benefit & New Development, introduces three case studies involving three housing sites allocated within the RLDP at two different development scales (two strategic sites & one non-strategic site), highlighting how both seek to ensure any adverse environmental effects are avoided, minimised, and mitigated against. All of the case study sites contain ecological constraints, specifically designation as Sites of Important Nature Conservation (SINC's). However, these constraints have been factored into the master-planning process from the outset along with a Green Infrastructure approach, whilst seeking to achieve biodiversity net benefit in a way not previously utilised within the Borough. The mitigation and conservation measures included as part of these proposals will ensure that the areas of higher ecological value will be protected and actively managed going forward. Management plans will be required to be submitted and agreed with the Council as part of any future planning application/S106. This will ensure careful management of the areas with higher ecological value.

3.6.6 All three allocations are key examples of multifunctional schemes that adopt green infrastructure and placemaking principles which seek to mitigate, protect and enhance biodiversity:

- *Land South of Bridgend (Island Farm)* – demonstrates how a large mixed-use strategic site can come forward and positively integrate a SINC and existing habitats and wildlife corridors as part of a broader strategic approach to providing a multifunctional green lung between the site and Bridgend town centre.

- *Land West of Bridgend* – demonstrates how a large mixed-use strategic site can come forward and positively integrate a SINC as part of a sustainable green infrastructure-led scheme.
- *Land South of Pont Rhyd-y-cyff* – demonstrates how a smaller housing allocation come forward within a SINC, carefully conserving areas of higher biodiversity value and only developing on areas of lower biodiversity value. Sustainable green infrastructure-led design is key to the success of the scheme.

4. Placemaking Principles within the RLDP

- 4.1 Placemaking is fundamental to the successful delivery of both the RLDP and the aspirations of PPW 11. Implementation of PPW 11's Placemaking Outcomes will ensure development allocated within the Plan contributes positively towards building sustainable places that support active and healthy lifestyles, with urban neighbourhoods that are compact and walkable, organised around mixed-use centres and public transport, and integrated with green infrastructure. The Council is equally committed to the Placemaking Wales Charter and its aims for development of high-quality places for the benefit of communities. The Charter outlines six placemaking principles (people and community, movement, public realm, location, mix of uses and identity) that cover the range of considerations that contribute to establishing and maintaining good places. These principles have also both informed and are embedded within the RLDP.
- 4.2 Policy SP3 of the RLDP includes two overarching criteria to ensure the principles of Good Design and Sustainable Placemaking are enshrined within all development proposals across the County Borough, enabled through application of 14 more detailed criteria. This Policy represents the starting point for the assessment of all planning applications which are received by the Local Planning Authority. Policy SP3 stipulates that all development must contribute to creating high quality, attractive, sustainable places that support active and healthy lives and enhance the community in which they are located, whilst having full regard to the natural, historic and built environment. Policies PLA1-PLA5 of the RLDP detail the site-specific requirements for the mixed-use Strategic Development Sites in Regeneration Growth Areas and Sustainable Growth Areas. These detailed Thematic Policies are set within the

context of SP3 and will enable its implementation, in accordance with the Growth and Spatial Strategy identified within SP1 and Strategic Allocations identified within SP2.

- 4.3 The Strategic and Specific Policies of the RLDP form the framework for implementing and delivering the Council's Strategic Growth and Spatial Strategies and help to support the aims of PPW 11's Placemaking Outcomes. It is also imperative that placemaking principles are embedded into the RLDP (including strategic policies) to help achieve the delivery of PPW 11's Placemaking Outcomes.

5. PPW 11 Placemaking Outcomes Conformity Assessment

5.1 Table 1. below details the objective assessment undertaken to demonstrate that the RLDP makes a significant positive contribution towards delivering the 37 placemaking outcomes set out in PPW 11.

Table 1: PPW 11 Placemaking Outcomes Conformity Assessment

Placemaking Outcomes A Sustainable Place...	Spatial Strategy Areas												
	Affordable Housing	Minimising BMV	Active Travel	Employment	Infrastructure	Services & Facilities	Town Centre First	Recreation	Biodiversity Net Benefit	Circular Economy	Viability	Site Search Sequence	Proximity to Public Transport Hubs
Has resilient biodiversity and ecosystems		●	●		●			●	●			●	●
Has distinctive and special landscapes					●			●	●			●	
Has integrated green infrastructure			●	●	●	●		●	●			●	●
Has appropriate soundscapes									●				
Reduces environmental risks			●		●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●
Manages water resources naturally					●				●			●	
Has clean air			●		●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●
Reduces overall pollution			●		●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●
Is resilient to climate change	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●

Placemaking Outcomes A Sustainable Place...	Spatial Strategy Areas												
	Affordable Housing	Minimising BMV	Active Travel	Employment	Infrastructure	Services & Facilities	Town Centre First	Recreation	Biodiversity Net Benefit	Circular Economy	Viability	Site Search Sequence	Proximity to Public Transport Hubs
Has distinctive and special historic environments								●	●			●	
	Facilitating Accessible and Healthy Environments												
Has accessible and high-quality green space	●		●		●			●	●			●	●
Is accessible by means of active travel and public transport	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●
Is not car dependent	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●
Minimises the need to travel	●		●	●	●	●	●	●		●		●	●
Provides equality of access	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●
Feels safe and inclusive	●		●	●	●	●	●	●				●	●
Supports a diverse population	●		●	●	●	●	●	●				●	●
Has good connections	●		●	●	●	●	●	●				●	●

Placemaking Outcomes A Sustainable Place...	Spatial Strategy Areas												
	Affordable Housing	Minimising BMV	Active Travel	Employment	Infrastructure	Services & Facilities	Town Centre First	Recreation	Biodiversity Net Benefit	Circular Economy	Viability	Site Search Sequence	Proximity to Public Transport Hubs
Has convenient access to goods and services	●		●	●	●	●	●	●		●		●	●
Promotes physical and mental health and well-being	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●
	Making Best Use of Resources												
Makes best use of natural resources		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●
Prevents waste										●		●	
Prioritises the use of previously developed land and existing buildings		●		●		●	●				●	●	
Unlocks potential and regenerates		●	●	●	●	●	●				●	●	●
Is of high quality and built to last	●		●		●	●	●				●	●	●
	Growing Our Economy in a Sustainable Manner												
Fosters economic activity	●		●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●
Enables easy communication	●			●	●	●	●	●				●	

Placemaking Outcomes A Sustainable Place...	Spatial Strategy Areas												
	Affordable Housing	Minimising BMV	Active Travel	Employment	Infrastructure	Services & Facilities	Town Centre First	Recreation	Biodiversity Net Benefit	Circular Economy	Viability	Site Search Sequence	Proximity to Public Transport Hubs
Generates its own renewable energy				●	●							●	
Is vibrant and dynamic	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Is adaptive to change	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Embraces smart and innovative technology	●			●	●	●	●			●		●	
	Creating and Sustaining Communities												
Enables the Welsh language to thrive					●	●	●	●					
Has appropriate development densities	●			●	●	●	●				●	●	
Has homes and jobs to meet society's needs	●			●	●	●	●				●	●	
Has a mix of uses	●			●	●	●	●				●	●	
Offers cultural experiences					●	●	●	●				●	
Has community-based facilities and services	●		●		●	●	●	●				●	●

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 This Assessment has demonstrated that the RLDP is in general conformity and supports delivery of PPW 11's Placemaking Outcomes, providing a sound framework for placemaking-led sustainable development in the County Borough. The RLDP Spatial Strategy ensures development is located in areas that are within close proximity to existing facilities and services, are capable of accommodating additional growth and contain the necessary infrastructure to allow residents to meet their needs through sustainable means of travel. The Spatial Strategy utilises a placemaking approach to ensure new development can come forward with necessary infrastructure improvements, including transport networks, utilities, green infrastructure, health, education, affordable housing and social facilities.
- 6.2 Sustainable Placemaking is fundamental to the successful delivery of both the RLDP and the aspirations of PPW 11. By demonstrating accordance with the National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes, the RLDP ensures that development contributes positively towards building sustainable places. This principle supports active and healthy lifestyles, through urban neighbourhoods that are compact and walkable, organised around mixed-use centres and public transport, and integrated with green infrastructure.