

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

Scoping Report

Vale of Glamorgan Council

June 2022

Quality information

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 AECOM is commissioned to lead on Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) in support of Vale of Glamorgan Council's (the Council) Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP). The ISA fulfils the requirements and duties for Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA) and Well-being of Future Generations (WBFG).
- 1.2 ISA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely effects of an emerging plan, and alternatives in terms of key sustainability issues. The aim of ISA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating negative impacts and maximising positive impacts. Through this approach, the ISA for the replacement LDP (RLDP) seeks to maximise the developing plan's contribution to sustainable development.

Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan

- 1.3 The Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011 - 2026 (LDP) was adopted on the 28th June 2017 and sets out the Council's planning framework for the development and use of land in Vale of Glamorgan from that date, until superseded. In accordance with statutory requirements the LDP has been monitored on an annual basis with three Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs) published to date.¹
- 1.4 To ensure that Local Development Plans (LDP) are kept up to date, Section 69 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a Local Planning Authority to undertake a full review of a LDP at least once every four years following plan adoption.
- 1.5 Accordingly, in June 2021 the Vale of Glamorgan Council commenced its formal review of the adopted LDP, with the draft Review Report having been made available for consultation between the 5th November 2021 and 31st January 2022. The Review Report considered the effectiveness of the adopted LDP and recommended that a full revision of the LDP is undertaken.
- 1.6 The Vale of Glamorgan RLDP formally commenced on the 4th May 2022 following the Welsh Government's approval of the RLDP Delivery Agreement, which includes the timetable and Community Involvement Scheme. The RLDP will set out the Council's objectives and priorities for the development and use of land within the authority for the period 2021 to 2036. The area covered by the RLDP is shown in **Figure 1.1** overleaf.

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

Figure 1.1 Vale of Glamorgan Council administrative area



ISA explained

- 1.7 ISA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely effects of an emerging plan, and alternatives in terms of key sustainability issues. The aim of ISA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating negative impacts and maximising positive impacts. Through this approach, the ISA for the RLDP seeks to maximise the developing plan's contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.8 As identified above, the ISA seeks to fulfil the requirements and duties for SA, SEA, EqIA, HIA, WLIA and WCFG. The approach is to fully integrate these components to provide a single assessment process to inform the development of the RLDP. A description of each of the various components and their purposes is provided below.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

- 1.9 SA is undertaken to address the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations). SA is a legal requirement for Local Development Plans under Section 39 (2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 1.10 In line with the requirements of the SEA Directive, the two key steps in SA are that:
- When deciding on 'the scope and level of detail of the information' which must be included in the SA Report there is a consultation with nationally designated authorities concerned with environmental issues; and
 - A report (the 'SA Report') is published for consultation alongside the Draft Plan that presents an assessment of the Draft Plan (i.e., discusses 'likely significant effects' that would result from plan implementation) and reasonable alternatives.
- 1.11 The Development Plans Manual Edition 3 (2020) states that SA, incorporating SEA, plays an important part in demonstrating that the LDP is sound by ensuring that it reflects sustainable development objectives and that it should be an integral element at each stage of plan-making.

Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

- 1.12 As a public-sector organisation, the Vale of Glamorgan Council has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 and associated Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to ensure that the objectives and policy options within the RLDP avoid unlawful discrimination (direct and indirect), as well as advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between those with protected characteristics and all others.
- 1.13 In March 2021 the Socio-economic Duty Act commenced, which compliments the Equalities Act and PSED by further contributing towards Wales' long term well-being goals, in particular "A more equal Wales" and "A Wales of cohesive

communities”. Further strengthening social partnership arrangements and advancing fair work ambitions.²

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

Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

- 1.15 The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 contains a provision to require a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to be carried out to assess the likely effect of the proposed development plan on health and mental well-being and inequality. The HIA process provides a systematic yet flexible and practical framework that can be used to consider the wider effects of LDP policies and how they, in turn, may affect people’s health.

Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA)

- 1.16 The Welsh Government is committed to supporting the Welsh Language so that it can thrive and grow across Wales. The Welsh Language must be considered from the outset of the development plan process. It is a legislative requirement that the SA must include an assessment of the likely effects of the plan on the use of the Welsh language (The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 (Section 11)).
- 1.17 Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (February 2021) (PPW) sets the policy requirements for Welsh language. Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and the Welsh Language provides guidance on the consideration of Welsh language as part of the development plan process. The TAN provides advice on incorporating the Welsh language in development plans through the SA and the policy approach to anticipated windfall development. In summary, planning authorities must consider the likely effects of their development plans as part of the SA process and include a statement within the Deposit Plan on how this has been considered and/or addressed within the development plan. The SA process is the mechanism for considering how the scale and location of growth, the vision, objectives, policies, and proposals individually and in combination, impact on the Welsh language. Where evidence indicates a detrimental impact on the use of the Welsh language the LPA can assess whether the strategy should be amended, or mitigation measures should be identified.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

- 1.18 The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 sets out the definition of sustainable development for the planning system in Wales, mirroring the definition in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFGA).
- 1.19 *“Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals”.*
- 1.20 The WBFGA sets seven well-being goals which all public bodies are required to achieve:

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

- A prosperous Wales.
 - A resilient Wales.
 - A healthier Wales.
 - A more equal Wales.
 - A Wales of cohesive communities.
 - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language; and
 - A globally responsible Wales.
- 1.21 The Act identifies five ways of working which public bodies need to demonstrate they have carried out when undertaking their duty to achieve sustainable development. These are: involvement, collaboration, integration, prevention, and long-term factors. The well-being goals and the five ways of working can be used to inform and structure the ISA framework (see Appendix A).
- 1.22 Adding to this, Chapter 2.9 of PPW states that *“the most appropriate way to implement these requirements through the planning system is to adopt a placemaking approach to plan making, planning policy and decision making”*.
- 1.23 The PPW sets out the following key planning principles, which focus on sustainable development and placemaking:
- Growing our economy in a sustainable manner.
 - Making best use of resources.
 - Facilitating accessible and healthy environments.
 - Creating and sustaining communities; and
 - Maximising environmental protection and limiting environmental impact.

Approach to scoping for the ISA

- 1.24 Developing the draft scope has involved the following steps:
- Exploring the national, regional, and local policy context for the ISA, i.e., reviewing high level messages (e.g., from government departments and agencies in particular) with a view to gaining an understanding of broadly what the ISA needs to focus on. It is considered that national policy documents sufficiently deal with higher level (international) policy context.
 - Establishing the baseline for the ISA, i.e., the current and further situation in the area in the absence of the RLDP, to help identify the plan’s likely significant effects.
 - Identifying particular problems or opportunities (‘issues’) that should be a particular focus of the ISA; and
 - Developing an ISA Framework comprising objectives and assessment questions based on these issues which can then be used to assess the RLDP and consider alternatives.

Structure of this report

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

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

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

1.27 It is intended that presenting the scoping information under these themes will help enable the reader to easily locate the information of greatest interest to them. Once agreed (i.e., after the current consultation), the suggested scope presented under ten themes will provide a methodological 'framework' for the assessment of the draft RLDP and alternatives. The discussion of the scoping information under each ISA theme is presented in **Chapters 2 to 11**.

³ The SEA Regulations are 'of a procedural nature' (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and do not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus on '*the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors*' [our emphasis]

2. Economy and employment

2.1 This theme focuses on local businesses, access to employment, tourism, education, and skill level.

Policy context

2.2 **Table 2.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the RLDP and ISA.

Table 2.1 Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to economy and employment

Document title	Year of publication
<u>Planning Wales Act</u>	2015
<u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act</u>	2015
<u>Environment (Wales) Act</u>	2016
<u>National Development Framework (Future Wales: The National Plan)</u>	2021
<u>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)</u>	2021
<u>Welsh Government Rural Development Programme</u>	2014
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 4: Retail and Commercial Development</u>	2016
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 13: Tourism</u>	1997
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 23: Economic Development</u>	2014
<u>Welsh Government Building Better Places</u>	2020
<u>Welsh Government: Smarter working: a remote working strategy for Wales.</u>	2022
<u>Placemaking Wales Placemaking Guide 2020</u>	2020
<u>Cardiff Airport and St Athan Enterprise Zone Strategy Plan 2018 to 2021</u>	2018
<u>Cardiff Capital Region and City Deal</u>	2016
<u>Prosperity for All: Economic Action Plan</u>	2017
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan</u>	2017
<u>Cardiff Airport and Gateway Development Zone SPG</u>	2019

Document title	Year of publication
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Coronavirus Recovery Strategy</u>	2020
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Tourism Strategy 2018 - 2020</u>	2018
<u>Vale of Glamorgan STEAM Report</u>	2021
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Wellbeing Assessment 2021 - Education and Economy Report</u>	2021
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Corporate Plan</u>	2020

2.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The RLDP will be required to be in general conformity with Future Wales, which forms part of the development plan hierarchy and sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use, providing a context for the provision of new infrastructure/ growth.
- Future Wales identifies 3 National Growth Areas within which the priorities for housing, economic development and investments are identified. These growth areas cover Wrexham and Deeside (North Wales), Swansea Bay and Llanelli (Mid and South West Wales) and Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys (South East Wales). Alongside these growth areas, Future Wales sets out national development policies for Wales as a whole.
- The Vale of Glamorgan falls within the South East Wales Growth Area (see **Figure 2.1** below) where Cardiff, Newport, and the Valleys are identified as priority areas for growth. Within the wider growth area, the focus is on strategic economic and housing growth; essential services and facilities; advanced manufacturing; transport and digital infrastructure. Key investment decisions will seek to support places in the National Growth Area and the wider region. Policy 36 (South Wales Metro) states that SDPs and LDPs “*should plan growth and regeneration to maximise the opportunities arising from better regional connectivity, including identifying opportunities for higher density, mixed use and car free development around new and improved metro stations.*”

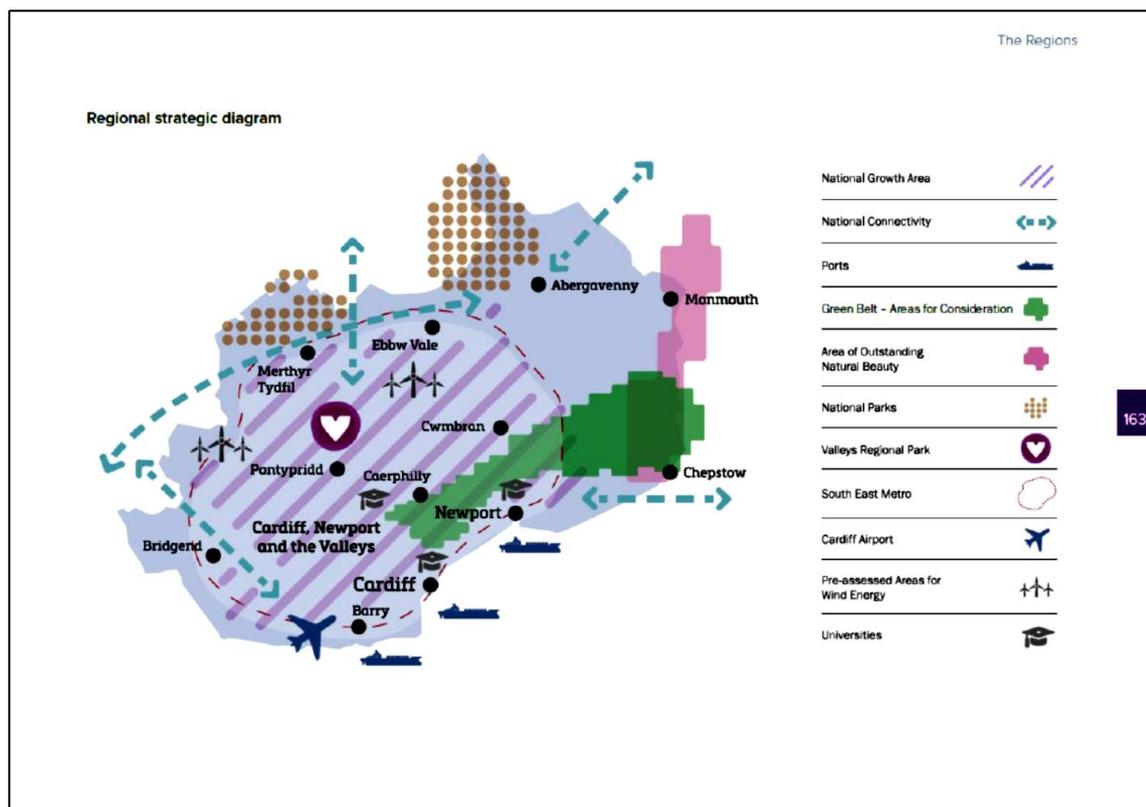


Figure 2.1 Future Wales – South East Wales Region Strategic Diagram

- More specific to the Vale of Glamorgan is the existing and future role of the Cardiff Airport and Bro Tathan Enterprise Zone, and the Port of Barry which are set out within Future Wales: *“Cardiff Airport is an essential part of Wales’ strategic transport infrastructure. It is an international gateway connecting Wales to the world and is an important driver within the Welsh economy. Cardiff Airport is located within the Cardiff Airport and Bro Tathan Enterprise Zone which offers opportunities for investment in the site and surrounding areas. The Enterprise Zone offers a wide range of development sites and business accommodation, providing opportunities for the development of bespoke facilities or investment in existing accommodation”* (page 82).
- “The region is served by ports at Newport, Cardiff and Barry. Each plays an important economic role and collectively they are key infrastructure within the region. Strategic and Local Development Plans should consider the role of the ports locally, regionally and nationally and establish frameworks to support their operation and potential expansion”* (page 173).
- Future Wales highlights the importance of the region’s connection with the Mid Wales and South West regions and the West of England region. Promoting accessibility and inter-linkages between these areas, based on an understanding of their roles and functions, will ensure these areas operate as a cohesive whole and do not compete against each other or take strategic decisions in isolation.
- National planning policy is set out in PPW, which predominately seeks to ensure planning decisions support economic and employment growth alongside social and environmental considerations within the context of sustainable development.

- PPW is supplemented by TANs and MTANs, which translate Welsh Government's commitment to sustainable development into the planning system, so that it can play an appropriate role in moving towards sustainability. The RLDP should aim to:
 - Co-ordinate development with infrastructure provision and support national, regional, and local economic policies and strategies.
 - Align jobs and services with housing, wherever possible, to reduce the need for travel, especially by car; and
 - Promote the re-use of previously developed vacant and underused land.
- The Welsh Government Smarter working: a remote working strategy for Wales sets out its plans to work with businesses, trade unions and key stakeholders to help more employers adopt a more agile and flexible approach within their workplace. The strategy sets a target for 30 per cent of the Welsh workforce to be working at or near to home by 2026 and explains how the government plans to embed remote working for the long-term in the Welsh workplace. The strategy highlights the economic opportunities and benefits of home and distance working including increasing employment opportunities particularly in rural and semi-rural communities, providing employers access to a wider and more diverse workforce and the potential to increase productivity and reduce sickness absences.
- The Cardiff Capital Region and City Deal (CCRCD) seeks to promote strong, sustainable, and balanced growth throughout the region, 'Powering the Welsh Economy'. The deal aims to encourage investment and create an equal opportunity environment within the ten local authorities and other key partners in its boundaries. The RLDP should set out policies and proposals for the promotion of sustainable growth within the area for the benefit of its resident population.
- The CCRCD will help to boost economic growth by improving transport links, increasing skills, helping people into work, and giving businesses the support, they need to grow. It will also establish strong governance across the region.
- The overall aim of the 2018-20 Tourism Strategy is to identify strategic tourism objectives, and subsequently identify all actions in targeting those key objectives, to make significant improvements to the visitor experience in the Vale of Glamorgan. The Council adopted the Cardiff Airport & Gateway Development Zone Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) in 2019 which will guide future development on the site, in line with strategic tourism (and wider economic) objectives.
- In September 2020, the Council published its Coronavirus Recovery Strategy⁴, which sets out the social, economic and well-being impacts that the pandemic has had on communities and setting out its key priorities and objectives. Of note to the RLDP and specifically this ISA theme, is the focus on green economic growth, employment, and infrastructure. This supports the Vale's Corporate Plan 2020-2025; notably objectives include supporting a 'well-educated and skilled population' and 'ensuring that individuals and communities are able to prosper and achieve their best'.

⁴ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2020): 'Coronavirus Recovery Strategy', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

Baseline summary

Regional context

- 2.4 The South East region comprises Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen and the Vale of Glamorgan and is the most populous region of Wales, with over 1.5 million residents. The region is the smallest of the four regions by area and includes the coastal cities of Cardiff and Newport and the former industrial heartlands of the South Wales valleys.⁵ The Vale of Glamorgan is identified as being within the wider growth area for the region although Cardiff, Newport, and the Valleys are identified as priority areas for growth in Future Wales (Policy 1).
- 2.5 The Vale of Glamorgan is regarded as an affluent and attractive area to live and work. Benefiting from its proximity to Cardiff and the wider region, the area is home to 14,320 businesses and industries. The Vale also has good road and rail links to the rest of Wales and the UK, as shown in **Figure 2.2** overleaf, and discussed further in **Chapter 7**.⁶
- 2.6 The CCRC is a £1.2 billion programme which was agreed in 2016 between the UK Government, the Welsh Government and the ten local authorities in South East Wales. Its aim is to bring about significant economic growth in the region through investment, upskilling and improved physical and digital connectivity.⁷ Notably, the new Metro transport system will improve the way people travel around the Cardiff Capital Region. It seeks to provide faster, more frequent and joined-up services throughout the region, using trains, buses and light rail.
- 2.7 Analysis of the Cardiff Capital Region labour market taken from the Cardiff and Vale College Labour Market Intelligence report forecasts that the biggest growth in jobs will be in the Information and Communication industry, with a 25% growth in 2018, followed by Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing at 13% growth respectively.⁸

⁵ Welsh Government (2021): 'Update to Future Wales: The National Plan 2040', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

⁶ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2020): 'Invest in the Vale of Glamorgan'

⁷ Office for the Secretary of State for Wales (2016)L 'City Deal: Cardiff Capital Region', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

⁸ Vale of Glamorgan PSB (2021): 'Wellbeing Assessment 2021 – Education and Employment'

Figure 2.2 Vale of Glamorgan economic links⁹

Existing employment (enterprise zones)

- 2.8 Vale of Glamorgan has a significant employment offer, with 900ha of existing employment sites. The largest proportion of employees in the Vale of Glamorgan are employed in the Human Health and Social Work industry at 20% (8,000 jobs), this is followed by Wholesale and Retail Trade at 12% (5,000 jobs), and Education and Accommodation and Food Service activities at 10% (4,000 jobs) respectively.¹⁰ The number of jobs available in the Vale of Glamorgan has remained largely consistent over the last 12 years.
- 2.9 **Figure 2.3** overleaf shows the location of existing employment sites in the Vale, specifically highlighting the Vale's '**Enterprise Zone**'. The Cardiff Airport and Bro Tathan Enterprise Zone was designated by the Welsh Government in 2013. It comprises of three distinct zones: Cardiff Airport, Bro Tathan aerospace business park (East and West) and the Land to the south of Port Road known as the Gateway Development Zone. The enterprise zone seeks to build upon and extend the aerospace and maintenance sector that has developed in and around the airport and the MOD base at St Athan.

Bro Tathan Aerospace Business Park

- 2.10 The Bro Tathan Aerospace Business Park has the development potential for up to 3 million sq. ft of employment floor space. It has airside access to support a range of civilian or military uses including Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO), manufacture, engine overhaul, Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) and Research and Development. The Aerospace Business Park is already home to major occupiers including Aston Martin Lagonda, eCube Solutions and Caerdav.

⁹ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2020): 'Invest in the Vale of Glamorgan'

¹⁰ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2021): 'Local Development Plan 2011-2026 3rd Annual Monitoring Report'

- 2.11 The Northern Access Road (NAR) has been completed and provides a high-quality direct access for new and existing businesses at the site. In addition, to support the continuing development at the Aerospace Business Park, the Welsh Government is currently preparing a development brief to guide development proposals at the Y Porth site.¹¹
- 2.12 In terms of education opportunities, there are long established links with Welsh universities and world class aerospace training providers that operate adjacent to the airport at the International Centre for Aerospace Training (ICAT).
- 2.13 Notably, the Welsh Government are currently exploring alternative and complimentary activities in the wider aviation market of maintenance, repair and operations (MRO).

Cardiff Airport

- 2.14 Located within the Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff Airport plays an important role both as an international gateway and as a major driver within the Welsh economy. Since its acquisition by the Welsh Government in 2013, the airport has increased its passenger numbers by over 65%.¹² However, 2020 has been particularly challenging for Cardiff Airport with two operators ceasing trading along with the implications of COVID 19 travel restrictions. Passenger numbers in 2020 were just under 220,000, a decrease of 87% on 2019.¹³ The Civil Aviation Authority reported this to be the largest decline in any UK airport. Ambitious plans are underway to develop the airport over the next 20 years, with indicative masterplanning proposing a new terminal.¹⁴ Further information related to Cardiff Airport is presented in **Chapter 7**.
- 2.15 The Council adopted the Cardiff Airport & Gateway Development Zone Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) in 2019 which will guide future development on the site.

Land south of Port Road (Gateway Development Zone)

- 2.16 This site is an employment and transport strategic site, with new transport infrastructure and employment opportunities identified, capitalising upon the Airport's strategic and regional importance in terms of attracting inward investment and creating jobs.
- 2.17 An outline planning application (2019/00871/OUT refers) in relation to the allocated employment land south of Port Road comprising 44.75 hectares of B1, B2 and B8 business park, associated car parking, drainage infrastructure, biodiversity provision and ancillary works together with a country park extension was quashed in the high court in October 2021. A resubmitted application is currently being considered by the council under the same application number.
- 2.18 There is currently a 'holding direction' from Welsh Government on Model Farm that prevents the Council from issuing a decision on the site. However, once the Council has finished its assessment process, the Government will make a decision whether or not to call the site in.

¹¹ Welsh Government (2020): 'Bro Tathan Development Brief', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹² Vale of Glamorgan Council (2021): 'Local Development Plan 2011-2026 3rd Annual Monitoring Report'

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Cardiff Airport (2021): 'Our Airport Masterplan 2040', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

Existing employment (sites)

2.19 **Table 2.2** overleaf lists the existing employment sites within the Vale of Glamorgan, which can also be seen spatially on **Figure 2.3** overleaf. Outside of the enterprise zones, the Chemical Complex is the largest employment location (in terms of ha), followed by Barry Docks.

2.20 The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) Employment Domain illustrates that while employment opportunities are typically strong in the Vale of Glamorgan, there are some areas, most notably in the East of Barry where these employment opportunities are not as strong, or where people struggle to access these employment opportunities.¹⁵

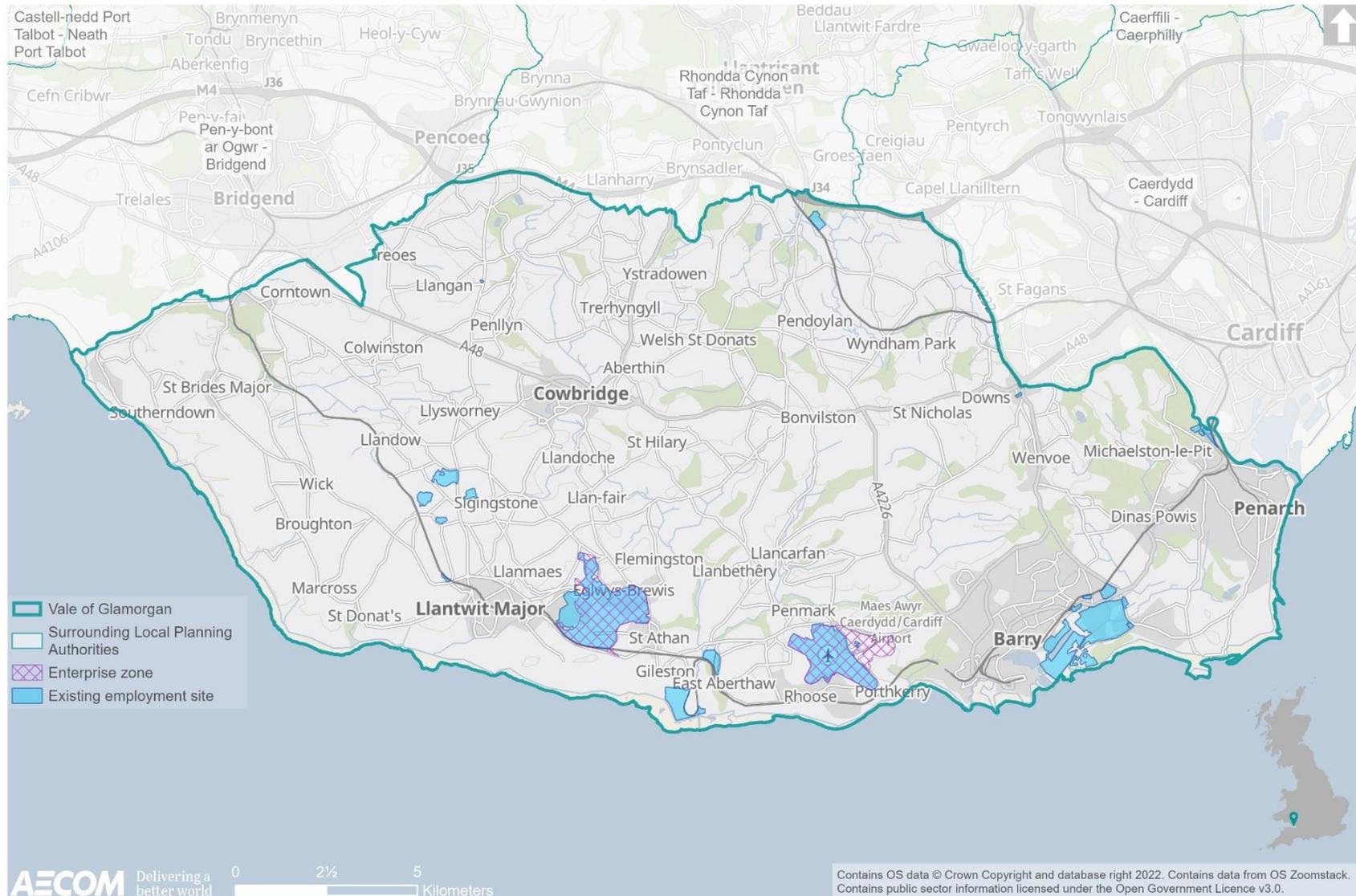
Table 2.2 Vale of Glamorgan employment sites

Employment site	Size (ha)
MOD, St Athan	331.0
Cardiff Airport, Rhoose	209.9
The Chemical Complex, Barry	119.4
Barry Docks, Barry	76.2
Aberthaw Power Station, West Aberthaw	44.6
Vale Business Park, Llandow	23.6
Aberthaw Cement Works, East Aberthaw	16.5
Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry	14.8
Renishaw, Land South of Junction 34, M4	11.9
Llandow Trading Estate, Llandow	11.5
Ty-Verlon Industrial Estate, Barry	11.4
Dyffryn Business Park, Llandow	6.7
Llandough Trading Estate, Llandough (Penarth)	5.3
West Point Industrial Estate, Llandough (Penarth)	5.2
Llandow Trading Estate (South), Llandow	4.3
Cardiff Road Business Park, Barry	3.3
Sully Moors Industrial Estate, Barry	3.1
Palmerston Trading Estate, Barry	2.2
Vale Enterprise Centre, Barry	1.8

¹⁵ Vale of Glamorgan County Borough (2021): 'Local Development Plan 2011-2026 3rd Annual Monitoring Report'

Employment site	Size (ha)
Heritage Business Park, Llantwit Major	1.7
St Hilary Business Park, Culverhouse Cross	1.2
Airport Business Park, Rhoose	1.1
West Winds Industrial Estate, Fferm Goch	0.5

Figure 2.3 Vale of Glamorgan employment sites and enterprise zones



Employment rates

2.21 The headline Labour Market Overview (LMO) estimates are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). As shown in **Figure 2.4** below, the latest LMO indicates that the employment rate in Wales was 74.1% of those aged 16-64 between January and March 2022. In comparison, the UK employment rate was 75.7% during the same period.

2.22 **Figure 2.4** shows that employment rates in Wales have dropped since 2018, with a considerable decrease in 2020, which is likely to be a result of the coronavirus pandemic. However, figures for 2022 show an increase since 2020, which matches the general trend seen for the UK overall.

Figure 2.4 Employment Rate (percentage of population age 16-64)¹⁶



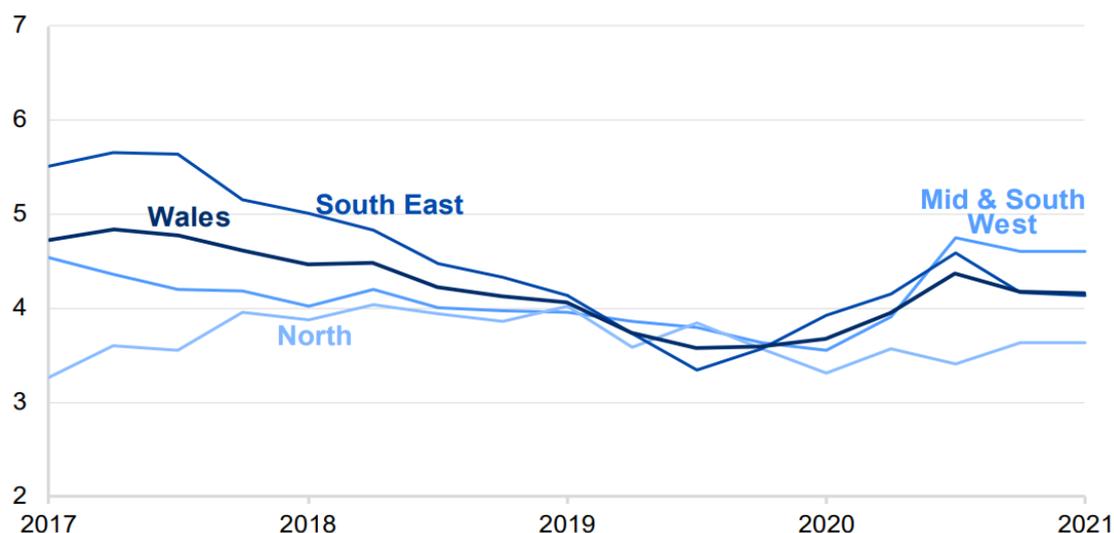
2.23 While the ONS data prepared by 'nomis' is not directly comparable with the LFS data above, the most recent nomis data for the Vale of Glamorgan (January 2020 – December 2020) shows a gradual decrease in employment rates. 77.6% (60,900) of the Vale of Glamorgan population are identified as being economically active, which is greater than the overall Wales figure of 75.7%.¹⁷

2.24 In terms of unemployment, **Figure 2.5** overleaf shows unemployment rate by economic region compared to the overall rate for Wales. Before the end of 2019, the unemployment rate remained consistently higher in South East Wales than the other regions. In 2021, the unemployment rate increased in all three economic regions in Wales compared with the previous year, although South East Wales had the smallest increase, up by 7.4%. Also in 2021, Mid and South West Wales had a higher unemployment rate than South East Wales, and North Wales maintains the lowest unemployment rate. The overall trend for Wales and the three economic regions is a decrease in unemployment over the past four years.

¹⁶ Welsh Government (2022): 'Labour market overview: May 2022', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹⁷ Vale of Glamorgan County Borough (2021) Local Development Plan 2011-2026 3rd Annual Monitoring Report

Figure 2.5 Unemployment rate by economic region (percentage of economically inactive population)¹⁸



- 2.25 As with employment rates, the percentage of the economically inactive people within the Vale of Glamorgan mirrors the declining national picture. Nomis data indicates that in March 2021 5.4%, (4,310 people) in the Vale of Glamorgan were unemployed, compared to the Welsh average of 5.9% and the UK average of 6.5%.¹⁹
- 2.26 The percentage of people who are self-employed in the Vale of Glamorgan has fluctuated over the last 15 years, with considerable falls following the recession starting in 2007. In December 2020, the percentage of people who were self-employed in the Vale of Glamorgan was 8.4%, below both the Welsh average of 9.3% and the Great Britain average of 9.9%.²⁰

Covid-19

- 2.27 The Wales Centre for Public Policy estimate that 42% of the UK's economy has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. While the economic impact of the pandemic has hit people across the UK there are indications that the labour market shocks associated with the pandemic have been felt more by young people and the lowest paid. Five LSOAs in the Vale of Glamorgan are ranked in the top 10% most deprived (a rank of 191 or below) LSOAs in Wales according to the Income Domain; all are in Barry.²¹ Deprivation levels throughout the Vale are discussed further in **Chapter 5**.
- 2.28 During the pandemic, within three months the employment rate in the Vale of Glamorgan fell by 1.8% (March 2020 from December 2019). Although all industry sectors have been affected by the pandemic, the Service Sector, in particular 'customer facing' services such as Accommodation and Food Services activities, have been particularly affected.²²
- 2.29 StatsWales have indicated a large increase in the benefit claimant count rate in Wales since February 2020. Whilst not everyone claiming these benefits will be

¹⁸ Welsh Government (2022): 'Labour market overview: May 2022', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Vale of Glamorgan PSB (2021) p18, Wellbeing Assessment 2021 – Education and Employment

²² Ibid.

unemployed, there was an 87.7% increase of people claiming Universal Credit in early March 2021 compared to February 2020.²³

Broadband

- 2.30 As evidenced by the pandemic, availability and access to good internet coverage has become increasingly important to our daily lives. The take up of high-speed broadband infrastructure in Vale of Glamorgan is the highest in Wales.²⁴
- 2.31 At the height of the pandemic, it was estimated that as many as 40% of people were working from home.²⁵ Data from WIMD 2019 provides an insight into the quality of broadband availability across the Vale of Glamorgan. LSOAs in towns such as Barry, Penarth and Cowbridge show high availability of broadband at 30mbps and LSOAs in more rural areas show poorer availability. It is estimated that 27% of homes in Rhose, 3 in the Western Vale cannot receive broadband at 30 mb, while it is estimated that 25% of homes in Sully, 2 in the Eastern Vale cannot access broadband at these speeds. The Vale of Glamorgan council is working with the Welsh Government through the 'local broadband fund' to improve internet access in some areas where infrastructure is more difficult to establish.

Education

- 2.32 The Vale offers access to a range of education facilities, reflecting the diverse nature of the authority. Larger dual-entry Primary schools are seen in more urban areas while relatively small schools are often located in more rural areas (see **Figure 2.6** overleaf). Secondary schools are predominately located in major towns, while one Welsh medium middle school (ages 3-19) is in Barry. There is one Local Authority maintained Special School which is in Penarth.
- 2.33 There are three independent schools located in the Vale of Glamorgan, including the United World College of the Atlantic (Atlantic College) located in St Donats. There is one further education institution, Cardiff and Vale College in the county, with campuses located in Barry and the Cardiff Airport and Bro Tathan Enterprise Zone.
- 2.34 The location of schools in and near the Vale are shown overleaf in **Figure 2.6**. Schools are focussed near the Vale's urban centres, with less provision in rural areas. Vale of Glamorgan residents also have reasonable access to schools in neighbouring local authority areas. **Figure 2.6** shows an abundance of schools in Bridgend to the west of the Vale, and Cardiff to the east. Comparatively, there are relatively few schools in Rhondda Cynon Taf to the north.
- 2.35 Specifically, within the Vale, school provision includes:
- Two Local Authority maintained Nursery Schools.
 - 44 Local Authority maintained Primary Schools (38 English Medium / 6 Welsh Medium).
 - One Local Authority maintained Welsh Medium middle school (ages 3 to 19).

²³ Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council (2021) Local Development Plan 2011-2026 3rd Annual Monitoring Report

²⁴ Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council (2021) Local Development Plan 2011-2026 3rd Annual Monitoring Report

²⁵ Ibid.

- Seven Local Authority maintained Secondary Schools; and
- One Local Authority maintained Special School.

Figure 2.6 Schools within and adjoining Vale of Glamorgan



2.36 In terms of further education, several institutions are within one hour drive time of the Vale as follows:

- Universities:
 - Cardiff University.
 - Cardiff Metropolitan University.
 - Swansea University; and
 - University of South Wales.
- Colleges
 - Bridgend College.
 - Cardiff & Vale College.
 - Coleg Y Cymoedd.
 - Gower College Swansea.
 - Neath Port Talbot College; and
 - UWC Atlantic College, St Donats.

2.37 Relevant headline findings in the Vale of Glamorgan Well-being Assessment (2021) include:

- The Vale of Glamorgan has one of the highest levels of people qualified to NVQ level 4 and above in Wales; although differences exist across the Vale of Glamorgan with LSOAs in Barry recording a higher proportion of people aged 16-64 with no qualifications than LSOAs in the Eastern and Western Vale.
- Across all years of apprenticeships started, the majority of apprenticeships have been in the Health Care and Public Services Sector, with Health and Social Care and Management and Professional the next largest sectors.
- There is an evident split in apprenticeships started by gender and sector. Females make-up the majority of Healthcare and Public Services and Health and Social Care Apprenticeships started in the Vale of Glamorgan. For males, the sectors with the largest number of apprenticeships started are Engineering, Construction, Management and Professional and Management sectors.
- 17% of employers in South East Wales either had apprenticeships or currently offered apprenticeships. Of these employers offering apprenticeships, 72% that had recruited people specifically as apprentices in the last three years had retained at least one of their apprentices after their apprenticeship had finished.

Retail

2.38 The national retail sector continues to experience difficult times. Many well-known high street retailers have gone into administration and many others have scaled back their presence on the high street and changed their emphasis to favour digital sales platforms. Subsequently, there has been a continued

decrease in retail floorspace within the authority's town and district centres which represents a 5.05% reduction since 2017.

- 2.39 **Table 2.3** overleaf shows the general trend seen of increasing vacancy rates, particularly in the Vale's town centres. Notably, vacancy rates within Barry and Llantwit Major have dropped since 2011, while rates within Penarth and Cowbridge have increased. **Table 2.3** shows the highest average vacancy rate for the Vale of Glamorgan was recorded last in 2020. The survey for this period was undertaken in August 2020 during Covid-19 lockdown restrictions which had a detrimental impact upon the vibrancy, vitality and attractiveness of retail centres. However, in the most recent retail survey undertaken in June 2021 vacancy rates in all centres have dropped from the previous year reducing the average vacancy rate to 6.96%.
- 2.40 Vacancy rates overall for the Vale have decreased slightly since 2011, while overall vacancy rates in Wales and the UK have increased.
- 2.41 **Table 2.3** further shows that the vacancy rate for the UK had risen to 14.1% in 2021, whilst the vacancy rate for Wales is 19.2% (1 in every 7 shops is vacant in Wales). Comparatively, the Vale of Glamorgan vacancy data shows the retail centres within the Vale of Glamorgan have begun to recover from the impact of lockdown restrictions in Wales.
- 2.42 However, there have been rises in other commercial floorspace such as leisure and office floorspace, demonstrating that town and district retail centres are diversifying from the traditional A1 retail uses in part as a response to changing shopping habits. This is also reflective of the changes made to national planning policy which also promote retail and commercial centres as hubs for social and economic activity and the focal point for a diverse range of services which support the needs of local communities.

Table 2.3 Vacancy rates in the Vale of Glamorgan²⁶

Average vacancy rates

Year	High Street, Barry	Holton Road, Barry	Cowbridge Town centre	Llantwit Major Town centre	Penarth Town centre	VOG Town Centres	Wales	UK
2012	12.3%	15.8%	3%	5%	1%	7.4%	18%	14.6%
2013	17.5%	8.7%	2.8%	4.9%	1.6%	7.1%	17%	11.9%
2014	10.3%	12.5%	8.3%	9.2%	5.8%	9.2%	17.9%	10.3%
2015	10.9%	7.6%	7.8%	3.9%	5.3%	7.1%	15.5%	13.3%
2016	9.7%	8%	10.8%	5.8%	3.5%	7.6%	12.1%	9.5%
2017	8.8%	14%	8.3%	9%	4%	8.8%	12.5%	9.4%
2018	10.4%	13.9%	12.90%	4%	5.17%	9.27%	15.4%	8.9%
2019	4.8%	17.65%	11.96%	7.92%	5.14%	9.49%	13.4%	10.3%
2020	7.3%	16.04%	17.3%	3.96%	3.43%	9.61%	15.9%	12.2%
2021	4%	13.98%	11.6%	2.97%	2.25%	6.96%	19.2%	14.1%

²⁶ Vale of Glamorgan retail monitoring data 2011 - 2021

Tourism

- 2.43 Located within the most populated area of Wales and in close proximity to Cardiff, the Vale of Glamorgan is well situated in terms of its catchment area for both day visitors and also as a base for visitors wishing to explore South Wales.
- 2.44 The Vale has a range of attractions for tourists that utilise the natural environment to improve the area's economic well-being. This includes the Glamorgan Heritage Coast, the Wales Coast Path and well-established seaside resorts; attractive countryside and country parks; unique historic features; several outdoor pursuit activities; and a well-established network of walking routes.
- 2.45 Barry Island seafront and Whitmore Bay are recognised as one of the main tourist destinations within the Vale of Glamorgan. The resort is well known throughout the South Wales Valleys, South West England and the West Midlands from which historically a high proportion of visitors were drawn. The resort's main attractions include the beach, Barry Island Pleasure Park, other smaller attractions and numerous amusements, cafes and bars. Despite having to face major market changes and ever increasing demands the area still attracts an estimated 424,000 visitors with an economic value of £17.m²⁷
- 2.46 The economic contribution of the tourism sector has been growing year on year in Vale of Glamorgan; however, in 2020 data suggests the economic impact of the sector had fallen by 45.1% (see **Figure 2.7**). This has coincided with a 45.3% fall in the number of full-time equivalent jobs employed in the sector. It also shows the total day visitors saw a decrease of 68% from 2019 to 2020 (an approximate loss of 1.89 million visitors).²⁸ This widespread significant negative trend seen in 2020 from 2019 is accredited to the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent closure of businesses and intermittent lockdowns.²⁹
- 2.47 As shown in **Figure 2.7**, for all indicators, data for 2020 does not reflect trends from previous years, which showed a continual increase in visitor numbers, visitor days, employment and overall economic impact from 2013 – 2019. It is considered that as the Vale recovers from the pandemic, trends will increase to meet and exceed growth seen pre-pandemic.

²⁷ STEAM (2019)

²⁸ Cathy James (2021) Global Tourism Solutions (UK) Ltd STEAM trends Vale of Glamorgan

²⁹ Cathy James (2021) Global Tourism Solutions (UK) Ltd STEAM trends Vale of Glamorgan

Figure 2. 7 Vale of Glamorgan tourism indicators (percentage change 2009 to 2020) ³⁰

% Change from 2009	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Economic Impact - Historic Prices		6.7%	0.0%	1.1%	15.6%	22.4%	29.6%	30.7%	42.1%	52.2%	62.2%	-45.1%
Visitor Numbers		2.3%	-13.0%	-15.1%	-2.6%	-0.3%	5.3%	5.5%	10.8%	13.6%	15.1%	-63.5%
Visitor Days		2.1%	-9.2%	-10.6%	-1.3%	0.8%	5.8%	5.8%	10.9%	13.7%	15.8%	-63.0%
Total Employment		2.3%	-8.6%	-8.8%	-0.7%	-5.8%	-0.4%	-0.4%	2.2%	2.3%	7.9%	-45.3%

Regeneration of Barry

- 2.48 The town of Barry continues to be transformed through major regeneration projects in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council. Historic landmark buildings are being brought back into successful commercial use, alongside new investment in the seafront and waterfront areas of the town.³¹
- 2.49 The comprehensive regeneration of the 100-acre waterfront site has delivered a new road link to Barry Island, connecting this tourism hotspot with the development. The regeneration of the Waterfront has so far seen the development of around 1600 new homes alongside private investment in a new hotel, retail leisure and commercial ventures.³² Agriculture
- 2.50 The Agricultural and Food sector is not only important economically in Wales, but also culturally; this is especially true in the Vale of Glamorgan. It is anticipated that sheep farming, which along with cattle farming is the dominant farming type in the Vale of Glamorgan, may become less economically viable due to the changes in market access and public funding restrictions.³³
- 2.51 As of 2019, 700 people in the Vale of Glamorgan were employed in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector. This only represents 1.6% of the working population (42,800 people)³⁴.

Future baseline

- 2.52 Certain sectors are more susceptible to the effects of unemployment in the Vale, including the manufacturing and service sectors. Overall predictions for 2040 indicate that employment rates in the authority will drop by approximately 6%. This has the potential to be exacerbated by infrastructure that is poorly connected to key service centres and fails to offer increased opportunities for employment overall.
- 2.53 While the number of jobs available in the Vale of Glamorgan has remained largely consistent over the last decade, the Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on the need for employment land and premises. Town and district retail centres are diversifying from the traditional A1 retail uses in part as a response to changing shopping habits. This is reflective of the changes made to national planning policy which also promote retail and commercial centres as hubs for social and economic activity and the focal point for a diverse range of services which support the needs of local communities. The increase in non-retail uses

³⁰ Cathy James (2021): 'Global Tourism Solutions (UK) Ltd STEAM trends Vale of Glamorgan'

³¹ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2020): 'Invest in the Vale of Glamorgan'

³² Ibid.

³³ Vale of Glamorgan PSB (2021): 'Wellbeing Assessment 2021 – Education and Employment'

³⁴ Welsh Government (2019): 'Workplace employment by Welsh local areas and broad industry', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

in all retail centres reflects their changing role nationally and is likely to be an ongoing trend.

2.54 The Welsh Government's commitment for encouraging home and distance working to continue post pandemic provides opportunities for employment within rural and semi rural locations and potential increased demand for flexible work spaces within urban settlements.

2.55 Strategically, Cardiff Airport and Bro Tathan Enterprise Zone will assist in the delivery of significant aviation related economic growth not only in the Vale of Glamorgan but also in the wider Cardiff Capital Region. The City Deal presents significant opportunities to improve economic well-being across the region. The South Wales Metro development (discussed in **Chapter 6**) specifically has the potential to bring widespread changes to the local and regional economy that could be realised over a relatively short timeframe. The region's assets are its connections with the Mid Wales and South West Wales regions and the West of England region.

Key issues

2.56 The context review and baseline information informed the identification of several key issues (problems and opportunities):

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

capitalise on the economic opportunities created through home and distance working.

- The Vale has a range of attractions for tourists that utilise the natural environment to improve the area's economic well-being. It will be important for the Vale to utilise its assets in a sustainable way to ensure future social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being throughout communities is enhanced and the integrity of the assets maintained and improved.

ISA objectives

2.57 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the ISA should include the following objective and assessment questions:

ISA objectives	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Support a sustainable, diverse, and resilient economy, with innovative responses to changing conditions and support for a strong future workforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide sufficient land for businesses to grow and ensure alignment with housing/infrastructure? • Support the creation of accessible new jobs and facilitate home and distance working? • Support the Cardiff Airport and Bro Tathan Enterprise Zone, reflecting its regional importance in terms of attracting inward investment? • Ensure that town centres are considered first for new commercial, retail, education, health, leisure and public service facilities? • Ensure the capacity of educational facilities keep pace with population growth? • Enhance the vitality and resilience of town centre and retail centres, supporting diversification in line with changing needs? • Safeguard existing employment areas? • Create an attractive tourism destination? • Encourage sustainable development and quality facilities to enrich the experience for visitors and residents? • Promote a green economy and decarbonisation? • Ensure the economy grows in a sustainable manner? • Promote a prosperous Wales?

3. Population and communities

- 3.1 This theme focuses on the demographics and households of the population in Vale of Glamorgan, as well as deprivation, access to services and facilities.

Policy context

- 3.2 **Table 3.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the RLDP and ISA.

Table 3.1 Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to population and communities

Document title	Year of publication
<u>Planning Wales Act</u>	2015
<u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act</u>	2015
<u>Environment (Wales) Act</u>	2016
<u>National Development Framework (Future Wales: The National Plan)</u>	2021
<u>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)</u>	2021
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 2: Planning and Affordable Housing</u>	2006
<u>Technical advice Note (TAN) 6: Planning for sustainable rural communities</u>	2010
<u>Technical advice Note (TAN) 12: Design</u>	2016
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 20: Planning and the Welsh Language</u>	2017
<u>Placemaking Wales Charter</u>	2020
<u>Welsh Language Strategy</u>	2017
<u>Building Better Places: The Planning System Delivering Resilient and Brighter Futures</u>	2020
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan</u>	2017
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Wellbeing Assessment- Demographic Report</u>	2021
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Coronavirus Recovery Strategy</u>	2020
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Corporate Plan</u>	2020

Document title	Year of publication
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Local Housing Market Assessment</u>	2022
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment</u>	2016
<u>Barry Growth Programme</u>	2022
<u>Welsh Government Building Better Places</u>	2020
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment</u>	2016

3.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The RLDP will be required to be in general conformity with Future Wales, which sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use, providing a context for the provision of new infrastructure/ growth. Future Wales identifies the Vale of Glamorgan as falling within the South East Wales region, the smallest of the four regions by area, including the coastal cities of Cardiff and Newport and the former industrial heartlands of the south Wales valleys. Future Wales highlights the importance for the region's connections with the Mid Wales and South West regions and the West of England region. Promoting accessibility and inter-linkages between these areas, based on an understanding of their roles and functions, will ensure these areas operate as a cohesive whole and do not compete against each other or take strategic decisions in isolation. Supporting the Vale of Glamorgan as an area with essential services and facilities alongside digital infrastructure will have a beneficial impact on the local community.
- National planning policy is set out in PPW, which predominately seeks to ensure planning decisions support all aspects of well-being and deliver new development which is sustainable and provides for the needs of all people and communities
- PPW 11 contains the principles and policies which have a direct relevance to assist communities recover from the Covid 19 pandemic in a positive manner, putting placemaking at the heart of future development. The 'Building Better Places' guide pinpoints the most relevant policy priorities and actions to aid in the recovery, including "creating healthy, thriving active places with a focus on a positive, sustainable future for our communities".
- PPW is supplemented by TANs, which translate Welsh Government's commitment to sustainable development within the planning system so that it can play an appropriate role in moving towards sustainability. The primary objective of PPW is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development, and contributes positively towards improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. This is 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.

- The Welsh Language Standards place a requirement on Local authorities in Wales to produce a local Welsh Language Strategy that sets out how they will promote the use of the Welsh language and increase the number of Welsh speakers in their area. Based around the six themes identified nationally in the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Strategy: 'A living language: a language for living' the Welsh Language Strategy (2017) uses established national criteria but localises the information and targets to support the continuing success of the Welsh language in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- The Placemaking Wales Charter builds on the strengthening focus on placemaking in policy and practice in Wales and aims to provide a common understanding of the range of considerations that go into placemaking. Placemaking is about creating high quality development and public spaces which enhance communities and create healthy spaces.
- The charter outlines the following six placemaking principles that cover the range of considerations that contribute to establishing and maintaining good places:
 - **People and community:** The local community are involved in the development of proposals. The needs, aspirations, health and well-being of all people are considered at the outset. Proposals are shaped to help to meet these needs as well as create, integrate, protect and/or enhance a sense of community and promote equality.
 - **Movement:** Walking, cycling and public transport are prioritised to provide a choice of transport modes and avoid dependence on private motor vehicles. Well designed and safe active travel routes connect to the wider active travel and public transport network and public transport stations and stops are positively integrated.
 - **Location:** Places grow and develop in a way that uses land efficiently, supports and enhances existing places and are well connected. The location of housing, employment and leisure and other facilities are planned to help reduce the need to travel.
 - **Public realm:** Streets and public spaces are well defined, welcoming, safe and inclusive with a distinct identity. They are designed to be robust and adaptable with landscape, green infrastructure and sustainable drainage well integrated. They are well connected to existing places and promote opportunities for social interaction and a range of activities for all people.
 - **Mix of uses:** Places have a range of purposes which provide opportunities for community development, local business growth and access jobs, services and facilities via walking, cycling or public transport. Development density and a mix of uses and tenures helps to support a diverse community and vibrant public realm.
 - **Identity:** The positive, distinctive qualities of existing places are valued and respected. The unique features and opportunities of a location including heritage, culture, language, built and natural physical attributes are identified and responded to.

- The Cardiff Capital Region and City Deal seeks to promote strong, sustainable, and balanced growth throughout the region, committing to a partnership approach to housing and regeneration. The deal aims to encourage investment and create an equal opportunity environment within the ten local authorities and other key partners in its boundaries. The RLDP should set out policies and proposals for the promotion of sustainable growth within the area for the benefit of its resident population.
- Notably, the 21st Century Schools and Colleges programme is a major, long-term, strategic capital investment programme, funded by the Welsh Government and local authorities.
- The adopted Vale of Glamorgan LDP and other local policies and plans regarding socio economic issues broadly address the following objectives:
 - To provide the opportunity for people in the Vale of Glamorgan to meet their housing needs.
 - To ensure that development within the Vale of Glamorgan uses land effectively and efficiently.
 - To reinforce the vitality, viability and attractiveness of the Vale of Glamorgan’s town, district, local and neighbourhood shopping centres.
 - To reduce the need for Vale of Glamorgan residents to travel to meet their daily needs and enabling them greater access to sustainable forms of transport.
- The Barry Growth Programme (2022) sets out a spatial Masterplan and a 10-year investment plan for Barry. The Programme seeks to identify a range of sustainable regeneration, investment and development opportunities that could be realistically delivered over the next decade in Barry, an area including the town centre, Barry waterfront, the docks and Barry Island, along with Enterprise Zone employment land towards Cardiff Airport – all with a focus on improving equality, prosperity and economic growth potential for all communities in and by implication, around Barry, the Vale of Glamorgan and beyond.
- In 2020, the Council published its Coronavirus Recovery Strategy³⁵, which sets out the social, economic and well-being impacts that the pandemic has had on the Vale communities and setting out its key priorities for recovery. This supports the Vale’s Corporate Plan 2020 to 2025 and aligns with the Barry Growth Programme. Notably objectives include being ‘resilient, innovative and responsive to the needs of our communities’ and ‘ensuring people are safe at home and in the community’.

Baseline summary

Population overview

- 3.4 The latest mid-year estimate for the Vale of Glamorgan relates to 2020 which was released in June 2021 and estimated the population being 135,295 people. This results in a population density of 408.6 people per sq.km in comparison to 383 people per sq.km at the start of the plan period in 2011. This makes the

³⁵ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2020): ‘Coronavirus Recovery Strategy’, [online] available to access via [this link](#)

Vale of Glamorgan the 11th most populated local authority, and the 9th most dense local authority area in Wales.³⁶

- 3.5 There has been positive population growth in the Vale of Glamorgan each year since 2002, other than 2017. In the last five years, the population has grown by 5.4% or 7,315 people; a higher rate of growth than the change in the overall Welsh population in this period.³⁷
- 3.6 The population make-up of the Vale of Glamorgan reflects national (Wales) trends:
- In the Vale of Glamorgan, in 2020 it was estimated that most of the population; 60% (81,540) were aged 16-64. This compares to 61% for Wales as a whole.
 - It was estimated that 19% (24,917) of the Vale of Glamorgan's population were aged 0-15. This compared to 18% for Wales as a whole.
 - It was estimated that 21% (28,838) of the Vale of Glamorgan's population were aged 65 and over. This compares to 21% for Wales as a whole.
- 3.7 Like much of the country, the Vale of Glamorgan is experiencing an aging population. Population projections estimate that by 2036 the population aged 0-15 and 16-64 will decrease. The Vale of Glamorgan's Older People's Strategy (2013)³⁸ supports the objectives of the Welsh Government's Strategy for Older People, Phase 3 of which covers the period 2013 to 2023.
- 3.8 **Table 3.2** overleaf shows the growth of the population between 2015 and 2020 by age range. **Table 3.2** also shows the significant increase in the older population in the Vale since 2015.

³⁶ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2021) Well-being Assessment 2021 – Demographic Report

³⁷ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2021) Well-being Assessment 2021 – Demographic Report

³⁸ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2013): 'Older People's Strategy', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

Table 3.2 Vale of Glamorgan population growth 2015 - 2020³⁹

Age range	2015	2020	Percentage increase
0-15	23,683	24,917	5.1%
16-64	78,348	81,540	3.9%
65+	25,994	28,838	9.8%

3.9 In terms of the population's gender and age profile:⁴⁰

- In 2020 it was estimated that there were slightly more females (69,580 equating to 51%) than males (65,715 equating to 49%) living in the Vale of Glamorgan. This compares to 51% Females and 49% Males for Wales as a whole.
- Reflecting national trends, for the 0-15 and 16-64 age groups, the split between genders in the Vale of Glamorgan is almost 50:50.
- There is a greater gender split for those aged 65 and over; although this too reflects national trends, the difference in the Vale of Glamorgan is slightly more pronounced with an estimated 15,931 (55%) Females and 12,907 (45%) Males, compared to 54% Females and 46% Males for Wales as a whole.
- The growth of the older population group (65+ year olds) has been particularly prevalent in areas in the Western Vale, with an estimated 9,737 people aged 65 and over living in the Western Vale, a larger 65 and over population than Barry or the Eastern Vale.

Future Population Changes

3.10 The considerable growth seen in the population aged 65 and over is projected to continue. In 2018 people aged 65 and over made up 21% of the population in the Vale of Glamorgan, and this is expected to rise to 27% by 2043⁴¹, with a notable rise amongst those age 85 and over⁴². 2018 based population projections predict that the Vale of Glamorgan will experience the greatest increase in population aged 65 and over of all local authority areas in Wales.⁴³

3.11 **Figure 3.1** overleaf shows South East Wales population projections by local authority and year from 2018 – 2030, based on statistics from 2018. Vale of Glamorgan had the fifth lowest usual resident population in 2018, behind Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen and Monmouthshire; and is a trend which is predicted to continue into 2030 based on these statistics. However, this is largely due to the rurality and relative size of the Vale.

³⁹ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2021): 'Well-being Assessment 2021 – Demographic Report'

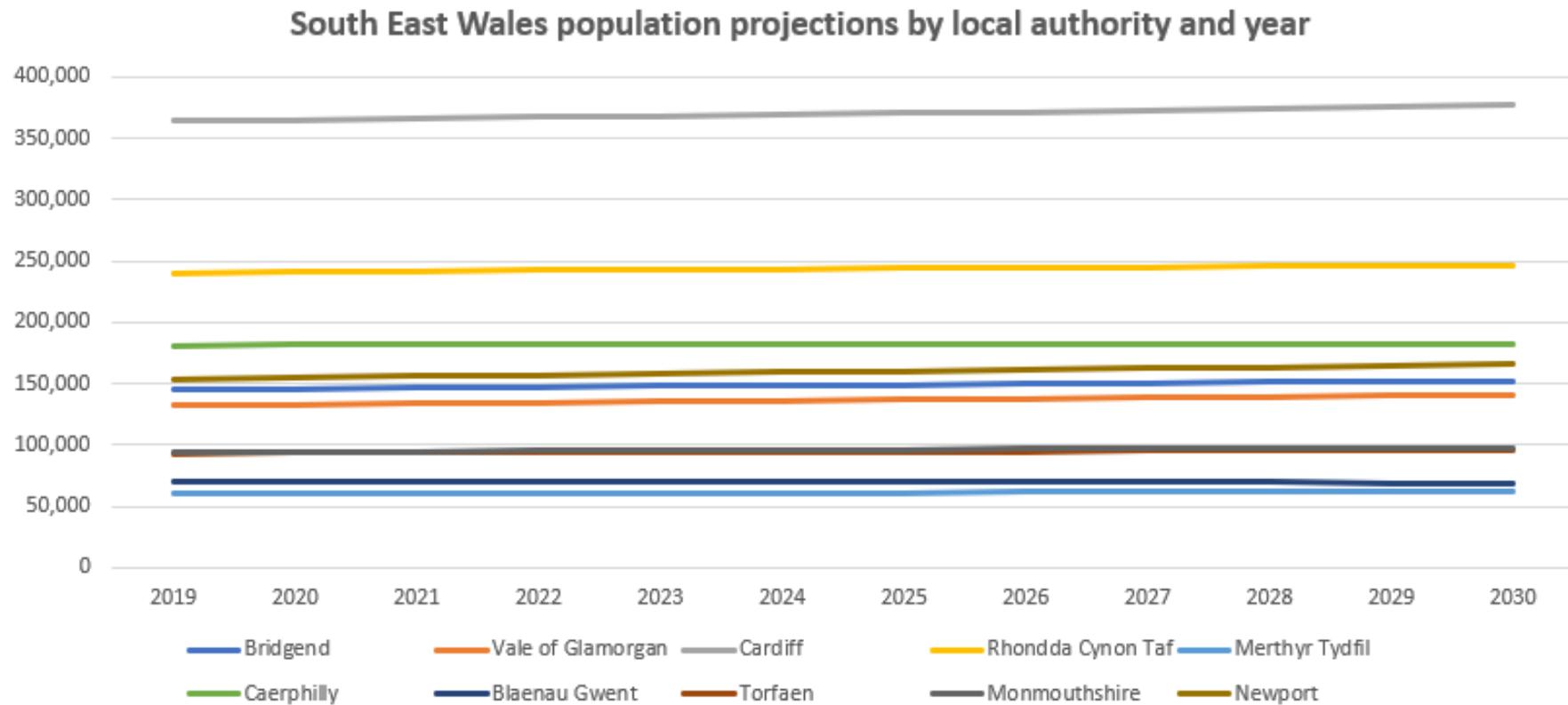
⁴⁰ Ibid

⁴¹ Cardiff and Vale Regional Partnership Board (2022): 'Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Population Needs Assessment 2022'

⁴² Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (2020): 'Re-imagining ageing into the future' Director of Public Health Annual Report 2019'

⁴³ Ibid

Figure 3.1 Population projections by local authority and year⁴⁴



⁴⁴ StatsWales (2018): 'Population projections by local authority and year', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

3.12 Despite having the fifth lowest usual resident population in 2018, **Table 3.3** below shows that the Vale is predicted to have the second fastest growing population in the South East behind Newport. This indicates that the population is growing at a comparatively high rate for its size, which may be due to a combination of an aging population and inward migration.

Table 3.3: Population projections ⁴⁵

Area	2021 - 2026	2026- 2031
Bridgend	1.73%	1.73%
Vale of Glamorgan	2.94%	2.26%
Cardiff	1.31%	1.79%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1.22%	1.01%
Merthyr Tydfil	1.22%	0.92%
Caerphilly	0.43%	0.25%
Blaenau Gwent	-0.34%	-0.35%
Torfaen	1.17%	0.94%
Monmouthshire	1.74%	1.44%
Newport	3.52%	2.79%

Population migration patterns

3.13 Much of the Vale of Glamorgan's population change in the last five years may be attributed to population migration patterns.⁴⁶ Net migration refers to the estimated inward and outward population occurring between local authorities in the United Kingdom.

3.14 In the Vale of Glamorgan, there has been positive net migration in the last five years (with negative net migration between 2014-15, reflecting the fall in estimated population between mid-2014 and mid-2015). Between 2019-20 positive net migration was estimated to be 1,618 people, with, 5,506 people moving into the Vale of Glamorgan and 3,888 moving out of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Main settlements

3.15 The Vale of Glamorgan is Wales' most southerly Unitary Authority, lying west of Cardiff between the M4 and the Severn Estuary and covering 33,097 hectares, of which approximately 85% (28,132 hectares) is agricultural land (further detail in **Chapter 8**).

3.16 Comprising a mix of rural and urban environments, the Vale has a number of distinct towns and villages, divided into the three 'Community Areas' - Barry, Eastern Vale and Western Vale.⁴⁷ These community areas include the four town

⁴⁵ StatsWales (2018): 'Population projection components of change by local authority and year', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

⁴⁶ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2021) Well-being Assessment 2021 – Demographic Report

⁴⁷ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2021) Well-being Assessment 2021 – Demographic Report

centres of the Vale of Glamorgan: Barry, Penarth (Eastern Vale), Llantwit Major (Western Vale) and Cowbridge (Western Vale).

- 3.17 In 2020 it was estimated that 55,069 people or 41% of the Vale of Glamorgan's population lived in Barry, with 41,747, or 31% of the Vale of Glamorgan's population lived in the Western Vale and 38,479, or 28% of the Vale of Glamorgan's population lived in the Eastern Vale. It is estimated that Barry has the highest share of the Vale of Glamorgan's population aged 0-15 at 44%, the highest share of the population aged 16-64 at 42%; while the Western Vale has the highest share of the population ages 65 and over at 34%.⁴⁸
- 3.18 Barry is the administrative centre of the Vale of Glamorgan and was identified as a 'key settlement' in the (now superseded) Wales Spatial Plan, in recognition of its role in the success of the South East Wales Capital Region. In 2010, the Welsh Government designated Barry as a Regeneration Area, supporting the development of Barry as an attractive place to live; and supporting the development of Barry Island as a destination primarily for activity-based day trips.⁴⁹
- 3.19 Although the historic towns 'of Cowbridge, Penarth and Llantwit Major are all very different in character, they have similar roles. For example, they all have significant resident populations, good public transport provision, local employment opportunities, established town centres and a wide range of cultural, educational and community services and facilities. It is for these reasons, that the existing adopted LDP identifies these as 'Service Centre Settlements' in recognition of their role in serving the daily needs of their local residents and acting as important hubs for those living in nearby smaller settlements.⁵⁰ The location of the main settlements in the context of the RLDP area can be seen in **Figure 3.4** later in this Chapter. As set out in the adopted LDP, 'primary' settlements in the Vale include: Dinas Powys, Llandough (Penarth), Rhoose, St. Athan, Sully and Wenvoe.⁵¹
- 3.20 Notwithstanding St. Athan's strategic economic role (see **Chapter 2** above), the primary settlements of Dinas Powys, Llandough (Penarth), Rhoose, Sully, St. Athan and Wenvoe play an important role in providing a level of housing growth, in addition to some key local services and facilities. The primary settlements complement the role of the service centre settlements in that they provide for the needs of residents and cater for the needs of the surrounding wider rural areas. They offer several key services and facilities, which are vital to their role as sustainable communities, as they reduce the need to travel to Barry or the service centre settlements for day-to-day needs. These facilities include primary schools, small convenience shops, food and drink outlets, some small-scale employment provision and regular public transport.⁵²
- 3.21 The adopted LDP also identifies 'Minor Rural Settlements' including: Aberthin, Bonvilston, Colwinston, Corntown, Culverhouse Cross, East Aberthaw, Ewenny, Fferm Goch, Graig Penllyn, Llancafarn, Llandow, Llanmaes, Llysworney, Ogmored by Sea, Pendoylan, Penllyn, Peterston Super Ely, Sigingstone, Southerndown, St Brides Major, St Nicholas, Treoes, Wick and Ystradowen.

⁴⁸ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2021) Well-being Assessment 2021 – Demographic Report

⁴⁹ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2017): 'Adopted Local Development Plan', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

⁵⁰ Ibid

⁵¹ Ibid

⁵² Ibid

For these settlements, the adopted LDP has provided for moderate growth to help meet local housing need and to support existing local services.

Housing

Household estimates

- 3.22 Household estimates for Wales show that there were an estimated 58,878 households in the Vale of Glamorgan in 2020. This is the 12th highest number of estimated households by Local Authorities in Wales.
- 3.23 Data from 1991 to 2020 shows that the largest growth in household size in the Vale of Glamorgan can be observed in '1 person' households. It was estimated that there were 18,467 '1 person' households in the Vale of Glamorgan in 2020.
- 3.24 The growth in '1 person' households has been accompanied by growth in '2 person (no children)' households. It was estimated that there were 18,157 '2 person (no children)' households in the Vale of Glamorgan in 2020. Other household sizes in the Vale of Glamorgan have remained consistent.⁵³

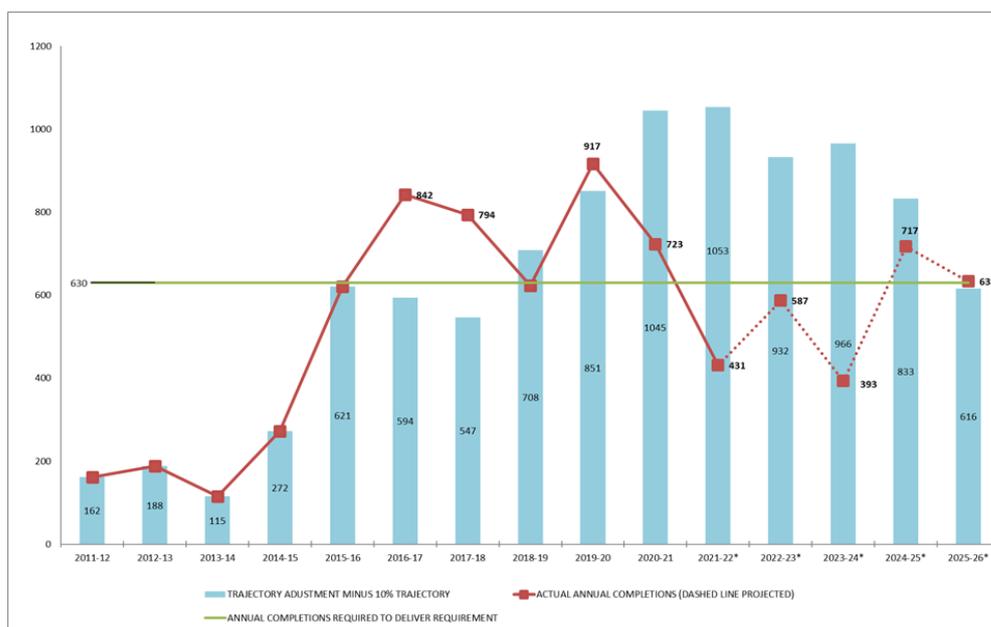
Housing delivery

- 3.25 In terms of housing delivery, monitoring data indicates that between 1st April 2011 and 1st April 2022, the LDP has delivered 5,688 dwellings which equates to an annual average delivery of 517 dwellings per annum as opposed to 630.66.⁵⁴ This is 18% below the 2022 cumulative dwelling target of 6,937.
- 3.26 **Figure 3.2** below illustrates the growth in housing delivery within the Vale of Glamorgan since 2011, highlighting a steady annual increase in housing completions within the authority reflecting the national economic recovery along with the availability of deliverable housing land within the authority. For the years 2016-17, 2017-18, 2019-20 and 2020-21 the table illustrates that housing dwelling completions have exceeded the annual average requirement.

Figure 3.2 Housing delivery within the Vale of Glamorgan

⁵³ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2021): 'Well-being Assessment 2021 – Demographic Report'

⁵⁴ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2021): 'Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011-2026 3rd Annual Monitoring Report'



3.27 **Figure 3.2** also illustrates that over next five years completions are anticipated to fall below the average requirement in years 2021 to 2023 before increasing above the annual average requirement in the last three years of the plan.

3.28 It is considered that despite the low development rates within the early part of the Plan period, the Council has made good progress towards its delivery of the identified housing provision.

Tenure

3.29 Between the 2001 and 2011 Census, reflecting changes across all Local Authority areas across Wales, tenure in the Vale of Glamorgan has seen falls in the percentage of properties owned with a mortgage and a growth in those privately rented.⁵⁵ In 2001, most respondents, 44.9% owned with a mortgage, this was also the highest percentage in Wales; in 2011 this had fallen to 36.8%. The percentage of respondents who were privately rented grew from 6.4% in 2001 to 14.6% in 2011.

Affordable housing

The Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) (2022) shows an affordable housing need across the Vale of Glamorgan, comprising 76% social rented accommodation, 18% intermediate rented housing, and 7% low-cost home ownership. The headline annual need for affordable housing in the Vale of Glamorgan from 2021 to 2026 is 1205 units per annum, comprising:

- 915 units of social rented accommodation.
- 211 units of intermediate rented housing; and
- 79 units of low-cost home ownership⁵⁶.

3.30 The need for general needs social rented accommodation remains at its highest in the Barry and Penarth and Llandough housing market areas, followed by the urban settlements along the south of the county boundary. There are also pockets of moderate need in the rural north, especially around principal settlements. The LHMA further highlights that all areas demonstrate a deficit of general needs social housing of some level.⁵⁷

3.31 The LHMA identifies that the greatest need is for smaller one and two bedroom properties and accommodation for older people (over 65), with demand greatest amongst single person and couples without children.

House prices

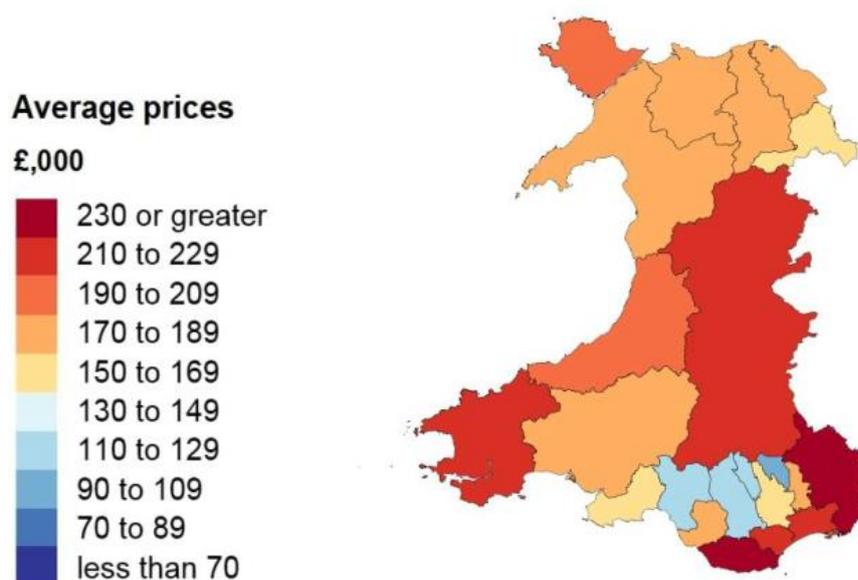
3.32 The latest HM Land Registry data (National Statistics UK House Price Index Wales: March 2021 (Published 19th May 2021) indicates that house prices in Wales grew by 3.1% since February 2021 with the average house price in Wales now being £185,431, which is an annual change of 11%.

3.33 In the Vale of Glamorgan, on average, house prices similarly rose by 3% in the year to February 2021. The average house price in the Vale now stands at £238,745 compared to £231,874 for February 2020. In comparison to other Welsh authorities, as shown in **Figure 3.3** overleaf, Vale of Glamorgan is one of the more affluent areas, along with other South East authorities Cardiff, Newport and Monmouthshire. Rhondda, Merthyr Tydfil and Neath Port Talbot can be seen shaded blue, with the lowest average house prices in Wales.

⁵⁵ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2021): 'Well-being Assessment 2021 – Demographic Report'

⁵⁶ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2022): 'Local Housing Market Assessment'

⁵⁷ Ibid.

Figure 3.3 Average house prices by Local Authority in Wales⁵⁸

Household projections

- 3.34 According to 2018 based national household projections for Wales, the number of households in the Vale of Glamorgan will continue to grow year on year. Over the next ten years to 2028, it is projected that the number of households in the Vale of Glamorgan will grow from 57,230 to 61,030.⁵⁹ By 2043 it is projected that the number of households in the Vale of Glamorgan will grow to 62,832.
- 3.35 Household projections vary for different household types, most household types show year on year growth in the number of households.
- 3.36 Although household projections show a year-on-year growth in the numbers of households, projections for average household size show a year-on-year decrease. Over the next ten years to 2028, it is projected that the average household size will decrease from 2.27 to 2.21.⁶⁰

Crime

- 3.37 The crime rate in the Vale of Glamorgan has risen over the last few years, as shown in **Table 3.4** overleaf.⁶¹ In the last year there has been a large rise in anti-social behaviour recorded, with a correlation between increases and the introduction of coronavirus restrictions. Of concern is the rise in domestic abuse and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment (MARAC) conferences that have been undertaken throughout 2020 and 2021. There is a correlation also between experiences of crime and those areas of the Vale of Glamorgan measured as most deprived against the WIMD 2019 Community Safety Domain (see **Chapter 5** for further detail).

⁵⁸ National Statistics (2021) UK House Price Index Wales

⁵⁹ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2021) Well-being Assessment 2021 – Demographic Report

⁶⁰ Ibid

⁶¹ UK Crime Stats (2021): 'South Wales Police', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

Table 3.4 Vale of Glamorgan – All Crime 2015 – 2021 (April – March)⁶²

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Reported Crimes	9,337	9,198	10,473	10,503	10,576	10,442	13,045

3.38 While crime of any nature is of concern, the levels of crime experienced within the Vale of Glamorgan are relatively low and the Vale of Glamorgan remains a generally safe place in which to live and work. 76% of people report feeling safe in their local area, higher than the Welsh average of 73%.⁶³

3.39 According to data from March 2022, in South Wales the largest number of crimes were violent (3,751), followed by anti-social behaviour (1,779), public order (1,177) and criminal damage and arson (1,021).

Green Wedges

3.40 Land on the urban fringe particularly around the key, service and primary settlements of Barry, Dinas Powys, Llandough (Penarth), Penarth and Sully is vulnerable to speculative development that can blur the boundaries between settlement edges and the open countryside. Unchecked this development could result in the incremental loss of open land and ultimately lead to the coalescence of settlements with a resultant detrimental impact upon agriculture, the landscape and the amenity value of land.⁶⁴

3.41 Green Wedges are an urban containment mechanism intended to restrict the spread of built development beyond designated settlement boundaries and to retain the integrity of particular settlements. They also contribute to green infrastructure, biodiversity and access to green spaces. In this regard, the adopted LDP identifies seven green wedges in the plan area.⁶⁵

- Between Dinas Powys, Penarth and Llandough.
- North west of Sully.
- North of Wenvoe.
- South of Bridgend.
- Between Barry and Rhose.
- South Penarth to Sully; and
- Between Rhose and Aberthaw.

3.42 As can be seen in **Figure 3.4** overleaf these are generally located between distinct settlements set out above, notably to the east and south of the plan area.

⁶² UK Crime Stats (2021): 'South Wales Police', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

⁶³ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2021) Well-being Assessment 2021 – Health and Communities Report

⁶⁴ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2017): 'Adopted Local Development Plan', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

⁶⁵ Ibid.

Figure 3.4 Green Wedge and Settlement Boundaries



Access to services

3.43 There are issues for some areas of the Vale of Glamorgan in accessing services, with areas of the Western Vale recording high return travel times to key services and poor internet connections.⁶⁶ Accessibility, including access to health services, is discussed further in **Chapter 4**.

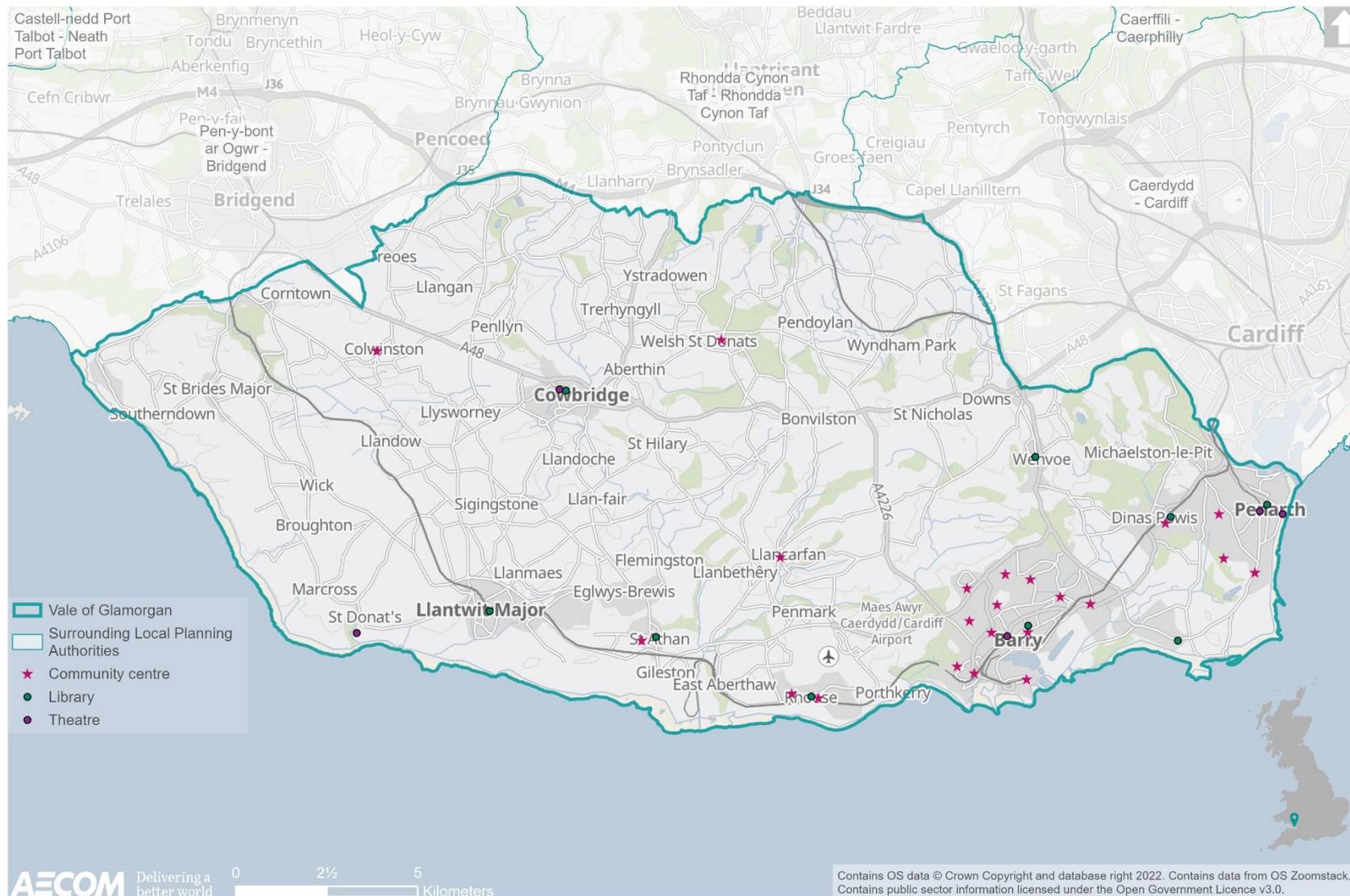
3.44 In terms of community facilities, the Vale of Glamorgan Council owns 22 Community Centres (shown in **Figure 3.5** overleaf), which are expertly managed daily by volunteers via a Community Association⁶⁷. The Vale is also home to several other facilities, which fall under the following categories:

- Coast and countryside.
- Libraries.
- Parks and Gardens.
- Arts and Culture; and
- Sports and Play.

⁶⁶ Vale of Glamorgan PSB Wellbeing Assessment 2021 – Health and Communities Report

⁶⁷ Vale of Glamorgan Council (no date): 'Community Centre', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

Figure 3.5 Council Managed Community facilities in the Vale of Glamorgan



Future baseline

- 3.45 The Vale is predicted to be the second fastest growing population in South East Wales, and it is anticipated that the predicted increase in the population could place pressure on existing communities, services and facilities. Further, unplanned development may have wider implications in terms of delivering the right mix of housing types, tenures and sizes in suitably connected places, particularly considering the comparatively older, and ageing population present. Continued development of housing types and tenures of market preference may introduce or exacerbate a housing imbalance and fail to meet any local needs for smaller homes to downsize into, or more affordable homes to serve younger residents' needs. This need is reflected through the latest LHMA (2022).
- 3.46 The RLDP offers the opportunity to promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise encounter each other - for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages.
- 3.47 Over the course of the Covid-19 pandemic, homeworking has become a more prevalent trend, and this is likely to alter the commuting patterns and access trends of residents into the future. Whilst uncertainty remains, the RLDP provides opportunities to guide development which accommodates for changing working patterns and lifestyles, and places greater emphasis on access to local services, facilities and employment options and strategic connectivity.

Key issues

- 3.48 The context review and baseline information informed the identification of several key issues (problems and opportunities):
- There has been positive population growth in the Vale of Glamorgan each year since 2002 (other than 2017), with the 65+ age group notably increasing by 9.8% between 2015 and 2020 and expected to rise further by 2030
 - There is notable growth projected for the population aged 65-84 and 85 and over. Between 2019 and 2039 it is estimated that the population aged 65-84 will grow by 5,266 people and the population aged 85 and over will grow by 2,904 people. This suggests the Vale has an ageing population and there needs to be consideration of their specific needs in areas such as housing, health and care provision, but also to recognise the positive contribution of the older people in the community.
 - High property prices contribute to an increase in the number of residents unable to enter the private property market. Household projections show a year-on-year growth in the numbers of households, while projections for average household size show a year-on-year decrease. The RLDP could seek to enhance policy provisions that deliver the right mix of housing types, tenures, and sizes according to local needs, in suitably connected places, as well as affordable housing for future residents.

- The Vale is made up of distinct rural and urban settlements; towns and villages divided into three community areas - Barry, Eastern Vale and Western Vale. The Vale's four town centres are Barry, Penarth (Eastern Vale), Llantwit Major (Western Vale) and Cowbridge (Western Vale). Barry has the highest share of the Vale of Glamorgan's population and has been designated as a regeneration area.
- There has been positive net migration in the last five years, with **Table 3.3** above showing that the population of the Vale is growing at a comparatively high rate for its size.
- The Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) (2022) shows an affordable housing need across the Vale of Glamorgan, comprising 76% social rented accommodation, 18% intermediate rented housing, and 7% low-cost home ownership.⁶⁸ The need for general social rented accommodation remains at its highest in the Barry and Penarth and Llandough housing market areas, although there are varying levels of affordable housing need across the authority
- The adopted LDP currently identifies seven Green Wedges which retain the integrity and identity of key settlements. It is important that this policy is taken forward within the RLDP to support strategic, sustainable growth throughout the Vale in the long term. Access to services is a key issue, and the sustainable location of new development will be essential in ensuring residents can meet their day-to-day needs via sustainable modes of transport.

⁶⁸ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2022); 'Local Housing Market Assessment'

ISA objectives

3.49 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the ISA should include the following objective and assessment questions:

Objectives	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
<p>To provide enough good quality market and affordable homes, and community infrastructure, in sustainable locations to meet identified needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the identified housing needs, including affordable, older person housing and accommodation needs of gypsy traveller community? • Ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types, and tenures to meet the needs of all sectors of the community, particularly the rapidly growing older population? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities? • Promote transit orientated development such as the 20-minute neighbourhood? • Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities, including specialist services?
<p>To enhance design quality to create natural beautiful places for people that maintain and enhance community and settlement identity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve connectivity between communities and facilitate social interaction? • Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities, including specialist services? • Protect and enhance community identity and distinctiveness and support opportunities for recreation and tourism? • Prevent the coalescence of settlements and retain the openness of land, green infrastructure and habitat connectivity?

4. Health and wellbeing

- 4.1 This theme focuses on the general health of the population in Vale of Glamorgan, as well as access to open space and play facilities, healthcare facilities and active travel. It also refers to public art as it is proven that the arts greatly contribute to people's health and wellbeing both mentally and physically.

Policy context

- 4.2 **Table 4.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the RLDP and ISA.

Table 4.1 Policy context

Document title	Year of publication
<u>Planning Wales Act</u>	2015
<u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act</u>	2015
<u>Environment (Wales) Act</u>	2016
<u>National Development Framework (Future Wales: The National Plan)</u>	2021
<u>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)</u>	2021
<u>Public Health (Wales) Act</u>	2017
<u>Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act</u>	2014
<u>Air Quality Wales Regulations</u>	2002
<u>Planning and Enabling Healthy Environments: Incorporating a template for planning policy</u>	2021
<u>Placemaking Wales Charter</u>	2020
<u>Building Better Places</u>	2020
<u>Wales Active Travel Strategy</u>	2021
<u>The Second State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR2020)</u>	2020
<u>South Central Wales Area Statement</u>	2017
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 11: Noise</u>	1997
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12: Design</u>	2016

<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 16: Sport, recreation, and open space</u>	2009
<u>Creating Healthier Places and Spaces for our present and future generations</u>	2018
<u>Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Population Needs Assessment</u>	2017
<u>Cardiff and Vale Move more eat well plan</u>	2020
<u>Cardiff and Vale Public Health Plan</u>	2020
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Wellbeing Assessment</u>	2021
<u>Vale of Glamorgan PSB Well-being Plan 2018-2023</u>	2018
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan</u>	2017
<u>Public Art in New Development SPG</u>	2018
<u>Moving Forwards: Move More, More Often</u>	2018
<u>Play Sufficiency Assessment</u>	2019
<u>Director of Public Health 'Re-Imagining Aging into the Future'</u>	2019

4.3 Key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- Future Wales sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use in Wales, providing a context for the provision of new infrastructure/ growth. Future Wales identifies Vale of Glamorgan as falling within the South East Wales region, the smallest of the four regions by area, including the coastal cities of Cardiff and Newport and the former industrial heartlands of the south Wales valleys. Future Wales highlights the importance of the region's connections with the Mid Wales and South West regions and the West of England region. Promoting accessibility and inter-linkages (i.e., sustainable transport and employment) across the regions, alongside providing the necessary digital infrastructure, will benefit the physical and mental health of the population. Furthermore, supporting Vale of Glamorgan as an area with essential services and facilities alongside strategic digital and green infrastructure will have a beneficial impact on residents' overall wellbeing.
- The RLDP will be required to be in general conformity with PPW which predominately seeks to ensure planning decisions support all aspects of well-being. PPW places the concept of placemaking at the centre of national planning policy to deliver new development which is sustainable and provides for the needs of all people.
- PPW is supplemented by TANs, which translate Welsh Government's commitment to sustainable development into the planning system and

provide national planning policy in respect of health. Notably the RLDP will be required to:

- Contribute to the protection and, where possible, the improvement of people’s health and wellbeing as a core component of achieving the well-being goals and responding to climate change.
 - Consideration of the possible impacts of developments – positive and/or negative – on people’s health at an early stage will help to clarify the relevance of health and the extent to which it needs to be considered.
 - Development plan policies should be designed to ensure, as far as is practicable, that noise-sensitive developments, such as hospitals, schools, and housing, that need to be located close to the existing transportation infrastructure to facilitate access, are designed in such a way as to limit noise levels within and around those developments; and
 - Development plan policies and decisions on planning applications should consider national air quality objectives, recognising that they represent a pragmatic threshold above which government considers the health risks associated with air pollution are unacceptable.
- World Health Organisation provides guidelines on the health effects of noise and national indicators set by the Welsh Ministers under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, together with information from the local authority’s annual air quality reports, national noise maps and any area statements issued by Natural Resources Wales under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
 - The Planning and Enabling Healthy Environments: Incorporating a template for planning policy report promotes a better understanding of the broad environmental and social barriers that impact on health, well-being, and inequality, and sets out guidance on how policies and plans can address these issues.
 - The Placemaking Wales Charter builds on the strengthening focus on Placemaking in policy and practice in Wales and aims to provide a common understanding of the range of considerations that go into placemaking. The charter outlines the following six placemaking principles that cover the range of considerations that contribute to establishing and maintaining good places:
 - People and community.
 - Movement.
 - Location.
 - Public realm.
 - Mix of uses; and
 - Identity.
 - Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child⁶⁹ states that 'Children have the right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of cultural, artistic and other recreational activities'. The Cardiff and

⁶⁹ Unicef (no date): 'The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

Vale Director of Public Health Moving Forwards: Move More, More Often report (2018) emphasised the importance of active play to children's physical, mental, social and emotional health and well-being. Having welcoming places, enough time and the company of others to play every day is of great importance to all children and teenagers.

- In March 2021 the Welsh Government announced that active travel schemes will receive a funding boost of more than £53 million as part of the Government's efforts to encourage healthy travel. In addition, pupils will be helped to get to school through the 'Safe Routes in Communities' grant, supporting schemes across Wales. This will contribute towards delivering the priorities identified and agreed through the various health, social care and wellbeing strategies identified in **Table 4.1** above.
- In 2020, the Council published its Coronavirus Recovery Strategy⁷⁰, which sets out the social, economic and well-being impacts that the pandemic has had on communities and setting out its key priorities. This supports the Vale's Corporate Plan 2020-2025; notably objectives include 'working in partnership to maximise people's physical and mental well-being' and 'understanding how our environment contributes to individual, community and global well-being.'
- Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board is currently applying for World Health Organisation (WHO) Age Friendly status in the Vale. This status will be recognition that the Vale is a place where people of all ages can live happily and healthily, especially as they grow older. The Cardiff and Vale Director of Public Health 2019 Re-imagining Ageing into the Future report emphasised the key health impacts of the built and natural environment upon older people's health and wellbeing.

Baseline summary

General health

4.4 The following trends have been identified in relation to general health in the Vale of Glamorgan:^{71,72}

- Adults in the Vale of Glamorgan record overall good health when compared to peers from different areas of Wales.
- For both females and males, the Vale of Glamorgan records one of the highest average life expectancies at birth.
- The rate of premature deaths from non-communicable diseases is among the lowest in Wales, while the rate of avoidable mortality is the second lowest in Wales.
- There are clear inequities in health between those living in the least and most deprived areas of the Vale of Glamorgan. Not only are those from more deprived areas expected to live less years, but during their lives are more at risk of experiencing: chronic conditions, limiting long-term illness, mental health conditions and as a result premature death.

⁷⁰ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2020): 'Coronavirus Recovery Strategy', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

⁷¹ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2020): 'Corporate Plan'

⁷² Vale of Glamorgan PSB (2021): 'Vale of Glamorgan Wellbeing Assessment – Health and Communities Report'

- Adults in the Vale of Glamorgan generally record engagement in healthy behaviours above the Welsh national average. However, alcohol consumption above guidelines remains a concern in the Vale of Glamorgan, particularly in the Western Vale.
- There are differences in engagement in healthy behaviour between the least and most deprived areas; with those in most deprived areas less likely to engage in healthy behaviours, and most likely to experience poor health outcomes as a result.
- In terms of wellbeing, slightly more people in the Vale of Glamorgan report being satisfied with where they live than the Welsh national average.
- It is estimated that by 2035 3,311 of the Vale's population aged 65 and over will have dementia.
- The Vale of Glamorgan has the lowest rate of childhood obesity in Wales at 7.1% as recorded by the Childhood Measurement Programme. The highest rates are observed in areas of higher deprivation.
- The Vale of Glamorgan has the highest percentage of adults (16+) drinking above national guidelines in Wales. It is estimated that 25.5% of adults in the Vale drink above national guidelines compared to the national average of 19.1%.

Open space and play facilities

Open space

- 4.5 Access to open space can have benefits that are both mental and physical. Areas of deficiency may therefore result in a population that does not participate in informal physical activity, alongside other secondary effects associated with environmental inequality. In this regard, the adopted LDP allocates several public open spaces including Barry Waterfront, designated Country Parks, fields, and farmland. The Vale's green spaces are shown in **Figure 4.1** overleaf, with Country Parks and Common Land separately identified.
- 4.6 As shown in **Figure 4.1**, designated green spaces are relatively sporadic throughout the Vale, with significant areas of Common Land to the east of Cowbridge and within St Brides Major to the northwest of the Vale.
- 4.7 **Figure 4.1** shows the Vale's two Country Parks are significant in size, (Cosmeston Lakes and Porthkerry), located to the southwest of the authority.
- 4.8 Notably, designated as a Country Park in 1978, Cosmeston Lakes Country Park covers an area more than 100 hectares.⁷³ The Park provides a range of informal recreation opportunities in close proximity to large numbers of the Vale of Glamorgan population. Centred on two flooded quarries, the country park includes a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and provides a wide variety of natural habitats and diverse plant and animal species.
- 4.9 There are 597 hectares of access land throughout the Vale (where people can walk anywhere, instead of having to keep to linear paths), 91 hectares of this is

⁷³ Vale of Glamorgan Council (no date): 'Cosmeston Lakes Country Park and Medieval Village', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

NRW managed woodland. In total 2% of the Vale of Glamorgan's area is access land.⁷⁴

- 4.10 Notably, the Vale has good accessibility to the Welsh coast, including the Glamorgan Heritage Coast and the All Wales Coast Path, access to which supports health and wellbeing.
- 4.11 The arts have numerous benefits which include contributing to people's health and wellbeing both mentally and physically. Public art can add to the quality of the built environment improving where and how people live. Public open space may provide opportunities for the integration of new public art and there are numerous good examples of this in the Vale.

⁷⁴ Natural Resource Wales (no date): 'Vale of Glamorgan Environment', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

Figure 4.1 Green and open spaces



Play facilities

- 4.12 Having access to recreational play spaces such as parks and playgrounds can improve levels of physical activity amongst children and young people and can reduce the risk of obesity. Play spaces can be both formal and informal, and they should be easy to access.
- 4.13 The Vale of Glamorgan Play Sufficiency Assessment & Action Plan (2019) highlighted that some children and young people living in rural area struggle to access play opportunities due to issues such as traveling to the opportunity. However, it was also be noted that some children and young people from non-rural areas also had difficulties accessing outdoor play opportunities due to their ability to travel to their desired locations. Highlighting the importance that having access to good transport services can directly affect their wellbeing. The Assessment also highlight that many children in both rural and urban settlements considered the condition of play equipment to be poor.⁷⁵

Food growing

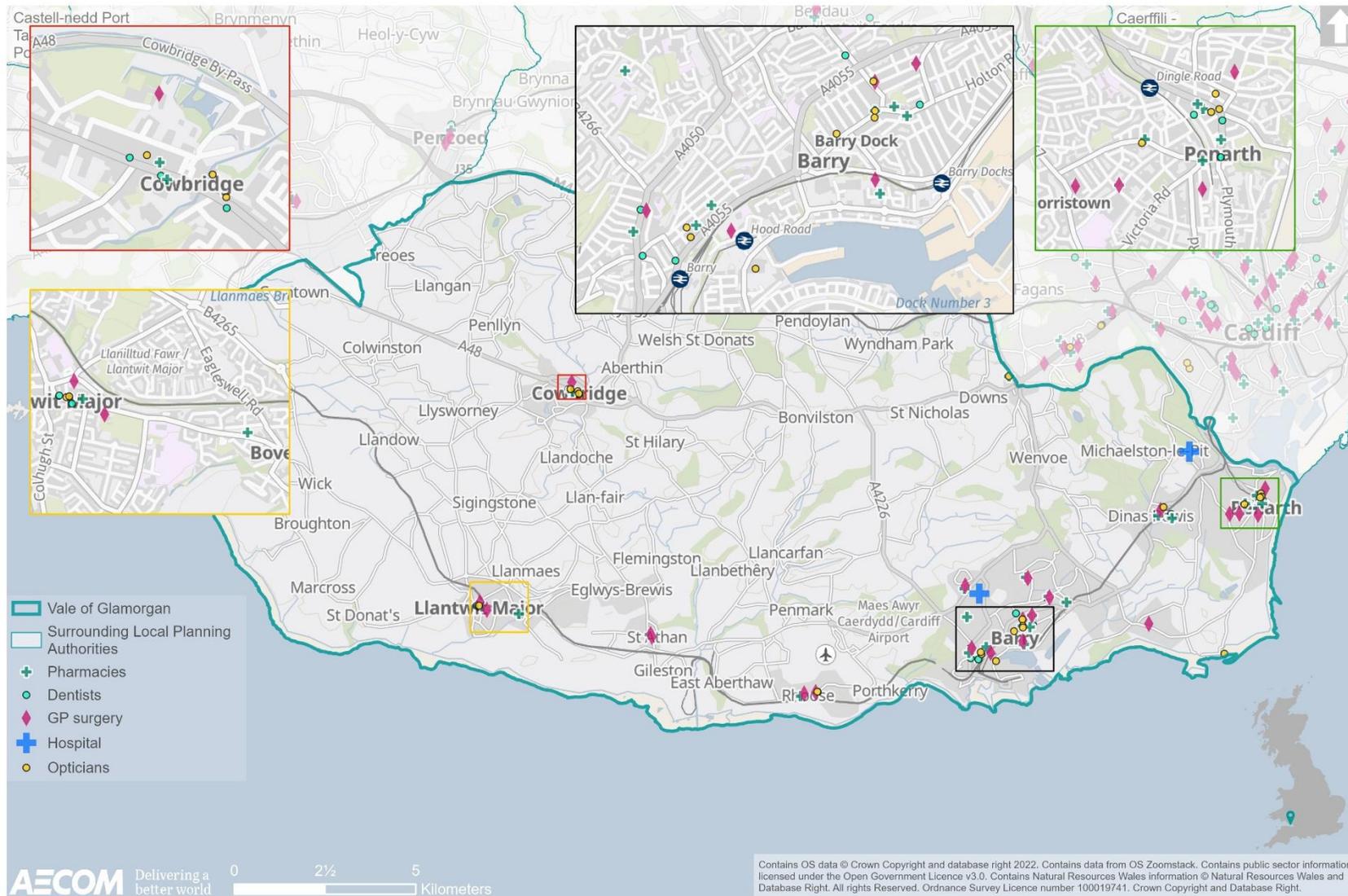
- 4.14 Having access to a food environment that promotes heathy food choices is an essential component of addressing health issues such as overweight and obesity and long-term chronic conditions. Food growing environments can be private gardens, allotments or food growing spaces outside community buildings.
- 4.15 It is noted that the Council also run ten allotment sites throughout the Vale. There are eight in Barry and two in the Western Vale.

Healthcare facilities

- 4.16 As shown in **Figure 4.2** overleaf, there are a total of 28 pharmacies, 21 GP surgeries (13 practices and 8 branch surgeries), 20 dentists and 20 opticians in the Vale. These are concentrated around the main centres of Barry, Cowbridge, Penarth and Llantwit Major.
- 4.17 **Figure 4.2** shows there are also two hospitals present within the Vale of Glamorgan, located in Barry and Llandough.

⁷⁵ Ibid

Figure 4.2 Healthcare facilities



Active travel

- 4.18 Active travel means walking and cycling (including the use of mobility scooters) for everyday journeys. This includes journeys to school, to work and to the shops or to access services e.g., health or leisure centres.⁷⁶
- 4.19 The provision of active travel infrastructure in the Vale of Glamorgan is increasing, and car ownership levels are generally decreasing. However, private car use remains the predominant means of travel in the authority.⁷⁷ A reduction in car use and more use of public transport and active travel options (walking and cycling) can improve health and well-being, reduce the negative impacts on the environment that car travel can bring, offer better access to services and facilities, which in turn can offer improved economic opportunities and reduce the potential for traffic accidents.
- 4.20 The Welsh Government's Active Travel Action Plan for Wales (2016)⁷⁸ sets out the vision: *"For people in Wales, we want walking and cycling to become the preferred ways of getting around over shorter distances"*.
- 4.21 **Figure 4.3** overleaf shows the vast extent of walking and cycling routes throughout the Vale. Active travel routes are focussed within the Vale's key settlements, providing communities with sustainable travel options for access to local centres, facilitating day-to-day journeys. There are 544 kilometres of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) extending throughout the Vale, connecting communities and supporting healthy places. It is noted that 61 km of this total is part of the Wales Coast Path, which is notably used for recreation and social reasons as well as travel for everyday journeys.⁷⁹
- 4.22 As shown in **Figure 4.3**, with 53 kilometres of coast the Vale of Glamorgan coastline forms an integral part of the Coastal Path stretching from Cardiff Bay/Ely Estuary in the east to the Ogmore River in the west. Recognising the recreational value, since 2007, the Welsh Government has invested in improving public access to the coast of Wales through its Coastal Access Improvement Programme (CAIP).⁸⁰ The Wales Coast Path officially opened on May 5th 2012, and the scheme has since continued to improve accessibility for local communities and visitors by improving existing paths and developing new routes. Funded by the Welsh Government and project managed by Natural Resources Wales the programme has delivered a high-quality walking and cycling route around the Welsh coastline.
- 4.23 **Figure 4.3** also shows the National Cycle Network also extending through the west and centre of the Vale, connecting with Barry in the south, through to Penarth (this is discussed further in **Chapter 7**). This further supports active travel between settlements. Additionally, the Council has installed E Bike stations across the Vale of Glamorgan to encourage active travel use.

⁷⁶ Vale of Glamorgan Council (date unknown) Home > Living > Active Travel [online] available at:

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/transportation/Active-Travel.aspx>

⁷⁷ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2021) LDP 3rd Annual Monitoring Report

⁷⁸ Welsh Government (2016): 'An Active Travel Action Plan for Wales', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

⁷⁹ Natural Resource Wales (no date): 'Vale of Glamorgan Environment', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

⁸⁰ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2016); 'Coastal Access Improvement Programme Background and Update', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

- 4.24 **Figure 4.4** overleaf shows green space in relation to active travel routes, indicating accessibility to these spaces via this mode of transport.
- 4.25 The Vale's sustainable transport infrastructure/ provision is further explored within **Chapter 7** of this report.

Figure 4.3 Existing Active travel and walking and cycling provision

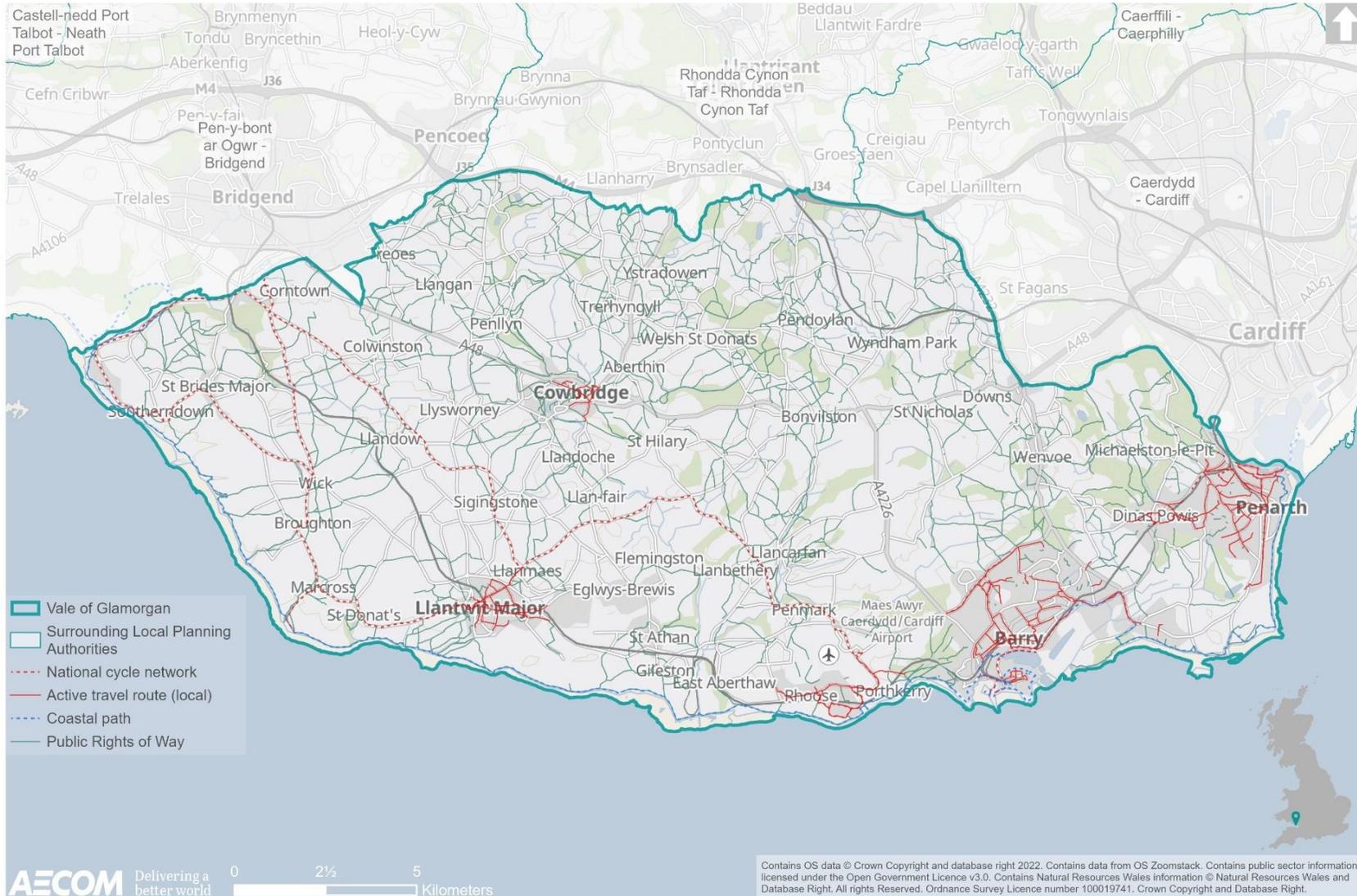
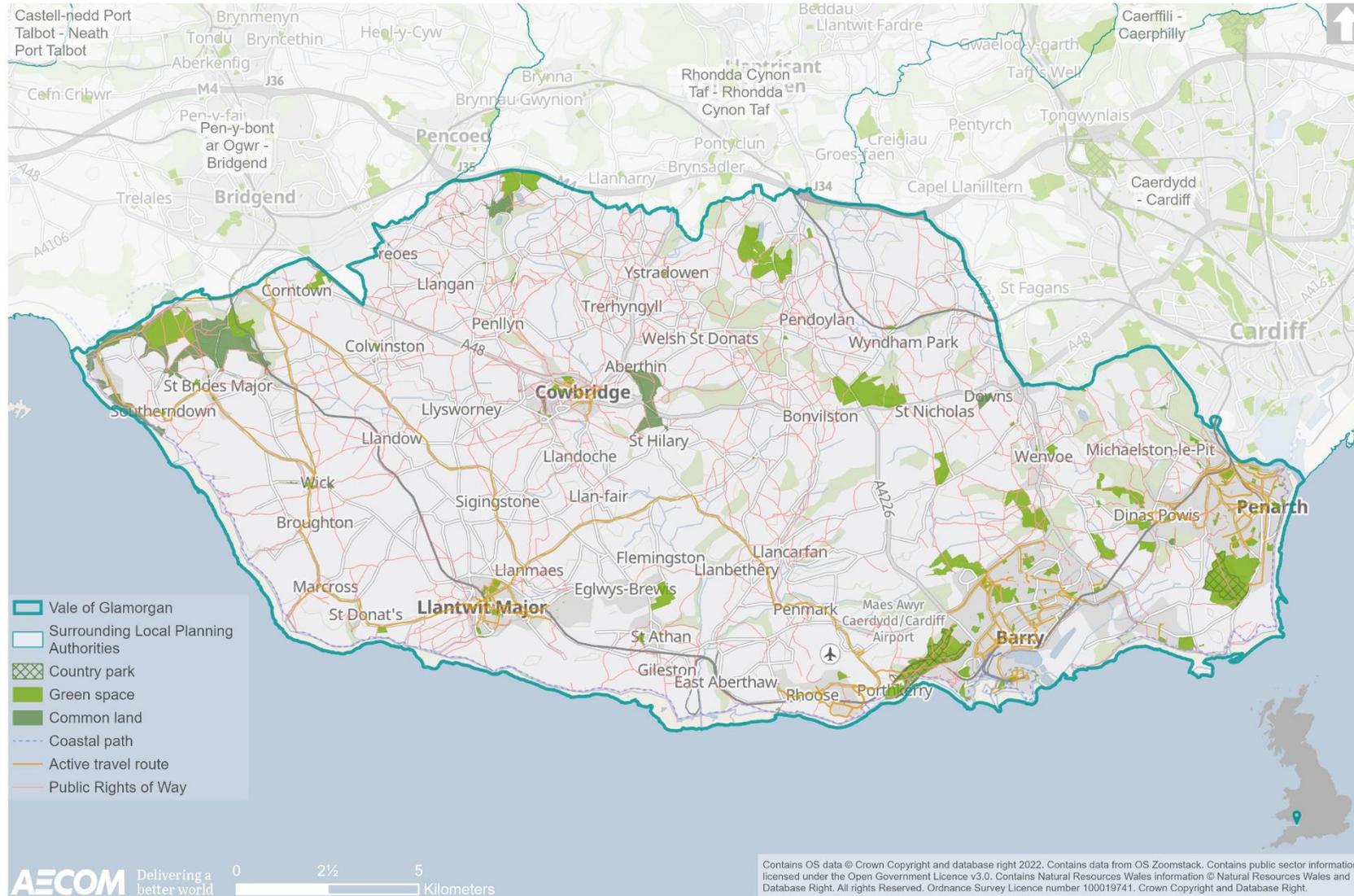


Figure 4.4 Green space and active travel routes



Future baseline

- 4.26 Health inequalities exist in the Vale, not only linked to healthy lifestyles but across a wide range of indicators that impact upon an individual's well-being. For example, there are several areas in the more deprived eastern part of Barry where educational attainment is lower, linking to lower levels of employment, there are high levels of overcrowding and there are high numbers of people with long-term health conditions. Access to healthy environments, including green infrastructure and green spaces, is becoming increasingly important, particularly since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, which resulted in an increased number of people seeking green spaces for both mental and physical health.
- 4.27 The RLDP should therefore focus on improving access to green spaces and connectivity to green spaces maintaining and enhancing active travel networks and green infrastructure networks, meeting community infrastructure needs, etc. throughout the Vale. This is likely to support long term improvements in pockets of deprivation where they exist, improving the overall health and wellbeing of residents. Equality of access to facilities, services, green spaces, retail and leisure is crucial to enable people to improve and maintain good health and wellbeing.
- 4.28 While healthcare assets seem relatively well placed in the plan area, greater accessibility for those most at risk of suffering poor health outcomes should be sought, particularly in the more deprived areas, as discussed in **Chapter 5**.

Key issues

- 4.29 The contextual review and baseline information informed the identification of several key issues (problems and opportunities):
- General health of Vale of Glamorgan residents is good. Adults record good health when compared to different areas of Wales, and for both females and males, the Vale of Glamorgan records one of the highest average life expectancies at birth.
 - Publicly accessible open space is present throughout the Vale with the greatest provision seen to the southeast, owing to the two large Country Parks present. Although in the urban areas open space is fragmented and lacks connectivity. Common land and green space are also rich to the northwest of the Vale near St Brides Major.
 - The Council's Play Sufficiency Assessment highlight that in rural areas some children and young people experience difficulties accessing play opportunities due to their limited ability to travel to their desired locations, and that many children in both rural and urban settlements considered the condition of play equipment to be poor.
 - Active travel networks are good, notably the PRow network extends throughout the Vale, with local active travel routes focused on the main settlements. This provision connects people and places, delivering health improvements through a modal shift, particularly for shorter journeys. The Council continues to develop an active travel network within the authority

through Welsh Government grant and via section s106 monies secured by the Council as part of new developments.

- There is a large provision of healthcare facilities within the Vale of Glamorgan. Health facilities are concentrated around the main centres of Barry, Cowbridge, Penarth and Llantwit Major.
- By 2035, 3,311 of the Vale’s population aged 65 and over will have dementia. The LDP will play an important role in addressing this issue, particularly through appropriate housing and facilities for people who fall within this category.

ISA objectives

4.30 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the ISA should include the following objective and assessment questions:

ISA objectives	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
<p>To improve the health and wellbeing of residents within Vale of Glamorgan, promoting healthy and sustainable places.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities through provision of open space, play spaces, food growing, and community spaces? • Facilitate good access to healthcare, social, recreational and leisure facilities for all sectors of the community? • Enhance multifunctional green infrastructure networks and connectivity throughout the plan area? • Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green spaces? • Improve access to open spaces, the countryside and leisure and recreation facilities? • Support healthy / active and inclusive environments? • Support the creation of cohesive, connected communities? • Provide formal and informal, and natural play spaces for children which are safe and easy and safe to access? • Reduce health inequalities across the County? • Support active travel and improvements to air quality?

5. Equality, diversity and inclusion

5.1 This theme focuses on the demographics and households of the population in Vale of Glamorgan, as well as deprivation, access to services and facilities.

Policy context

5.2 **Table 5.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the RLDP and ISA.

Table 5.1 Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to equality, diversity, and inclusion

Document title	Year of publication
<u>Planning Wales Act</u>	2015
<u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act</u>	2015
<u>Environment (Wales) Act</u>	2016
<u>National Development Framework (Future Wales: The National Plan)</u>	2021
<u>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)</u>	2021
<u>Public Health (Wales) Act</u>	2017
<u>Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act</u>	2014
<u>Air Quality Wales Regulations</u>	2002
<u>Planning and Enabling Healthy Environments: Incorporating a template for planning policy</u>	2021
<u>Placemaking Wales Charter</u>	2020
<u>Building Better Places</u>	2020
<u>Wales Active Travel Strategy</u>	2021
<u>The Second State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR2020)</u>	2020
<u>South Central Wales Area Statement</u>	2017
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12: Design</u>	2016
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 16: Sport, recreation, and open space</u>	2009
<u>Welsh Language promotion strategy 2022 – 2027</u>	2022

Document title	Year of publication
<u>Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020</u>	2017
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Strategic Equality Plan 2016</u>	2016
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Wellbeing Assessment 2021</u>	2021
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan</u>	2017
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Well-being Plan 2018-2023</u>	2018
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment</u>	2016

5.3 Key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- Future Wales sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use in Wales, providing a context for the provision of new infrastructure/ growth. Future Wales identifies the Vale of Glamorgan as having one of the most distinctive urban settlement patterns in the UK, with nuanced social and economic needs, and as such the RLDP should set out policies and proposals reflecting the structural economic and social issues that impact upon residents' prosperity and well-being. The emerging SDP for the South East Wales also seeks to address regional factors such as housing, employment, and transport across the region. Supporting Vale of Glamorgan as an area with essential services and facilities alongside digital infrastructure will have a beneficial impact on the local community.
- The Equality Act legally protects people from discrimination or unfair treatment based on certain personal characteristics. The Act defines 'protected characteristics' for which it is unlawful to indirectly or directly discriminate against, harass, or victimise. The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) is set out in Section 149 of the Act, under which public bodies must try to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The Act explains that 'due regard' for advancing equality involves; removing or minimising disadvantages experienced by people due to their protected characteristic, taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these differ from the needs of other people, and encouraging protected groups to participate in public life and other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.
- National planning policy is set out in PPW, a primary objective of which is to ensure that the planning system contributes positively towards improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. This is 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. PPW places the concept of placemaking at the centre of national planning policy to ensure that planning decisions consider all aspects of well-being and deliver new development which is sustainable and provides for the needs of all people.

- PPW is supplemented by TANs, which further detail the Welsh Government's commitment to planning for the Welsh Language (TAN20), among other national equality, diversity, and inclusion objectives.
- The Welsh Language Standards place a requirement on Local authorities in Wales to produce a local Welsh Language Strategy that sets out how they will promote the use of the Welsh language and increase the number of Welsh speakers in their area. The Vale of Glamorgan Welsh Language Promotion Strategy includes a five-year action plan focused on growing the number of people able to speak Welsh, on increasing its use in all aspects of community and public life and raising awareness of its importance as an essential part of the cultural identity and character of the area.
- The Cardiff Capital Region and City Deal seeks to promote strong, sustainable, and balanced growth throughout the region, committing to a partnership approach to housing and regeneration. The deal aims to encourage investment and create an equal opportunity environment within the ten local authorities and other key partners in its boundaries. The replacement LDP should set out policies and proposals for the promotion of sustainable growth within the area for the benefit of its resident population.
- Under the Equality Act (2010), local authorities in Wales must publish a Strategic Equality Plan that sets out the objectives and priorities it wants to achieve over a four-year period. These priorities are called "Equality Objectives". The Vale of Glamorgan strategic equality plan describes what the Council is doing to fulfil its duties in respect of the Equality Act 2010 and the specific duties for Wales.
- The Placemaking Wales Charter builds on the strengthening focus on Placemaking in policy and practice in Wales and aims to provide a common understanding of the range of considerations that go into placemaking. The charter outlines the following six placemaking principles that cover the range of considerations that contribute to establishing and maintaining good places:
 - People and community.
 - Movement.
 - Location.
 - Public realm.
 - Mix of uses; and
 - Identity.
- Briefing on Gender Identity in Wales, produced by the LGBT Excellence Centre, provides clear recommendations for supporting the LGBT community and their access to housing in line with the Equality Act (2020).
- The cross-government LGBTQ+ Action Plan for Wales seeks to tackle the existing structural inequalities experienced by LGBTQ+ communities, to challenge discrimination and to create a society where LGBTQ+ people are safe to live and love authentically, openly and freely as themselves. The plan focuses on responding to the specific needs, diversity and vulnerabilities of our LGBTQ+ communities.

- Overall, the Vale of Glamorgan is comparatively wealthy, and residents have a high standard of living. However, there are significant differences in life expectancy between some areas in the Vale of Glamorgan, and some significant health inequalities. The Vale of Glamorgan has the largest difference in healthy life expectancy for females between the least and most deprived areas in Wales. Areas with high levels of deprivation are generally in the southeast of the authority, in particular Barry.

Baseline summary

Communities

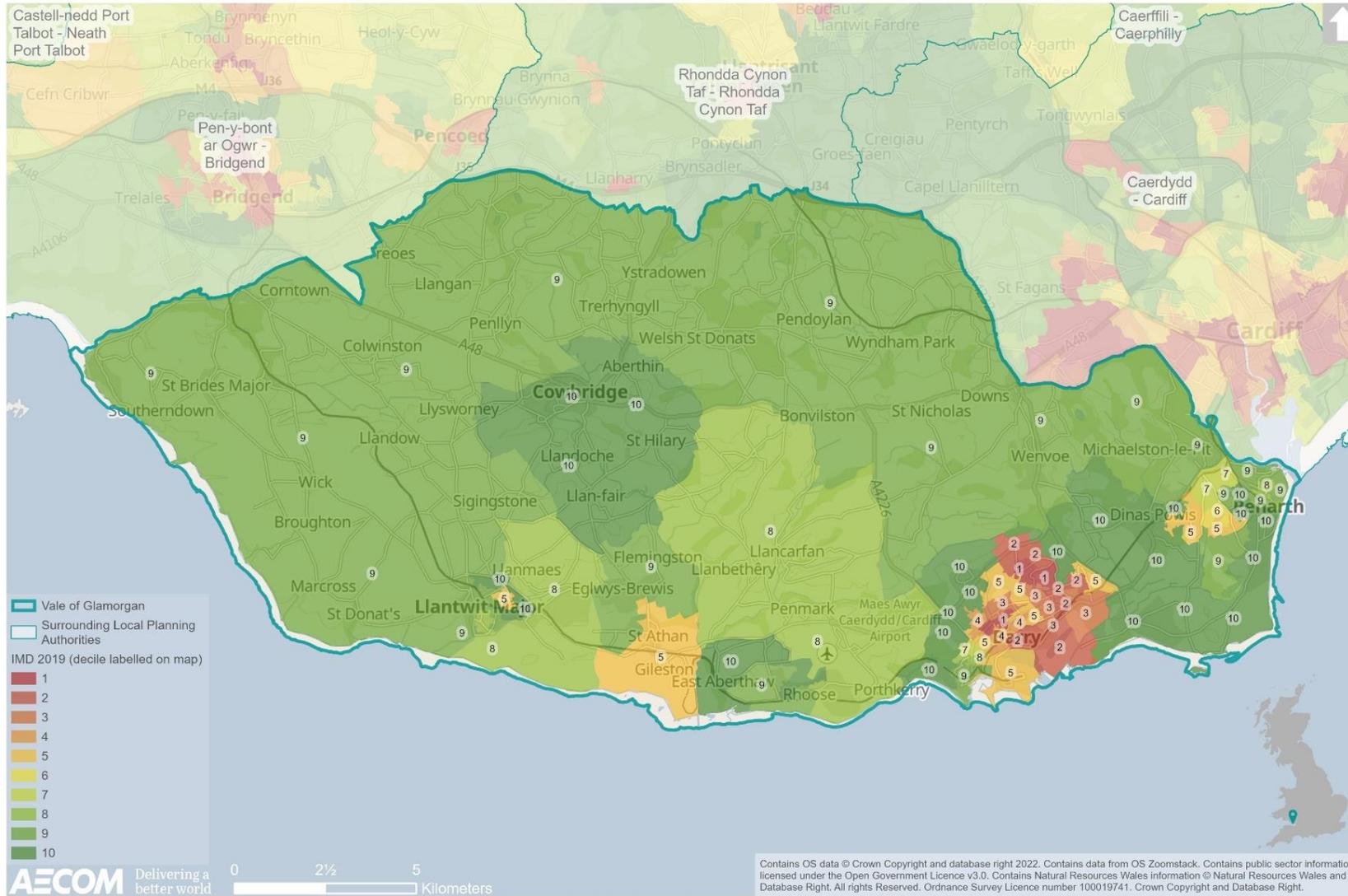
- 5.4 The Vale of Glamorgan is regarded as an affluent and attractive area to live and work (see **Chapter 2** and **Chapter 3** above), however pockets of poverty and deprivation do exist. These are reflected through the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation Wales (WIMD) 2019. The WIMD is a national statistic designed to identify the small areas of Wales that are the most deprived.⁸¹
- 5.5 IMD ranks all small areas in Wales from 1 (most deprived) to 1,909 (least deprived). The small areas are otherwise known as Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs). This geography is built from census data and represents small locations, each with a population of around 1,600 people. As there are 1,909 LSOAs in Wales, 190 LSOAs fall within the 10% most deprived in Wales.⁸²
- 5.6 There are 79 LSOAs in the Vale, as shown in **Figure 5.1** overleaf, which maps the latest WIMD headline data (2019). A considerable proportion of the Vale falls within the 20% least deprived LSOAs in Wales, with Cowbridge and east of Penarth notably falling with the 10% least deprived LSOAs.
- 5.7 Deprivation varies across the authority, with the most deprived areas located within and to the north/ east of Barry. The three most deprived LSOAs within the Vale are within/ surrounding Barry, falling within the 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales. These are:⁸³
- Gibbonsdown 2 (ranked 105 of 1909 LSOAs in Wales).
 - Court 3 (ranked 142 of 1909 LSOAs in Wales); and
 - Buttrills 2 (ranked 186 of 1909 LSOAs in Wales).
- 5.8 There are also several LSOAs within/ surrounding Barry that fall within the 20% - 40% most deprived LSOAs in Wales. Away from Barry and the southeast of the RLDP area, there are otherwise only four LSOAs across the Vale that fall within the 50% most deprived LSOAs.

⁸¹ Welsh Government (2020): 'Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) A guide to analysing indicator data, 2019 onwards', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ Welsh Government (2019): 'Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

Figure 5.1 Vale of Glamorgan IMD 2019



5.9 **Table 5.2** below provides a summary analysis of deprivation levels across the Vale of Glamorgan from 2008 to 2019. As shown in **Table 5.2**, the Vale has had three LSOAs in Barry ranked within the top 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales since 2008. The number of Vale LSOAs ranked within the 20% and 30% most deprived in Wales have increased since 2018, however the number of LSOAs ranked within the most deprived 50% has decreased.

Table 5.2 Vale of Glamorgan WIMD analysis 2008 - 2019⁸⁴

Year	Total LSOAs	Most deprived 10% LSOAs in Wales (rank 1-191)	Most deprived 20% LSOAs in Wales (rank 1-382)	Most deprived 30% LSOAs in Wales (rank 1-573)	Most deprived 50% LSOAs in Wales (rank 1-955)
2008	78	3	8	14	31
2011	78	6	13	18	36
2014	79	5	15	19	37
2019	79	3	10	15	28

5.10 The WIMD 2019 report identifies that the Vale of Glamorgan is one of twelve local Authorities in Wales with no small areas of deep-rooted deprivation. It is important to note that an area itself is not deprived: it is the circumstances and lifestyles of the people living there that affect its deprivation ranking and it is important to remember that not everyone living in a deprived area is deprived - and that not all deprived people live in deprived areas.⁸⁵

5.11 Deprivation across the Vale has been explored through the Vale of Glamorgan Corporate Plan (2020). Notably:⁸⁶

- 13% of people (17,181) are estimated to be living in income deprivation – below the Welsh average.
- Real differences can be observed between areas, in some more deprived areas it is estimated that 38% of people are living in income deprivation.
- For some more deprived areas it is estimated that 53% of children are living in poverty.
- The Vale has a lower-than-average percentage of households that are overcrowded, however areas in the east of Barry show the highest rates of overcrowded households and are more than double the Welsh average in some LSOAs.

⁸⁴ WIMD 2008 - 2019

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2020); 'Corporate Plan'

Equalities data

5.12 Protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, sex (gender), and age.

Pregnancy

5.13 In relation to pregnancy and maternity, recent national data indicates that of the 29,728 births in Wales (2019), 4% were to mothers under the age of 20, which is the lowest rate on record.⁸⁷ 30% were to mothers aged 30-34, while 0.2% were to mothers over 45 years.

Marriage and civil partnership

5.14 Reflecting Living Arrangements data, in 2011 49.1% of people living in Vale of Glamorgan recorded that they were married.⁸⁸ This is a growth on the 46.4% recorded in 2001. 30.8% of people in 2011 recorded that they were single, never married or never registered in a same-sex civil partnership⁸⁹ compared to 25.3% who registered that they were single (never married) in 2001.

5.15 Annual Population Survey data from 2018-2020 is available at the regional scale, which shows that 47.3% of people living in South East Wales recorded that they were married. This compares to 50% for North Wales, and 48% for Mid and South West Wales.⁹⁰

Age distribution

5.16 Age characteristic data taken from the Census illustrates an ageing population across Wales. Between the 2001 and 2011 Census all Local Authority areas across Wales have recorded a growth population in older age categories. The Vale of Glamorgan follows this national trend, with a significant growth in the 60 to 64, 65 to 74, 75 to 84 and 90 and over age groups between 2001 and 2011.⁹¹

5.17 According to 2020 estimates⁹², 20.6% of the population of the Vale of Glamorgan are aged 0 to 17 years, 58.1% are aged 18 to 64 years, and 21.3% are aged 65 and older. The figure for the latter age group is higher than the UK average of 18.6%, but similar to the Welsh average of 21.1%, indicating that Wales, including the Vale of Glamorgan, has a large population of older people.

Sexual orientation and gender identity

5.18 As set out above in **Chapter 3**, in 2020 there were slightly more females 51% than males (49%) living in the Vale, which is in line with Wales as a whole.⁹³

5.19 Reflecting national trends, for the 0-15 and 16-64 age groups, the split between genders in the Vale of Glamorgan is almost 50:50.⁹⁴

⁸⁷ Nomis (2019): 'Live births in England and Wales by sex and characteristics of mother: national/regional', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

⁸⁸ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2021): 'Well-being Assessment 2021 – Demographic Report'

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ StatsWales (2020) Marital Status By Region [online] available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Equality-and-Diversity/Marital-status/maritalstatus-by-region>

⁹¹ The Civil Partnership Act came into effect in 2005, in 2011, 0.2% of respondents (185 people) recorded that they were in a registered same-sex civil partnership in the Vale of Glamorgan.

⁹² City Population (no date): 'United Kingdom: Administrative Division', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

⁹³ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2021): 'Well-being Assessment 2021 – Demographic Report'

⁹⁴ Ibid.

- 5.20 As of 2019, 4% of South East Wales identify with the LGBT community (Gay, lesbian, bisexual or other). This is greater than Mid and South West Wales (2.7%), north Wales (1.8%), and Wales overall (3.1%).⁹⁵
- 5.21 Since the publication of the Trans Data Position Paper (2009), nuances surrounding gender identity have been recognised at a national level. The 2021 Census is anticipated to include voluntary questions that depict a more nuanced understanding of sexual orientation and gender identity. These groups are more vulnerable to discrimination due to their minority status.
- 5.22 Key findings from Stonewall's research into LGBT hate crime and discrimination in Wales (2017) include the following:⁹⁶
- Almost one in four LGBT people have experienced a hate crime or incident due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in the last 12 months.
 - Half of trans people have experienced a hate crime or incident because of their gender identity in the last 12 months, and one in five LGB people who aren't trans have experienced a hate crime or incident due to their sexual orientation in the same period.
 - The number of lesbian, gay and bi people in Wales who have experienced hate crime has increased by 82% in five years, from 11 per cent in 2013 to 20 per cent in 2017.
 - Four in five LGBT people who experienced a hate crime or incident didn't report the incident to the police.
 - Three in ten LGBT people avoid certain streets because they don't feel safe as an LGBT person there.
 - Two in five LGBT people would not feel comfortable walking down the street while holding their partner's hand. For gay men, this rises to three in five (57 per cent).
 - One in ten LGBT people have experienced homophobic, biphobic or transphobic abuse or behaviour online directed towards them personally in the last month. This number increases to one in four trans people have experienced transphobic abuse or behaviour.
- 5.23 Wider research into discrimination in Wales indicates that a large proportion of residents in Wales who have suffered from discrimination cite that the main reason for their discrimination is where they live (15.7%), followed by their nationality (11.4%), age (10.6%) and health problem/disability (9.7%).

Ethnicity and race

- 5.24 As measured by the Annual Population Survey, the percentage of people recording that they are Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic in the Vale of Glamorgan has been between 2 and 3% since 2005. In the Year ending December 2020 it was estimated that 2.1% of the Vale of Glamorgan's population were from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background, this compares to 5.5% for Wales as a whole. This differs from the picture at the Welsh national level where the

⁹⁵ StatsWales (2019): 'Sexual identity by region', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

⁹⁶ Stonewall (2017): 'LGBT in Wales: Hate Crime and Discrimination', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

percentage of people recording that they are Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic has been increasing steadily.⁹⁷

5.25 Data from the Pupil Level Annual School Census has shown that in 2019/2020 the majority (17,055 pupils within Vale of Glamorgan aged five and over) identified as 'White British', the second largest ethnic background was 'Any Other White Background', 10,385 pupils, followed by 'Any other mixed background', 4,950 pupils and 'Any other ethnic background', 4,620 pupils.⁹⁸

Religion

5.26 As shown in **Table 5.3** below, many residents in the Vale identify as Christian (58.1%), followed by no religion (32.9%). This aligns with average figures for Wales. However, the Muslim population of Vale of Glamorgan notably smaller than average figures for Wales, while 'other religion', is slightly higher.⁹⁹

Table 5.3: Religious identification¹⁰⁰

	Vale of Glamorgan	Wales
Christian	58.1%	57.6%
Buddhist	0.3%	0.3%
Hindu	0.2%	0.3%
Jewish	0.1%	0.1%
Muslim	0.6%	1.5%
Sikh	0.1%	0.1%
Other religion	1.1%	0.4%
No religion	32.9%	32.1%
Religion not stated	7.4%	7.6%

Disability

5.27 The number of people aged 16-64 who identify as disabled in the Vale of Glamorgan in the year ending March 2021 is estimated to be 13,900.¹⁰¹ The gender split in the year ending March 2020 shows that there are more females estimated to identify as disabled (8,400) than those who identify as disabled males (5,500).

⁹⁷ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2021): 'Well-being Assessment 2021 – Demographic Report'

⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁹⁹ ONS, 2011. Census 2011 (KS209EW) data. This data will be updated when more current data is available.

¹⁰⁰ ONS, 2011. Census 2011.

¹⁰¹ Nomis (2020): 'Annual Population Survey / Labour Force Survey', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

Welsh language

- 5.28 The Welsh language is part of the social and cultural fabric of Wales and the Welsh Government is committed to ensuring that the Welsh language is supported and encouraged throughout Wales.
- 5.29 In 2011, the Census revealed that within the Vale of Glamorgan, 8.2% of the population could speak, read, or write Welsh compared to the national average of 14.6%. 83.7% of the Vale's population or approximately 122,018 people possessed no Welsh language skills at all, compared with an all-Wales average of 73.4% of the population.
- 5.30 **Table 5.4** overleaf shows that in 2020 18.8% of Vale of Glamorgan residents are Welsh speaking, which is less than the overall figure for Wales (29.2%), and less than neighbouring authorities to the east Cardiff (24.8%) and Newport (20.8%). Slightly more residents do however speak Welsh in Vale of Glamorgan than in neighbouring authority to the west, Bridgend (18.5%).¹⁰²

Table 5.4 Percentage of people aged 3 or older who can speak Welsh, by Welsh local authority¹⁰³

¹⁰² 2011 Census, [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹⁰³ StatsWales (2021): 'Annual Population Survey – Ability to speak Welsh by local authority and year', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

Authority	Percentage (%)	Authority	Percentage (%)
Wales	29.2	Swansea	20.6
Isle of Anglesey	66.3	Neath Port Talbot	22.0
Gwynedd	76.4	Bridgend	18.5
Conwy	37.5	Vale of Glamorgan	18.8
Denbighshire	34.3	Cardiff	24.8
Flintshire	23.2	Rhondda Cynon Taf	21.1
Wrexham	26.2	Merthyr Tydfil	18.0
Powys	25.2	Caerphilly	25.4
Ceredigion	60.9	Blaenau Gwent	16.5
Pembrokeshire	32.1	Torfaen	19.3
Carmarthenshire	52.6	Monmouthshire	16.4
Newport	20.8		

Future baseline

- 5.31 The findings of the Well-being Assessment demonstrate the wide range of factors that contribute towards creating the inequalities that exist in the Vale and the complex and inter-related factors that all contribute towards poorer well-being in deprived areas. It will be important for the RLDP to take a holistic approach to improving well-being within the authority's more deprived communities, promoting, strengthening and enhancing cultural identity in line with national objectives.
- 5.32 Economic regeneration, alongside community regeneration, are key factors that can transform local neighbourhoods and the lives of local people. New development throughout the Vale should therefore focus on narrowing the gap between the least and most affluent areas, by addressing areas of everyday activity including employment, health, housing, education, community safety and the environment. Furthermore, it is recognised that the Vale has an ageing population, and it will therefore be important to ensure that services can meet the changing needs of the population as they grow older.
- 5.33 Community cohesion is likely to be most directly influenced through detailed policies which have the granularity to deliver focused responses at specific locations. In the absence of the RLDP, it is possible that opportunities might be missed to address issues both at the local scale, and strategically throughout the county borough.

Key issues

5.34 The context review and baseline information informed the identification of several key issues (problems and opportunities):

- The Vale of Glamorgan exhibits considerable socio-economic diversity containing some of the most affluent and the most deprived communities in Wales. Three of the most deprived areas in Wales are within/ surrounding Barry, as shown in the latest 2019 Welsh IMD. 2019 data shows that inequalities exist in the Vale, not only linked to healthy lifestyles but across a wide range of indicators that impact upon an individual's well-being. Our built and natural environment can play a huge part in contributing towards well-being and evidence shows that many of the Vale's deprived areas have a poor-quality environment with less access to green spaces.
- The areas of the Vale which observed the lowest household incomes are also those with the lowest employment rates, and those with the lowest levels of educational attainment. The influence of socio-economic factors in the early years can be crucial in determining the life chances and opportunities of the future generations.
- Only a small proportion of residents are within minority ethnic, racial, and religious groups; however, the reliability of this data is arguably uncertain.
- Compared with the figure for Wales (29.2%), in 2020, a lower proportion of the population in the Vale (18.8%) are Welsh speakers. This may indicate a higher level of Anglicisation than other Welsh regions.
- The Vale has an ageing population, and it will therefore be important to ensure that future development proposals within the RLDP and service provision can meet the changing needs of the population as they grow older.

ISA Objectives

5.35 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the ISA should include the following objective and assessment questions:

ISA objectives	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
To reduce poverty and inequality; tackle social exclusion and promote community cohesion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce inequalities and deprivation across the Vale of Glamorgan, particularly in the most deprived wards and hidden areas of deprivation? • Improve equality of opportunities amongst those social groups most in need? • Contribute to a reduction in crime and social disorder and the fear of crime, promoting safer neighbourhoods? • Promote, strengthen, and enhance placemaking principles? • Protect and provide improved local, social, recreational and leisure facilities and access to the natural environment for all sectors of the community, and improve access to them to maximise opportunities for community development and social welfare? • Ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types, and tenures to meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities? • Promote the Vale’s bilingual public services and increase the development and use of the Welsh language in Vale of Glamorgan? • Support the aging population to ensure they do not become socially excluded?

6. Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)

6.1 This theme focuses on activities in the RLDP area that contribute to climate change and climate change mitigation, as well as the effects of climate change, including flood risk, and climate change adaptation.

Policy context

6.2 **Table 6.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the RLDP and ISA.

Table 6.1 Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to climate change

Document title	Year of publication
<u>The UK Climate Change Act</u>	2008
<u>UK (second) National Adaptation Programme 2018 to 2023</u>	2018
<u>Planning Wales Act</u>	2015
<u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act</u>	2015
<u>Environment (Wales) Act</u>	2016
<u>National Development Framework (Future Wales: The National Plan)</u>	2021
<u>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)</u>	2021
<u>Welsh Government Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) Statutory Guidance</u>	2019
<u>South Central Wales Area Statement</u>	2017
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12: Design</u>	2016
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15: Development, flooding and coastal erosion</u>	2021
<u>Flood Map for Planning</u>	2021
<u>UK Climate Change Risk Assessment</u>	2022
<u>Planning for Sustainable Buildings</u>	2014
<u>Reducing Carbon Emissions in Wales</u>	2020

Document title	Year of publication
<u>The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales</u>	2020
<u>Prosperity for all: A Low Carbon Wales</u>	2019
<u>Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting Guide</u>	2021
<u>Placemaking Wales Charter</u>	2020
<u>Cardiff City Region Energy Strategy</u>	2020
<u>The Second State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR2020)</u>	2020
<u>Towards Zero Waste</u>	2019
<u>Severn River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan</u>	2016
<u>Western Wales River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan</u>	2015
<u>Local Flood Risk Management Strategy</u>	2013
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Carbon Management Plan</u>	2018
<u>Project Zero Challenge Plan</u>	2021
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan</u>	2017
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board Climate Emergency Charter</u>	2021
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Renewable Energy SPG</u>	2019
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Council Climate Change Challenge Plan 2021-2030</u>	2021

6.3 Key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The Climate Change Act 2008 provides a framework at the UK level regarding the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The Act sets a legally binding target of reducing the UK's Green House Gas (GHG) emissions by 80% by 2050 compared with 1990 and requires a programme of rolling carbon budgets to be set to achieve this. The RLDP should set out policies and proposals to minimise environmental effects from new development and to promote use of renewable and low carbon technologies and minimising emissions of GHG emissions.

- Future Wales sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use in Wales, providing a context for the provision of new infrastructure/ growth. Future Wales provides a framework at the Welsh level to respond to the need to mitigate and adapt to the effect of climate change, recognising the role of the planning system in leading the way in promoting and delivering a competitive, sustainable, decarbonised society. The framework therefore focuses on seeking to decarbonise key economic sectors, encouraging renewable and low carbon energy generation and enhancing the resilience of the natural environment. The SDP for South East Wales will also seek to address regional factors; recognising the potential for planning to shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and deliver long-term resilience; including through reuse, regeneration and conversion.
- National planning policy is set out in PPW which recognises that 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 environment. PPW is supplemented by TANs, which together provide detailed planning policy and advice. Notably in relation to flooding, the general approach of PPW, supported by the TAN (TAN15 – Development, flooding and coastal erosion), is to advise caution in respect of new development in areas at high risk of flooding, by setting out a precautionary framework to guide planning decisions. The overarching aim of the precautionary framework is to direct new development away from those areas which are at high risk of flooding.
- The revised TAN15, initially published in 2021, will now take effect in 2023. Where any local authority will be undertaking a new Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment (SFCA), revised SFCAs must be in place by the end of November 2022, and will be the principal source of evidence to inform development plans' settlement strategies and site allocations in respect of flood risk, as well as locally specific flood risk policies.
- In line with the Flood and Water Management Act (2010), Welsh Government has produced its second national strategy on flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM) (October 2020). The strategy sets out how the Government intends to manage the risk and sets objectives and measures for all partners for the next ten years. Future LDPs will need to recognise the risk and provide a policy framework which looks to prevent exposure to risk which will be informed by the anticipated Wales Flood Map.
- When preparing the RLDP, the Council should consult with adjacent authorities and Natural Resources Wales and ensure that, as well as not being at risk itself, development does not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere.
- Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales (2019): This Plan sets out the Welsh Government's approach to cutting emissions and increasing efficiency in a way that maximises wider benefits for Wales, ensuring a fairer and healthier society. It sets out policies and proposals that seek to directly reduce emissions and support the growth of the low carbon economy. Of relevance to the RLDP are targets and policies introduced in relation to:
 - Energy.

- Transport.
 - Buildings.
 - Industry.
 - Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry.
 - Agriculture; and
 - Waste Management.
- In December 2020, the Climate Change Committee published its progress report “Reducing Carbon Emissions in Wales”. This is the first report on Wales’ progress towards meeting its emission reduction targets, as required under Article 45 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
 - In February 2021, the Welsh Government announced its commitment to reaching net zero emissions by 2050 through the publication of The Climate Change (Wales) Regulations 2021 which came into force on the 19th March 2021. The Regulations establish the legal commitment to net zero carbon emissions by 2050.
 - The new Regulations form part of the wider statutory framework for the reduction of emissions in Wales, set out in Part 2 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, amending the previous set targets for 2030 and 2040 targets from 45% and 67% to 63% and 89% respectively.
 - The Cardiff Capital Region and City Deal seeks to promote strong, connected and sustainable growth throughout the region, supporting Welsh Government’s objectives in relation to infrastructure and climate change. The deal aims to encourage investment, adaptation, and innovation within the ten local authorities and other key partners in its boundaries. Other local policies and plans will positively contribute towards tackling the causes of climate change and the need to deal with the consequences of climate change.
 - The Cardiff Capital Region Energy Strategy¹⁰⁴ has been developed with support from regional stakeholders, including local authorities. The overall objective being to develop a pathway identifying key interventions to deliver on the region’s ambitions for decarbonising its energy system.
 - The Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) has purchased Aberthaw Power Station, to develop and reposition it as an exemplar for green energy production in the region. A master plan for the site is currently being prepared which will seek to support the redevelopment of the site to deliver a range of renewable and green energy projects such as battery storage, a zero-carbon manufacturing cluster, green hydrogen production facilities and a green energy innovation centre to promote innovation, growth, knowledge and community interaction with the zero-carbon future of Wales.
 - Project Zero Challenge Plan (2021) is the Vale of Glamorgan Council’s response to the climate change emergency. Project Zero brings together the wide range of work and opportunities available to tackle the climate emergency, reduce the Council’s carbon emissions to net zero by 2030 and encourage others to make positive changes. The strategy highlights the role the replacement LDP plays in contributing to the climate change commitment

¹⁰⁴ Cardiff Capital Region (2022): ‘Cardiff Capital Region’s green energy plans for Aberthaw Power Station set to create thousands of jobs’, [online] available to access via [this link](#)

through for example securing planning contributions towards sustainable transport schemes and through implementation of policies that encourage renewable energy. The Council's Renewable Energy Report identified opportunities in the Vale of Glamorgan for a range of renewable energy schemes, particularly from standalone solar PV developments, small clusters of wind energy potential, biomass, and micro generation including Building Integrated Renewables.

- Specifically, the Vale of Glamorgan Renewable Energy SPG has been produced to support and add detail to the adopted LDP. It is intended to provide clear and precise guidance to assist homeowners, landowners, developers and other interested parties involved in the planning process on how to fully consider renewable energy in development proposals. Furthermore, the guidance seeks to ensure the benefits of renewable energy development are balanced against economic, social and amenity impacts on communities as well as the environmental impacts which include biodiversity and preserving the visual landscape to 10MW.

Baseline summary

Climate emergency

6.4 In July 2019 the Vale of Glamorgan Council joined with Welsh Government and other Councils across the UK in declaring a global 'climate emergency'. The Council made a commitment to:¹⁰⁵

- Reduce the Council's carbon emissions to net zero before the Welsh Government target of 2030 and support the implementation of the Welsh Government's new Low Carbon Delivery Plan.
- Make representations to the Welsh and UK Governments, as appropriate, to provide the necessary powers, resources and technical support to Local Authorities in Wales to help them successfully meet the 2030 target.
- Continue to work with partners across the region.
- Work with local stakeholders including Councillors, residents, young people, businesses, and other relevant parties to develop a strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030 and explore ways to maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and the economy.

Mitigation

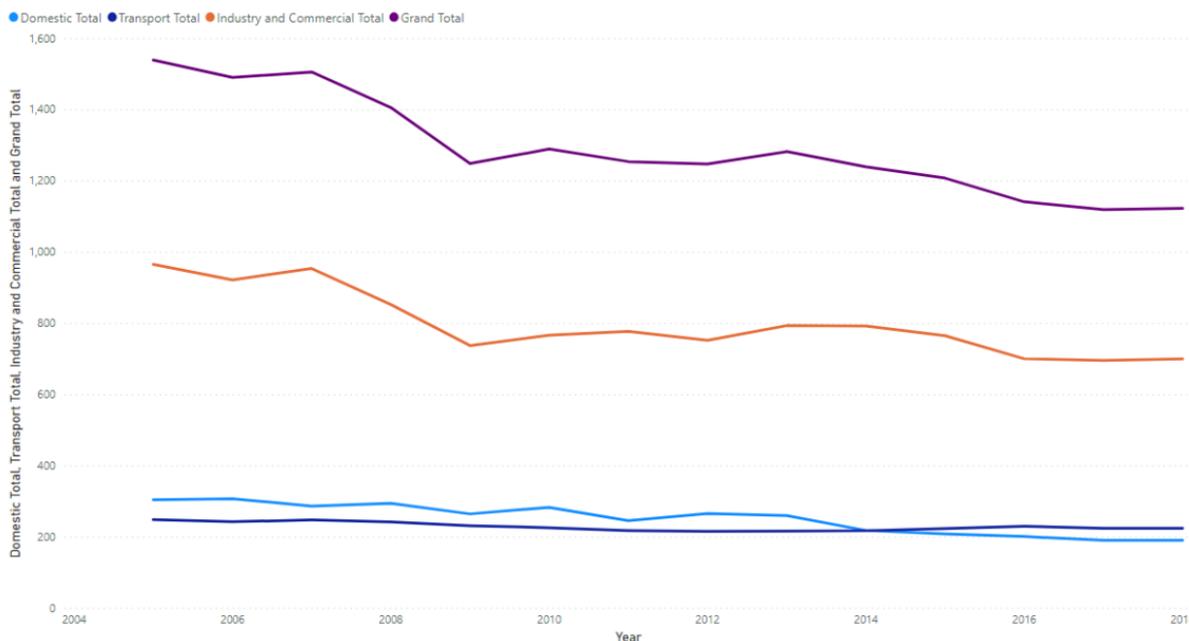
6.5 While there is limited information available at a local authority level on greenhouse gas emissions, the latest statistical summary from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (2019) (based on data up to 2017), indicates that Wales' CO₂ per capita emissions as a whole are higher than the rest of the UK regions and stand at 7.9 tonnes of CO₂ per person. This is due to Wales having the highest CO₂ per capita emission from the Industrial and Commercial sector (4.4t) reflecting its higher level of industrial installations. UK

¹⁰⁵ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2021): 'Project Zero Challenge Plan 2021 – 2030', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

wide, total greenhouse gas emissions have decreased by a further 2% between 2017 and 2018 bring a total reduction since 1990 of 43%.¹⁰⁶

- 6.6 The Vale of Glamorgan’s emissions largely reflect the significant industry, agriculture and airport present. The graph overleaf shows the CO₂ emissions for the Vale of Glamorgan 2004-2018, as measured by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.¹⁰⁷ **Figure 6.1** demonstrates that the industry sector has historically been, and remains, the largest contributing sector with regards to carbon dioxide. It also shows that for all sectors emissions have seen a significant decrease since 2004, although figures appear to be levelling off between 2016 and 2018.
- 6.7 Notably, decommissioned Aberthaw Power Station is set to be converted into a green energy hub after being purchased by Cardiff Capital Region (CCR)¹⁰⁸. As such, it is likely that CO₂ emissions from industry will decrease in the future.
- 6.8 It is also worth noting that Cardiff Airport is likely a significant contributor to transport emissions in the Vale.

Figure 6.1 Vale of Glamorgan carbon dioxide emissions by year¹⁰⁹



Renewable energy

- 6.9 Despite emission levels shown in **Figure 6.1** above, data shows that the LDP target of granting planning permissions sufficient to meet 10.6% (56.68 GWh) of projected electricity demand through renewable energy sources by 2020 has been met.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁶ Final UK greenhouse gas emissions national statistics from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (2020 figures)

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰⁸ New Civil Engineer (2022): ‘Decommissioned Welsh power station to be converted into £36M green energy hub’, [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

6.10 The Vale of Glamorgan Council has been implementing a range of projects that benefit the environment and reduce carbon emissions (see Project Zero Challenge Plan). Ongoing commitments to emissions reductions include:¹¹¹

- The Council purchase 100% of electricity from renewable sources and has granted planning permission to several solar farms.
- The Council have undertaken over 100 energy saving projects across council buildings including switching old inefficient lighting to LED lighting and the introduction of better energy controls.
- The Council have begun switching heating from gas to electricity by installing a Ground Source Heat pump at Cadoxton House in Barry and an Air Source Heat pump at BSC2 (the Engine Room) in Barry. These sites have seen significant improvements in energy consumption and there are plans for further installations.
- The Council have installed Solar panels on 14 buildings with a combined capacity of 480 KW. All systems are sized appropriately to match demand at the buildings on which they are mounted.
- 68% of the Council's street lighting has been converted to LED with plans to increase this to 92%.

6.11 As mentioned above, decommissioned Aberthaw Power Station is also set to be converted into a green energy hub.

6.12 **Figure 6.2** overleaf identifies all the known renewable energy and low carbon schemes which either have planning permission or are operational as of 2019 in the Vale of Glamorgan.¹¹² As to be expected, domestic solar schemes are the most prevalent, with schemes located throughout the Vale; while wind energy schemes are more limited in number, and located predominately to the north of the authority.

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² Vale of Glamorgan Council (2019) Renewable Energy SPG

Electric vehicles

6.13 Electric vehicles have a significant role to play in securing a greener future on the roads. The transport sector accounts for 17% of greenhouse gas emissions in Wales, and only 0.17% of vehicles used in Wales are electric.¹¹⁴

6.14 In line with national commitments, Vale of Glamorgan Council are delivering EV infrastructure and supporting the shift away from diesel vehicles throughout the authority. Notably:

- The Council's Parking Standards SPG (2019) encourages the provision of electric vehicle charging points and within non-residential developments seek to secure 10% of the total required parking spaces to provide electric vehicle charging point infrastructure, whilst also encourage similar provision within residential developments.
- Electric vehicle charging stations have been installed at selected school sites.
- Since March 2019 at least 10% of car parking spaces on non-residential developments are required to have electric vehicle charging points infrastructure.
- The Council is developing a network of Electric Vehicle Charging Points and is undertaking a feasibility study to investigate the options for providing safe and accessible electric vehicle charging capability at off and on street residential properties within the Vale of Glamorgan.
- The Council are supporting projects which promote alternatively fuelled vehicles; and
- The Council has begun to replace its existing fleet of diesel- powered pool cars with EVs.

Adaptation

6.15 Climate change is predicted to have effects relating to short-term changes to weather patterns as well as longer-term shifts in climatic trends. Weather patterns are predicted to see an increase in extreme weather events, including intense rainfall, heating, drought and cold snaps. Changes to climate are likely to lead to mean reductions in rainfall alongside mean increases in temperatures. It is also important to consider the seasonality of these shifts, with winters in the UK likely to be warmer and wetter and summers expected to be warmer and drier. Another consequence of climate change is rising sea levels, an issue which is exacerbated by storm surges which can lead to coastal flooding and erosion. Climate change adaptation refers to the actions taken to manage impacts of climate change by reducing vulnerability and exposure to its harmful effects, as well as exploiting any potential benefits.

Flood risk

6.16 The Vale of Glamorgan Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) (2013) focuses on 'local flood risk', defined as flooding caused by surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses (streams, ditches etc).¹¹⁵ This

¹¹⁴ Welsh Government (2021): 'Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹¹⁵ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2013): 'Local Flood Risk Management Strategy', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

type of flooding was the cause of most of the damage of the local floods of 1998, 2000 and 2007 and need to be taken as seriously as flooding from main rivers or the coast. Since 2007 the Vale of Glamorgan has experienced further flooding and extreme weather, affecting most of the authority due to the widespread nature and duration of events.¹¹⁶ More recently, in December 2020, significant flooding occurred in Dinas Powys and Sully. The Council subsequently undertook formal Section 19 flood investigations in relation to this flood event and the relevant reports are available on the Council's website via [this link](#).

- 6.17 Main river flooding accounts for the majority of all recorded flood events in the Vale of Glamorgan. As shown in **Figure 6.3** overleaf, fluvial flood risk extends throughout the Vale, mainly following the river corridors, and overlapping with settlements to some extent. The communities at highest risk from flooding are Cowbridge, Dinas Powys and parts of Barry, including Barry Docks and Atlantic Trading Estate. Llantwit Major is also at risk.
- 6.18 The LFRMS highlights that surface water flooding is much more difficult to quantify, particularly given that many incidents are often masked by the impact of main river flooding, or go unreported.¹¹⁷ However, based on anecdotal evidence and improved recording of recent incidents, surface water flooding is believed to occur fairly frequently within the Vale of Glamorgan. **Figure 6.4** shows that surface water flood risk exists throughout the wider RDLP area, extending through Cowbridge, Llysworney, and north of Pendoylan. The areas at greatest risk of surface water flooding throughout the Vale appear to be focussed around the southeast, including parts of Barry and Penarth.
- 6.19 The LFRMS also notes that localised groundwater flooding is reported to have occurred in Ewenny Village, St Brides Major, East Monkton, Rhoose and Barry.¹¹⁸

¹¹⁶ Vale of Glamorgan Council (no date): 'Community Flood Plan and Extreme Weather Guidance', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

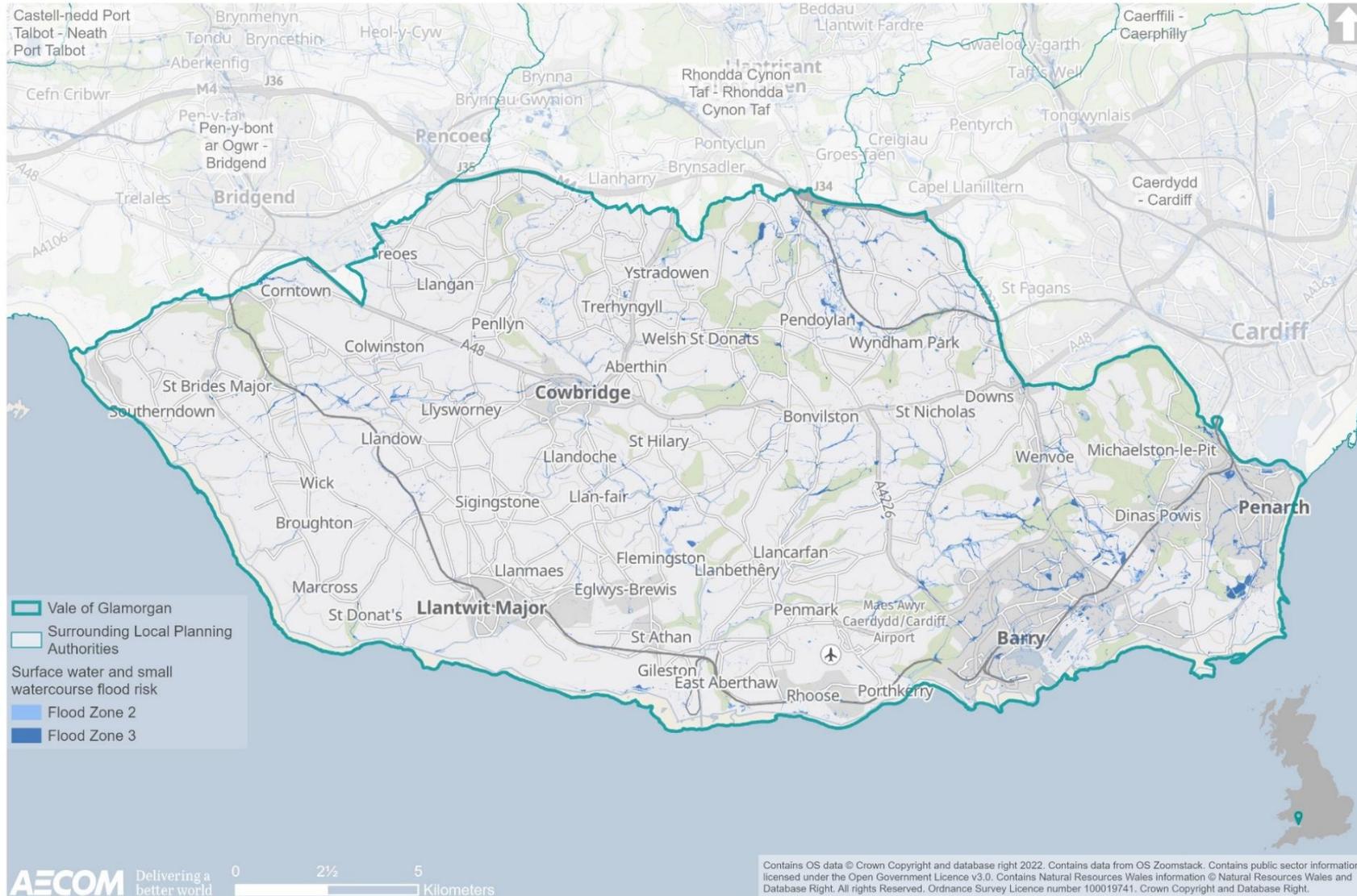
¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ Environment Agency (January 2012): 'Ogmore to Tawe CFMP Summary Report'

Figure 6.3 Fluvial flood risk



Figure 6.4 Surface water flood risk



Flood alert areas and flood defences

- 6.20 **Figure 6.5** overleaf shows areas in the Vale that benefit from flood defences that protect against flooding from Rivers and the Sea. These are located in Cowbridge and to the northeast of Barry, coinciding with flood alert areas. A Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) has reduced the level of flood risk within the main urban settlements of Cowbridge and Llanblethian. Elsewhere, informal defences provide protection where individual properties are at risk.¹¹⁹
- 6.21 The areas shown benefit from different levels of flood protection, and this is recognised in the risk classification shown in the Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map.¹²⁰ It is noted that this is not property specific and shows the benefit for a general area. However, **Figure 6.5** does also show specific flood defences that have been built, coinciding with flood defence areas, in addition to being located along the eastern and southern RDLP area boundary.
- 6.22 Notable recent Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) schemes include Boverton, Coldbrook and Llanmaes flood alleviation works¹²¹.

Green infrastructure

- 6.23 Natural solutions to reducing flood risk can come in the form of green infrastructure, including tree cover. Permeable surfaces provided by greenspace help to reduce surface water runoff, which in turn helps to reduce flood risk. Trees provide interception, reducing the volume of water reaching the ground during rainfall events, helping to reduce flood risk. In this sense, it is important to look at the levels of green infrastructure and its management within urban areas, including the soil resource, path networks, urban woodlands and other green infrastructure aimed at enhancing the quality and accessibility of the local environment. Note that rural areas are generally open countryside which are less likely to have issues relating to surface water runoff.
- 6.24 Green and open space is vast throughout the Vale, as shown in **Figure 4.1** and discussed in **Chapter 4** above. However, the areas of green and open space which are in direct Council control represent a small percentage, highlighting the important role of private landowners in contributing towards mitigating climate change and the sustainable management of green infrastructure.
- 6.25 Despite the above, the Council can still implement effective measures, which has been proven by recent tree planting schemes such as that set to take place in Barry. Specifically, this scheme plans to prevent flooding in Barry by planting more trees and reducing the amount of concrete pavement¹²².
- 6.26 In terms of relevant mitigation opportunities undertaken by the Council, monitoring has shown that since July 2018 the Vale has secured a replanting ratio of 2:1 for the removal of trees with a preservation order (TPO) or trees in a conservation area (TCA) This is in accordance with the Trees, Woodlands, Hedgerows and Development Supplementary Planning Guidance.¹²³

¹¹⁹ Capital Symonds (2013): 'Vale of Glamorgan Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Volume 2 Strategic Environmental Assessment Report', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

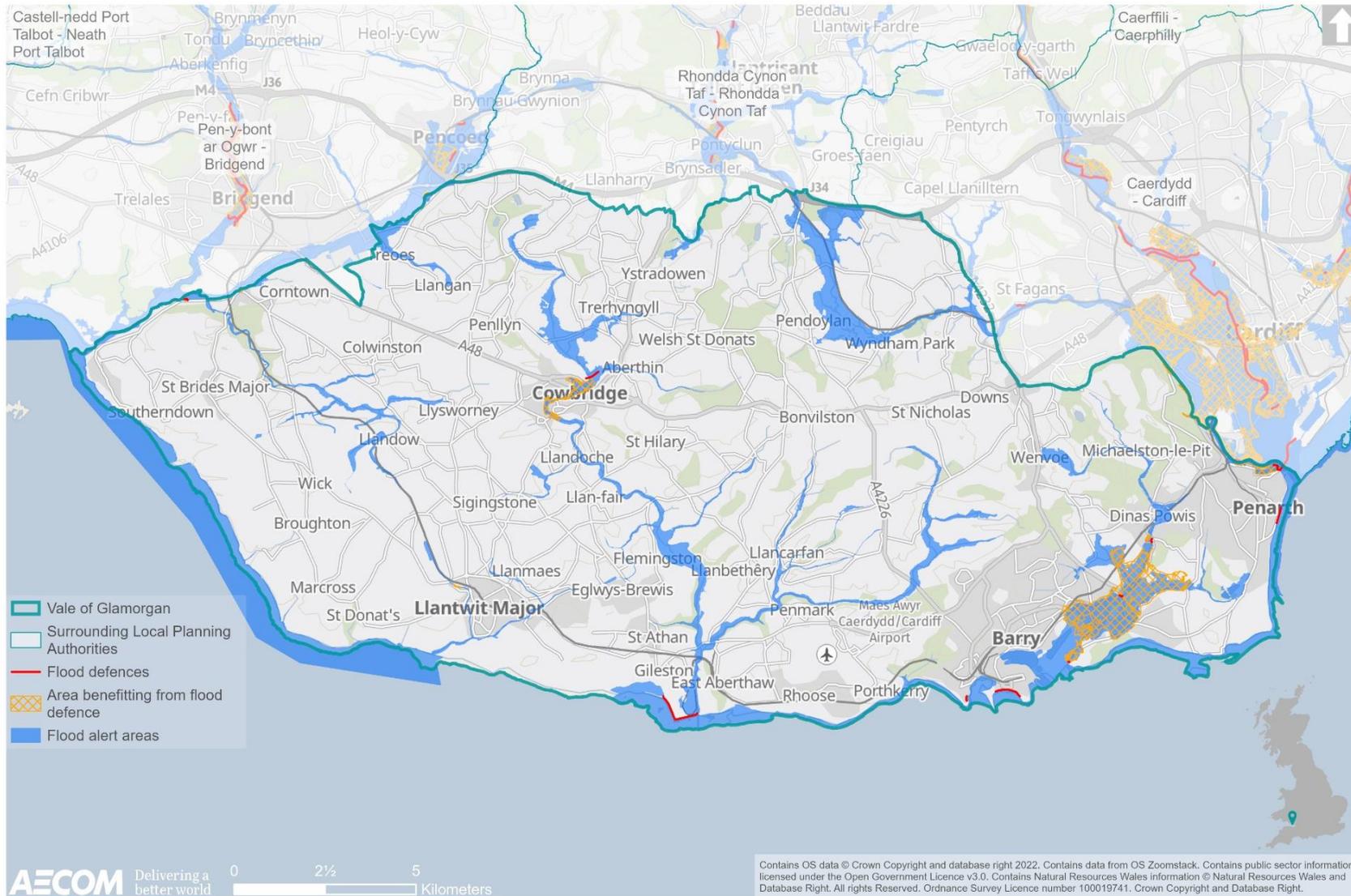
¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ Vale of Glamorgan (no date): 'Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹²² Barry Nub News (2020): 'The £192k Plan to Prevent Flooding in Barry with More Trees and Less Concrete', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹²³ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2021): 'Vale of Glamorgan Council declares nature emergency', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

Figure 6.5 Flood alert areas and flood defences



Future baseline

- 6.27 New development could potentially increase flood risk through factors such as changing surface and ground water flows, loss of mature vegetation, damaging soils, overloading existing inputs to the drainage and wastewater networks or increasing the number of residents exposed to areas of existing flood risk and potential elevated flood risks in the future. However, the surface water related flood risk would be mitigated by the Sustainable Drainage approval process.
- 6.28 Climatic and weather pattern changes towards higher mean temperatures and extreme heating events are likely to be seen in the future, this can be expected to have more pronounced effects upon urban areas and in particular vulnerable populations within these areas. This is likely to necessitate the pursuit of opportunities to design cooling solutions into development, such as shading by retaining and planning of trees and increased green infrastructure and ventilation.
- 6.29 National and international policy and agreements have begun to show a more urgent stance in relation to approaches designed to combat and adapt to the effects of climate change. If this trajectory continues then it may be likely that a greater release of funding will be available for local schemes to adapt to the effects of climate change.
- 6.30 The policy agreements and urgency with which the matter of climate change is being focused upon is likely to increase over time. This will be expected to lead to policies which restrict the use of fossil fuel emitting activities and support energy efficiency measures, helping to drive down CO2 emissions.
- 6.31 It is considered that opportunities for renewable and low energy generation will further increase over time. This is anticipated to be across a range of sources, as well as from sources enabled through the development of new technologies. As discussed above, this is currently being taken advantage of throughout the Vale, for example with many operational large scale energy schemes in place.

Key issues

- 6.32 The context review and baseline information informed the identification of several key issues (problems and opportunities):
- In support the implementation of the Welsh Government's new Low Carbon Delivery Plan, there is a need to decarbonise across all sectors of society (including the economy, energy, infrastructure, lifestyles), with further need to take measures to reduce the levels of carbon in the atmosphere. Energy reduction and efficiency measures are being explored/ implemented throughout the Vale in line with the Project Zero Challenge Plan, with many operational large scale energy schemes in place.
 - The need to ensure that existing natural resources are managed and protected in recognition of the significant role they have in providing natural solutions for mitigating the impact of climate change as well as supporting a wealth of biodiversity and improving wellbeing.

- Planning must play a key role in ensuring that communities and infrastructure are resilient to the negative effects of climate change, by avoiding risk in the first instance and seeking to mitigate risk if options are unavoidable (e.g., by utilising green infrastructure). In this respect, it is recognised that the adopted LDP target of granting planning permissions sufficient to meet 10.6% (56.68 GWh) of projected electricity demand through renewable energy sources by 2020 has been met.¹²⁴
- Principal sources of flood risk within the Vale are from surface water and fluvial flood risk, the latter primarily along river corridors which pose a risk to some settlements. Coastal flooding is also a risk to some existing residential and employment areas notably parts of Barry Docks and Atlantic Trading Estate lie within high flood risk areas.
- Although overall emissions in the Vale have decreased over time, CO2 emissions data from 2016 to 2018 appear to be levelling off for all emission sources. It is however recognised that the situation may have changed since 2018, particularly given the Council's commitment to net zero by 2030 and strategies, projects, etc. implemented to help address this target. Notably, climate change has a knock-on effect on biodiversity, which is extremely sensitive to changes in the natural environment, including temperature, rainfall, humidity and wind speed. In this respect, it will be important that the relationship between these two SEA topics, especially in relation to the distinct climate / biodiversity in the Vale, is highlighted.
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ISA objectives

6.33 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the ISA should include the following objective and assessment questions:

ISA objectives	Assessment questions – will the policy/proposal help to:
Support the resilience of Vale of Glamorgan to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding from fluvial, coastal and surface water sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding, considering the likely future effects of climate change? • Increase resilience of the built and natural environment to the effects of climate change particularly in areas where coastal and fluvial flooding is identified? • Ensure that the potential risks associated with climate change are considered in new development in the plan area? • Protect, improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support climate change adaptation? • Utilise green infrastructure to sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff, whilst

¹²⁴ Ibid.

ISA objectives**Assessment questions – will the policy/proposal help to:**

	<p>creating opportunities for habitat creation, tree planting and open spaces?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise flood risk for key infrastructures, such as transport and power?
<p>Reduce Vale of Glamorgan's contribution to climate change from activities which result in greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to meeting the Council's target of net zero.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria? • Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable sources? • Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources? • Reduce the need to travel or the number of journeys made? • Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport? • Ensure rural development does not contribute towards further increases in high energy use and unsustainable travel?

7. Transportation

7.1 This theme focuses on transport infrastructure, transport usage, traffic flows and congestion, and accessibility levels in Vale of Glamorgan.

Policy context

7.2 **Table 7.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the RLDP and ISA.

Table 7.1 Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to transportation

Document title	Year of publication
<u>Planning Wales Act</u>	2015
<u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act</u>	2015
<u>Environment (Wales) Act</u>	2016
<u>National Development Framework (Future Wales: The National Plan)</u>	2021
<u>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)</u>	2021
<u>South Central Wales Area Statement</u>	2017
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 18: Transport</u>	2007
<u>Wales Transport Strategy</u>	2021
<u>Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales</u>	2021
<u>Welsh Government Active Travel Act Guidance</u>	2021
<u>Welsh Government: Smarter working: a remote working strategy for Wales.</u>	2022
<u>Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013</u>	2013
<u>Active Travel Act guidance</u>	2021
<u>South Wales Metro: Rolling Out Our Metro</u>	2016
<u>South East Wales Transport Commission: emerging conclusions</u>	2020
<u>Cardiff Airport 2040 Masterplan</u>	2018
<u>Cardiff Capital Region and City Deal</u>	2016

Document title	Year of publication
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Local Transport Plan</u>	2015
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Wellbeing Assessment 2021</u>	2021
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan</u>	2017

7.3 Key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- Future Wales identifies Vale of Glamorgan as having one of the most distinctive urban settlement patterns in the UK, with nuanced social and economic needs, and as such the RLDP should set out policies and proposals reflecting the structural economic and social issues that impact upon residents' prosperity and well-being. The emerging SDP for South East Wales will also seek to address regional factors such as transportation and accessibility to services, housing, and employment. Supporting Vale of Glamorgan as an area with essential services and facilities; transport and digital infrastructure will help to support better connections.
- National planning policy is set out in PPW and Future Wales, which puts the concept of placemaking into the centre of national planning policy, to deliver new development which is sustainable. PPW is supplemented by TANs, which translate Welsh Government's commitment to sustainable development into the planning system. A primary objective of PPW is to ensure that the planning system contributes positively towards improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. This is 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. Notably, TAN18 (Transport) includes advice on:
 - Integration of land use and transport planning.
 - Location of development.
 - Regional transport plans.
 - Parking; and
 - Design of development.
- 'Llwybr Newydd: The Wales Transport Strategy 2021' was published in March 2021 and sets out the Welsh Government's strategic priorities for transport investment in Wales. The central aim of the strategy is to reduce the impact that transport has on climate change, setting a target for 45% of all journeys within Wales to be undertaken sustainably by 2040. The three main priorities in the Strategy are to:
 - Bring services to people in order to reduce the need to travel – which will mean an increase of local services.
 - Allow people and goods to move easily from door to door by accessible, sustainable and efficient transport services and infrastructure and
 - Encourage people to make the change to a more sustainable transport option by making public transport more affordable and reliable.

- The Welsh Government's Smarter working: a remote working strategy for Wales sets out its plans to work with businesses, trade unions and key stakeholders to help employers adopt a more agile and flexible approach within their workplace. The strategy sets a target for 30 per cent of the Welsh workforce to be working at or near to home by 2026 and explains how the government plans to embed remote working for the long-term in the Welsh workplace. The strategy also sets out the economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits of remote working:
 - Social and well-being benefits -offers greater choice and flexibility which can improve well-being, mental health, work-life balance, job satisfaction and productivity, reduces the time and expense associated with commuting.
 - Environmental wellbeing- reduces work-related travel, which will help ease congestion, reduce noise and carbon emissions, and improve air quality in some areas, reduces traffic to create a better environment for pedestrians, cyclists and other highway users, encourages walking, cycling and e-bike use to improve health and promote sustainable ways to travel.
 - Economic wellbeing – creates more job opportunities for people based in any location in Wales – in particular, workers in rural and semi-rural communities, attracts citizens back to their country of birth, gives employers access to a wider and more diverse workforce and can increase productivity and reduce sickness absences.
 - Cultural well-being -nurtures and encourages a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.
- The Cardiff Capital Region and City Deal seeks to promote strong, sustainable, and balanced growth throughout the region, committing to a partnership approach to 'Powering the Welsh Economy'. This includes investment in the region's infrastructure, and the creation of a Regional Transport Authority as part of CCR governance arrangements to represent the ten local authorities and other key partners in its boundaries. The RLDP should set out policies and proposals for high quality, accessible transport systems that support economic development and regeneration across the region for the benefit of its resident population.
- Being committed to the Cardiff Capital Region, the Council sets out support for working with Welsh Government and the CCR Cabinet in implementing better regional links to Cardiff and other schemes to grow the local/regional economy such as the M4 relief proposals, electrification, and the Metro proposals. The South East Wales Transport Commission: emerging conclusions (2020) is a key piece of evidence in this respect, setting out future recommendations to the Welsh Government of sustainable measures to tackle congestion on the M4 in South East Wales. Responsibility for the development of strategic transport policy and the development of the regional transport plan lies with the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee (Transport Functions) (CJC), (which came into force February 2022). Notably a new Regional Transport Plan is to be prepared for which WG guidance is awaited and expected shortly.
- Supporting national transport priorities in delivering the Cardiff Capital Region complementary measures will maximise the value of transport investment, which will in turn support:

- Economic growth.
- Access to employment.
- Tackling poverty.
- Sustainable travel and safety; and
- Access to services.

- 7.4 The Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP) seeks to identify the local sustainable transport measures required to ensure the Vale of Glamorgan adheres to requirements set by Welsh Government and current good practice guidance. The LTP sets out several objectives to 2030, informed by proposals within the Council's Local Development Plan and is also consistent with the Wales Transport Strategy objectives. In identifying schemes, the LTP seeks ways to secure better conditions for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users and to encourage a change in travel choices away from the single occupancy car. The LTP also seeks to tackle traffic congestion by securing improvements to the strategic highway corridors for commuters who may need to travel by car as well as providing better infrastructure for freight. It also seeks to address the key road safety priorities for the Vale.
- 7.5 The LTP supports proposals for the Cardiff Metro and the LTP will inform future regional transport planning, as set out above.

Baseline summary

Key transport routes

- 7.6 **Figure 7.1** overleaf sets out Vale of Glamorgan's key travel routes, and it is recognised that the strategic highways network suffers from congestion at a small number of strategic bottlenecks, with a high proportion of journeys in and out of the Vale made by car.¹²⁵ Specifically, 'school run' congestion is a key issue for the Vale.
- 7.7 The A4055 through Dinas Powys is a key problem area of the regional road network because of the scale of traffic and associated congestion.
- 7.8 The A4050 Port Road is a major strategic transport route that connects Cardiff Airport through Barry to the transport interchange at Culverhouse Cross and the M4.¹²⁶
- 7.9 The A48 Bridgend to Culverhouse Cross is recognised by South East Wales Transport Alliance (now disbanded) as a major strategic transport route that connects Bridgend to Cardiff and the rural Vale to Cardiff and the M4.
- 7.10 Barry Waterfront to Dinas Powys is identified as a major strategic transport corridor connecting Barry to Cardiff.¹²⁷

Cardiff Airport

- 7.11 Cardiff Airport is the national airport for Wales and a key gateway to the UK for international business and leisure customers. 18 airlines currently operate out

¹²⁵ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2015): 'Local Transport Plan 2015-2030', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹²⁶ Ibid

¹²⁷ Ibid

of Cardiff, offering access to a wealth of destinations around the world, including direct flights to global hubs in Doha and Amsterdam.

- 7.12 The Cardiff Airport 2040 Masterplan outlines that passenger numbers increased by 8% over 2018, with more than 1.5 million passengers now choosing Cardiff Airport annually. The core catchment area of its passenger market within Wales has a population of 2.4 million, with an outer catchment area in South West of England containing a further 4 million.
- 7.13 Last year, the Welsh Government confirmed that it would not be funding a new road linking the M4 with Cardiff Airport as the scheme is not in line with grant criteria or the transport policy framework¹²⁸.
- 7.14 The Cardiff Airport and St Athan Enterprise Zone focuses on the advanced materials and manufacturing sector, and in particular, its aerospace sub-sector. Within the Strategic Plan (2018 to 2021), it is stated that:
- “At Cardiff Airport considerable improvements have been made to the visitor experience in an effort to attract more routes. This has included reconfiguring the car parks, internal changes of use to provide more natural light and additional public transportation to the Airport. These works will continue as part of the ambitious business plan being implemented by the Airport.”*
- 7.15 Notably, there is a continued need for enhanced transport links at St Athans in light of its Enterprise Zone status.

¹²⁸ BBC News (2021): ‘Cardiff Airport: M4 to A48 link road funds denied’, [online] available to access via [this link](#)

Figure 7.1 Key travel routes



Sustainable transport

7.16 **Figure 7.2** shows sustainable transport routes within the Vale, which are further discussed overleaf.

Rail

7.17 As shown in **Figure 7.2** there are eleven railway stations in the Vale, connecting residents with neighbouring key centres, including the wider region and South East England. Most of these railway stations are serviced by trains every 15 minutes, providing a good connection to the capital. The rail stations are widespread throughout the authority with a number concentrated within Barry and Penarth:

- Barry Docks.
- Barry Island.
- Barry.
- Cadoxton.
- Cogan.
- Dinas Powys.
- Dingle Road.
- Eastbrook.
- Llantwit Major.
- Penarth; and
- Rhoose Cardiff International Airport.

Bus

7.18 **Figure 7.2** shows the bus stops present throughout the Vale. While these appear to be widespread, it is also clear that these are focussed on the Vale's main settlements. There are, however, limited bus service provision in the rural areas, which is recognised as a key issue in the latest Local Transport Plan. Specifically, there are limited evening and weekend bus services for rural villages and limited and restricted services in towns and urban areas.¹²⁹

7.19 Greenlinks Community Transport offers accessible volunteer driven vehicles and has four accessible minibuses, plus two accessible cars¹³⁰. These vehicles can transport people with accessibility needs to any destination at any time. A Greenlinks membership costs £5, with each journey costing as little as £2, however membership is not required to access the weekly services G1 (St Athan to Bridgend via Cowbridge and surrounding villages) and G4 (rural Vale to Cardiff). Notably, there is currently a reduced service due to Covid-19.

7.20 Integrated Transport Hubs facilities are available at the following railway stations:

- Barry.

¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ Vale of Glamorgan Council (no date): 'Greenlinks Community Transport', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

- Barry Dock.
- Cadoxton.
- Cogan.
- Dinas Powys.
- Eastbrook.
- Llantwit Major.
- Penarth; and
- Rhoose.

South Wales Metro

- 7.21 One of the objectives of the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) is to connect communities, business, jobs, facilities, and services in the area. A main priority with regards to improved transportation is the delivery of the South Wales Metro, a major infrastructure project signalling an ambitious 'modal shift' in connecting people and places and enhancing the functional economic geography of the region.
- 7.22 The Barry Town Centre Gateway Regeneration project has identified the need to comprehensively regenerate land in the vicinity of Barry Docks Railway Station, which is an important gateway to the town centre and Waterfront. As part of the Metro Plus programme, the Barry Transport Hub scheme will provide a planned bus interchange, additional park and ride capacity, improve connectivity with the town centre and create a modern well-designed arrival point. This interchange scheme is due to be delivered in full by 31st March 2023.¹³¹ Work has also been underway on the Cogan Interchange.

Walking and cycling

- 7.23 Walking and cycling are sustainable and practical alternatives to the private car, supporting healthy lifestyles and reducing the impact on the environment.
- 7.24 As shown in **Figure 7.3**, National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 88 extends through the Vale, in an east - west direction. Route 88 links NCN Route 4 at Margam Park in the county borough of Bridgend, through the Vale of Glamorgan to the start of NCN Route 8 in Cardiff Bay.
- 7.25 As discussed in **Chapter 4** above and shown within **Figure 7.3** overleaf, the Vale has a vast PRoW network, connecting settlements and providing opportunities to travel sustainably for localised journeys. The Wales Coast Path is important in this respect, stretching from Cardiff Bay/Ely Estuary in the east to the Ogmore River in the west. As discussed in **Chapter 4**, the path provides opportunity for walking / cycling along 53km of the coastline.
- 7.26 The Pont Y Werin and Cardiff Barrage over the River Ely are also noteworthy strategic walking and cycling links between the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff.
- 7.27 In terms of ongoing projects, 'Active Travel schemes' have been delivered throughout the Vale to improve opportunities for walking and cycling in several areas including Cowbridge, Llantwit Major, Penarth Heights, Lavernock Road /

¹³¹ Transport for Wales (2022): 'Cardiff South', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

Cosmeston, Sully Road/St Joseph's School and South Road / Hayes Road / Sully Moors Road.¹³²

7.28 In September 2014, the Welsh Government introduced the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 which makes it a legal requirement for local authorities in Wales to map and plan for suitable routes for active travel within certain settlements, as specified by Welsh Government. The Vale of Glamorgan Council submitted their Integrated Network Maps in November 2017, which set out the Authority's aspirations for improving active travel routes across the County over the next 15 years.

7.29 Also of note is the 'Nextbike' scheme which was launched in Penarth in 2020. There have been over 1,400 rentals across 5 docking stations between November 2020 and January 2021.¹³³ Docking stations have also been installed at Cosmeston and Sully with plans for 2 stations in Dinas Powys.

7.30 There is also an E-Bike hire scheme in the Vale of Glamorgan, which is the first to be launched in Wales¹³⁴. E-Bike Docking stations have been installed at:

- Windsor Road, Penarth.
- The Esplanade, Penarth.
- Penarth Train Station.
- Cosmeston Country Park.
- Llandough Hospital; and
- The Barrage.

7.31 In addition to this, the Council plan to install E-Bike docking stations at:

- Sully.
- Dinas Powys.
- Cogan; and
- Stanwell, Penarth.

¹³² Ibid.

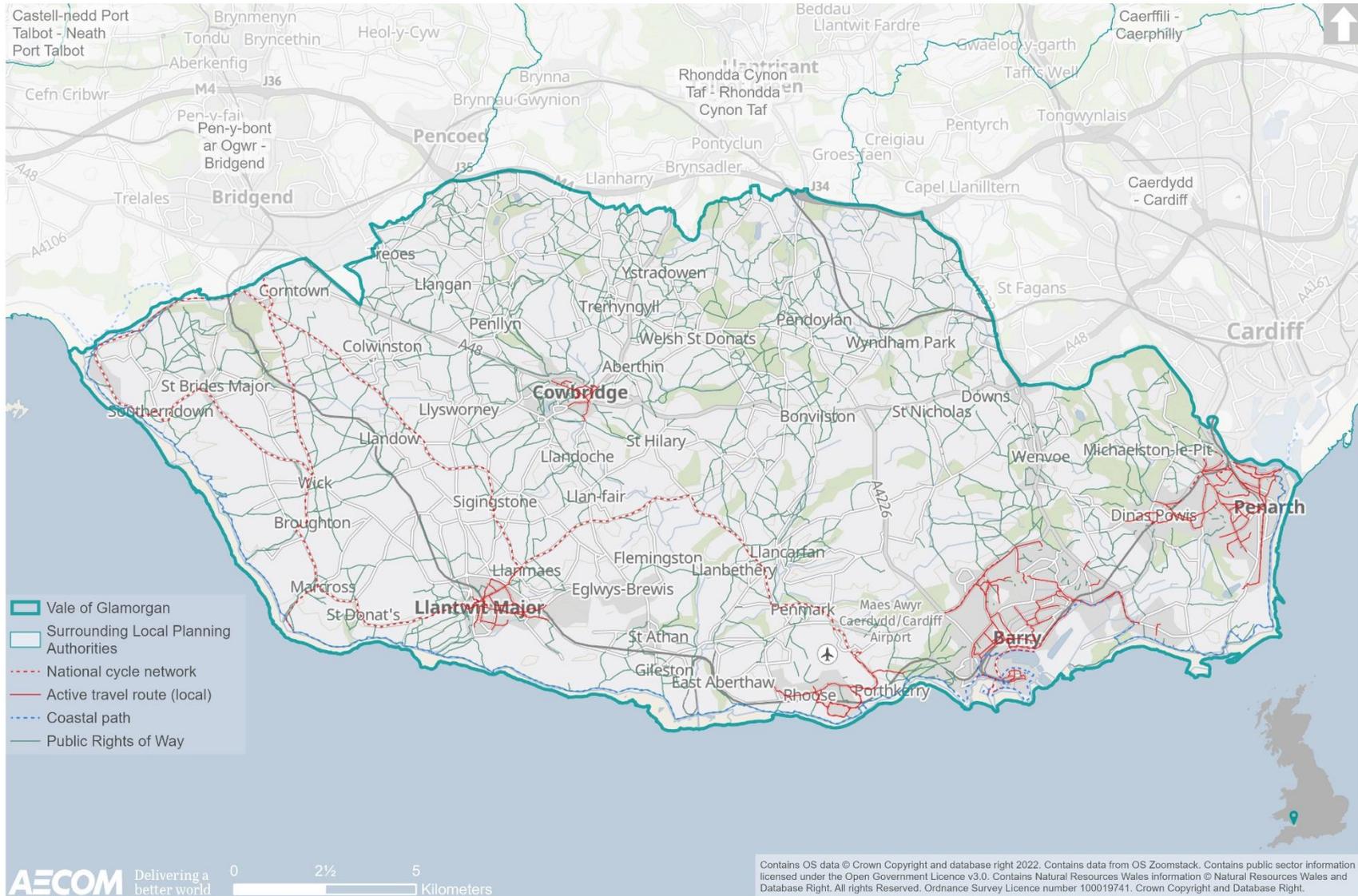
¹³³ Ibid.

¹³⁴ Vale of Glamorgan Council (no date): 'E-Bike Hire Scheme', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

Figure 7.2 Sustainable transport – public transport



Figure 7.3 Sustainable transport – active travel routes (2022)



Travel to work

- 7.32 Detailed commuting patterns provide an insight into where residents of the Vale of Glamorgan travel to work and where those who travel to the Vale of Glamorgan for work live.
- 7.33 In 2020, most residents, 28,200 lived and travelled to work in the Vale of Glamorgan, 22,500 residents travelled to Cardiff for work and smaller numbers commuted to Bridgend and Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) for work. Interestingly between 2019 and 2020 the numbers of people resident in the Vale of Glamorgan recording that they worked in England or outside Wales fell significantly, this may illustrate the impact of the pandemic on commuting and the move towards home working. Similarly, of those commuting to the Vale of Glamorgan for work, there were falls in the numbers travelling from Rhondda Cynon Taf and Cardiff, but a growth in those travelling from Bridgend. Although data is not available on the types of transport used for commuting in the Vale of Glamorgan, it is likely that transport in the Vale of Glamorgan reflects national trends with the majority of journeys being made by car.

Future baseline

- 7.34 Sustainable transport improvements are anticipated locally in conjunction with increased peak rail and bus services as outlined in the LTP, and the forthcoming emerging Regional Transport Plan (RTP). The RTP will bring a regional focus to the implementation of the Wales Transport Strategy, recognising the diverse economic and social geography of the wider area. This will help deliver enhanced mobility for both residents and visitors, and support greater accessibility to jobs and services.
- 7.35 It is considered that that future transport infrastructure put forward as part of the Cardiff City Region Deal investment plans will allow Vale of Glamorgan residents to more easily travel within the region to access opportunities and similarly for people to easily access the Vale for employment and for leisure opportunities. Noteworthy in this respect is the South Wales Metro and Barry Transport Hub Scheme.
- 7.36 Further emphasis will also be placed on active travel in accordance with the delivering the aspirations of the Active Travel (Wales) Act, supporting walking and cycling as the normal choice for shorter journeys.
- 7.37 Support for active travel reflects changing attitudes in light of the recent pandemic, which has brought about significant change in many people's working and commuting habits. The Welsh Government's commitment for encouraging home and distance working to continue post pandemic will benefit strategic road infrastructure and reduce the effects of congestion especially during peak commuting times.
- 7.38 While an uptake of active travel may be seen, residents who continue to commute longer distance to work may also display more preference for private rather than public transport forms in the short- to medium-term, recognising the constraints of social distancing. This is likely to be exacerbated in areas of the Vale where access and frequency of public transport is poor.

7.39 Access to transport varies across the Vale of Glamorgan with more rural areas of the Western Vale identified by the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2019 Access to Services Domain as having poorer access to public transport than more urban areas of Barry and the Eastern Vale. It is estimated that Llandow / Ewenny Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in the Western Vale has a public travel return time to pharmacies, food shops and GP surgeries of almost 6 times longer than that of Stanwell 2 LSOA in the Eastern Vale. For these more rural areas, without improvements to public transport linkages, having access to private transport options, in particular access to a car, becomes key to be able to access services.

Key issues

7.40 The context review and baseline information informed the identification of several key issues (problems and opportunities):

- It is recognised that the emerging RTP, in addition to schemes outlined in the LTP, will help to alleviate road traffic issues associated with future development in the authority. However, it is also recognised that road infrastructure has historically struggled to keep pace with increases in road vehicles, therefore congestion and capacity issues are likely to be exacerbated to some extent by future growth.
- Access and frequency of public transport is varied across the Vale of Glamorgan, within rural services being less frequent than those within urban settlements
- Currently, the highest proportion of residents commute via car, reflecting the semi-rural nature of the Vale. The replacement LDP will need to consider the impact of Covid-19 on travel patterns, particularly in relation to public transport usage, as well as the shift seen to working from home.
- Opportunities for modal shift are identified through the South Wales Metro Project¹³⁵, which includes significant expansion and enhancement of the rail network, bus services and cycle and pedestrian networks. Growth should be coordinated with strategic transport infrastructure improvements to maximise opportunities for connected and accessible development.
- In terms of active travel the Vale has a vast walking and cycle network, which includes 55km of PRow and NCN route 88, connecting residents across settlements within and outside of the Vale. However it is noted that the NCN is piecemeal beyond the main south east settlement. Tailored 'active travel schemes' are being explored and implemented throughout the Vale including Cowbridge and Llantwit Major.

ISA objectives

7.41 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the ISA should include the following objective and assessment questions:

¹³⁵ Welsh Government (no date): 'Rolling out our metro', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

ISA objectives

Assessment questions – will the policy/proposal help to:

Increase sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.

- Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development?
- Provide opportunities to improve frequency and availability of public transport services particularly for rural communities?
- Encourage modal shift to more sustainable and active forms of travel, such as walking and cycling and use of public transport?
- Support opportunities for modal shift as set out in the South Wales Metro Project?
- Prioritise sustainable transport options over car use where possible, including provision of adequate cycle parking and storage options?
- Enable transport infrastructure improvements?
- Deliver and where necessary improve active travel networks?
- Support the uptake of low carbon transport such as E-bikes and electric buses?
- Contribute towards the EV charging network?
- Facilitate working from home and remote working?
- Provide improvements to and/ or reduce congestion on the existing highway network?
- Contribute to green infrastructure networks?

8. Natural resources (air, land, minerals and waste)

8.1 This theme focuses on local air quality, the quality of soil resources, waste generation, the extent of mineral resources, water supply resources and water quality in Vale of Glamorgan.

Policy context

8.2 **Table 8.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the RLDP and ISA.

Table 8.1 Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to natural resources

Document title	Year of publication
<u>UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations</u>	2017
<u>Planning Wales Act</u>	2015
<u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act</u>	2015
<u>Environment (Wales) Act</u>	2016
<u>National Development Framework (Future Wales: The National Plan)</u>	2021
<u>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)</u>	2021
<u>Air Quality Wales Regulations</u>	2002
<u>The Clean Air Plan for Wales</u>	2018
<u>White Paper on a Clean Air (Wales) Bill</u>	2021
<u>The Environmental Noise (Wales) Regulations 2006</u>	2006
<u>Welsh Water's Water Resource Management Plan</u>	2019
<u>The Second State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR2020)</u>	2020
<u>Towards Zero Waste</u>	2019
<u>Beyond Recycling: A strategy to make the circular economy in Wales a reality</u>	2021
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 11: Noise</u>	1997

Document title	Year of publication
<u>Updates to TAN11: Noise</u>	2015
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 21: Waste</u>	2014
<u>South Central Wales Area Statement</u>	2017
<u>SWRAWP Annual Report for 2019</u>	2019
<u>Natural Resources Policy</u>	2017
<u>Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP)</u>	2020
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan</u>	2017
<u>Project Zero Challenge Plan</u>	2021
<u>Recycling and Waste Management Business Plan and Strategy</u>	2022

8.3 Key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The RLDP will be required to be in general conformity with Future Wales, which forms part of the development plan and sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use, providing a context for the provision of new infrastructure/ growth. Future Wales identifies Vale of Glamorgan as falling within the South East Wales region, the smallest of the four regions by area, including the coastal cities of Cardiff and Newport and the former industrial heartlands of the south Wales valleys. The SDP for South East Wales seeks to address regional factors such as air quality, the water environment, land use, and the soil resource, recognising the wider benefits of natural capital and derived from ecosystem services.
- Furthermore, Future Wales recognises the need to take account of the long-term implications of climate change and build resilience in this respect, by guiding strategic development over the next 20 years. Future Wales encourages efficient land use, requiring that the relationships between all forms of land use and management be considered more fully if Wales is to address the climate emergency, reverse biodiversity decline and enable communities to benefit from more sustainable forms of managing natural resources. This is especially the case in large parts of the region's rural areas.
- The Environment (Wales) Act sets out the “sustainable management of natural resources” (SMNR); using natural resources in a way and at a rate that promotes the achievement of the objective to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide. The Act sets out a framework for the delivery of SMNR, which includes practical steps to improve air quality, not just in the most polluted hotspots but across Wales.

- The Welsh Government has committed to taking a cross-government approach to tackling air quality. The 'Clean Air Wales' Programme (2018) seeks to reduce the burden of poor air quality on human health and the natural environment. This programme will consider evidence and develop and implement actions required across government departments including environment, health, education, decarbonisation, transport, local government, planning, agriculture, and industry to achieve clean air for Wales. The Programme will build on existing cross government work to reduce air pollution, including Future Wales and PPW.
- The Environmental Noise (Wales) Regulations 2006 require the National Assembly for Wales to identify and publish details of noise sources. The competent authority must then produce strategic noise maps and action plans to deal with this noise pollution. Adding to this, TAN 11: Noise (1997) outlines how to use the planning system to reduce the adverse impact of noise. In 2015, an update to TAN 11: Noise was outlined.
- National planning policy is set out in PPW, the primary objective of which is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development, and contributes positively towards improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. This is 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. In respect of natural resources, PPW requires that the preparation of LDP's takes account of the physical and environmental constraints on development of land, including, for example, the level of contamination and stability. Consideration should also be given to the potential impacts which remediation of land contamination might have upon the natural and historic environments.
- PPW also requires development plans to take water-related issues into account from an early stage in the process of identifying land for development and redevelopment. Allied to this, the Council, as a Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB), has statutory responsibility for determining drainage applications in conjunction with new development.
- Air quality and soundscape are addressed in the PPW as a key component of the natural and built environment, placing the issues on an equal footing with other objectives such as housing, transport, and economic development. PPW recognises the importance of air quality and appropriate soundscapes to the health and well-being of people and the environment and seeks to ensure long-term approaches are taken to prevent creation of new problems or worsening of existing issues.
- With specific reference to waste management, TAN21 (Waste) states that land use planning should help to:
 - Drive the management of waste up the waste hierarchy and facilitate the provision of an adequate network of appropriate facilities.
 - Minimise the impact of waste management on the environment (natural and manmade) and human health through the appropriate location and type of facilities; and
 - Recognise and support the economic and social benefits that can be realised from the management of waste as a resource within Wales.

- The Collections, Infrastructure and Markets Sector Plan (2012) 'Towards Zero Waste' is the overarching waste strategy document for Wales and covers the management of all waste in Wales and suggests where improved recycling is needed and aims to facilitate infrastructure developments to address the waste management capacity needs for Wales. For South East Wales, the plan identifies a requirement for additional waste management facilities capable of handling between 421,000 and 871,000 tonnes by 2024-2025.
- Regarding minerals, PPW stresses the importance of safeguarding deposits which society may need in the future. The RLDP should seek to safeguard the local resource in accordance with national policy to ensure availability for future generations. Specifically, PPW sets out a requirement for a steady and adequate supply of minerals. MTAN 1 (aggregates) and MTAN 2 (coal) further set a principle for the sustainable provision of resource to meet social needs for construction (aggregates) and energy (coal). The Regional Technical Statement 2nd Review sets the sub-regional and local context for minerals provision going forward, including local requirements for primary aggregates.
- PPW sets out that development plans are important vehicles for the promotion of environmental protection. They should enable consideration of the effects which proposed developments, and transport demand associated with them, may have on land, air, or water quality and the effects which land, air or water quality may have on proposed developments.
- Welsh Water's Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) (2019) looks out across 30 years from 2020 to 2050 to assess potential risks to supplying sufficient water to meet anticipated demands. Key factors considered include demographic and economic changes that affect water demand, climate change which is recognised by WG's Future Generation's Act as a significant challenge facing Wales, and environmental obligations such as the European Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive.
- The Cardiff Capital Region and City Deal seeks to promote strong, sustainable, and balanced growth throughout the region, committing to a partnership approach to housing and regeneration, which encourages efficient land use, utilising brownfield land opportunities where possible. The deal aims to encourage investment and create an equal opportunity environment within the ten local authorities and other key partners in its boundaries. The RLDP should set out policies and proposals for the promotion of sustainable growth within the area that maximises resource efficiency and minimises environmental impacts.
- The recent adoption of the Vale of Glamorgan Recycling and Waste Management Business Plan and Strategy (2022 - 2032) is a key step towards addressing the Project Zero Challenge to "Reduce waste and put in place the necessary facilities, services and awareness raising for a more circular economy with a strong emphasis on reuse, repair and recycling". The Strategy considers our actions in the form of a 10-year plan (2022-2032) and aligns with WG priorities for recycling and waste.

Baseline summary

Air quality

- 8.4 There are currently no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in the Vale of Glamorgan; however, it is noted that Windsor Road, Cogan, Penarth AQMA was declared August 2013 for exceedances in nitrogen dioxide, but was revoked January 2021.¹³⁶
- 8.5 Although air quality within the Vale of Glamorgan complies with regulations to protect human health and meets the relevant air quality objectives this will continue to be monitored as the Vale has one of the highest levels of man-made air pollution in Wales and is higher than the Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish averages.¹³⁷ Air emission scores are much higher in the south and east of the county, including Barry, where population densities, traffic volumes and proximity to heavy industry are higher than in the more rural areas of the Vale of Glamorgan. Air emissions disproportionately affect the Vale's more deprived communities which can exacerbate already high levels of health inequality by increasing levels of respiratory disease and other illnesses.

Noise pollution

- 8.6 The quiet area map for Cardiff and Penarth¹³⁸ shows that there are five designated quiet areas in Penarth, which are:
1. Penarth Head Lane
 2. Belle Vue Park
 3. Alexandra Park
 4. Golden Gates
 5. Victoria Playing Fields
- 8.7 Once an area has been designated as a quiet area, Planning Policy Wales requires development plan policies to have regard to the need to protect it from an increase in noise and requires special consideration where noise-generating development is proposed nearby¹³⁹.

Water resources

- 8.8 Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is responsible for managing water resources in Wales. One of the ways that this is done is through licensing water abstraction within catchment areas. NRW developed Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) to:
- inform the public on water resources and licensing practice.
 - provide a consistent approach to local water resources management; and
 - help to balance the needs of water-users and the environment.

¹³⁶ Defra (2022): 'List of Local Authorities with AQMAs', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹³⁷ Vale of Glamorgan Public Service Board (2018): 'Our Vale – Our Future', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹³⁸ Welsh Government (2013): 'Quiet area map: Cardiff and Penarth', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹³⁹ Welsh Government (2012): 'Written Statement – Written statement on the designation of the first tranche of urban quiet areas under the Environmental Noise Directive', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

- 8.9 Two river catchment areas cover the authority with most of the area lying within the Cadoxton and Thaw CAMS area. A smaller area to the east lies within the Taff and Ely CAMS areas (both produced in 2006) (see **Figure 8.2**).
- 8.10 The largest potable water supply abstraction within the Cadoxton and Thaw CAMS area is from Biglis Wells on the Cadoxton Moors. At low flow the River Cadoxton is currently identified as over-abstracted.¹⁴⁰
- 8.11 Carboniferous Limestone is the main aquifer in the area and significant quantities of water can be abstracted from it. However, the limestone provides poor long-term storage and therefore provides little baseflow to the rivers. As a result, both river systems can experience naturally occurring low river flows during prolonged dry periods. In very dry summers, some of the smaller tributaries can dry up completely.¹⁴¹
- 8.12 Five Ground Water Source Protection Zones have been designated within the Vale of Glamorgan. These are shown within **Figure 8.2**, and are centred upon: Ogmore, Dinas Powys, Llansannor, Llangan and Treoes.
- 8.13 In terms of water quality, the Cadoxton and Thaw CAMS biological reports are either 'good' or 'very good' whilst the biological quality of the upper and lower stretches of the River Ely is good.
- 8.14 The Vale of Glamorgan lies within the Western Wales River Basin Management Plan (RBMP), with a small portion at the north of the authority being included within the Severn RBMP. The NRW's Local Authority Evidence Package for the Vale shows eight out of 14 surface water bodies shown to have Good Ecological Status (GES), five of Moderate Ecological Status and one at Poor Ecological Status.¹⁴²

Bathing waters

- 8.15 The Vale has four bathing beaches, these are Cold Knap Barry, Jackson's Bay, Whitmore Bay, and Southerndown.¹⁴³ **Figure 8.1** shows the three bathing beaches in Barry to the east, and Southerndown bathing beach to the west of the Vale.¹⁴⁴

¹⁴⁰ Vale of Glamorgan (no date): 'Our Environment Evidence Report', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹⁴¹ Ibid

¹⁴² Ibid

¹⁴³ Ibid

¹⁴⁴ Natural Resource Wales (2021): 'Find a bathing water', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

Figure 8.1 Designated bathing water¹⁴⁵



8.16 In Wales, Natural Resources Wales is responsible for monitoring bathing waters. **Table 8.2** below shows that all four of the Vale’s bathing beaches have passed the EC Bathing Waters classification from 2018. These results show that the overall water quality for Barry’s Cold Knap and Southerndown has remained consistently high compared with the classification for Jackson Bay, which has more mixed results.

Table 8.2 Annual bathing water quality assessments¹⁴⁶

Bathing water	2018	2019	2020	2021
Barry’s Cold Knap	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Whitmore	Good	Excellent	Good	Good
Jackson Bay	Sufficient	Good	Sufficient	Sufficient
Southerndown	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

8.17 The beaches and the coastal waters beyond are under pressure from a combination of diffuse rural pressures and urban pollution from sewage /misconnections in the developed areas. The top five sources of pollution are:¹⁴⁷

¹⁴⁵ Ibid.

¹⁴⁶ Natural Resource Wales (2021): ‘2020 Bathing Water Profile for Whitmore Bay Barry Island’, [online] available to access via [this link](#)

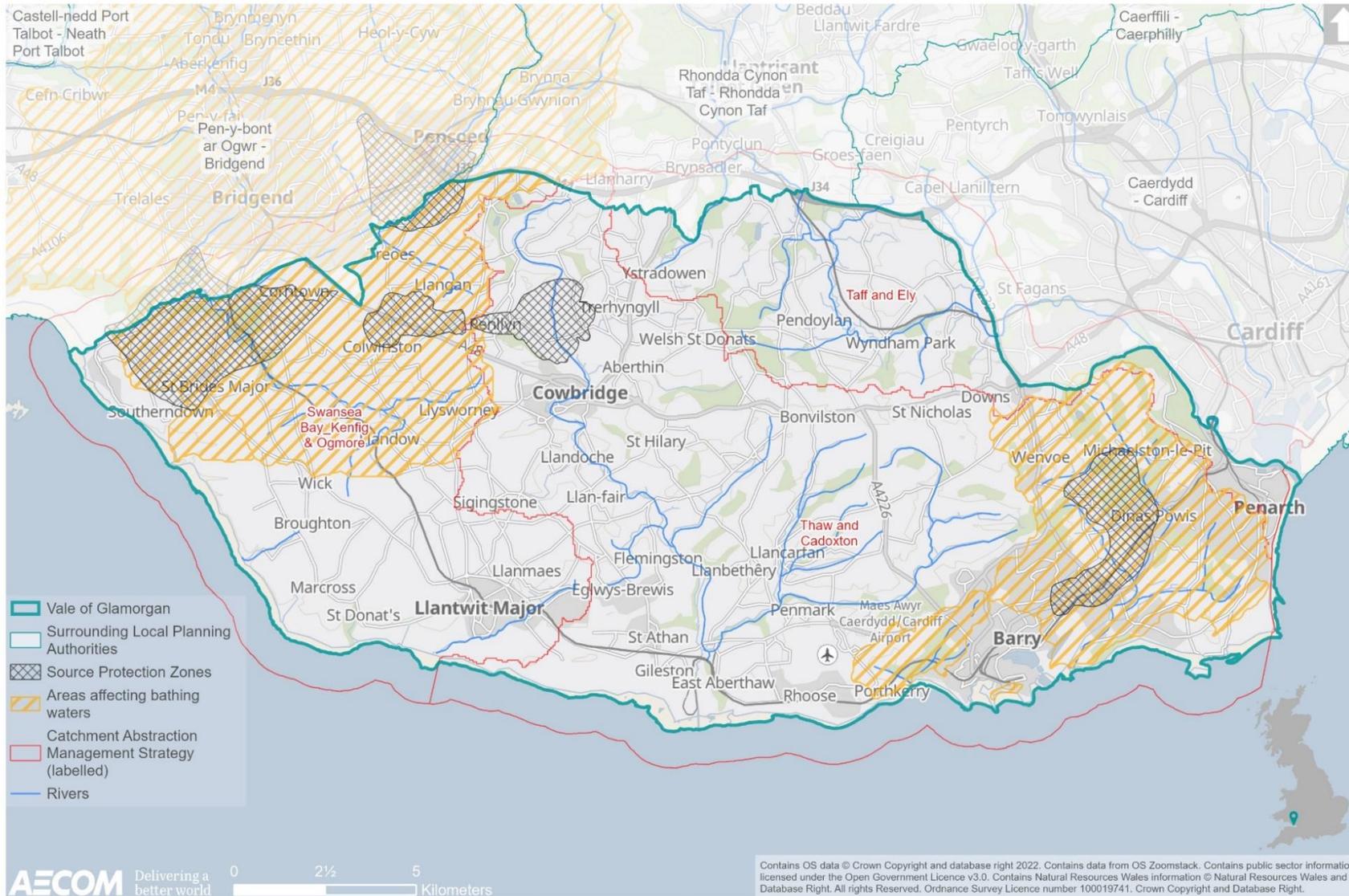
¹⁴⁷ Ibid

- Pollution from sewage – bacteria from sewage can enter our waters because of system failures or overflows or directly from sewage works.
- Water draining from farms and farmland – manure from livestock or poorly stored slurry can wash into rivers and streams resulting in faecal material entering the sea.
- Animals and birds on or near beaches - dog, bird and other animal faeces can affect bathing water as they often contain high levels of bacteria (much higher than treated human waste).
- Water draining from populated areas - water draining from urban areas following heavy rain can contain pollution from a variety of sources, including animal and bird faeces.
- Domestic sewage – misconnected drains and poorly located and maintained septic tanks can pollute surface water systems.

Areas affecting bathing waters

8.18 **Figure 8.2** overleaf shows areas affecting bathing waters within the Vale. This dataset comprises of polygons relating to each site identified under the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC). Where a site corresponds to a Sensitive Area under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) in England & Wales, the polygon for that Sensitive Area is provided. These areas coincide with the designated bathing waters discussed above.

Figure 8.2 Water resources and quality



Land and soil

Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)

- 8.19 Reflecting its the rural nature, approximately 85% (28,132 hectares) of the Vale is agricultural land. Post 1988 ALC surveys have been carried out for a small percentage of the Vale, as presented in **Figure 8.3**. There are areas of Grade 2 BMV agricultural land present to the east of Bonvilston and northwest of Llantwit Major.
- 8.20 In light of limited post 1988 data, there is a need to rely on the predictive ALC mapping for the Vale (see **Figure 8.4**). Most agricultural land within the Vale of Glamorgan is classified as Grade 2 or Grade 3. There appear to be areas of high-quality agricultural land (Grade 1 and 2) to the north and central Vale, notably around Bonvilston, east of Cowbridge, and in the north eastern corner of the Vale around St Bridges Major and Corntown. However, it is recognised that this is predictive data, and a level of uncertainty therefore exists without full surveys being carried out.
- 8.21 It is worth noting that agricultural land, especially land that utilises farming methods such as conservation tillage, also acts as a carbon sink, storing carbon in the soil through sequestration. When land is disturbed, such as when it is developed for housing, carbon is released into the atmosphere, contributing towards climate change.

Figure 8.3 Post 1988 ALC

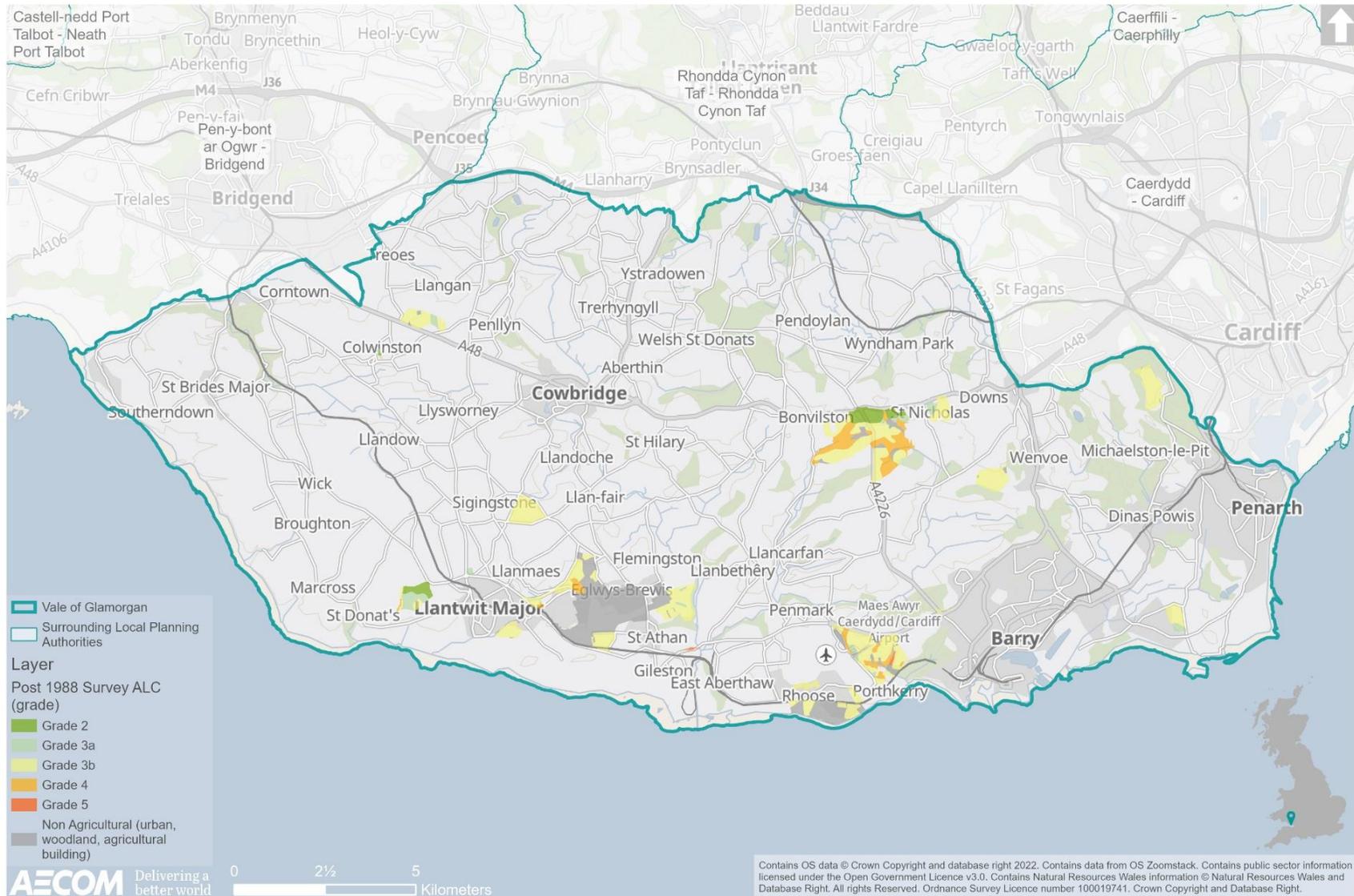
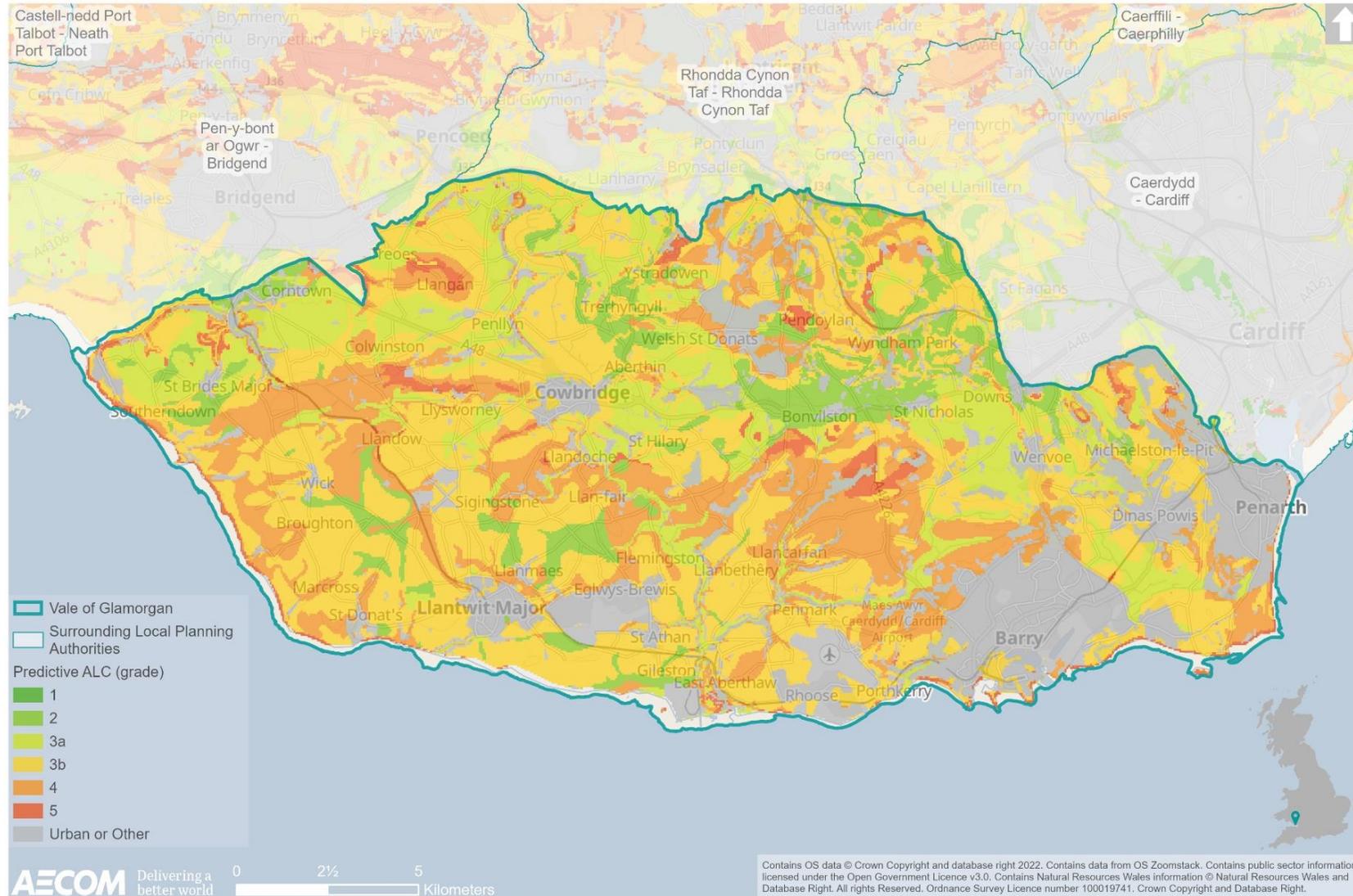


Figure 8.4 Predictive ALC



Minerals and geology

8.22 The Vale of Glamorgan is an important supplier of minerals and as the Minerals Planning Authority the Council has the responsibility for ensuring that the RLDP provides for a continued supply of minerals during and beyond the period covered by the RLDP. The assessment of the adequacy of the land bank is made in the light of guidance contained in MTAN1: Aggregates and in the South Wales Regional Technical Statement on Aggregates.¹⁴⁸

8.23 Based on the Council's landbank reserve figure in July 2016 (31,962,000 tonnes), and the 10-year average production figure, the Vale of Glamorgan landbank for hard rock aggregate was 40.7 years giving a landbank of 30.7 years available at 2026. Reserves of hard rock for non-aggregate production (i.e. cement production) were identified as sufficient for 19.8 years supply.¹⁴⁹

8.24 The Second Review of the RTS (September 2020) identifies that 16.806 million Tons (MT) of crushed rock is required over 25 years in the Vale of Glamorgan. The authority currently has 18.730MT of existing landbanks of permitted reserves for crushed rock meaning there is sufficient existing quantitative provision to meet the identified apportionment.¹⁵⁰

Mineral working sites

8.25 As listed below and shown in **Figure 8.5** overleaf, the Vale includes several active minerals working sites:¹⁵¹

- Aberthaw – Liassic.
- Ewenny – Carboniferous.
- Forest Wood - Carboniferous (Shared with Rhondda Cynon Taf).
- Pant – Carboniferous.
- Pantyffynnon – Carboniferous.
- Longlands – Carboniferous.
- Litalun – Carboniferous; and
- Wenvoe – Carboniferous.

8.26 The Vale also includes two inactive sites where future working is considered likely to occur. These sites are currently inactive but held in reserve:

- Garwa Farm – Carboniferous; and
- Ruthin – Carboniferous.

¹⁴⁸ Welsh Government (2018): 'Minerals Planning Policy – Aggregates', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹⁴⁹ Ibid.

¹⁵⁰ Regional Technical Statements for the North Wales and South Wales Regional Aggregate Working Parties – 2nd Review, September 2020

¹⁵¹ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2017): 'Adopted Local Development Plan', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

Dormant Mineral Sites

8.27 In addition to active quarry sites, there are several inactive and long dormant mineral sites within the Vale of Glamorgan where no mineral working has occurred for a period more than ten years. These are also shown within **Figure 8.5** overleaf, and identified as:¹⁵²

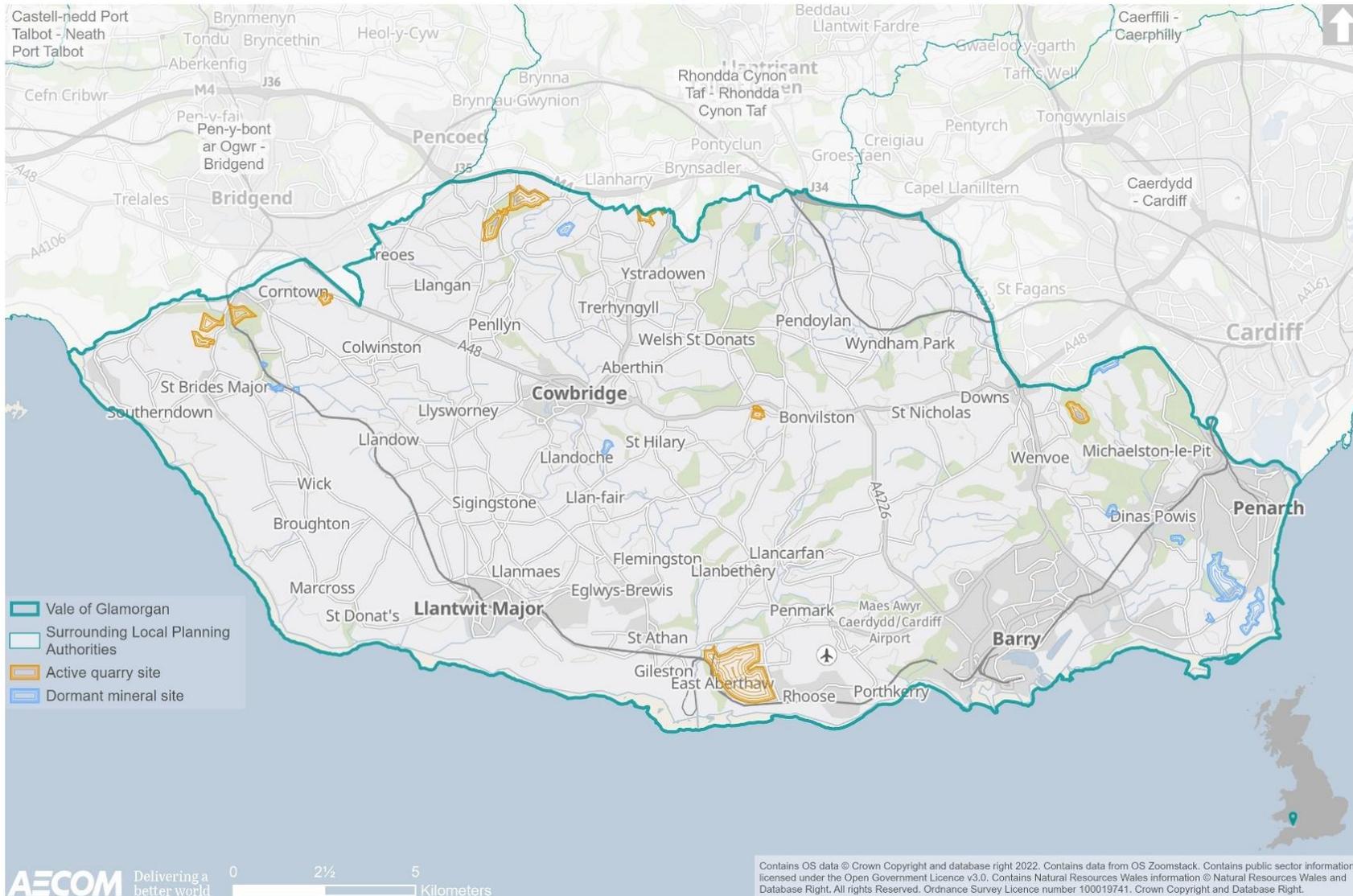
- Beaupre (Long Grove) Quarry, St Hilary.
- Cnap Twt Quarry, Castle upon Alun.
- Cosmeston Quarry, Penarth.
- Cross Common Quarry, Dinas Powys.
- Downswood Quarry, Penarth.
- Ely Brickworks (site shared with Cardiff).
- Lavernock Quarry.
- St. Andrews Quarry, St Andrews Major; and
- Southerndown Road Quarry.

8.28 Many of the sites have regenerated naturally, have been put to alternative uses or are constrained by nearby development. For example, Cosmeston Quarry flooded to a depth of over 20 metres when quarrying ceased in the 1960s and has since been incorporated into Cosmeston Country Park; Lavernock Quarry and Southerndown Road have been used as waste disposal sites; and Ely Brickworks (shared with Cardiff) has been largely covered by the Ely Link Road.¹⁵³

¹⁵² Ibid

¹⁵³ Ibid

Figure 8.5 Mineral sites



Waste

8.29 As the Waste Planning Authority, the Council has a statutory responsibility for the collecting and disposing of Municipal (household) Waste and for land use planning control over waste management.

Recycling

8.30 Over 72% (72.3%) of household waste collected by the Council was prepared for reuse and/or recycled during the first half of 2020/21, this exceeds the statutory target of 64% for 2020/21.¹⁵⁴

8.31 Additionally, during 2020/21, the Council landfilled a total 116 tons, which was the least by any Local Authority in Wales and represented a landfill rate of 0.2% compared with 1.13% from the previous year. The combined percentage of waste in Wales sent to Landfill was 4.85% which demonstrates the efficiency of the Vale's kerbside residual waste restrictions, communications and the use of energy recovery for waste.¹⁵⁵

Recycling centres

8.32 At present the Council complies with its statutory duty by providing two Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) located at the Atlantic Trading Estate in Barry (serving the Eastern area of the Vale of Glamorgan) and at the Llandow Trading Estate in Llandow (serving the Western area of the Vale of Glamorgan).¹⁵⁶ It is recognised that the site in Llandow urgently needs replacing.¹⁵⁷

8.33 Regard should also be given to historic landfill sites in the Vale, which are focused predominately to the south of the authority (see **Figure 8.6** overleaf). The largest historic landfill site in the Vale is located east of Gileston / East Aberthaw.

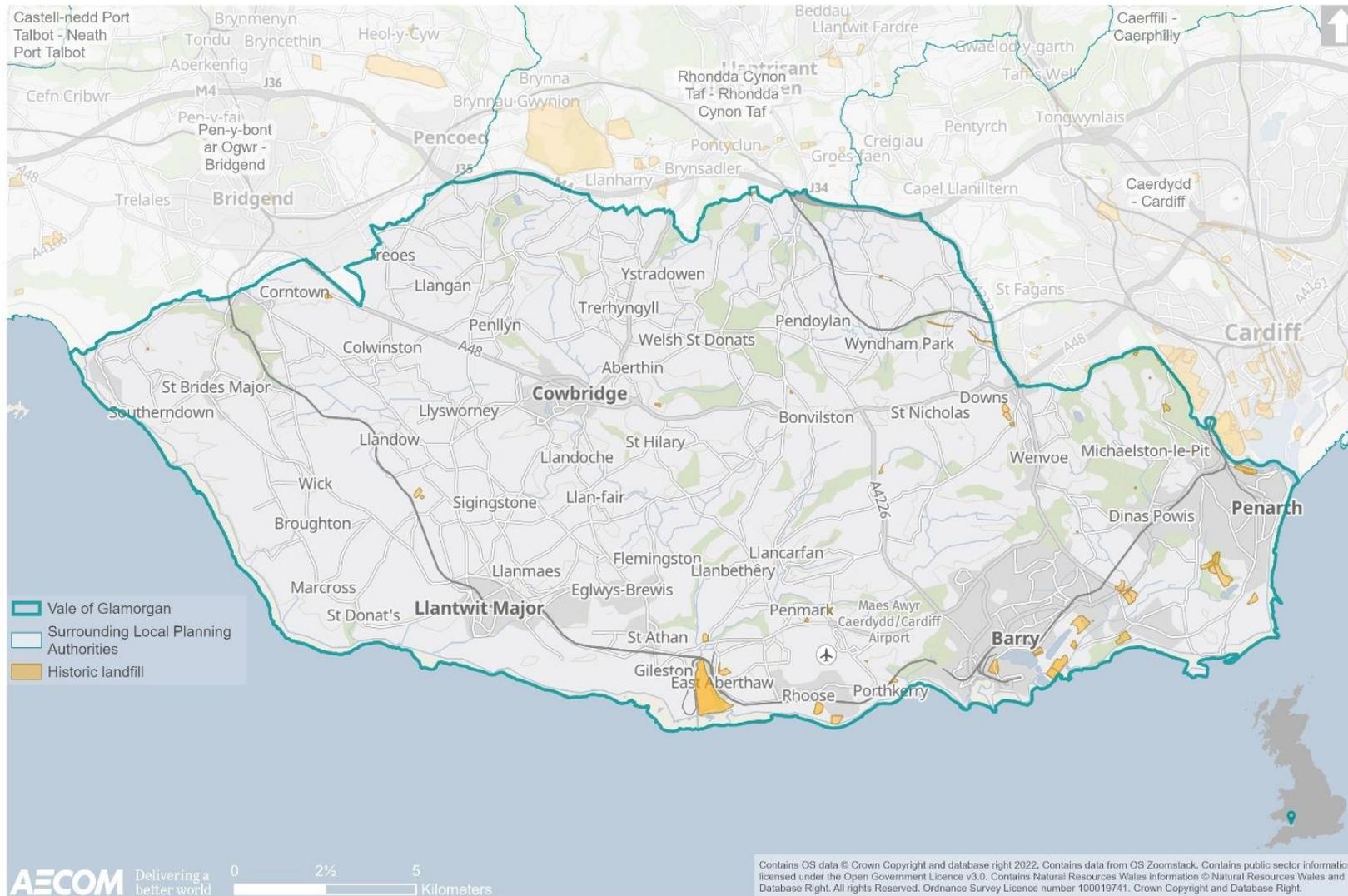
¹⁵⁴ Ibid

¹⁵⁵ Vale of Glamorgan (2022): 'Recycling and Waste Business Plan and Strategy', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹⁵⁶ Vale of Glamorgan Council (no date): 'Household Waste Recycling Centres', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹⁵⁷ Ibid

Figure 8.6 Historic landfill sites



Future baseline

- 8.34 The acceleration of the roll out of electric vehicles (see **Chapter 6** above) is likely to reduce issues relating to air pollution from motor vehicles in the long-term. Whilst some air pollution originates from sources aside from the combustion engine, such as that from industrial processes, this should help to reduce transport related air pollution issues in the long-term. However, the move towards a green economy and renewable energy, as well as reducing overall travel demand and encouraging active travel and public transport use, will also contribute towards improves in air quality in the future.
- 8.35 Water availability both within the Vale of Glamorgan and in the wider region has potential to be affected by projected growth and by an increased risk of drought because of climate change. Whilst Wales and more specifically the Vale of Glamorgan area is not anticipated to have issues relating to water resources, development has the potential to affect water quality through diffuse pollution, wastewater discharges, water run-off, and modification. Furthermore, pressures relating to climate and demographic changes alongside environmental obligations could place stresses upon aspects associated with water resourcing.
- 8.36 Recognising the significant extent of agricultural land present, future development in the Vale has the potential to result in the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land, particularly given that most agricultural land within the Vale of Glamorgan is classified as Grade 2 or Grade 3. Agricultural land, especially land that utilises farming methods such as conservation tillage, also acts as a carbon sink, storing carbon in the soil through sequestration. When land is disturbed, such as when it is developed for housing, carbon is released into the atmosphere, contributing towards climate change. As 85% of the Vale is covered by agricultural land, it will be difficult for development to be avoided here, however, mitigation measures can still be put in place to ensure soil disturbance is kept to a minimum.
- 8.37 The Vale is an important contributor to the provision of minerals regionally with numerous active sites throughout the authority. It will therefore be important for the RLDP to safeguard these sites and prevent further extraction of resources, as well as seek to ensure that restoration is undertaken where appropriate.
- 8.38 Regarding waste, at present the amount of household waste collected by the Council for reuse and/or recycling in the Vale exceeds the statutory target. In addition to this, the Vale has a relatively low level of waste entering landfill compared to other Local Authorities in Wales. It is therefore important for the RLDP to set out measures to maintain or reduce waste in the Vale.

Key issues

- 8.39 The context review and baseline information informed the identification of several key issues (problems and opportunities):
- Although there are no AQMAs present in the Vale, air emissions are higher in the south and east of the authority, including Barry. Emissions should be proactively managed and monitored through the forthcoming RLDP.
 - Water quality in the Vale is generally good, including bathing waters.

- Five Ground Water Source Protection Zones are present in the Vale.
- Approximately 85% (28,132 hectares) of land within the Vale is agricultural land, much of which is Grade 2 or 3 and contributes towards belowground carbon storage.
- The Vale of Glamorgan is an important contributor to the regional supply of minerals and includes several active mineral sites.
- There are two recycling centres in the Vale and it is noted that the site in Llandow urgently needs replacing.
- When considering the above key issues, it is recognised that policy approaches are pushing towards a holistic and sustainable approach to the management, protection and use of natural resources, including through targeted measures to improve environmental outcomes relating to air quality, noise, soil, land, water and waste in order to maximise beneficial outcomes to social, environmental and economic factors.
- Policy reinforces the need to consider the interrelationship between planned developments and the factors mentioned above, with emphasis being placed on the likely effects of climate change, the need for efficient uses of land, resource use efficiency and conserving the natural environment.

ISA objectives

8.40 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the ISA should include the following objective and assessment questions:

ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
To identify and pursue any opportunities to reduce, or at least, minimise population exposure to air pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel? • Encourage journeys to be made by sustainable means (active travel or public transport)? • Avoid any adverse effects on air quality and for people exposed to poor air quality? • Improve air quality in areas identified as of concern? • Promote and facilitate the use of electric vehicles? • Promote good design to avoid impacts on air quality and noise reduction and protects, incorporates and enhances green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of NO₂ and other pollutants?
To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development and protecting, where possible, higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise the loss of potentially high-grade agricultural land to developments? • Protect and minimise loss of the soil resource and encourage appropriate management to enhance its carbon sequestration and water management functions? • Encourage the use of previously developed land?

ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
grade agricultural land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage development-related remediation works which could reduce the presence of contaminated land in Vale of Glamorgan?
To protect mineral resources and support waste management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address waste by reducing and minimising waste as a priority? • Manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy and in the context of ‘Towards Zero Waste’? • Avoid the sterilisation of mineral resources where possible?
To conserve, protect and enhance the water environment, water quality and water resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce water consumption? • Ensure an adequate supply of water can be provided to sustain the development considering current and future projections of water availability and water use? • Reduce the potential for contamination of waterbodies and courses? • Reduce the potential for agricultural practices to contribute towards nitrate-based pollution of waterbodies and courses?

9. Biodiversity and geodiversity

9.1 This theme focuses on biodiversity and geodiversity interests within and surrounding Vale of Glamorgan.

Policy context

9.2 **Table 9.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the RLDP and ISA.

Table 9.1 Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to biodiversity and geodiversity

Document title	Year of publication
<u>Planning Wales Act</u>	2015
<u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act</u>	2015
<u>Environment (Wales) Act</u>	2016
<u>National Development Framework (Future Wales: The National Plan)</u>	2021
<u>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)</u>	2021
<u>Nature Recovery Plan for Wales</u>	2015
<u>Welsh National Marine Plan</u>	2019
<u>Covid Reconstruction: Challenges and Priorities, our approach to reconstruction</u>	2020
<u>The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report</u>	2019
<u>The Second State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR2020)</u>	2020
<u>South Central Wales Area Statement</u>	2017
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 5: Nature conservation and planning</u>	2009
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 10: Tree Preservation Orders</u>	1997
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12: Design</u>	2016
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan</u>	2017
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Wellbeing Assessment</u>	2021

Document title	Year of publication
Vale of Glamorgan Biodiversity Forward Plan	2019

9.3 Key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The Environment (Wales) Act introduced an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (Section 6 Duty). This duty applies to public authorities in the exercise of their functions in relation to Wales and will help maximize contributions to achieving the well-being goals. The Nature Recovery Plan supports this legislative requirement to reverse the decline in biodiversity, address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by putting nature at the heart of decision-making and increasing the resilience of ecosystems by taking specific action focused around the six objectives for habitats and species.
- The RLDP will be required to be in general conformity with Future Wales, which sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use, providing a context for the provision of new infrastructure/ growth. The SDP for South East Wales will also seek to address regional factors which include planning for biodiversity; in particular the conservation of wildlife and habitats. Promoting Vale of Glamorgan as a focus for growth will require careful management, protection, and enhancement of biodiversity, supporting the long-term resilience of ecosystems. Future Wales states that the planning system will ensure wildlife is able to thrive in healthy, diverse habitats, both in urban and rural areas, recognizing and valuing the multiple benefits to people and nature.
- PPW and supplementary TANs provide national planning policy in respect of biodiversity. PPW highlights the role of the planning system in helping to reverse the decline in biodiversity and increasing the resilience of ecosystems, at various scales, by ensuring appropriate mechanisms are in place to both protect against loss and to secure enhancement. Planning authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. This means development should not cause any significant loss of habitats or populations of species, locally or nationally and must provide a net benefit for biodiversity.
- TAN 5 (Nature Conservation and Planning) provides advice about how the land use planning system should contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological conservation, notably setting out key principles of positive planning for nature conservation.
- The Vale of Glamorgan Biodiversity Forward Plan looks at how the Council manages and improves natural resources to ensure that biodiversity and sustainability issues are considered in all service areas and are core themes in service delivery, becoming an integral part of the decision-making processes throughout the Council. Part two of the Plan will translate into specific actions required to achieve objectives set out in Part 1 and give milestones and targets.

Baseline summary

Internationally designated sites

- 9.4 Internationally designated sites comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar Sites. The Vale of Glamorgan has two international designated sites within its administrative boundary: - Dunraven Bay (SAC) and Severn Estuary (SAC, SPA, Ramsar) and is directly adjacent to the Kenfig SAC in the county borough of Bridgend.
- 9.5 The locations of these sites are shown in **Figure 9.1** at the end of this Chapter. Further details on each of these designated sites is presented below.
- 9.6 In the south of the Vale, the **Severn Estuary SAC** (also a Ramsar wetland site of international importance), is an important area for wintering wildfowl and waders, and a Special Protection Area (SPA). The estuary also supports internationally important populations of migratory fish.
- 9.7 Annex I habitats and Annex II species that are a primary reason for designation of this site are:¹⁵⁸
- 1130 Estuaries.
 - 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide.
 - 1330 Atlantic salt meadows *Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*.
 - 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*.
 - 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*; and
 - 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax*.
- 9.8 **Dunraven Bay SAC** is part of Southerndown Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is designated due to the presence of the rare shore dock, one of the rarest plants in Europe.
- 9.9 Annex II species '1441 Shore dock' is the primary reason for designation of this site. The 20 or so plants of shore dock (*Rumex rupestris*) growing here on damp coastal limestone are the only remnant of the species' former Bristol Channel range. The species has disappeared through loss of damp dune-slacks and shingle banks from other sites at Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig, Braunton Burrows and Pennard but is relatively secure on this steep, inaccessible site. The Dunraven Bay population is a significant seed-source for recolonisation of Bristol Channel dunes and beachheads when future management restores these habitats to favourable condition.¹⁵⁹
- 9.10 While outside of the local authority boundary, it is noted that the **Kenfig SAC** is located within Bridgend County borough and lies adjacent to the Vale of Glamorgan. It is a largely intact dune system with extensive areas of fixed dune vegetation.

¹⁵⁸ JNCC (undated): 'Severn Estuary', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹⁵⁹ JNCC (undated): 'Dunraven Bay', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

Annex I habitats and Annex II species that are a primary reason for designation of this site are:¹⁶⁰

- 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes").
- 2170 Dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. *argentea* *Salicion arenariae*.
- 2190 Humid dune slacks.
- 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp.
- 1395 Petalwort *Petalophyllum ralfsii*; and
- 1903 Fen orchid *Liparis loeselii*.

Nationally designated sites

9.11 Nationally designated sites include **Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSIs)**. There are 28 SSSIs present across the county borough, as shown in in **Figure 9.2**, designated for their biodiversity or geodiversity interest, and totalling 941ha.

9.12 In descending size order, these are:

- Southerndown Coast (151 ha).
- Monknash Coast (129 ha).
- Coedydd y Barri / Barry Woodlands (120 ha).
- Old Castle Down (79 ha).
- East Aberthaw Coast (68 ha).
- Severn Estuary (64 ha).
- Ely Valley (59 ha).
- Penarth Coast (51 ha).
- Ewenny And Pant Quarries (29 ha).
- Hayes Point to Bendrick Rock (28 ha).
- Llynnoedd Cosmeston / Cosmeston Lakes (26 ha).
- Fferm Walters (25 ha).
- Nant Whitton Woodlands (22 ha).
- Barry Island (15 ha).
- Cliff Wood - Golden Stairs (13 ha).
- Cog Moors (13 ha).
- Cors Aberthin (12 ha).
- Sully Island (11 ha).
- Cwm Cydfin, Leckwith (5 ha).
- Clemenstone Meadows, Wick (5 ha).

¹⁶⁰ JNCC (no date): 'Kenfig', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

- Pysgodlyn Mawr (4 ha).
- Breigam Moor (4 ha).
- Larks Meadows (3 ha).
- Coed y Bwl (2 ha).
- Cnap Twt (1 ha).
- Nash Lighthouse Meadow (1 ha); and
- The Parish Field, Cae'r Rhedyn (1 ha).

Ancient woodland

9.13 The Vale contains 1,568ha of Ancient Woodland, although this only covers 8.2% of the county which is well below the Wales average of 14%.¹⁶¹ As shown in **Figure 9.2** pockets of Ancient Woodland are located throughout the Vale. It is noted that some are designated as SSSIs and support populations of dormice; these woodlands are connected by the vast network of hedgerows in the authority. Woodlands cover 8.2% of the Vale of Glamorgan, which is well below the Wales average of 14%.

9.14 Natural Resource Wales manage 330ha of small mixed woodlands, mostly Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites, on behalf of the Welsh Government. Many of the woodlands in the Vale have high conservation value and some offer formal and informal recreation opportunities (most are privately owned).¹⁶²

9.15 All woodlands in South Wales are within a Control Disease Zone (CDZ) for *Phytophthora ramorum* (larch tree disease). Larch trees formed a high proportion of the forestry of the South Wales and their removal is having a noticeable effect on the biodiversity and landscape in many areas.

Heritage Coast

9.16 Heritage Coasts occupy about a third of the Welsh coastline, that is 500 km (300 miles). These sites were set up to protect our coastlines from insensitive developments. Most are defined simply by the coastline between two named points, however some have clearly defined inland boundaries.¹⁶³ The Vale includes 53 kilometres of coastline including 23 kilometres of Glamorgan Heritage Coast (see **Chapter 10** for further details). The Glamorgan heritage coast is rich in wildlife, including wooded valleys and supporting a diverse range of species, including breeding birds.

¹⁶¹ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2019): 'Biodiversity Forward Plan', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹⁶² Ibid.

¹⁶³ Lle (2021) Heritage Coasts [online] available at:

<https://lle.gov.wales/catalogue/item/ProtectedSitesHeritageCoast/?lang=en#:~:text=Heritage%20Coasts%20occupy%20about%20a,have%20clearly%20defined%20inland%20boundaries.>

Locally designated sites

- 9.17 As shown in **Figure 9.3** below, locally designated sites are present throughout the Vale.
- 9.18 **Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)** are identified to protect areas of high wildlife value at a local level. They are local authority planning designation relating to Policy MG33 of the adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011-2026. There are approximately 360 SINCs scattered across the authority as well as a number of candidate SINCs.¹⁶⁴
- 9.19 **Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS)** are locally designated sites of local, national and regional importance for geodiversity (geology and geomorphology). There are 12 RIGS including Sully Island and Wenvoe Quarry.
- 9.20 **Local Nature Reserves (LNR)** are owned or managed by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and there are currently three within its boundary, at Birchgrove Wood (Barry), Cliff Wood (Porthkerry), and Cwm Talwg (also Barry).
- 9.21 There are also seven **Wildlife Trust Managed sites** that cover approximately 93 hectares of land across the Vale. Additionally, there are two Woodland Trust Reserves in the Dinas Powys area, and two Country Parks at Comeston Lakes and Porthkerry (see **Chapter 4**). There is also over 500 hectares of common land.

Priority habitats and species

Species

- 9.22 Numerous species of biodiversity importance occur throughout the Vale of Glamorgan. The otter population and distribution has increased dramatically over from the 1960's and 1970's levels and is seen as a major conservation success story. The main reason for this increase has been the reduction in levels of toxic pesticides that were harmful to otters in the 1960s and 1970s, but the general improvements in water quality and consequent increase in fish stocks have probably played a significant part.
- 9.23 The European otter (*Lutra lutra*) is an important biological indicator of the health of rivers and wetlands. As a top predator monitoring the status of the otter gives a valuable measure of the state of our water and wetland ecosystems. Otters are present throughout the river systems of the Vale of Glamorgan, with particularly high levels of activity along the River Thaw and its tributaries.
- 9.24 The bullhead (*Cottus gobio*) occurs in the Vale of Glamorgan and is a small bottom-living fish that inhabits a variety of rivers, streams and stony lakes. It appears to favour fast-flowing, clear shallow water with a hard substrate (gravel/cobble/pebble) and is frequently found in the headwaters of upland streams. However, it also occurs in lowland situations on softer substrates so long as the water is well-oxygenated and there is sufficient cover. It is not found in badly polluted rivers.

¹⁶⁴ Ibid

- 9.25 Inland, the undulating managed grassland of the Alun Valley supports Wales' only population of the High Brown Fritillary butterfly.
- 9.26 Throughout the Vale, Great Crested Newt are widespread. The rich mosaic of habitat supports many bat species, particularly the Lesser Horseshoe Bat which has four known maternity roosts within the county. The Vale of Glamorgan also hosts a large maternity colony of Serotine Bat, a species uncommon in Wales. The large agricultural fields in the Vale are important for supporting populations of skylark and lapwing.

Habitats

- 9.27 Despite its relatively small area, the geology, coastal location, and land management of the Vale of Glamorgan results in a great variety of habitats. 19 of the key Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats for which costed habitat plans have been prepared can be found in the Vale (see **Figure 9.3**). Amongst these are habitats, which are relatively rare in Wales, such as mesotrophic lakes (as at Pysgodlyn Mawr) and saline lagoons (such as at Aberthaw).¹⁶⁵
- 9.28 Whilst the extent of most of the key habitats (such as lowland heath, reedbeds, wet woodland) in the Vale of Glamorgan is small, relative to other authorities, it is likely that ancient and species-rich hedgerows in the area make up a significant percentage of the total for Wales. Similarly, as one of the main arable areas in Wales, the extent of cereal field margins is potentially significant.
- 9.29 Other locally important habitats in the Vale of Glamorgan contributing to the characteristic local biodiversity, or supporting key biodiversity species include: former quarries (providing habitats for birds of prey, butterflies, plants and lichens), road verges (relict grassland species and which, like disused railway lines, can act as wildlife corridors), waste ground (such as former dockland, which is attractive to some bird species for nesting, and may include rare plants, and parks and gardens).¹⁶⁶
- 9.30 There are also several Highway Verge Conservation Zones within the County. These include a range of species-rich grassland types with associated ditches and hedgerows.
- 9.31 In addition to this, country parks managed for both wildlife and the public also contribute towards habitats.

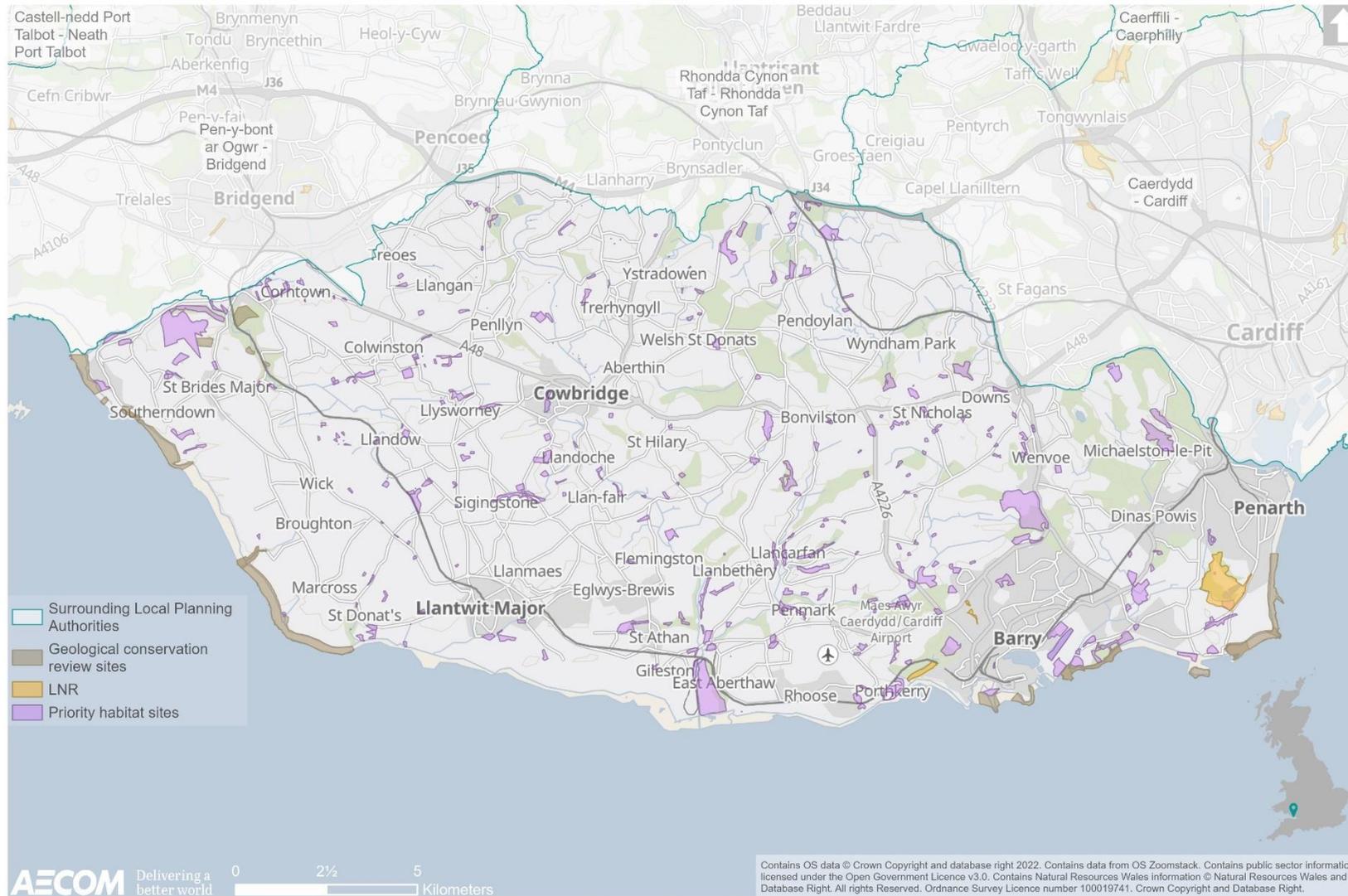
¹⁶⁵ Capita Symonds (2013): 'Vale of Glamorgan Flood Risk Management Strategy Volume 2 Strategic Environmental Assessment Report'

¹⁶⁶ Ibid

Figure 9.1 International biodiversity designations



Figure 9.3 Local biodiversity designations and priority habitat



Future baseline

- 9.32 Habitats and species have the potential to come under increasing pressure from the provision of new housing, employment and infrastructure within and surrounding the plan area. This could include increased disturbance (recreational, noise and light) and atmospheric pollution as well as the loss of habitats and fragmentation of biodiversity networks. The loss and fragmentation of habitats will be exacerbated by the effects of climate change, which has the potential to lead to changes in the distribution and abundance of species and changes to the composition of habitats. This includes the loss of natural habitats or deterioration of their quality due to pressures as a result of coastal squeeze caused by erosion related to sea-level rises.
- 9.33 Benefits for biodiversity have the potential to arise from the increasing integration of biodiversity considerations within forward planning and efforts to protect and improve green infrastructure networks across the plan area, and regionally. To maintain and improve the condition of biodiversity in the future it will be important to not only protect and enhance important habitats but the connections between them.
- 9.34 Without the RLDP, speculative development would continue to come forward under the currently adopted LDP. The RLDP provides an opportunity to coordinate the delivery of growth to meet future needs, protect and minimise impacts on biodiversity and seek strategic opportunities to deliver biodiversity net gain where possible.

Key issues

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

ISA objectives

9.36 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the ISA should include the following objective and assessment questions:

ISA objectives	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Protect and enhance biodiversity within and surrounding the Vale of Glamorgan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise impacts on designated and important biodiversity features and provide net gains where possible? • Protect and enhance ecological networks, including those that cross administrative boundaries? • Support opportunities for green infrastructure, which have knock-on benefits for wildlife, connecting habitats and avoiding habitat fragmentation?

10. Historic environment

10.1 This theme focuses on designated and non-designated historic assets (including archaeology) and their setting.

Policy context

10.2 **Table 10.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the RLDP and ISA.

Table 10.1 Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to the historic environment

Document title	Year of publication
<u>Planning (Wales) Act</u>	2015
<u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act</u>	2015
<u>Environment (Wales) Act</u>	2016
<u>Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act</u>	1990
<u>National Development Framework (Future Wales: The National Plan)</u>	2021
<u>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)</u>	2021
<u>Historic Environment (Wales) Act</u>	2016
<u>Historic Environment Strategy for Wales</u>	2013
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12: Design</u>	2016
<u>(TAN) 20: Planning and the Welsh Language</u>	2017
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment</u>	2017
<u>Placemaking Wales Charter</u>	2020
<u>Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales</u>	2011
<u>Cadw: Best-practice guidance</u>	Various
<u>Vale of Glamorgan County Treasures</u>	2009
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Conservation Area Management Plans</u>	2009

Document title	Year of publication
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan</u>	2017

10.3 Key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The Historic Environment (Wales) Act is one piece of legislation that will form part of a suite of legislation, policy, advice and guidance that will make important improvements to the existing systems for the protection and sustainable management of the Welsh historic environment.
- The Historic Environment Strategy for Wales recognises the contribution of the historic environment to the quality of life in Wales, and therefore sets out measures to enable the protection of local heritage and encourage public access, enjoyment and participation. Proposed measures seek to contribute to quality of life and quality of place and support the tackling poverty agenda. They will also create individual and community confidence and a sense of belonging.
- The RLDP will be required to be in general conformity with Future Wales, which sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use, providing a context for the provision of new infrastructure/ growth. Future Wales identifies Vale of Glamorgan as falling within the South East Wales region, the smallest of the four regions by area, including the coastal cities of Cardiff and Newport and the former industrial heartlands of the south Wales valleys. The RLDP should set out policies and proposals reflecting the structural economic and social issues that impact upon residents' prosperity and well-being. This helps to create healthy, vibrant places, protecting the natural environment and the historic environment.
- PPW and supplementary TANs provide national planning policy in respect of the historic environment. Local Planning Authorities should not repeat national policy but include clear robust policies on design in their development plans which address local issues and should be based on relevant evidence. These should set out the local planning authority's design expectations.
- TAN 12 (Design) identifies 'character' as one of the five aspects of good design. Objectives in this respect include 'sustaining and enhancing local character', utilising design to respond to 'recognisable and understood features and landmarks' and 'locally distinctive patterns and forms of development'.
- TAN 24 (Historic Environment) provides guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during development plan preparation and decision making, with specific guidance provided on how the following aspects of the historic environment should be considered:
 - world heritage sites.
 - scheduled monuments.
 - archaeological remains.
 - listed buildings.
 - conservation areas.

- historic parks and gardens.
 - historic landscapes; and
 - historic assets of special local interest.
- The Placemaking Wales Charter builds on the strengthening focus on placemaking in policy and practice in Wales and aims to provide a common understanding of the range of considerations that go into placemaking. The charter outlines the following six placemaking principles that cover the range of considerations that contribute to establishing and maintaining good places:
 - People and community.
 - Movement.
 - Location.
 - Public realm.
 - Mix of uses; and
 - Identity.
 - Cadw has produced a series of best-practice guidance publications that complement the legislative framework and associated planning policy and advice and support the sustainable management of the Welsh historic environment. All are informed by Cadw's Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales. Fourteen titles have been released so far, many of which are intended for local planning authorities, to support the development of policies and proposals relating to the protection and enhancement of the historic environment and the promotion of the Welsh language.
 - Notably, the Welsh Government has identified Wales' historic environment law as a suitable subject for one of its first projects in an ambitious programme of legislative consolidation. If all goes to plan, the outcome will be new, fully bilingual legislation that is orderly, clear and easily accessible¹⁶⁷.

Baseline summary

10.4 The Vale of Glamorgan historic environment embraces many features, including buildings, structures, monuments, remains, archaeological sites, gardens, parks, landscapes (see **Chapter 11**) and their settings. The location of designated historic assets, including scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings, parks and gardens, conservation areas and maritime assets, are presented in **Figure 10.1** later in this Chapter.

Listed buildings

10.5 The Vale of Glamorgan currently has 740 Listed Buildings whose special architectural or historic interest is protected by the need to obtain Listed Building Consent under the provisions of the Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990.¹⁶⁸ The setting of such buildings, is often critical

¹⁶⁷ Cadw (no date): 'New Legislation', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹⁶⁸ Vale of Glamorgan (no date): 'Our Environment Evidence Report', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

to the character of the building, and can be restricted to its immediate site or extend to a much wider area.

10.6 Of the 740 Listed Buildings within the Vale, 33 are Grade I Listed.

10.7 **Figure 10.1** shows that Listed Buildings are located throughout the Vale, concentrated to some extent within settlements such as Penarth, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge, coinciding with Conservation Areas (discussed below).

Scheduled Monuments (SMs)

10.8 There are 114 SMs designated throughout the Vale (see **Figure 10.1**). These are scattered throughout the authority, with no obvious concentrations.

Registered Parks and Gardens

10.9 There are 38 Registered Parks and Gardens present within the Vale. Of these, 'St Donat's Castle' and 'Dyffryn' are Grade I Listed. Figure 10.1 shows Parks & Gardens are also relatively sporadic in their location, with arguably a slight concentration to the northeast and southwest of the Vale.

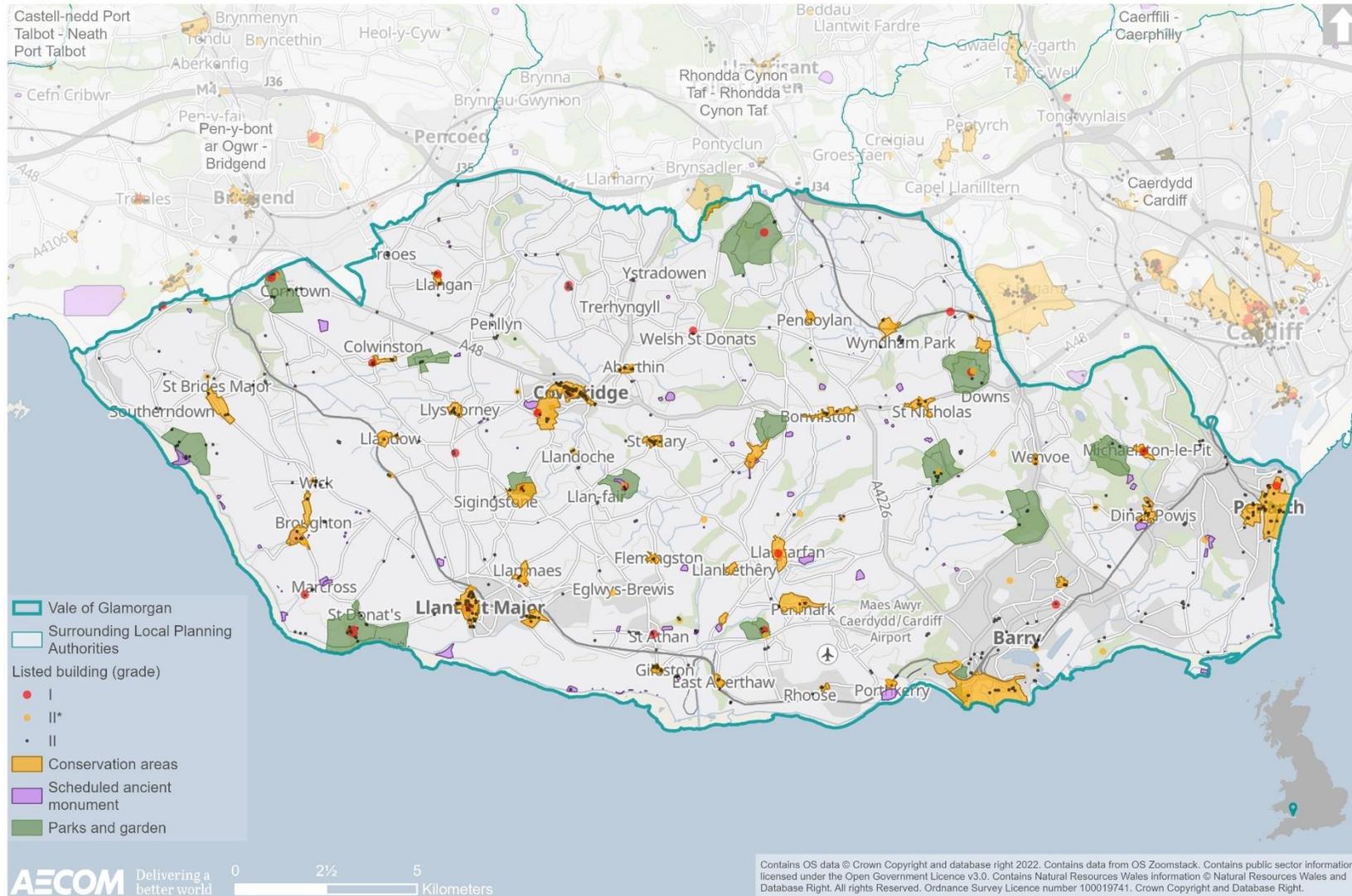
Conservation Areas

10.10 As shown in **Figure 10.1**, there are 40 Conservation Areas present, which make a significant contribution to the attractiveness of the Vale.

10.11 The Vale's Conservation Areas have been designated because of the overall quality of the area, its mix of uses, historic layout, characteristic materials, scale and detailing of buildings and open spaces.

10.12 The Council has prepared detailed appraisals for each of its designated conservation areas, which can be found [here](#). The appraisals define special characteristics of the conservation areas and propose guidelines for development and enhancement schemes. These have been adopted by the Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance in support of the policies of the adopted LDP.

Figure 10.1 National heritage designations



Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales

- 10.13 The Vale of Glamorgan includes two areas on the Register of Historic Landscapes in Wales. These assets, along with the wider historic landscape value of the Vale are discussed further within **Chapter 11**.

County Treasures

- 10.14 In partnership with the wider community, the Council has identified buildings and structures within the Vale of Glamorgan considered to have special local architectural or historic interest. These 'County Treasures' are of significance to the local community and contribute to the environmental and cultural heritage of the County. Although not of national importance required to merit statutory listing, their local value deserves preservation and regard must be given to the need for development proposals to protect such assets from insensitive development which individually and cumulatively can harm local character.
- 10.15 As shown in **Figure 10.3** overleaf, there are 1,240 County Treasure local entries within the Vale. These located throughout the county borough, with clusters seen within the main settlements (i.e., Cowbridge, Llantwit Major, and Penarth).
- 10.16 Each County Treasure has been assessed in terms of its merits, integrity and authenticity.¹⁶⁹ Locally identified features/buildings were identified by means of a partnership between the Council, representatives of town/community councils, the Penarth Society, other local amenity societies and independent local volunteers.
- 10.17 The local element of the County Treasures list contains buildings and structures within the Vale of Glamorgan, considered as having special local architectural or historic interest. They are of significance to the local community and to contribute to the environmental and cultural heritage of the county borough. Although not of national importance required to merit statutory listing, their local value deserves preservation.

Archaeology

- 10.18 As shown in **Figure 10.4**, the Vale of Glamorgan has considerable archaeological interest, with concentrations seen around key settlements. The Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust curates the authority's Historic Environment Record.¹⁷⁰

Locally significant historic assets

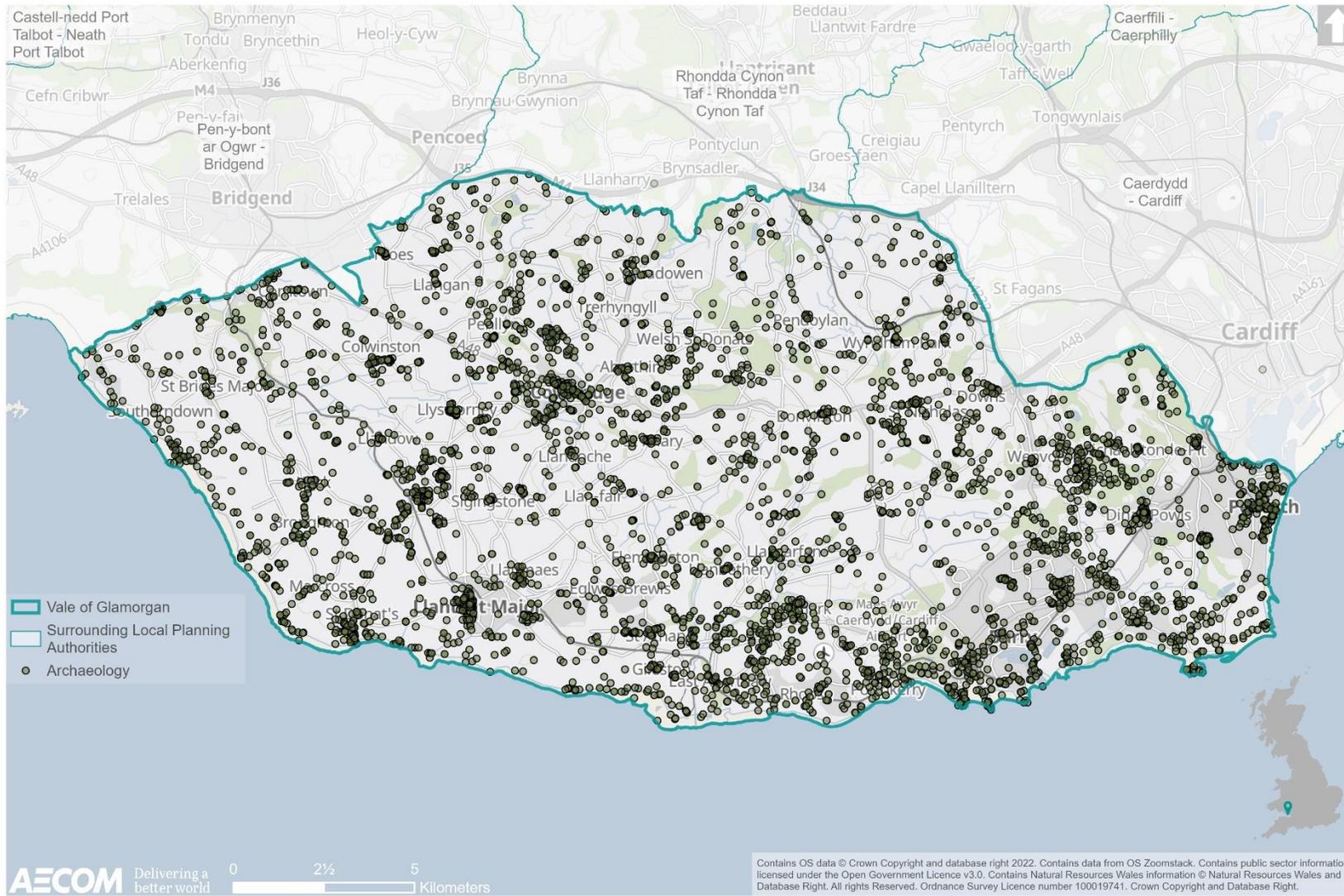
- 10.19 Historic assets of local significance (HALS) identify local historic assets that have a particularly pertinent role in the local historical or architectural context of an area. HALS play an essential role in building and reinforcing a sense of local character and distinctiveness through the historic environment. Whilst the Council does not currently keep a record of locally significant archaeological assets, consultation with The Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust as part

¹⁶⁹ Vale of Glamorgan Council (2009): 'Supplementary Planning Guidance: County Treasures', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹⁷⁰ Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd (no date): 'Data Access and submission', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

of the RLDP will enable the Council to consider these assets when future development proposals are under consideration by the Council.

Figure 10.4 Local Archaeology



Future baseline

- 10.20 The Vale is rich in historic built and natural assets, including 740 listed buildings, over 100 SMs, 40 Conservation areas, 18 areas included in the Register of Landscapes of Historic Parks and Gardens, two areas on the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales, and the Glamorgan Heritage Coast.
- 10.21 In the absence of the RLDP, designated and non-designated historic assets are likely to continue to be afforded protection through national planning policy as well as currently adopted policies.
- 10.22 In the absence of the RLDP potential opportunities, in particular cross-boundary ones, could be missed to improve the landscape/ townscape and therefore enhance the historic environment.

Key issues

- 10.23 The context review and baseline information informed the identification of several key issues (problems and opportunities):
- The Vale has a rich variety and distribution of historic assets, including 740 listed buildings, over 100 SMs, 40 Conservation areas, 18 areas included in the Register of Landscapes of Historic Parks and Gardens, and two areas on the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales. The significance and setting of these assets should be considered in, and positively impacted upon by, new development.
 - Development should be sensitively designed to maintain a strong sense of place, using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit.
 - All development should ensure that any necessary archaeological investigations are undertaken prior to any relevant works.

ISA objectives

10.24 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the ISA should include the following objective and assessment questions:

ISA objectives	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Preserve and enhance Vale of Glamorgan's heritage resource, including its historic environment and archaeological assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve and enhance the significance of buildings and structures of architectural and/ or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their setting? • Preserve and enhance the special interest, character and appearance of conservation areas and their settings?
Promote understanding of Vale of Glamorgan's cultural heritage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance archaeological remains, and archaeologically sensitive areas, and support the undertaking of archaeological investigations and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation strategies? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic and cultural environment, including the Welsh language?

11. Landscape

11.1 This theme focuses on designated and protected landscapes within or near to Vale of Glamorgan, as well as landscape character, landscape quality and visual amenity.

Policy context

11.2 **Table 11.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the RLDP and ISA.

Table 11.1 Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to landscape

Document title	Year of publication
<u>Planning Wales Act</u>	2015
<u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act</u>	2015
<u>Environment (Wales) Act</u>	2016
<u>National Development Framework (Future Wales: The National Plan)</u>	2021
<u>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)</u>	2021
<u>South Central Wales Area Statement</u>	2017
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 6: Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities</u>	2010
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 7: Outdoor advertisement control</u>	1996
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 10: Tree preservation orders</u>	1997
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12: Design</u>	2016
<u>Placemaking Wales Charter</u>	2020
<u>LANDMAP</u>	various
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan</u>	2017
<u>Vale of Glamorgan Designation of Landscape Character Areas</u>	2008

11.3 Key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The RLDP will be required to be in general conformity with Future Wales, which sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use, providing a context for the provision of new infrastructure / growth. The SDP for South

East Wales will also seek to address regional factors such as housing, employment and infrastructure delivery, while giving great weight to conserving and enhancing protected landscapes, as well as landscape character and scenic beauty. Policy 19 within FW states that Strategic Development Plans should establish for the region “*green corridors and nationally important landscapes*”. It will need to delineate the boundaries of the green belt that Future Wales makes provision for (Policy 34).

- PPW and supplementary TANs provide national planning policy in respect of landscape. PPW encourages effective and strategic placemaking, recognising that landscape and green infrastructure considerations are an integral part of the design process. PPW provides national policy on good design, and development plans and SPG should provide a clear context for design requirements in the local area.
- TAN 12 (Design) identifies ‘character’ as one of the five aspects of good design. Objectives in this respect include ‘sustaining and enhancing local character’, utilising design to respond to ‘landscapes and townscapes’ and ‘locally distinctive patterns and forms of development’.
- The Placemaking Wales Charter builds on the strengthening focus on Placemaking in policy and practice in Wales and aims to provide a common understanding of the range of considerations that go into placemaking. The charter outlines the following six placemaking principles that cover the range of considerations that contribute to establishing and maintaining good places:
 - People and community.
 - Movement.
 - Location.
 - Public realm.
 - Mix of uses; and
 - Identity.
- PPW and relevant TANs further highlight the importance of designated biodiversity sites, habitats, woodland, historic features, agricultural land and cultural landscapes. The positive contribution that land remediation can make in terms of addressing despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land is also recognised.

Baseline summary

National Landscape Character Areas (NLCAs)

- 11.4 NLCAs are defined at a broad landscape scale throughout Wales. The descriptive profiles for the 48 individual character areas highlight what distinguishes one landscape from another, with reference to their regionally distinct natural, cultural and perceptual characteristics.¹⁷¹
- 11.5 Many environmental resilience and planning challenges are best considered at a 'landscape-scale'. The NLCA policy-neutral descriptions can contribute to the development of national and regional policy, strategy or guidelines.
- 11.6 The Vale falls with NLCA36 – Vale of Glamorgan (see **Figure 11.1** overleaf).
- 11.7 The summary description for the NLCA is:¹⁷²

“The Vale is a distinctive, gentle lowland landscape, largely comprising a rolling limestone plateau. Glacial till contributes to its undulating topography. A variety of rural land uses characterise the area, reinforced by thick hedgerows, frequent small woodlands and trees, which create a sense of enclosure and intimacy. This is despite the proximity to large towns such as greater Cardiff, Barry and Bridgend, and a number of large built features within the Vale.

The landscape terminates abruptly at the heritage coast with vertical cliffs. There are a few sandy beaches, as well as shingle, but many images depict the exposed geology of the inter-tidal area, including bedding and pavements. There are long distance cliff top views towards Somerset. A notable feature affecting part of the coast is the large, modern, noisy, Aberthaw Power Station.

In the centre of the Vale, compact and historic settlements reinforce the area’s distinctive sense of place, but with limited modern development. Yet the area has attracted many professionals, who commute to Cardiff and Bridgend, adding to the more prosperous character of places like Cowbridge and Llanblethian.

The area’s historic character was shaped by Anglo-Norman influences. Norman castles and medieval villages centred on churches are key features. The registered landscape of Llancaiach is astoundingly beautiful as well as being a relatively unspoiled gem of historical evolution. All this is despite the relatively close proximity to nearby large towns.”

- 11.8 The following key characteristics have been identified for the NLCA¹⁷³:

- Lowland, rolling limestone plateau with glacial till.
- Coastal cliffs – mark a sudden edge to the landscape. Species-rich calcareous, neutral and maritime grasslands are found on their tops. Layers of geology characterise their sides and inter-tidal platforms. Wide views over the Bristol Channel. Much is Heritage Coast.
- Mixed agricultural land uses - with predominantly rural character.

¹⁷¹ Natural Resource Wales (2021): 'National Landscape Character Areas (NLCAs)', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹⁷² Ibid

¹⁷³ Ibid

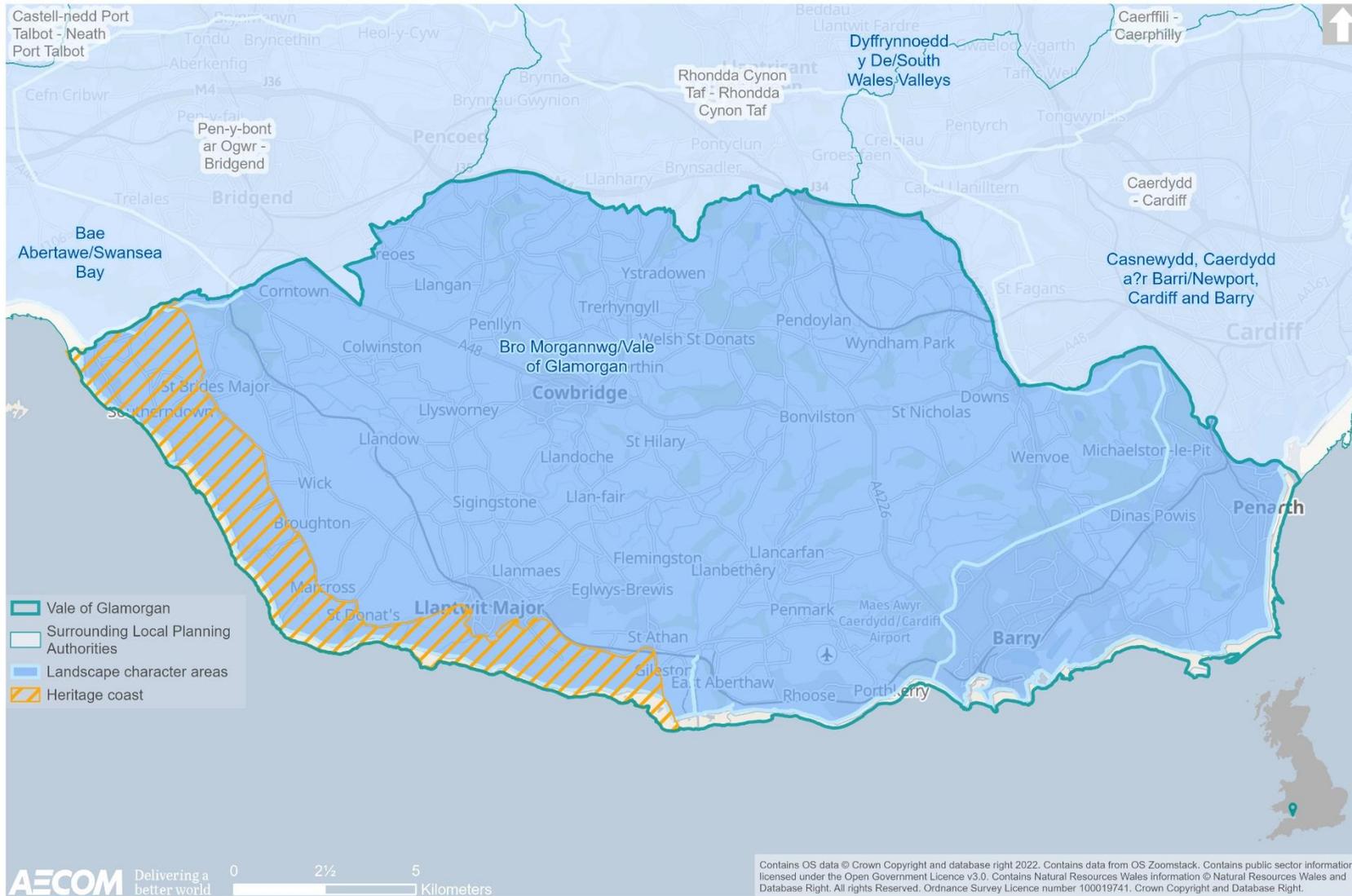
- Small woodlands – mainly to the east. Few large woods.
 - Mixed field patterns and sizes - with hedgerows and hedge banks, frequent hedgerow trees. Limestone walls define land above the cliffs in the west.
 - Norman castles and medieval villages centred on churches.
 - Predominantly still rural - with strong senses of enclosure by historic field boundaries.
 - Several large built developments – including Cardiff International Airport and Aberthaw Power Station. Some areas with traffic noise, e.g., in the M4 corridor; and
 - Commuter settlement - modern suburban housing extending but contrasting with historic settlement character.
- 11.9 In terms of the visual and sensory profile, the area forms a distinctive plateau landscape, dissected by several rivers including the Ely, Thaw and Waycock. It still evokes a strong rural sense of place with a patchwork of fields, hedgerows and woodlands and trees and extensive open, lowland, farmland.
- 11.10 The most iconic image is that of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast (see **Chapter 10** above for further detail), where the otherwise gentle landscape comes to a very abrupt and dramatic edge, with near vertical cliffs in places, shingle or rock pavement beaches, and the occasional sandy bay to the west. From here there are long views across the Bristol Channel to Somerset and Exmoor. The coastal hinterland is typified by windblown vegetation that has resulted from the prevailing south-westerly wind exposure.
- 11.11 Further inland, the Bonvilston ridge forms a strong landscape element running across the centre of the Vale, reflected in views southwards across the Vale and northwards and into the South Wales Valleys.¹⁷⁴

Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs)

- 11.12 **Figure 11.2** overleaf shows the 27 Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs) within the Vale of Glamorgan.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid

Figure 11.1 National Landscape Character Areas



Marine Character Areas (MCAs)

- 11.13 Seascapes, like landscapes, reflect the relationship between people and place and the part it plays in forming the setting to our everyday lives.
- 11.14 Marine Character Areas highlight the key natural, cultural and perceptual influences that make the character of each seascape distinct and unique. NRW were commissioned on behalf of Welsh Government to identify the character of Wales' seascapes at a broad scale. They divided Wales' inshore waters into 29 Marine Character Areas.¹⁷⁵
- 11.15 The Vale of Glamorgan extends across two MCAs; the Severn Estuary MCA which is located east of the county borough, and the Glamorgan Coastal Waters and Nash Sands MCA which is located south/ south-west.
- 11.16 MCA 29 Severn Estuary comprises the Welsh part of the Severn Estuary, stretching from the national border with England to the western fringes of Barry.
- 11.17 The marine area is coincident with most of the Severn Estuary SAC (Wales) and full extent of the marine plan area. Its southwestern boundary broadly follows bathymetry, with the aim of excluding the deepest parts of the inshore channel.
- 11.18 The MCA also includes all of the Severn Estuary SPA, Ramsar and SSSI within the inshore and intertidal zones. It meets the coast in the west to be coincident with NLCA 35: Newport, Cardiff and Barry (developed coastline which spreads out from Cardiff Bay).
- 11.19 The MCA is also consistent with how the Estuary is spatially defined for the purposes of coastal navigation (e.g., Imray, 2008). The MCA excludes a small section of 'Welsh' waters along and at the mouth of the River Wye, which would be picked up by the adjacent English marine plan area.
- 11.20 Key characteristics include:¹⁷⁶
- Expansive funnel-shaped Severn Estuary, sitting at the mouth of four major rivers (the Severn, Wye, Usk and Avon).
 - The immense tidal range of the estuary is second only to the Bay of Fundy in Canada.
 - The status of the tide has a significant bearing on perceived character.
 - Soft Triassic and Jurassic rocks exposed along the shore, creating a wide rocky intertidal area. Elsewhere the shore is defined by extensive tidal flats.
 - Mud, sand and gravel sediments deposited in the Holocene period producing a varied seabed of flats and bars, with associated shallow waters and numerous shoals presenting hazards to navigation.
 - Flat Holm Island (SSSI and LNR) forms a gateway feature in the west – an outcrop of harder limestone rising out of the surrounding sediments. Steep Holm forms a similar 'twin' feature in English waters to the south.

¹⁷⁵ Natural Resource Wales (2015): 'MCA 27', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹⁷⁶ Natural Resource Wales (2015): 'MCA 29', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

- Estuary important for the interpretation of coastline dynamics and landforms, and past changes in sea level, sediment supply, climate and river flow.
 - Strong tidal streams and turbidity producing biological communities characteristic of the extreme physical conditions of liquid mud and tide-swept sand and rock.
 - Tidal flats, saltmarshes and the extensive wet grasslands are of international importance for wintering waterfowl and migratory birds.
 - Some of the richest and most diverse populations of non-exploited fish in the UK – sea lamprey and twaite shad populations considered to be larger than in any other estuary.
 - MCA's rich natural resources exploited by humans for millennia, with evidence dating back to the earliest hunter-gatherers roaming what was previously a much larger coastal plain (prior to sea level rise around 6,000 BC).
 - Long-standing strategic importance for international trade and maritime navigation, particularly as ports on both sides of the Bristol Channel expanded from the medieval period onwards. Cardiff, Newport and Barry still retain important port functions.
 - Numerous shipwrecks found on the sea floor, particularly in the west – including examples mined and sunk during WWII.
 - Local trawlers catch plaice, turbot, whiting and rays from the MCA's sandbanks.
 - Recreational charters and beach-based fishing are important economic activities.
 - Salmon, eels and trout fished commercially and recreationally in the rivers feeding the estuary, including through the traditional method of putcher fishing (medieval intertidal fish traps are located at Goldcliff, West Pill and Caldicott).
 - Flat coastline backed by the Wales Coastal Path, affording long views into the Bristol Channel.
 - Estuary's classic funnel shape and south-west orientation make it susceptible to extreme weather conditions (including storm surges) sweeping in from the east Atlantic.
- 11.21 Glamorgan Coastal Waters and Nash Sands MCA covers the coastal waters directly to the south of the Vale of Glamorgan, adjacent to the sparsely settled south-facing coastline from Merthyr Mawr in the west to the outer fringes of Barry in the east.
- 11.22 The landward area encompasses all the Glamorgan Heritage Coast (the western landward boundary follows the line of the designation). Apart from Merthyr Mawr in the west (within the Heritage Coast designation), the landward extent complements the adjoining regional Landscape Character Area 36: Vale of Glamorgan (discussed above).
- 11.23 Offshore – in the west, the MCA takes in the full extent of Nash Sands to West Nash. It also includes Tusker Rock – a feature within the bay of Merthyr Mawr.

The outer boundary with the Bristol Channel (MCA 28) is informed by the change to deeper water and large linear sand and gravel sediments associated with the Channel.

11.24 Key characteristics of this MCA are:¹⁷⁷

- Dramatic ever-changing coastline of Jurassic and Triassic mudstones and limestone; with near vertical cliffs, shingle or rock pavement beaches, and occasional sandy bays.
- South and south-westerly aspect with gently shelving waters reaching a maximum of 18m bathymetry.
- Jurassic mudstone seabed overlain by bands of sand and gravel in the west, forming the distinctive linear Nash Sands with associated shoals, shallows and overfalls.
- Tusker Rock, an extensive reef, forms a key seascape feature in the west. It is exposed at low tide and surrounded by shallow waters.
- Strong tidal streams, high wave climate and exposure to winds funnelling up the Bristol Channel form further hazards to navigation.
- Sections of SSSI designated coastline nationally valued for species rich neutral, calcareous and maritime grassland. Dunraven Bay SAC is home to the rare shore dock.
- Internationally important habitats on Methyr Mawr Warren including sand dunes and slacks, saltmarsh, limestone grasslands and swamp habitats.
- Commercial trawling and rod and line fishing, the sand banks in the west being rich grounds for plaice, turbot, whiting and rays.
- Long history of human occupation, with Neolithic evidence beneath Merthyr Mawr, clifftop Iron Age hillforts and the remains of medieval castles, ports and ecclesiastical sites.
- The iconic 19th century Nash Point Lighthouse constructed of limestone from the beach below, guides ships past Nash Sands and is a symbol of the area's maritime heritage (the last manned lighthouse in Wales).
- Historic wrecks associated with the notorious Nash Point and Nash Sands, including 19th century sailing pilot cutters waiting to guide ships to Cardiff or Newport.
- Popular Heritage Coast-designated coastline, with the Heritage Coast Centre and Seawatch Centre drawing visitors to learn about the area's natural, cultural and maritime heritage.
- Often wild qualities of the area interrupted in the east by air traffic associated with Cardiff International Airport, and the dominating form of Aberthaw Power Station.
- Strong intervisibility with the Somerset coastline including Exmoor National Park and the Quantocks Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

¹⁷⁷ Ibid

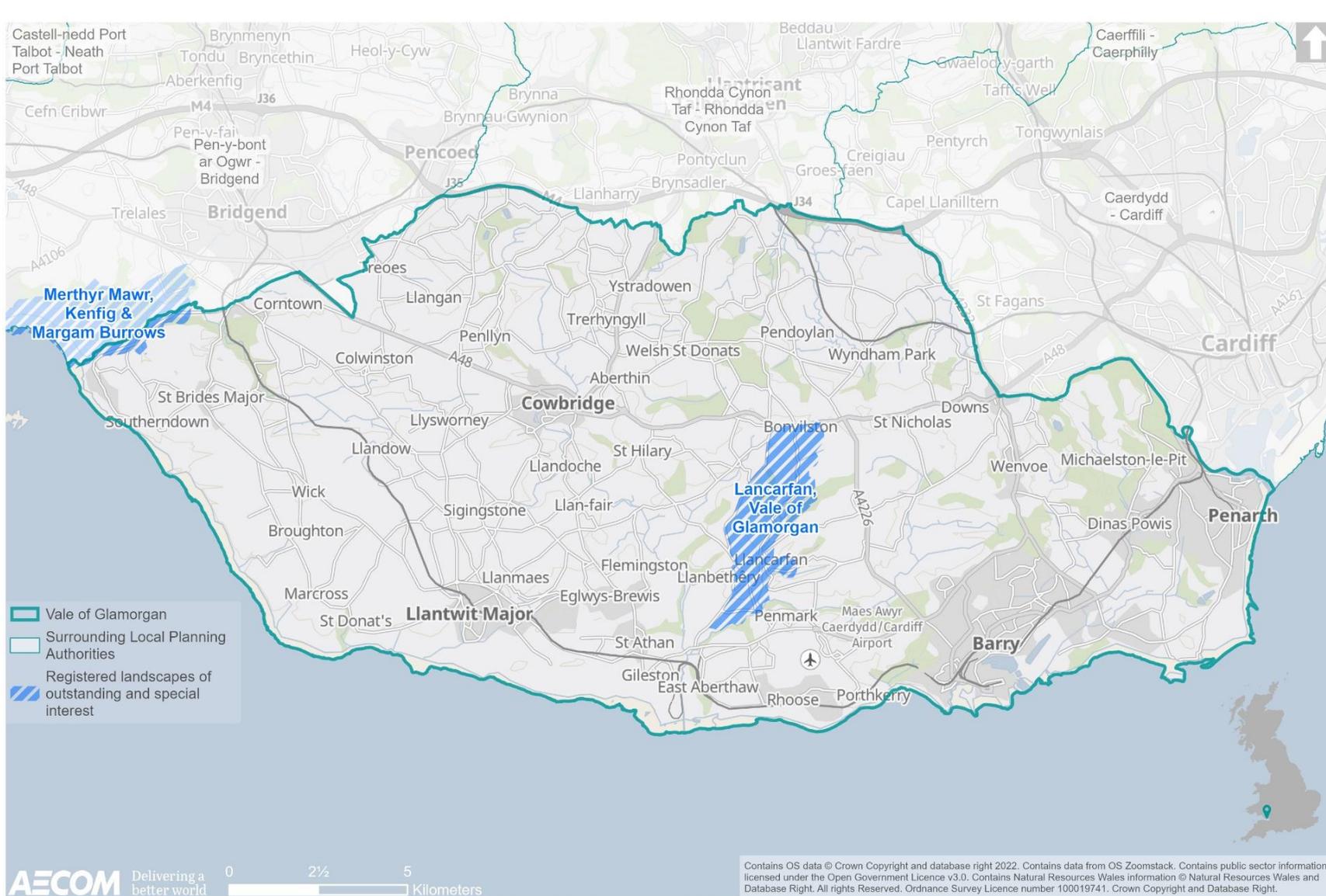
- Views west along the coastline from Nash Point, including to the Gower AONB; and
 - The area's expansive vistas are appreciated by users of the clifftop Wales Coast Path.
- 11.25 As shown in **Figure 9.1** (in **Chapter 9** above), the Severn Estuary MCA, SPA, Ramsar and SAC can be found at the eastern end of the Vale and is of international significance for overwintering birds.
- 11.26 The Glamorgan Coastal Waters and Nash Sands MCA comprises the coastal waters of the Glamorgan coastline, stretching from the expansive sand dune system of Merthyr Mawr in the west to the fringes of development at Barry in the east. The south and south-west facing coastline is a renowned Heritage Coast (see **Chapter 10** above). The coastline is home to varied birdlife, including choughs, fulmars, bartailed godwits and peregrine falcons.
- 11.27 Cwm Nash displays a 12,000-year-old sequence of geological deposits containing abundant fossil snails – allowing for the reconstruction of climate change from the last glacial period until the present day.

Registered Landscapes of Outstanding and Special Interest in Wales

- 11.28 The landscapes of Wales have been formed by natural processes and shaped by human activity. This human activity ranges from the prehistoric periods through to the modern age. To recognise the value of historic landscapes, and to raise awareness of their importance, Cadw, in partnership with the Countryside Council for Wales (now called Natural Resources Wales) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS UK) has compiled a non-statutory Register of 58 landscapes of outstanding or special historic interest in Wales.¹⁷⁸
- 11.29 The Register of Historic Landscapes is a non-statutory, advisory register. Its primary aim is to provide information and raise awareness of an initial selection of the most important and significant historic landscape areas in Wales in order to aid their protection and conservation.
- 11.30 Of the 58 registered landscapes there are two located within/ partially within the Vale. Llancafán is located in the centre of the Vale, while Merthyr Mawr is located to the north eastern extent of the Vale, along the revised LDP area boundary, extending into Bridgend (see **Figure 11.3** overleaf).

¹⁷⁸Lle Geoportol for Wales (2022): 'The Registered Landscapes of Outstanding and of Special Interest in Wales', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

Figure 11.3 Registered Landscapes of Outstanding and Special Interest



Glamorgan Heritage Coast

- 11.31 As set out in **Chapter 9** above, while nationally recognised, Heritage coasts are ‘defined’ rather than designated. Heritage coasts are protected through development control within the planning system.
- 11.32 The Glamorgan Heritage Coast (see **Figure 11.1** and **Figure 11.4**) is recognised for its national importance as an area of attractive undeveloped coastline, stretching for 14 miles, from Aberthaw to Porthcawl. The coast between Ogmere and Aberthaw is highly scenic, with a strong sense of place. Exposed limestone cliffs have extensive views over the Bristol Channel towards Somerset and Exmoor. Historic forts and lighthouses are features above the sandy beaches and rocky platforms. The often wild and open seascape, rocky shore and cliffs feel isolated in places.
- 11.33 The seascape has a generally southerly aspect, exposure to prevailing winds and gently shelving waters. This is combined with a build up to the high tidal range of the Severn Estuary, with the distinctive sandbank of Nash Sands and associated shoals and shallows.¹⁷⁹
- 11.34 Farming is the foremost activity within the Heritage Coast, helping to maintain the landscape character and playing an important role in supporting the rural economy. The minor rural settlements of Ogmere and Southerndown fall within the designation and whilst being mindful of the need to protect the special qualities of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast.¹⁸⁰

The Glamorgan Heritage Coast is also an important destination for visitors and offers opportunities for informal recreation, low impact tourism and coastal access, supporting walkers and cyclists (see **Chapter 4**).



Figure 11.4 Glamorgan Heritage Coast¹⁸¹

¹⁷⁹ Natural Resource Wales (no date): ‘South Central Wales Landscape’, [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹⁸⁰ Vale of Glamorgan (2017): ‘Adopted Local Development Plan’, [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹⁸¹ Natural Resource Wales (2021): ‘National Landscape Character Areas (NLCAs)’, [online] available to access via [this link](#)

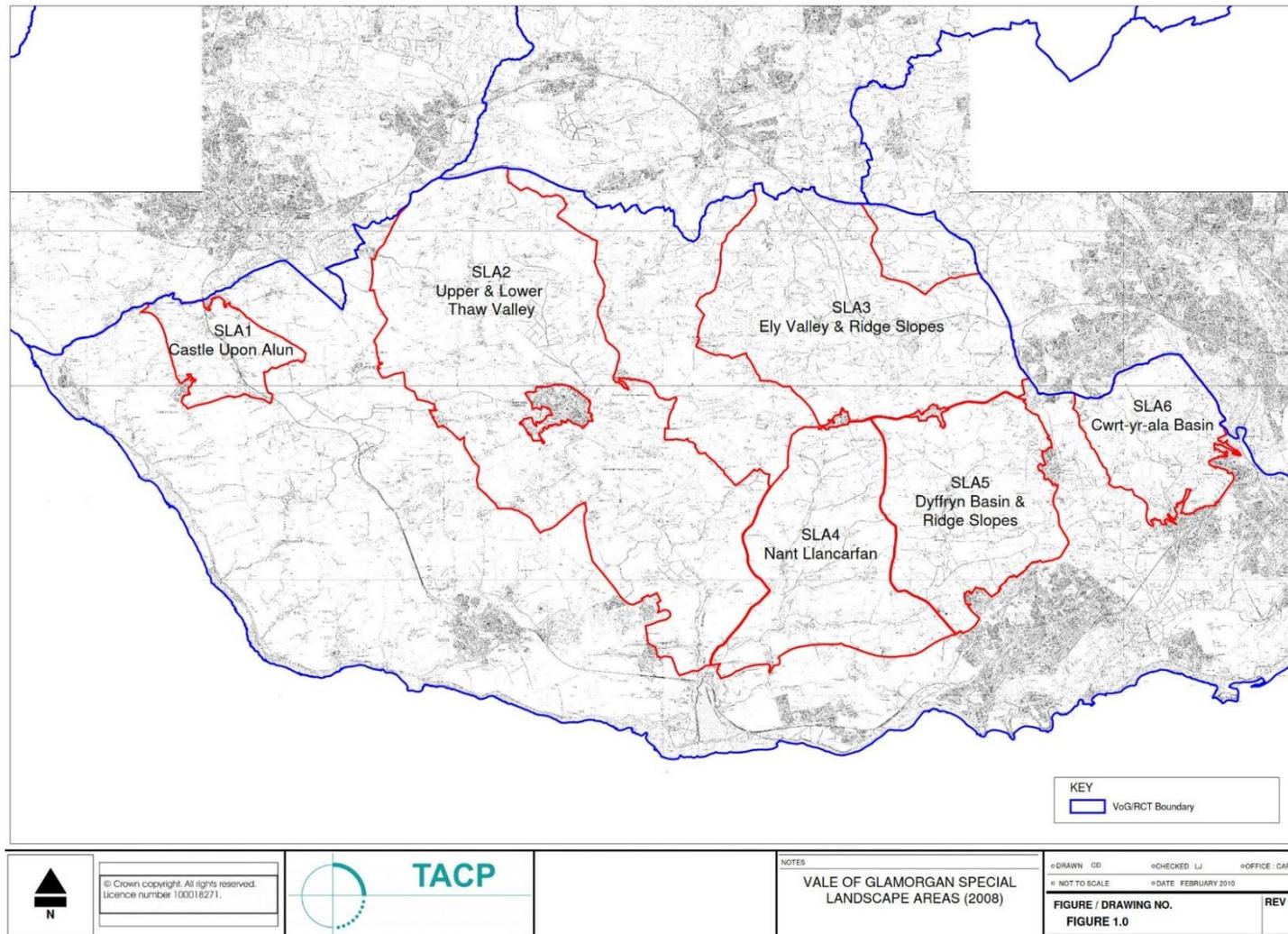
Special Landscape Areas

- 11.35 Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) are a non-statutory designation applied by the local planning authority to define areas of high landscape importance within their administrative boundary. SLAs in the Vale of Glamorgan have been designated to protect areas that are important for their geological, natural, visual, historic or cultural significance.¹⁸²
- 11.36 SLAs were originally designated within the Vale based upon the Landscapes Working for Wales study in 1999. A review of the SLA designations, carried out in 2008 by TACP Consultants, identified six areas worthy of designation as SLAs. They closely followed the previous existing designated SLA's, with additional areas being included and some deleted, reflecting the updated information available. This revised methodology was devised by Natural Resources Wales in collaboration with a consortium of local authorities in South East Wales, using LANDMAP data.
- 11.37 The SLAs are listed below, shown in **Figure 11.5**, with further detail also provided in **Table 11.2** overleaf:¹⁸³
- SLA 1 Castle Upon Alun.
 - SLA 2 Upper & Lower Thaw Valley.
 - SLA 3 Ely Valley & Ridge Slopes.
 - SLA 4 Nant Llancarfan.
 - SLA 5 Dyffryn Basin & Ridge Slopes; and
 - SLA 6 Cwrt-yr-ala-Basin.

¹⁸²TACP (2008): 'Vale of Glamorgan - Designation of Special Landscape Areas', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

¹⁸³ Ibid.

Figure 11.5 Special Landscape Areas¹⁸⁴



¹⁸⁴ Ibid

SLA	Need	Primary landscape qualities/ features	Relevant key policy and management issues	Visual/ sensory evaluation (low, moderate, high, outstanding)
Castle Upon Alun	The area has very strong sense of place, in which context is strongly related to cultural identity. Coastal areas and river valleys are of outstanding quality in several aspects and include habitats for several rare species. The openness of this landscape makes it sensitive to development.	On the western edge of the Vale and abutting the Heritage Coast boundary, large areas of this designation are of outstanding value in the visual, habitat, geological and sensory aspects. It is characterised by broad plateaus, gentle rolling hills and the Ewenny and Alun River valleys. Old Castle Down (SSSI) is an attractive and distinctive heath area, rare in the Vale and supporting important species. The Ogmore River provides a specific marsh landscape and dune system of international importance.	Heath should be maintained, enhanced and enlarged Introduce blocks of broadleaved woodland to integrate settlement/ farm development and into stream valleys. Restrict development in widely visible areas and improve detailing to road approaches and settlement to reflect area character Reinforce screening to absorb development.	Moderate to outstanding
Upper & Lower Thaw Valley	The Thaw Valley is of high value visually and culturally, has outstanding geological features and includes some areas of high habitat value. Suburban development is eroding the character, along with intensive agricultural practices and substitution of fences for hedgerows.	The SLA is dissected by the Thaw River Valley. The generally open landscape has high intervisibility and overlooks Bridgend, bordering the M4, and colouring the perception of the area. The dramatic valley form has distinctive steep wooded slopes and a strong sense of place and is relatively uncommon. The rolling lowland landscape has views out to the coast.	Maintain hedgerow and tree cover Improve development to ensure rural detailing and character Incorporate agri-environmental schemes Restrict development in widely visible areas and introduce blocks of broadleaf woodland to integrate settlement/ Ford related development.	Moderate to high
Ely Valley & Ridge Slopes	The area surrounds the Ely Valley and adjacent major rail link. Areas are considered to be declining (pylons, the M4, A4232 and development along the A48, etc.) therefore designation	The area is predominately a lowland rolling landscape with the Ely River valley running through it from north to south-east. The majority of the lowland valley floor is flood plain, with a sense of openness that contrasts with the rising valley sides. Towards the east, enclosing the Ely floodplain, the landscape has an intact pastoral field patten and traditional settlement pattern.	Create links between fragmented woodland through new planting of green corridors Improve Hensol Forest as a focus for recreation and increase broadleaf colour	Moderate to high

SLA	Need	Primary landscape qualities/ features	Relevant key policy and management issues	Visual/ sensory evaluation (low, moderate, high, outstanding)
	would benefit future development.	<p>The M4 and A4232 are significant detractors by character is generally consistent with few areas affected by urban fringe and industry. Pylons in Ely Valley north detract from otherwise attractive views in and out of this area.</p> <p>Inappropriate development of farms into dwellings and poor land management are threatening the character integrity here.</p> <p>To the north-west the landscape is one of lowland valleys and hills. It is a well maintained landscape with a tranquil feeling. With strong hedgerow and woodland cover, it has high scenic but low habitat value.</p> <p>The southern boundary includes a ridge crest, prominent in the landscape and providing views across the Vale. The A48 bisects this ridge and linear settlements dominate.</p> <p>Hensol Forest to the west creates a landscape of uniform diversity with a sheltering, tranquil and safe feeling. The area is popular for recreation.</p>	<p>Maintain coherence of field pattern and improve land management</p> <p>Manage priority habitat</p> <p>Control housing development and farm conversions</p> <p>Restrict development so it does not impinge on the ridge line and create linear development along the A48</p>	
Nant Llancarfan	<p>Nant Llancarfan valley identified as high and outstanding feature. The narrow and enclosed lowland Waycock Valley, with many villages designated as Conservation Areas, occupies the southern region of this SLA. Development to the southeast and the presence of Cardiff</p>	<p>The majority of the area is rolling lowland, dissected by the Nant Llancarfan valley. This central area is steep sided, narrow lowland valley, with contains a tranquil and historic landscape of streams, semi-natural broadleaf woodlands, planted coniferous woodland and small farms.</p> <p>The ancient settlement of Llancarfan village stands within a Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest and contains a Conservation Area.</p> <p>The scattered rural/farm landscape is of outstanding value as being picturesque, for the preservation of historic communities.</p>	<p>Improve rural roads and restrict development to ensure rural detailing and character</p> <p>Remove power lines in Waycock Valley where possible</p> <p>Retain and enhance intrinsic character through woodland and hedgerow management and development restrictions.</p> <p>Maintain tree cover on ridgeline to the north to integrate development.</p>	Moderate to high

SLA	Need	Primary landscape qualities/ features	Relevant key policy and management issues	Visual/ sensory evaluation (low, moderate, high, outstanding)
	Airport is encroaching on this area.	At the south, on the coastal plateau there are detractive views to Cardiff Airport hangar. This area is boundary to the steeper valley slopes and wooded edges of Waycock Valley, Penmark being a particularly picturesque village.		
Dyffryn Basin & Ridge Slopes	Development including Wenvoe to the east and Barry to the south is eroding the otherwise fairly strong rural identity and integrity of the area	<p>The majority of the area is an attractive, gentle valley of the Nant Bran and River Waycock. There are broad, pleasing views to well-managed countryside which retains a coherent large field pattern and woodlands. It is a relatively unspoiled historic rural landscape and the area includes several BAPs. Settlements are well integrated with the landscape and surrounding vegetation. The combination of road, stream/ drainage ditch, stone wall/ garden or dwelling is typical and representative of the Vale in this area.</p> <p>Dyffryn Gardens, at the centre of the SLA, is discretely enclosed by woodlands. It is Grade 1 on the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales.</p> <p>The highest point to the east is a valley side by Wenvoe quarry. The Wenvoe area is a prime example of how landscapes have evolved over millenia.</p> <p>To the north, the area acts as a prominent sloping edge to the Ely and Wenvoe Valley.</p> <p>The area has a distinct sense of place.</p>	<p>Reinforce rural character and minimise the impact of new development, restricting development on slopes in particular.</p> <p>Develop woodland cover and hedgerows to better integrate settlement</p> <p>Improve the road corridor and associated development, including detailing.</p> <p>Identify and implement solutions for infrastructure improvements at Dyffryn Gardens</p>	Moderate to high
Cwrt-Yr-Ala-Basin	This SLA is surrounded on three sides by large conurbation representing a significant threat through housing and infrastructure development. Its	The majority of the SLA area landscape is focused on the Cwrt-Yr-Ala valley, forming the headwaters of the Cadoxton Valley. There is a strong sense of place with streams, dammed ponds, wooded valley sides and pleasant settlement in the valley bottom. There are signs of urban pressures on lanes although farmland is generally well maintained.	<p>Manage woodland to maintain continuous tree cover, especially on the skyline.</p> <p>Maintain hedgerows as a strong visual framework and the rural qualities and vegetated nature of the valley.</p>	Low to high

SLA	Need	Primary landscape qualities/ features	Relevant key policy and management issues	Visual/ sensory evaluation (low, moderate, high, outstanding)
	proximity to population also accounts for a large proportion of amenity grassland.	<p>To the north and east a scarp slope acts as a western edge to Cardiff basin. The natural landscape has been significantly altered by urban expansion.</p> <p>There is an extensive area of current and former parks of Cwrt-Yr-Ala House.</p> <p>The SLA includes the open space of buffer between Penarth and Dinas Powys, which should be maintained for Dinas Powys' character as one of few such large villages in SE Wales.</p> <p>The southeast boundary is Penarth which provided housing for dock workers in the 19th century.</p>	Maintain green wedge between Dinas Powys and Penarth, improve management of boundaries and improve structures.	

Future baseline

- 11.38 Given the extent of high quality, valued landscapes covering the Vale, new development within or within the setting of these high-quality areas (notably those areas locally or nationally designated/ recognised), will need to ensure that careful consideration is given to the design elements of the proposal. This includes the siting, orientation, layout and landscaping, to ensure that the special qualities and characteristics for which landscape areas have been designated are protected.
- 11.39 Without the RLDP, speculative development would continue to come forward with the potential for impacts on the landscape.

Key issues

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

ISA objectives

- 11.41 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the ISA should include the following objective and assessment questions:

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

12. Next steps

Subsequent stages for the ISA process

12.1 Scoping (the current stage) is the first stage in a five-stage ISA process:

- Scoping.
- Appraise reasonable alternatives, with a view to informing preparation of the Pre-Deposit plan/ Preferred Strategy, and subsequent assessment of the Pre-Deposit plan/ Preferred Strategy.
- Prepare the ISA Report with a view to informing consultation.
- Consultation on the ISA Report; and
- Publish a 'statement' at the time of plan adoption in order to 'tell the story' of plan-making/ ISA (and present 'measures decided concerning monitoring').

12.2 Accordingly, the next stage after scoping will therefore involve the development and assessment of reasonable alternatives. This includes Candidate Sites and strategic options for the overall level and distribution of growth.

Consultation on this Scoping Report

12.3 Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the ISA process. At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public. The statutory consultation bodies are Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Cadw.

12.4 The scoping report public consultation will run for 5 weeks from **24/08/22** to **29/09/22**.

Appendix A ISA Framework

This appendix presents the sustainability topics, objectives and assessment questions that form the ISA framework.

The ISA framework draws together the ISA objectives identified under each theme through scoping, with the aims of addressing the key issues identified for each theme. Taken together the ISA objectives form a methodological framework guiding the subsequent assessment.

Table A.1: ISA objectives for the RLDP

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

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:	Relevant wellbeing goals
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage sustainable development and quality facilities to enrich the experience for visitors and residents? • Promote a green economy and decarbonisation? • Ensure the economy grows in a sustainable manner? • Promote a prosperous Wales? 	
Population and communities	<p>To provide enough good quality market and affordable homes, and community infrastructure, in sustainable locations to meet identified needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the identified housing needs, including affordable, older person housing and accommodation needs of gypsy traveller community? • Ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types, and tenures to meet the needs of all sectors of the community, particularly the rapidly growing older population? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities? • Promote transit orientated development such as the 20-minute neighbourhood? • Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities, including specialist services? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Resilient Wales • A Healthier Wales • A More Equal Wales • A Wales of Cohesive Communities • A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language
	<p>To enhance design quality to create natural beautiful places for people that maintain and enhance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve connectivity between communities and facilitate social interaction? • Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities, including specialist services? • Protect and enhance community identity and distinctiveness and support opportunities for recreation and tourism? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Prosperous Wales • A Resilient Wales • A Healthier Wales • A Wales of Cohesive Communities • A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:	Relevant wellbeing goals
	community and settlement identity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent the coalescence of settlements and retain the openness of land, green infrastructure and habitat connectivity? 	
Health and wellbeing	To improve the health and wellbeing of residents within Vale of Glamorgan promoting healthy and sustainable places.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities through provision of open space, play spaces, food growing, and community spaces? Facilitate good access to healthcare, social, recreational and leisure facilities for all sectors of the community? Enhance multifunctional green infrastructure networks and connectivity throughout the plan area? Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green spaces? Improve access to open spaces, the countryside and leisure and recreation facilities? Support healthy / active and inclusive environments? Support the creation of cohesive, connected communities? Provide formal and informal, and natural play spaces for children which are safe and easy and safe to access? Reduce health inequalities across the County? Support active travel and improvements to air quality? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language
Equality, diversity and inclusion	To reduce poverty and inequality; tackle social exclusion and promote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce inequalities and deprivation across the Vale of Glamorgan, particularly in the most deprived wards and hidden areas of deprivation? Improve equality of opportunities amongst those social groups most in need? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A More Equal Wales

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:	Relevant wellbeing goals
	community cohesion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to a reduction in crime and social disorder and the fear of crime, promoting safer neighbourhoods? • Promote, strengthen, and enhance placemaking? • Protect and provide improved local, social, recreational and leisure facilities and access to the natural environment for all sectors of the community, and improve access to them to maximise opportunities for community development and social welfare? • Ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types, and tenures to meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities? • Promote the Vale’s bilingual public services and increase the development and use of the Welsh language in Vale of Glamorgan? • Support the ageing population to ensure they do not become socially excluded? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Wales of Cohesive Communities • A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language • A Globally Responsible Wales
Climate change	Support the resilience of Vale of Glamorgan to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding from fluvial, coastal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding, considering the likely future effects of climate change? • Increase resilience of the built and natural environment to the effects of climate change particularly in areas where coastal and fluvial flooding is identified? • Ensure that the potential risks associated with climate change are considered in new development in the plan area? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Resilient Wales • A Healthier Wales • A More Equal Wales • A Wales of Cohesive Communities • A Globally Responsible Wales

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:	Relevant wellbeing goals
	and surface water sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support climate change adaptation? • Utilise green infrastructure to sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff, whilst creating opportunities for habitat creation, tree planting and open spaces? • Minimise flood risk for key infrastructures, such as transport and power? 	
	Reduce Vale of Glamorgan’s contribution to climate change from activities which result in greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to meeting the Council’s target of net zero.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria? • Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable sources? • Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources? • Reduce the need to travel or the number of journeys made? • Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport? • Ensure rural development does not contribute towards further increases in high energy use and unsustainable travel? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Prosperous Wales • A Resilient Wales • A Healthier Wales • A More Equal Wales • A Wales of Cohesive Communities • A Globally Responsible Wales
Transport and movement	Increase sustainable transport use and reduce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Prosperous Wales • A Resilient Wales • A Healthier Wales • A More Equal Wales

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:	Relevant wellbeing goals
	the need to travel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities to improve frequency and availability of public transport services particularly for rural communities? • Encourage modal shift to more sustainable and active forms of travel, such as walking and cycling and use of public transport? • Support opportunities for modal shift as set out in the South Wales Metro Project? • Prioritise sustainable transport options over car use where possible, including provision of adequate cycle parking and storage options? • Enable transport infrastructure improvements? • Deliver and where necessary improve active travel networks? • Support the uptake of low carbon transport such as E-bikes and electric buses? • Contribute towards the EV charging network? • Facilitate working from home and remote working? • Provide improvements to and/ or reduce congestion on the existing highway network? • Contribute to green infrastructure networks? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Wales of Cohesive Communities • A Globally Responsible Wales
Natural resources	To identify and pursue any opportunities to reduce, or at least, minimise population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel? • Encourage journeys to be made by sustainable means (active travel or public transport)? • Avoid any adverse effects on air quality and for people exposed to poor air quality? • Improve air quality in areas identified as of concern? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Resilient Wales • A Healthier Wales • A More Equal Wales • A Wales of Cohesive Communities

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:	Relevant wellbeing goals
	exposure to air pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and facilitate the use of electric vehicles? Promote good design to avoid impacts on air quality and noise reduction and protects, incorporates and enhances green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of NO2 and other pollutants? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Globally Responsible Wales
	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development and protecting, where possible, higher grade agricultural land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise the loss of potentially high-grade agricultural land to developments? Protect and minimise loss of the soil resource and encourage appropriate management to enhance its carbon sequestration and water management functions? Encourage the use of previously developed land? Encourage development-related remediation works which could reduce the presence of contaminated land in Vale of Glamorgan? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Resilient Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Globally Responsible Wales
	To protect mineral resources and support waste management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address waste by reducing and minimising waste as a priority? Manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy and in the context of ‘Towards Zero Waste’? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Resilient Wales A Globally Responsible Wales

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:	Relevant wellbeing goals
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid the sterilisation of mineral resources where possible? 	
	To conserve, protect and enhance the water environment, water quality and water resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce water consumption? • Ensure an adequate supply of water can be provided to sustain the development considering current and future projections of water availability and water use? • Reduce the potential for contamination of waterbodies and courses? • Reduce the potential for agricultural practices to contribute towards nitrate-based pollution of waterbodies and courses? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Resilient Wales • A Globally Responsible Wales
Biodiversity and geodiversity	Protect and enhance biodiversity within and surrounding Vale of Glamorgan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise impacts on designated and important biodiversity features and provide net gains where possible? • Protect and enhance ecological networks, including those that cross administrative boundaries? • Support opportunities for green infrastructure, which have knock-on benefits for wildlife, connecting habitats and avoiding habitat fragmentation? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Resilient Wales • A Healthier Wales • A More Equal Wales • A Globally Responsible Wales
Historic environment	Preserve and enhance Vale of Glamorgan’s heritage resource, including its historic environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve and enhance the significance of buildings and structures of architectural and/ or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their setting? • Preserve and enhance the special interest, character and appearance of conservation areas and their settings? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Prosperous Wales • A Resilient Wales • A Healthier Wales • A Wales of Cohesive Communities • A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:	Relevant wellbeing goals
	<p>and archaeological assets.</p> <hr/> <p>Promote understanding of Vale of Glamorgan’s cultural heritage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance archaeological remains, and archaeologically sensitive areas, and support the undertaking of archaeological investigations and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation strategies? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic and cultural environment, including the Welsh language? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Globally Responsible Wales <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Resilient Wales • A Healthier Wales • A More Equal Wales • A Wales of Cohesive Communities • A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language • A Globally Responsible Wales
Landscape	<p>To protect and enhance the quality and character of Vale of Glamorgan’s landscape, seascape and townscape.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that Vale of Glamorgan’s most valuable landscapes, townscapes and seascapes are conserved and enhanced? • Use new and existing natural landscape features to mitigate any potential effects on nearby and distance interpretations of its landscapes? • Provide opportunities for linking existing fragmented woodland, introduction of new woodland, improving woodland and hedgerow management • Preserve and enhance the special interest, character and appearance of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast and its setting? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Prosperous Wales • A Resilient Wales • A Healthier Wales • A More Equal Wales • A Wales of Cohesive Communities • A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language • A Globally Responsible Wales

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