

# **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

## **Integrated Impact Assessment**

**(includes Equalities, Welsh Language, Sustainability and Biodiversity)**



Before completing the Impact Assessment **PLEASE REFER TO THE CORRESPONDING GUIDANCE DOCUMENT** which provides essential background information.

An Integrated Impact Assessment **MUST** be completed for:

1. Any project (i.e. something that has a start and end date and is different from day to day business).
2. Where you are implementing significant change e.g. service provision.
3. For any Council / Cabinet report that is not part of an above mentioned project or significant change.

<b>Title of Project / Report:</b>	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Replacement Local Development Plan 2016 – 2031: Inspector’s Report and Adoption
<b>Officer completing Impact Assessment:</b>	John Raine
<b>Lead Officer / Project Manager:</b>	Judith Jones
<b>Service:</b>	Planning and Countryside
<b>Impact Assessment completion date:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> December 2019

**Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal:**

In Summer 2016 the Council approved the preparation of a Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) that will outline land use policies for the County Borough up until 2031, replacing the current adopted LDP that runs until 2021. The Replacement Plan allocates land for housing, employment, open spaces and designates land for other uses. It also includes detailed policies that facilitate development and offer environmental protection. The

Replacement LDP was submitted to Welsh Government for Examination by an Independent Inspector on 21 January 2019. Hearing sessions were subsequently held between 25 June to 4 July and on 21 August 2019. The Council report advises Councillors of the publication of the Inspector's report, its key findings and seeks approval for the adoption of the Replacement LDP in line with the requirements of the LDP Regulations.

## 1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives

Does your proposal help to deliver any of the Council's Well-being Objectives identified below?

Well-being Objectives	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on the Council's Well-being Objectives? Please place an X in the relevant box			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts?
	Positive	Negative	N/A		
<p><b><u>Best Start to Life</u></b> Children and young people get the best start to life and are equipped with the skills they need to be successful learners and confident individuals.</p>	x			<p>Whilst the LDP does not allocate specific sites for educational facilities, the Plan is flexible enough to ensure that future infrastructure needs for schools can be met.</p> <p>The LDP also protects areas of play/open space which contribute the health and well-being of children and young people.</p>	<p>Policies in the Plan ensure that if any protected open space is lost to development, appropriate mitigation / compensation must take place.</p> <p>An Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) for the LDP is required by legislation, and this report monitors the progress of the LDPs policies and allocations.</p>
<p><b><u>Working Life</u></b> People feel supported to develop the skills required to meet the needs of businesses with a developing, safe infrastructure making Merthyr Tydfil an attractive destination.</p>	x			<p>The LDP includes policies and land use allocations that will assist in developing an environment and infrastructure for business to flourish, e.g. land safeguarded for public transport improvements, and land specifically allocated for new employment uses.</p> <p>The Plan also contains policies that aim to directly protect and enhance our heritage and cultural assets.</p>	<p>An Annual Monitoring Report for the LDP is required by legislation, and this report monitors the progress of the LDPs policies and allocations.</p>

Well-being Objectives	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on the Council's Well-being Objectives? Please place an X in the relevant box			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts?
	Positive	Negative	N/A		
<p><b><u>Environmental Well-being</u></b> Communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside.</p>	x			<p>The LDP takes an active role in developing good quality, biodiverse and well connected green infrastructure and open spaces. It includes policies that protect and enhance existing open spaces, green infrastructure and nature conservation interests which would realise positive effects. The LDP also provides areas of search for renewable energy provision.</p>	<p>An Annual Monitoring Report for the LDP is required by legislation, and this report monitors the progress of the LDPs policies and allocations.</p> <p>The Councils Open Space Strategy is also prepared by the Planning and Countryside Department, providing greater detail on the County Boroughs open spaces.</p>
<p><b><u>Living Well</u></b> People are empowered to live independently within their communities, where they feel safe and enjoy good physical and mental health.</p>	x			<p>The Plan encourages the promotion of good physical and emotional well-being through facilitating the provision of a high quality environment throughout the County Borough.</p> <p>The Plan contains policies that cover the design of new development, including the promotion of "<i>healthy and active environments</i>", meeting housing needs and reducing the the opportunity for crime and anti-social behaviour.</p>	<p>An Annual Monitoring Report for the LDP is required by legislation, and this report monitors the progress of the LDPs policies and allocations.</p>
<p><b>Sources of evidence to support the above:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Replacement Deposit Plan Written Statement as amended by the Matters Arising Changes (September 2019)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Section 5 "Compliance with The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015" of the Sustainability Appraisal Report Addendum (December 2018)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Merthyr Tydfil Replacement LDP 2016-2031 – Inspector's Report (December 2019)</a></p>					

## 2. Sustainable Development Principles (The Five Ways of Working)

Does your proposal demonstrate you have met the sustainable development principles (five ways of working)?

Five Ways of Working	How does your proposal demonstrate you have met the five ways of working?	Are there any additional actions to be taken to better contribute to the five ways of working and/or mitigate any negative impacts?
<b>Long Term</b> - Thinking and planning for the long term.	The LDP covers the time period 2016-2031 and is a medium to long term land use plan for the County Borough. The strategy of the LDP is based on providing sufficient land to provide for the needs of the population of the County Borough over the next 15 years.	Once adopted, there is a statutory requirement to review the LDP after 4 years. This ensures that any changes in circumstance or evidence, or whether or not the Plan is working, can be taken into account, and if necessary a new LDP can be prepared.
<b>Prevention</b> - Preventing problems before they happen.	<p>A long term issue that has been identified in the County Borough had been the loss of services as the population declined over the course of several decades.</p> <p>More recently, the population has started to grow again, and the LDP now looks to continue this trend, in a sustainable manner, to help ensure that the problems associated with a declining population are prevented.</p>	The LDP AMR, review process, and close monitoring of other evidence will assist in ensuring that this way of working is adhered to in the future.
<b>Integration</b> - Integrating with other strategies.	<p>The process of preparing a LDP ensures that integration with other strategies is an integral part of Plan preparation.</p> <p>One of the initial pieces of work carried out is a review of existing plans, policies and programmes that assists in identifying the issues for the LDP to address and ensure consistency between the LDP and other strategies.</p>	The LDP AMR, review process, and close monitoring of other evidence will assist in ensuring that this way of working is adhered to in the future.
<b>Collaboration</b> - Collaborating with others.	<p>As part of the initial scoping work early in the LDP process, the Planning Department collaborated with the Cwm Taf partnership board in hosting a workshop on Environmental Well Being.</p> <p>Representatives from MTCBC also sit on the South East Wales Strategic Planning Group (SEWSPG) which looks at land use planning issues at a regional level.</p>	The LDP AMR, review process, and close monitoring of other evidence will assist in ensuring that this way of working is adhered to in the future.

<p><b>Involvement -</b> Involving people and communities.</p>	<p>Involvement is a critical part of LDP preparation. The LDP is subject to a number of public consultation exercises at various stages through the process.</p> <p>Stakeholders have been involved through topic-based Working Groups, and through drop-in events held during the public consultations. The Planning Department was also pro-active at the outset of LDP preparation, actively seeking out expressions of interest of stakeholders that wanted to be involved through the LDP process.</p>	<p>The LDP AMR, review process, and close monitoring of other evidence will assist in ensuring that this way of working is adhered to in the future.</p>
<p><b>Sources of evidence to support the above:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Replacement LDP Delivery Agreement (August 2016)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Replacement LDP Initial Consultation Report (June 2018)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Section 5 “Compliance with The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015” of the Sustainability Appraisal Report Addendum (December 2018)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Replacement Deposit Plan Written Statement as amended by the Matters Arising Changes (September 2019)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Merthyr Tydfil Replacement LDP 2016-2031 – Inspector’s Report (December 2019)</a></p>		

### 3. Protected Characteristics (including Welsh Language)

Does your proposal directly impact on service users, employees and/or the wider community, including the nine protected characteristic groups and Welsh language as identified below?

Protected Characteristics	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on service users, employees and/or the wider community, including the nine protected characteristic groups and Welsh language? Please place an X in the relevant box			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts?
	Positive	Negative	N/A		
Age	x			The LDP will have a low positive impact – the Plan will facilitate the delivery of services and infrastructure that can be used by all.	The LDP monitoring process will assist in ensuring that positive impacts are contributed to, and that appropriate mitigation takes place for any negative impacts.
Disability	x			The LDP will have a low positive impact – the Plan will facilitate the delivery of services and infrastructure that can be used by all.	The LDP monitoring process will assist in ensuring that positive impacts are contributed to, and that appropriate mitigation takes place for any negative impacts.
Gender Reassignment	x			The LDP will have a low positive impact – the Plan will facilitate the delivery of services and infrastructure that can be used by all.	The LDP monitoring process will assist in ensuring that positive impacts are contributed to, and that appropriate mitigation takes place for any negative impacts.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	x			The LDP will have a low positive impact – the Plan will facilitate the delivery of services and infrastructure that can be used by all.	The LDP monitoring process will assist in ensuring that positive impacts are contributed to, and that appropriate mitigation takes place for any negative impacts.

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	Positive	Negative	N/A		
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	x			The LDP will have a low positive impact – the Plan will facilitate the delivery of services and infrastructure that can be used by all.	The LDP monitoring process will assist in ensuring that positive impacts are contributed to, and that appropriate mitigation takes place for any negative impacts.
<b>Race</b>	x			The LDP will have a low positive impact – the Plan will facilitate the delivery of services and infrastructure that can be used by all.	The LDP monitoring process will assist in ensuring that positive impacts are contributed to, and that appropriate mitigation takes place for any negative impacts.
<b>Religion or Belief</b>	x			The LDP will have a low positive impact – the Plan will facilitate the delivery of services and infrastructure that can be used by all.	The LDP monitoring process will assist in ensuring that positive impacts are contributed to, and that appropriate mitigation takes place for any negative impacts.
<b>Sex (Gender)</b>	x			The LDP will have a low positive impact – the Plan will facilitate the delivery of services and infrastructure that can be used by all.	The LDP monitoring process will assist in ensuring that positive impacts are contributed to, and that appropriate mitigation takes place for any negative impacts.
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	x			The LDP will have a low positive impact – the Plan will facilitate the delivery of services and infrastructure	The LDP monitoring process will assist in ensuring that positive impacts are contributed to, and that appropriate mitigation takes place for

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	Positive	Negative	N/A		
				that can be used by all.	any negative impacts.
<b>Welsh Language</b>	x			The LDP will have a low positive impact – the Plan will facilitate the delivery of services and infrastructure that can be used by all.	The LDP monitoring process will assist in ensuring that positive impacts are contributed to, and that appropriate mitigation takes place for any negative impacts.
<p><b>Sources of evidence to support the above:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Examination Document ED07b - Equalities Impact Assessment briefing paper (May 2019)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Section 5 “Welsh language, Health and Equality Impact Assessments” Sustainability Appraisal Report Further Addendum (September 2019)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Merthyr Tydfil Replacement LDP 2016-2031 – Inspector’s Report (December 2019)</a></p>					

#### 4. Biodiversity

Does your proposal directly impact on Biodiversity?

Biodiversity	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on Biodiversity? Please place an X in the relevant box			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts?
	Positive	Negative	N/A		
Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience	x			<p>The LDP contains a number of policies and land use designations that will assist in maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem resilience in the County Borough.</p> <p>The overall strategy of the LDP also proposes a lower level of development than the previous LDP, and this should further enable a positive impact on biodiversity.</p>	<p>An Annual Monitoring Report for the LDP is required by legislation, and this report monitors the progress of the LDPs policies and allocations.</p> <p>The Councils Open Space Strategy is also prepared by the Planning and Countryside Department, providing greater detail on the County Boroughs open spaces.</p>
<p><b>Sources of evidence to support the above:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Replacement Deposit Plan Written Statement as amended by the Matters Arising Changes (September 2019)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Replacement Deposit Plan - Sustainability Appraisal Report (June 2018)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Merthyr Tydfil Replacement LDP 2016-2031 – Inspector’s Report (December 2019)</a></p>					

## 5. Summary

As a result of completing this Impact Assessment, how many positive and negative impacts does your proposal have? This section should then be included in the related Council/Cabinet report.

Please see the example provided in the **guidance document**.

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Not Applicable
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	4 of 4	0 of 4	0 of 4
2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long term</li> <li>• Prevention</li> <li>• Integration</li> <li>• Collaboration</li> <li>• Involvement</li> </ul>	5 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5
3. Protected Characteristics ( <i>including Welsh Language</i> )	10 of 10	0 of 10	0 of 10
4. Biodiversity	1 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1

### Summary:

The main positive impact(s) against:

- The **Well Being Objectives** are that the Replacement LDP contains policies and land use allocations that help to create an environment where residents of the County Borough can enjoy the best start to life; and live/work in a healthy environment.
- The **Sustainable Development Principles** are that the entire strategy of the LDP is based on providing sufficient land to provide for the needs of the population of the County Borough over the next 15 years.
- The **Protected Characteristics** and **Welsh Language** are that the Plan will facilitate the delivery of services and infrastructure that can be used by all.
- **Biodiversity** are that the LDP contains a number of policies and land use designations that will directly assist in maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem resilience in the County Borough.

There are no negative impacts identified.

**6. Actions**

Based on the summary of your positive and negative impacts, identified in Section 5 above, will you need to make changes to your proposal to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts? Please identify any further actions you will need to undertake to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts.

What are you going to do?	Estimated completion date	Who will be responsible?	Timelines/Milestones e.g. 6 months/over a year, etc.	Progress
N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a

**7. Version Control**

The Impact Assessment should be used at the earliest stages of decision making, and then honed and refined throughout the decision making process. Please use the table below to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and built in the sustainable development principles where possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1.0	Full Council Report	20 December 2019	n/a

**8. Sign off section**

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Approval date: \_\_\_\_\_