

# AGENDA

## One Newport Partnership

**04<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 4.30pm**

### **Hybrid Meeting – Committee Room 1, Civic Centre, Newport and on Microsoft Teams**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the meeting held 27th April 2023 (minutes attached)
4. Marmot Report Findings (Stuart Bourne, Aneurin Bevan Gwent Public Health Team, ABUHB)
5. Gwent Well-being Plan update (Janice Dent, Newport City Council)
6. Newport Local Action Plan Consultation Draft – Janice Dent, Newport City Council
7. Shared Prosperity Fund (Tracey Brooks, Newport City Council)

#### **Information items to note**

8. Gwent Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy
  - If you would like to comment on the draft strategy, please email [HelenFairbank@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:HelenFairbank@monmouthshire.gov.uk) by the 14 July 2023.
9. Regional Partnership Board – Annual Report 2022-23 (Final Draft and may be subject to change)
10. Forward Work Programme
11. Dates of future One Newport meetings:
  - 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023
  - 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**Contact:** Wayne Tucker: 01633 210502; E-mail: [Wayne.Tucker@newport.gov.uk](mailto:Wayne.Tucker@newport.gov.uk)

Date: 27 June 2023

#### **[One Newport Partnership Terms of Reference](#)**

Website: [www.newport.gov.uk/oneNewport](http://www.newport.gov.uk/oneNewport)

Twitter: [@onenewport](https://twitter.com/onenewport) #thenewportwewant // Instagram: onenewport

# One Newport Partnership

## Minutes

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**Time:** 5.00 pm – Civic Centre Newport and on Teams

**Present:**

**Newport City Council:** Cllr J Mudd (Chair); B Owen

**Aneurin Bevan University Health Board:** C Dawson-Morris

**Natural Resources Wales:** J Michael; H Bleach

**Gwent Police:** CI J Davies

**Public Health Wales:** B Bowden

**Registered Social Landlords:** C Doyle

**Newport Live:** S Ward

**Newport Youth Council:** E Parsons-Harewood and I Hurn

**University of South Wales:** M Cadwallader

**Officers:** R Cornwall (NCC); N Dance (Co-ordinator, NCC); J Dent (NCC)

**Apologies**

G Lacey (Coleg Gwent); J Cuthbert (OPCC); Craig Lane (Newport Third Sector Partnership); S Tiley (GAVO); A Lewis (Probation)

No	Item	Action
1	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Juliet Michael (NRW) to her first meeting of the Board.</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023 were confirmed as a true record.</p>	

3	<p><b>Gwent Well-being Plan Update</b></p> <p>J Dent reported on a Gwent PSB workshop held on 27<sup>th</sup> April to discuss performance measures for the Gwent Well-being Plan and identify projects best delivered on a Gwent-wide basis. The Gwent-wide work was likely to be Marmot-related, climate change mitigation and some regional aspects of community safety such as VAWDASV.</p>	
4	<p><b>Consultation Draft – Newport Local Action Plan</b></p> <p>This item was deferred to the next meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023.</p>	
5	<p><b>Pillgwenlly Masterplan</b></p> <p>The Board considered the final Master Planning document for the Pillgwenlly area. The work had been overseen by the Pill Strategic Group.</p> <p>Following extensive community, business and partner engagement the Master Plan focused on three Community Ambitions: improved green and public spaces; a better business and shopping offer; a mix of community and youth facilities.</p> <p>M Cadwallader noted that USW could potentially support enterprise and entrepreneurship initiatives.</p> <p>The Pill Master Planning process had been agreed through the governance of the One Newport Partnership. Partner organisations were being asked to approve the strategic intention of the Master Plan. This was not a commitment to financial investment, but a commitment that asked partners to align their decision-making regarding services and/or developments within the Pill area with the aspirations and ambitions of the Master Plan, and to remain committed to utilising their resources in Pill in a way that best supported these ambitions, identified to tackle the challenges faced by the community.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. To approve the final Pillgwenlly Master Plan</li> <li>ii. To commend the Master Plan to each partner organisation</li> <li>iii. That each member organisation determines their own internal sign-off of the Plan and the commitments noted above.</li> </ul>	<b>ALL</b>
6	<p><b>Newport Local Well-being Plan 2022/23 – Q3 and Q4 Performance</b></p> <p>Leads presented the performance dashboards for each of the five Local Well-being Plan interventions for the period to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and answered questions.</p> <p>Members commented on the value of further promotion of active travel provision to raise awareness, the Scrutiny Committee’s suggestion of</p>	

	<p>naming the routes to associate them with the city's heritage and Newport Live work to facilitate behaviour change in favour of active travel.</p> <p>It was noted that the Well-being Act did not require an annual report to be produced for this final year of the Well-being Plan 2018-23. However, the Board wished to produce a visual summary that linked to case studies of work over the last five years and noted lessons learnt.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the intervention leads and members for their delivery of the Newport Well-being Plan over the last five years.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. To approve the intervention dashboard</li> <li>ii. To produce a visual summary of the 5-Year Wellbeing Plan linked to case studies for the last five years and lessons learnt.</li> </ul>	<b>Partnerships Team</b>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Strategy and Performance Board</b></p> <p>The Board received the minutes of the Strategy and Performance Board meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> To note the minutes of the Strategy and Performance Board held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Scrutiny Letter</b></p> <p>The Board received a letter from the Chair of the Council's Partnerships Scrutiny Committee containing comments on the Q2 performance dashboards.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> To note the contents of the Scrutiny letter.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Safer Newport Update</b></p> <p>The Board received an update on progress by the Safer Newport Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and current priorities.</p> <p><b>AGREED</b> - To note the contents of this report and support the partnership approach through their own organisations.</p>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Gwent Public Services Board - Minutes</b></p> <p>The Board received the draft minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022.</p>	
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Performance Scrutiny Committee: Partnership - Minutes</b></p> <p>The Board received the draft minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023.</p>	

12	<p><b>Forward Work Programme</b></p> <p>The forward work programme was noted. Members were invited to submit items for inclusion on the programme.</p>	ALL
13	<p><b>Dates of Future Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14th June 2023</li> <li>• 13th September 2023</li> <li>• 6th December 2023</li> </ul>	ALL

# One Newport Partnership

4<sup>th</sup> July 2023

## Newport Local Action Plan Consultation Draft

### Purpose

To seek approval of the Consultation Draft of the Local Action Plan; to agree the consultation approach and to approve public consultation taking place during August and September.

### Background

One Newport's Local Action Plan will be the work programme of One Newport following completion of the One Newport Well-being Plan 2018-23 in April 2023. Its purpose will be two-fold: strategic joint action for Newport outside of the Gwent Well-being and delivery of local actions within it.

- a) Local Action Plans (LAPs) developed by the five local partnerships that support the Gwent PSB, including One Newport, will provide clarity on the local actions required to support the Well-being Objectives agreed by the Gwent PSB for the regional Well-being Plan (this fulfils [Part 1 of One Newport's Terms of Reference](#)). The regional Well-being Plan is expected to be signed off by the Gwent PSB at the end of July 2023. The Gwent Well-being Objectives and Steps are:

#### Well-being Objectives

- We want to create a fairer, more equitable and inclusive Gwent for all.
- We want a climate-ready Gwent, where our environment is valued and protected, benefitting our well-being now and for future generations.

#### Steps

- Take action to reduce the cost-of-living crisis in the longer term.
  - Provide and enable the supply of good quality, affordable, appropriate homes.
  - Taking action to reduce our carbon emissions, help Gwent adapt to climate change, and protect and restore our natural environment.
  - Take action to address inequities, particularly in relation to health, through the framework of the [Marmot Principles](#).
  - Enable and support people, neighbourhoods, and communities to be resilient, connected, thriving and safe.
- b) One Newport Partnership's LAP will also include activity in Newport that the Board considers would benefit from a strong partnership approach outside of the Well-being Plan. This is in line with Part 2 of the [One Newport Partnership's Terms of Reference](#).

### Work to Date

The Board approved the proposed priorities at the meeting in February and the working group has since created a draft version of the plan which includes the necessary context (Gwent Well-being

Plan, Marmot Principles, etc.) and explanatory notes on each of the priority areas. The draft includes mapping against the Gwent Objectives.

Following comment at the last One Newport meeting in February, the proposed actions in the consultation draft have been mapped against the Well-being Plan Steps. This is shown at Appendix B.

## Consultation on the Local Action Plan

The draft local action plan themes and actions have been informed by engagement work already undertaken on the Gwent Wellbeing Plan (wellbeing assessment) and two following workshops for local stakeholder organisations. A public consultation will now be undertaken for a period of 4 weeks during August and September to seek the views of residents as well as other stakeholders.

The main format will be an online Snap survey, in which the draft themes and actions will be set out with consultation questions embedded within the document. Suggested consultation questions are given in appendix 1. The questions have been kept minimal to promote participation, are written in plain English, and do not require significant prior knowledge.

Key stakeholders and the actions needed to engage with them are listed in the following table. As a non-statutory consultation (as the Local Action Plan is not a statutory document) it is not suggested that we specifically consult with national bodies like the Future Generations Commissioner or Welsh Government.

Stakeholders	Consultation action
Public	<p>Social Media – NCC, One Newport and partners to share links to consultation.</p> <p>Share link with local equalities networks.</p> <p>Share with staff networks within One Newport organisations.</p> <p>Schools to share with parents through social media/newsletters.</p> <p>Share with Newport Councillors.</p> <p>Share with Newport community councils.</p> <p>Hard copies to be made available at public libraries.</p> <p>Promotion of survey on public Wi-Fi networks.</p>
Businesses	NCC economic development E-newsletter to include link to consultation.
Third sector	Share with third sector contacts through GAVO.
Gwent region	Share with Gwent PSB lead officers.
Welsh Government/FG Commissioner	No requirement to consult on LAP with Future Generations Commissioner, Welsh Government etc.
Other	Consult with Newport Fairness Commission.

## **Delivery and Sub-Group Structure**

The Partnership's current sub-group structure is based on work programmes within the Well-being Plan 2018-23. A review of the structure is proposed to ensure effective delivery of the new local action plan in Newport and streamlined performance monitoring.

## **Recommendations**

Members are asked to:

1. Approve the consultation draft Local Action Plan.
2. Approve the consultation approach outlined above .

## **Timetable**

End of July – Gwent PSB sign off and publication of Regional Well-being Plan.

August/September – 4 week public consultation on Newport LAP.

6<sup>th</sup> December – One Newport sign off final Local Action Plan.

## **Well-being of Future Generations Act**

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is the focus of this report. All actions which are proposed in the Gwent Well-being Plan support the achievement of the Regional Well-being objectives.

## **Equalities and Welsh Language**

All actions in the Local Action Plan will be assessed to make sure that they are in line with the Equality Act 2010. All of the documentation relating to the development of the Plan (assessments, the Plan itself, consultation content) has been and will be presented in Welsh as well as English.

## **Communication**

The public consultation will be backed up by a communications plan. The finalised Plan will be published on the One Newport website. Promotion of the published plan will be supported by social media campaigns.

## **Contact:**

Janice Dent [janice.dent@newport.gov.uk](mailto:janice.dent@newport.gov.uk)

Huw Williams [huw.williams@newport.gov.uk](mailto:huw.williams@newport.gov.uk)

Wayne Tucker [wayne.tucker@newport.gov.uk](mailto:wayne.tucker@newport.gov.uk)



## One Newport Partnership Local Action Plan

### Consultation Draft

One Newport is a partnership of the main public agencies in Newport including Newport City Council, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Gwent Police, Natural Resources Wales and also key local organisations like Newport City Homes and Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations.

One Newport has been working on a new Local Action Plan which will cover the important work that needs close cooperation and joint working between these organisations. The day-to-day business of these organisations isn't included in this plan e.g. repairing roads, carrying out surgery, detecting crime etc, as they know this is something they will be doing. Instead, this plan is about the extra things we need to focus on to make Newport a better place now and also for future generations. This means some of this work may take some years to make a real difference, but we will need to make a start soon, for instance by preventing health and social problems, or making sure people have the skills employers will need in coming years.

Recently a new Gwent Public Services Board (PSB) was set up to improve partnership working in the region. One Newport's local action plan intends to help achieve the Gwent PSB's Well-being Plan ambitions but will also make sure that Newport's unique issues get the attention they deserve.

In this consultation, we have identified the key themes and actions for partnership working in Newport and we now want to know what you think of our draft Local Action Plan. This will give us important feedback so we can start to work on the detail of what we should be doing.

## Gwent Well-being Plan

### Well-being Objectives

We want to create a fairer, more equitable and inclusive Gwent for all.

We want a climate-ready Gwent, where our environment is valued and protected, benefiting our well-being now and for future generations.

### Steps to achieve the objectives

Take action to reduce the cost of living crisis in the longer term.

Provide and enable the supply of good quality, affordable, appropriate homes.

Taking action to reduce our carbon emissions, help Gwent adapt to climate change, and protect and restore our natural environment.

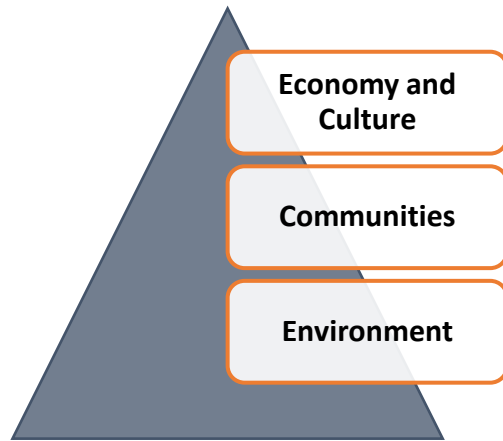
Take action to address inequities, particularly in relation to health, through the framework of the **Marmot Principles\***.

Enable and support people, neighbourhoods, and communities to be resilient, connected, thriving and safe.

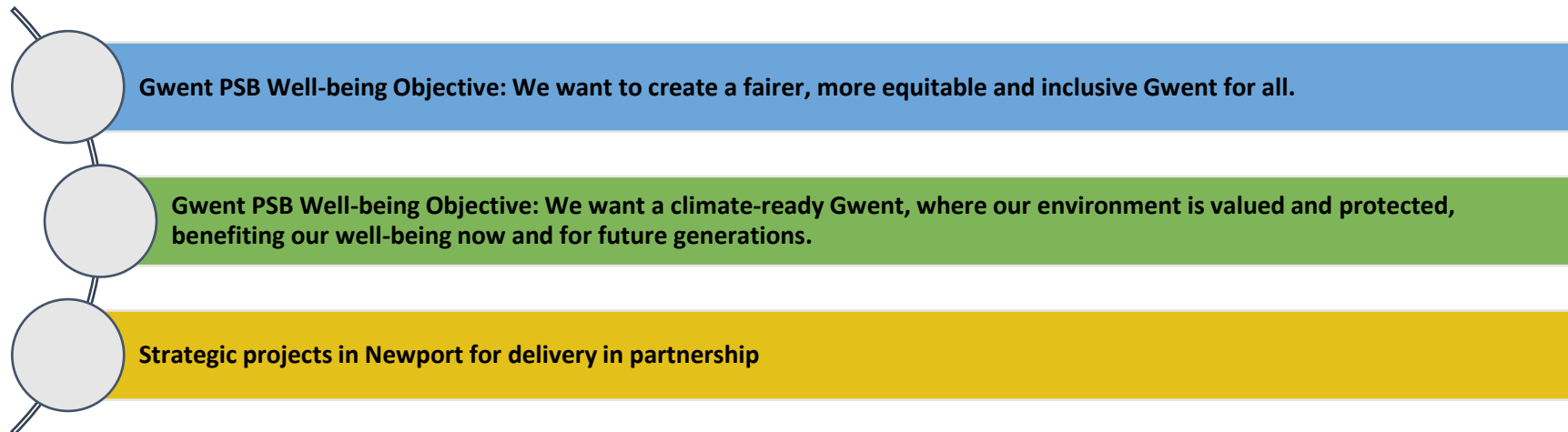
\*The Marmot Principles can be viewed on the [Gwent Public Services \(PSB\) Website](#).

## Draft Newport Local Action Plan - Themes

Our draft local action plan has three themes or areas of work:



The colour coding below shows how the actions under the themes link to the two Gwent Well-being Plan Objectives, or is other local, strategic work in Newport that would best be delivered in partnership.



## Draft Theme – Economy and Culture

### **Ensure opportunities are available and promoted for people at all stages of their lives to develop and enhance their education and skills.**

- Note: This means partners working together to help children, young people and adults develop their skills and knowledge so that they can achieve their potential, find the right employment, and support the well-being of themselves and others.

### **Promote fair work and help people out of poverty, including leading Newport to become a Living Wage City.**

- Note: Fair work means workers are fairly rewarded, heard and represented, and can progress in a secure, healthy, and inclusive working environment. In a Living Wage City, communities and businesses work together to tackle low pay.

### **Develop community wealth building projects to retain spend within the local economy.**

- Note: Community wealth building” could help make Newport’s economy stronger, benefiting local people. An example is when an organisation buys its goods and services from a local business, rather than a supplier from further away. This can help the local business grow and create jobs, which gives people more money to spend, potentially in local shops and restaurants.

### **Collaborate with and provide direction to the Business in The Community Place Programme in Newport.**

- Note: Business in the Community (BITC) and its network of businesses are focused on growing responsible business practices, for greater social and environmental impact. Its Place Programme is about bringing everyone together in a place to act on a common agreement of the challenges, opportunities and solutions, drawing on the strengths of everyone in that community.

### **Support revitalisation of the city centre for families, businesses, and visitors through a City Centre Masterplan and collaboration with Newport Now Business Improvement District.**

- Note: A masterplan would identify priority projects for investment in the city centre that would make a positive difference for people living, working, and visiting there. The Newport Now Business Improvement District oversees the marketing and management of the city centre, representing city centre businesses.

### **Develop and deliver a Sports Strategy for Newport, which strengthens our role as a city of elite sport, and encourages and increases participation.**

- Note: Participation in sport and physical activity is known to improve physical and mental health, and quality of life for many. A shared strategy would increase opportunities for people to enjoy and participate in sport, as well as attracting people to Newport for sports events, which would support the local economy.

### **Support delivery of a strategy celebrating Newport's culture, diversity, and heritage, and promoting participation for well-being.**

- Note: Participation in the arts – theatre, cinema, art, music etc – is known to improve well-being and quality of life for many. A shared strategy would build on and promote Newport’s wide-ranging arts-based groups and facilities, important historic attractions, multi-cultural population, and talented creative people - helping people take part, and supporting social connections and enjoyment of life in the city.

### **Enable and promote a diverse events programme that brings communities together and raise the city's profile, generating social and economic benefits.**

- Note: A wide programme of events would help celebrate the strengths of Newport people and their communities, increase the quality of life and vibrancy of the city, and attract visitors which would benefit local businesses.

## Draft Theme – Communities

### **Increase volunteering opportunities and empower residents to make their communities stronger and more resilient.**

- Note: This could involve building on participatory budgeting work already undertaken in Newport, which allows residents to decide on how public money is spent, to benefit communities, improving the support One Newport gives to the voluntary and charity sectors, and increasing the involvement and participation of residents in community development work .

### **Develop an integrated approach to tackling poverty and inequality.**

- Note: This is about partners working together and involving communities to improve wellbeing. Exmaples would be working together to address the cost-of-living crisis, adoping common approaches across the agencies who support children and families and putting in place area-based programmes in our most disadvantaged communities building on work in Pillgwenlly and Ringland.

### **Promote and support Newport's Integrated and Wellbeing Networks (IWNs) in connecting and enhancing community assets.**

- Note: IWNs are multi-agency and multi-sector partnerships that work together to tackle issues in disadvantaged areas, including addressing health inequalities. We will build on the IWN's in place in Pillgwenlly and Ringland and look to expand this approach to more areas.

### **Tackle and prevent homelessness through collaborative strategies and plans.**

- Note: We will look to intervene early to prevent homelessness and treat homelessness as a joint public services matter – rather than just a housing issue. It would involve services 'placing the individual at the centre' and recognising that people at risk of homelessness may have experienced trauma in their lives.

### **Oversee implementation of the Pill Masterplan to enhance the physical, community and economic environment. Use this learning in other communities.**

- Note: The Pill Masterplan is a multi-agency, approach focussing on Pill. It follows much community engagement which means that the Masterplan will focus on what matters most to local people. Lessons Learned in Pill will be applied in other areas of Newport.

### **Promote sustainable and affordable food provision.**

- Note: This could include mapping food access and using One Newport partner procurement to support sustainable, affordable, food provision. Where possible we will support local food provision (recognising that Newport is not a major food producing area), which would also contribute to the community wealth building work in our Economy and Culture theme.

### **Support the work of Safer Newport to promote a more cohesive city.**

- Note: Safer Newport is the city's community safety partnership, concentrating on local community safety issues including antisocial behaviour serious and organised crime and local neighbourhood issues.

## Draft Theme – Environment

### **Protect and enhance our green spaces and waterways for nature and people.**

- Note: Accessible and high-quality urban green and blue spaces, such as parks, urban forests, tree-lined streets, allotments, riverbanks and coastlines, provide significant mental and physical health benefits to local communities and also help to lessen the effects of air and noise pollution. Green and blue spaces provide crucial habitats for wildlife and contribute towards a healthy and thriving ecosystem. We will ensure that our green and blue spaces, including our nature reserves, are protected and enhanced for both local communities and wildlife.

### **Promote sustainable and active Travel as the preferred modes of transport in the City.**

- Note: Active travel covers any form of human-powered transportation, such as walking, cycling, or scooting, instead of using a car or other vehicle. To encourage active travel around the city we will continue to develop new routes and upgrade existing ones (to make them safer and more accessible) to link up existing active travel routes. We will also work together to encourage more sustainable travel using public transport.

### **Tackle the climate and nature emergency, through climate action and protecting and enhancing biodiversity.**

- Note: The climate and nature emergency refers to the crisis we are facing due to the significant and harmful changes occurring in our climate and natural environment. Biodiversity is the variety of living things on Earth, from bacteria to animals and plants, and the different environments they live in. We will work in partnership to address the climate and nature emergency and minimise our contributions to climate change.

### **Deliver climate change mitigation through our built environment: Public Sector Estate // Housing // Connected Green Infrastructure.**

- Note: The built environment, including buildings and housing, is responsible for a significant amount of the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change. By making changes to the way we design and use buildings and housing, such as increasing energy efficiency and using renewable energy sources, we can reduce these emissions and help to address climate change. Green infrastructure refers to a connected network of natural and semi-natural features such as parks, rain gardens and green roofs, that provide multiple benefits to people and the environment, such as biodiversity conservation, flood control, air purification, and recreational opportunities.

### **Develop strategies to address flood risk.**

- Note: Newport is located at the meeting point of the River Usk and the Bristol Channel, which makes it vulnerable to flooding from both river and coastal sources. We will work together to lessen the risks from flooding.

### **Promote the Circular Economy as a method of minimising the impacts of production and consumption.**

- Note: The circular economy aims to keep resources in use for as long as possible by designing products and systems that can be reused and recycled, reducing waste and pollution. We will work to promote the principles of the green economy in all the work that we do.

## Consultation Questions

### Questions for each theme

- To what extent do you think this theme will improve well-being in Newport?  
Fully / Partly / Not at all / Don't know
- Do you have comments on any of the particular actions listed in this theme?
- We want to involve local people and organisations in making Newport a better place to live. What could you, or other people, do to contribute to this theme?
- Would you make any changes to this theme?

### Questions on the overall draft plan

- Thinking about all the themes and actions together, to what extent do you agree with this plan?  
Fully / Partly / Not at all / Don't know
- Are there important things we have missed in this plan?
- Do you think this Local Action Plan will contribute to the Gwent Well-being Plan?  
Fully / Partly / Not at all / Don't know
- Do you have any further comments on this plan?

## Consultation Details

To provide feedback on the draft action plan, please complete the online survey.

For more information on One Newport and the Local Area Action Plan email [one.newport@newport.gov.uk](mailto:one.newport@newport.gov.uk).

**APPENDIX B: Mapping of proposed One Newport LAP actions against Gwent Well-being Plan Objectives**

NOTE: Colour coding indicates actions linking to Gwent Well-being Objectives or Newport work outside of Gwent Well-being Plan

- Gwent PSB Well-being Objective: We want to create a fairer, more equitable and inclusive Gwent for all
- Gwent PSB Well-being Objective: We want a climate-ready Gwent, where our environment is valued and protected, benefitting our well-being now and for future generations.
- Work in Newport outside of the Gwent Plan benefitting from a strong partnership approach (Part 2 of One Newport’s Terms of Reference)

	<b>Gwent Step: Take action to reduce the cost of living crisis in the longer term</b>	<b>Gwent Step: Provide and enable the supply of good quality, affordable, appropriate homes</b>	<b>Gwent Step: Taking action to reduce our carbon emissions, help Gwent adapt to climate change, and protect &amp; restore our natural environment</b>	<b>Gwent Step: Take action to address inequities, particularly in relation to health, through the framework of the Marmot Principles</b>	<b>Gwent Step: Enable and support people, neighbourhoods, and communities to be resilient, connected, thriving and safe</b>
<b>Economy and Culture</b>					
Develop community wealth building projects to retain spend within the local economy	√		√	√	√
Ensure opportunities are available and promoted for people at all stages of their lives to develop and enhance their education and skills	√			√	√
Promote fair work and help people out of poverty, including leading Newport to become a Living Wage City	√			√	√
Collaborate with and provide direction to the Business in The Community Place Programme	√				√



	<b>Gwent Step: Take action to reduce the cost of living crisis in the longer term</b>	<b>Gwent Step: Provide and enable the supply of good quality, affordable, appropriate homes</b>	<b>Gwent Step: Taking action to reduce our carbon emissions, help Gwent adapt to climate change, and protect &amp; restore our natural environment</b>	<b>Gwent Step: Take action to address inequities, particularly in relation to health, through the framework of the Marmot Principles</b>	<b>Gwent Step: Enable and support people, neighbourhoods, and communities to be resilient, connected, thriving and safe</b>
Support revitalisation of the city centre benefiting families, businesses & visitors through a City Centre Masterplan and collaboration with Newport Now Business Improvement District		√	√		√
Support delivery of a strategy celebrating Newport's culture, diversity & heritage, and promoting participation for well-being				√	√
Develop and deliver a Sports Strategy for Newport, which strengthens our role as a city of elite sport, and encourages and increases participation				√	√
Enable and promote a diverse events programme that brings communities together and raises the city's profile, generating social and economic benefits	√				√

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<b>Communities</b>					
Increase volunteering opportunities and empower residents to make their communities stronger and more resilient	√			√	√
Develop an integrated approach to tackling poverty and inequality	√			√	√
Promote and support Newport's Integrated Wellbeing Networks (Well-being Collaboratives) in connecting and enhancing community assets	√			√	√
Tackle and prevent homelessness through collaborative strategies & plans		√		√	√
Oversee implementation of Pill Masterplan to enhance the physical, community and economic environment. Use this learning in other communities.	√	√	√	√	√
Promote sustainable and affordable food provision, focused on local suppliers	√		√	√	√
Support the work of Safer Newport to promote a more cohesive city		√		√	√

	<b>Gwent Step: Take action to reduce the cost of living crisis in the longer term</b>	<b>Gwent Step: Provide and enable the supply of good quality, affordable, appropriate homes</b>	<b>Gwent Step: Taking action to reduce our carbon emissions, help Gwent adapt to climate change, and protect and restore our natural environment</b>	<b>Gwent Step: Take action to address inequities, particularly in relation to health, through the framework of the Marmot Principles</b>	<b>Gwent Step: Enable and support people, neighbourhoods, and communities to be resilient, connected, thriving and safe</b>
<b>Environment</b>					
Protect and enhance our green spaces and waterways for nature and people			√	√	√
Promote sustainable and active Travel as the preferred modes of transport in the City	√		√	√	√
Tackle the climate and nature emergency, through climate action and protecting and enhancing biodiversity		√	√	√	√
Deliver climate change mitigation through our built environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Sector Estate</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Connected Green Infrastructure</li> </ul>	√	√	√	√	√
Develop strategies to address flood risk	√	√	√	√	√
Promote the Circular Economy as a method of minimising the impacts of production and consumption	√		√	√	√

# One Newport Partnership

4<sup>th</sup> July 2023

## Gwent Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy

### **Purpose**

To offer One Newport members the opportunity to make any comments on the draft Gwent Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy.

### **Background**

The [Gwent Green Grid Partnership](#) (GGGP) are in the process of producing a Gwent Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy. The strategy has been prepared by consultants on behalf of the GGGP. The strategy aims to support a coordinated approach to green infrastructure project development, funding and delivery through a set of strategic action plans. Green infrastructure can contribute to achieving Gwent Public Services Board well-being objectives, and therefore has links to the on-going work of the Local Delivery Groups (e.g. One Newport) and the emerging Local Action Plans.

### **Consultation on the GGGP GI Strategy**

The Gwent Green Grid Partnership would welcome any comments that members of One Newport may want to make on the draft strategy. If you do want to comment, can you please provide them to Helen Fairbank ([HelenFairbank@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:HelenFairbank@monmouthshire.gov.uk)) by the 14<sup>th</sup> July.

This strategy aims to support the GGGP's aspirations to improve the region's green and blue infrastructure. As a strategic document, it provides a high-level, regional framework to support public bodies in working together to secure funding for green infrastructure delivery. It is intended to act as a delivery mechanism for the Gwent Public Services Board Well-being Plan, the Natural Resources Wales South East Area Statement and the forthcoming Strategic Development Plan for Gwent.

The strategy does this by:

- Setting out a shared vision and strategic priorities for enhancing the functionality, quality and connectivity of the region's network of green and blue infrastructure.
- Outlining principles for why green infrastructure is important, what good green infrastructure looks like and how to deliver green infrastructure for underpinning wellbeing, sustainable natural resources management and sustainable development goals.
- Highlighting Gwent's unique green infrastructure assets, and identifying strategic priorities and opportunities for enhancing and better connecting these assets to increase their value for both people and wildlife.
- Providing a landscape-scale context for Gwent's green infrastructure, including strategic opportunities for cross-boundary working with adjoining regions.
- Defining a regional framework for preparing and updating local green infrastructure assessments, strategies and delivery plans, working in collaboration with local partners.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further please do not hesitate to contact Harriet Bleach (Senior Officer, People and Places, Natural Resources Wales) on [harriet.bleach@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:harriet.bleach@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk).

## **Recommendations**

Members are asked to:

1. Note the draft strategy and the offer to provide any comments you may want to make.
2. If you do want to comment, can you please provide them to Helen Fairbank ([HelenFairbank@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:HelenFairbank@monmouthshire.gov.uk)) by the 14<sup>th</sup> July.

## **Well-being of Future Generations Act**

The Gwent Green Grid Partnership brings to life the Gwent Public Services Board's commitment to implementing the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, through new and collaborative ways of working with partners, involving local citizens and delivering across all seven well-being goals.



# Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy



DRAFT

May 2023



# Gwent Green Grid Partnership Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy

Project No: 111418

Version/Status: Draft

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Watkins', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Project Director Name: Dominic Watkins

Date: 31/05/2023

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## **GLOSSARY**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

To follow in final report...



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose of the Strategy

1.1.1 Welsh Government policy recognises the crucial role of green infrastructure in helping address the triple challenges of the climate, ecological and health emergencies facing current and future generations.

1.1.2 This strategy aims to support the Gwent Green Grid Partnership's aspirations to improve the region's green and blue infrastructure – the network of natural and semi-natural features, green spaces, rivers and lakes that intersperse and connect cities, towns and villages in Gwent (see **Figure 1.1**).

1.1.3 As a strategic document, it provides a high-level, regional framework to support public bodies in working together to secure funding for green infrastructure delivery. It is intended to act as a delivery mechanism for the Gwent Public Service Board's Well-being Plan, the Natural Resources Wales South East Wales Area Statement and the forthcoming Strategic Development Plan for Gwent. The strategy does this by:

- Setting out a shared vision and strategic priorities for enhancing the functionality, quality and connectivity of the region's network of green and blue infrastructure
- Outlining principles for why green infrastructure is important, what good green infrastructure looks like and how to deliver green infrastructure for underpinning well-being, sustainable natural resources management and sustainable development goals
- Highlighting Gwent's unique green infrastructure assets, and identifying strategic priorities and opportunities for enhancing and better connecting these assets to increase their value for both people and wildlife
- Providing a landscape-scale context for Gwent's green infrastructure, including strategic opportunities for cross-boundary working with adjoining regions
- Defining a regional framework for preparing and updating local green infrastructure assessments, strategies and delivery plans, working in collaboration with local partners

1.1.4 Crucially, the strategy aims to support a coordinated approach to green infrastructure project development, funding and delivery through a set of strategic action plans. These are intended to support a range of well-being outcomes for Gwent's communities, particularly urban communities experiencing health and other inequalities.



**KEY**

- Gwent Region
- Green Infrastructure
- Blue Infrastructure
- Urban Areas

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FIGURE 1.1  
EXISTING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

## 1.2 The Gwent Green Grid Partnership

- 1.2.1 The Gwent Green Grid Partnership is a three-year project running from March 2020 to March 2023 supported by a Welsh Government Enabling of Natural Resources & Well-being Grant and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe Investing in Rural Areas.
- 1.2.2 The partnership comprises Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire (lead body<sup>1</sup>), Newport and Torfaen Councils who are working together with Natural Resources Wales, Forest Research<sup>2</sup> and the Severn Wye Energy Agency<sup>3</sup> to improve the regions' green infrastructure network. It aims to ensure that the region's natural resources are healthy, resilient to pressures and threats, and thereby better able to provide vital health and well-being benefits for current and future generations.
- 1.2.3 The Gwent Green Grid Partnership brings to life the Gwent Public Service Board's commitment to implementing the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, through new and collaborative ways of working with partners, involving local citizens and delivering across all seven well-being goals.

## 1.3 Green Infrastructure Approach

- 1.3.1 Green infrastructure (GI) is the network of natural and semi-natural features, green spaces, rivers and lakes that intersperse and connect places<sup>4</sup>. GI can function at a range of different scales; from entire ecosystems such as wetlands and rivers to parks, fields and gardens at the local scale and street trees, hedgerows, roadside verges, and green roofs/walls at the micro scale (see **Figure 1.2**).
- 1.3.2 Natural resources – air, land, water, wildlife, plants and soil – provide society's most basic needs, including food, energy and security, and helps keep us healthy. Where natural resources are under pressure from unsustainable uses, this presents risks and challenges to society's long-term well-being and quality of life.

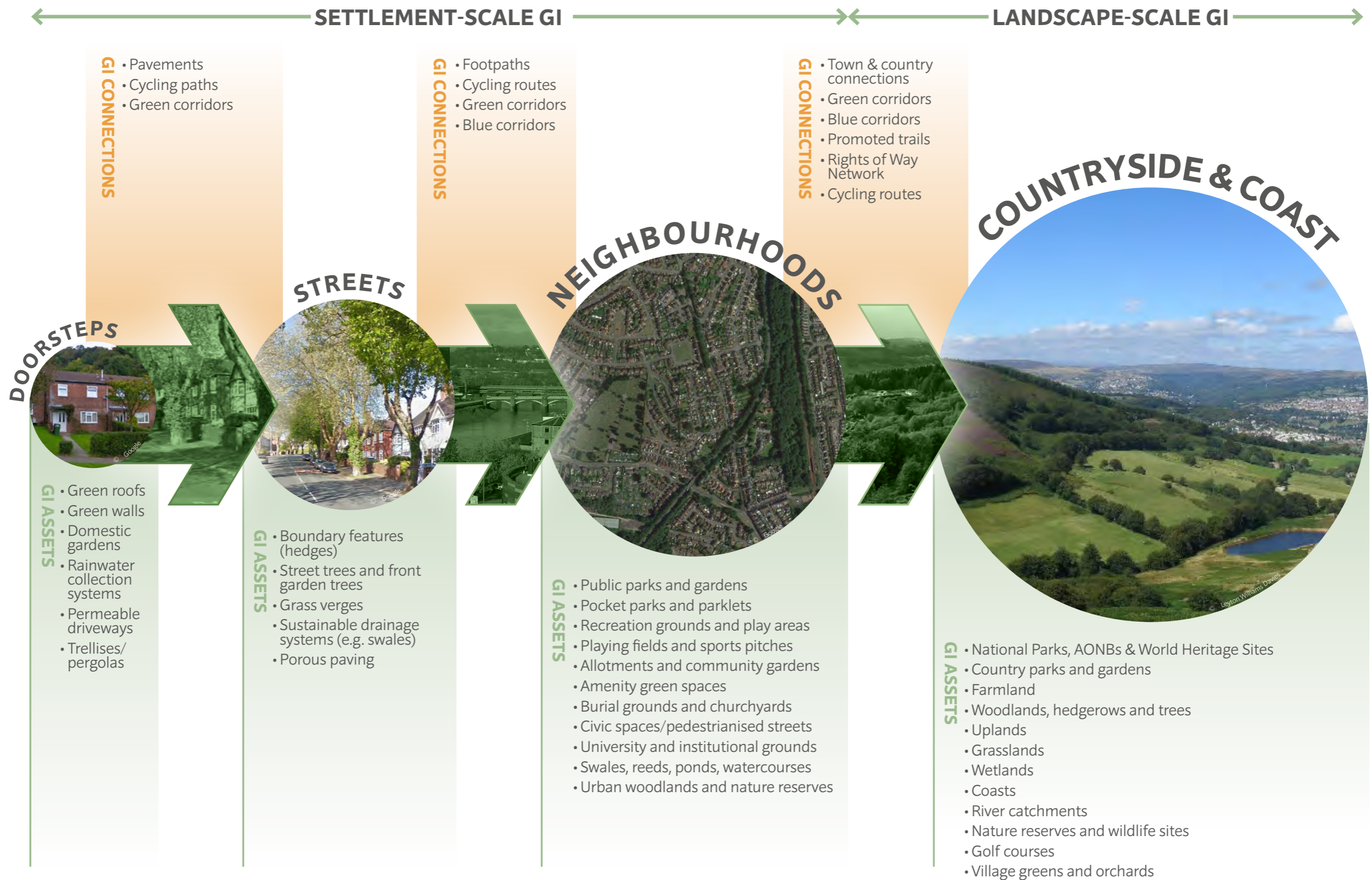
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<sup>1</sup> [www.monlife.co.uk/outdoor/gwent-green-grid-partnership/](http://www.monlife.co.uk/outdoor/gwent-green-grid-partnership/)

<sup>2</sup> [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/)

<sup>3</sup> [www.severnwyenergyagency.org.uk/project/gwent-green-grid/](http://www.severnwyenergyagency.org.uk/project/gwent-green-grid/)

<sup>4</sup> Planning Policy Wales 11, para 6.2.1



Source: Adapted from GI Design and Placemaking (Scottish Government, 2011)



1.3.3 Conversely, where natural resources are sustainably managed they can provide a wide range of ecosystem services (see **Figure 1.3**), which provide a greater range of social, economic and environmental benefits that contribute to people's well-being. Supporting systems and services are necessary for the production of:

- Regulating ecosystem services – that help regulate the environment (e.g. pollination)
- Provisioning ecosystem services – that provide resources and goods (e.g. food)
- Cultural ecosystem services – that provide aesthetic, spiritual, religious, recreational or scientific enrichment (e.g. access to green space)

1.3.4 Strengthening the extent, quality/condition and connectivity of GI assets helps to maximise the ecosystem services and well-being benefits that they can generate. Bigger, better and joined up GI networks are more adaptive and resilient to climate change, biodiversity loss and urbanisation.

1.3.5 Adopting an integrated, strategic approach to managing natural resources can significantly reduce costs for public bodies, businesses and individuals, whilst providing well-being benefits for residents, workers and visitors.

## 1.4 A Spatial Framework for Action

1.4.1 This strategy provides a high-level, regional framework for the strategic planning, delivery and management of green infrastructure in Gwent.

1.4.2 The Gwent Green Grid Partnership commissioned [CBA](#) consultants to develop the strategy under the guidance of a steering group comprising representatives of the five local authorities and Natural Resources Wales, and through stakeholder engagement workshops facilitated by [Wellbeing Planner](#) consultants.

1.4.3 The strategy was developed in two stages through desk-based reviews and high-level analysis, GIS mapping and stakeholder engagement:

- **Stage 1 – Scoping the Strategy:** this included an initial workshop to capture stakeholder's knowledge about relevant information/GIS data and identify regional GI principles/priorities for the strategy (see **Appendix 3** for details)



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FIGURE 1.3  
ECOSYSTEM SERVICES



- **Stage 2 – Developing the Strategy:** this included a second workshop to engage stakeholders in shaping the strategy’s vision, opportunities and strategic action plan themes (see **Appendix 4** for details)

1.4.4 Reflecting the South East Wales Area Statement’s four strategic themes<sup>5</sup> (see **Appendix 1**), and feedback from the stakeholder workshops, four main themes have been identified as the regional priorities for green infrastructure delivery across Gwent:

- **Health** – optimising the health and wellbeing benefits of green infrastructure to address inequalities for communities experiencing high levels of health deprivation
- **Climate** – responding to the climate emergency by using nature-based solutions for helping communities, nature and places to be adaptable and resilient to change
- **Nature** – responding to the nature emergency by taking action to reverse biodiversity loss and habitat fragmentation at the landscape-scale
- **Ways of Working** – developing a shared vision, principles and clear plan of action for stakeholders to support collaborative and integrative green infrastructure delivery

1.4.5 **Figure 1.4** provides an overview of the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

1.4.6 The themes for the strategic action plans focus on delivering strategic proposals for nature recovery through improving the resilience of the region’s ecological networks; improving access to green corridors and spaces, including urban and country parks, cycleways and public rights of way; and better management of green spaces to provide opportunities for delivering preventative health-focussed activity. The action plans also include strategic proposals to facilitate better woodland management and creation, and encourage positive actions to protect and enhance vital habitats for pollinators.

1.4.7 The strategy also outlines an approach to preparing and updating local green infrastructure assessments, strategies and delivery plans. A review of green infrastructure GIS data in the Gwent region has been undertaken, along with the provision of a protocol for GIS data management and sharing, to support local green infrastructure planning.

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<sup>5</sup> [Natural Resources Wales South East Wales Area Statement](#)

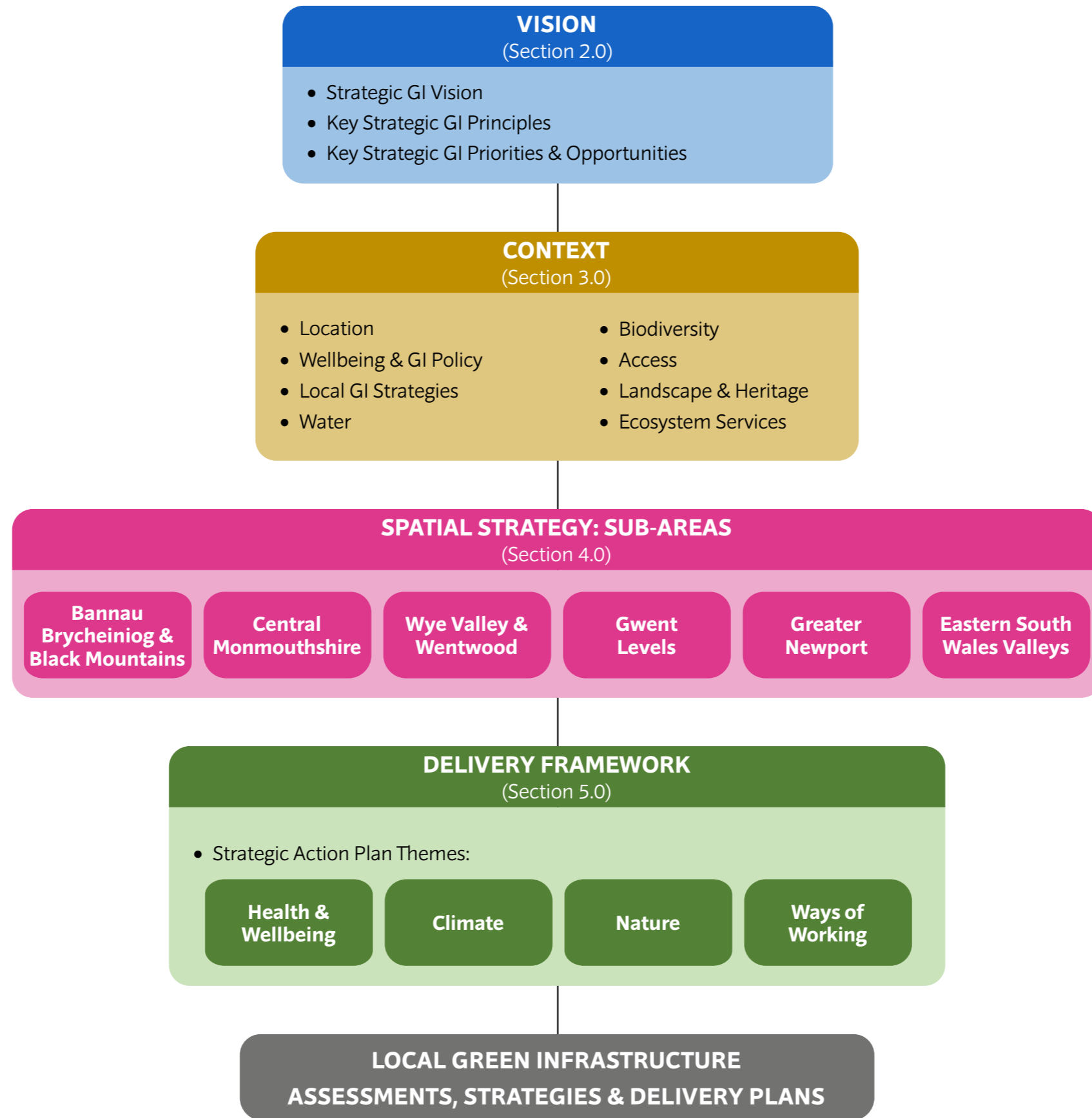


FIGURE 1.4  
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY OVERVIEW

**2.0 VISION**

**2.1 Gwent Green Grid Vision – Connecting Nature, People & Places**

2.1.1 The partnership’s long-term aspirational vision for the Gwent Green Grid is:

***Connecting nature, people and places***

***Gwent is a green and healthy place to live, work and visit. A network of multi-functional green and blue spaces connects nature-rich, thriving and prosperous cities, towns and villages with the wider countryside. This is a region where communities and wildlife have successfully adapted to the global challenges of a changing climate.***

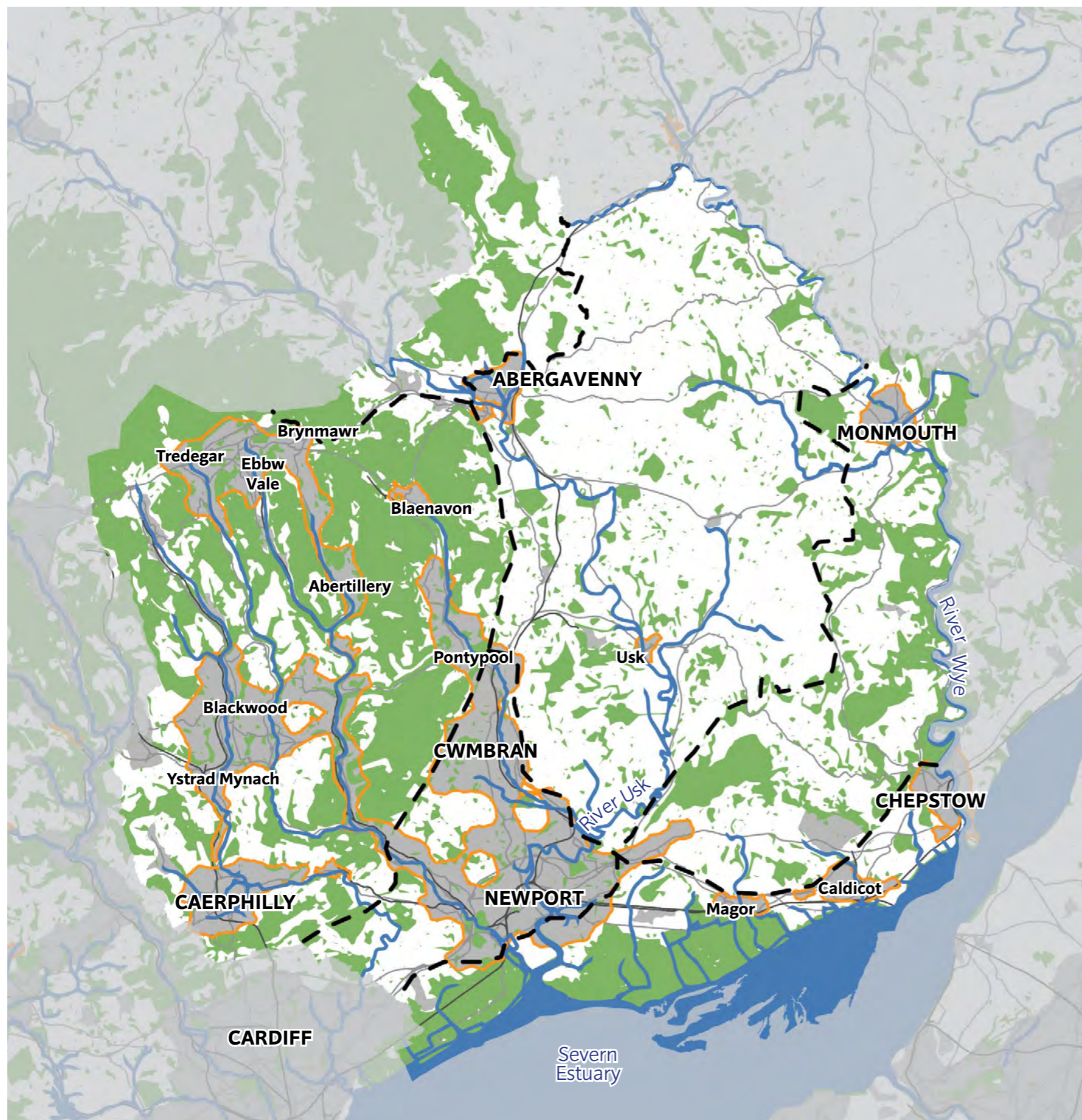
2.1.2 Future generations in Gwent have seen the decline in biodiversity reversed by the ecological networks of safeguarded, expanded and enhanced habitats at the heart of the Green Grid. In addition to delivering biodiversity benefits, sustainable management of the region’s natural assets deliver preventative, cost-effective and long-term nature-based solutions to tackling climate change. Together with the Green Grid’s networks of accessible green space and corridors, nature-based solutions also support the well-being of communities across Gwent.

**Gwent Green Grid Spatial Plan**

2.1.3 This vision is expressed spatially by the Gwent Green Grid Spatial Plan in **Figure 2.1**. This paints the ‘big picture’ for green infrastructure in Gwent, embracing strategic green and blue corridors connecting the countryside, coast and urban areas across the region and beyond.

2.1.4 Within the Gwent Green Grid, priority areas with strategic opportunities for green infrastructure enhancement, linkage and creation have been identified called **Strategic Green Space, Strategic Green Corridors** and **Strategic Blue Space & Corridors**. These landscape-scale components are the backbone of the Gwent Green Grid, providing key strategic linkages with adjoining green infrastructure networks in South Central Wales and Mid Wales, and in the South West and West Midlands regions of England.





**KEY**

**Regional Green Grid Components**

- Strategic Green Space
- Strategic Green Corridors (to follow - data awaited)
- Strategic Blue Space & Corridors
- Urban Green Grids
- Farmland
  
- Gwent Sub-Areas (see **Figure 4.1**)
  
- Urban Areas
- Main Roads
- Railways

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FIGURE 2.1  
GWENT GREEN GRID SPATIAL PLAN

- 2.1.5 Connecting core natural and semi-natural habitat networks, the Gwent Green Grid provides opportunities for restoring and re-creating habitats outside of core areas, and provide stepping stones for the dispersal of wildlife between habitats.
- 2.1.6 A network of strategic green access links provide multi-user, predominantly off-road, strategic access routes (or “greenways”) for pedestrians and cyclists, linking and integrating residential and business areas to key services, leisure destinations and green spaces across Gwent’s cities, towns and villages. The network of strategic green access links connects with public transport services to provide an integrated sustainable movement network for Gwent that will help reduce reliance on car-use and reduce carbon emissions.
- 2.1.7 Set within the Gwent Green Grid, **Urban Green Grids** comprising multifunctional networks of green and blue infrastructure thread through the built environment, weaving together urban green spaces in areas where people live and work with the wider countryside. The regional Urban Green Grids are:
- Abergavenny Urban Green Grid
  - Monmouth Urban Green Grid
  - Chepstow Urban Green Grid
  - Severnside Settlements (Magor-Caldicot) Urban Green Grid
  - Usk Urban Green Grid
  - Newport-Cwmbran-Pontypool Urban Green Grid
  - Blaenavon Urban Green Grid
  - Brynmawr-Abertillery (Ebbw Fach Valley) Urban Green Grid
  - Ebbw Vale (Ebbw Valley) Urban Green Grid
  - Tredegar (Sirhowy Valley) Urban Green Grid
  - Blackwood-Ystrad Mynach Urban Green Grid
  - Caerphilly Urban Green Grid
- 2.1.8 The Urban Green Grids have the potential to provide urban communities with access to green space for recreation and access to nature, and help contribute to improved health outcomes and sustainable travel by providing safe active travel routes. Street trees, urban woodlands and amenity greenspace help counter the ‘heat island effect’ of urban areas, and domestic gardens and green roofs/walls provide habitats for wildlife in built-up areas. These green assets also help in managing urban surface water runoff.

## 2.2 Green Infrastructure Principles

2.2.1 In support of the Gwent Green Grid vision, good practice principles<sup>6</sup> for the planning, design and management of green infrastructure are highlighted below.

### Why GI is important

2.2.2 Wherever possible, green infrastructure delivery in Gwent should aim to optimise the following benefits and outcomes at the same time:

- **Nature-rich places** - Green Infrastructure supports nature to recover and thrive everywhere, in towns, cities and countryside, conserving and enhancing natural beauty, locally distinctive landscapes, wildlife and habitats, geology and soils, and our cultural and personal connections with nature.
- **Active, healthy & connected places** - Green neighbourhoods, green/blue spaces and green routes support active lifestyles, sense of place, community cohesion and nature connections that benefit physical and mental health, wellbeing, and quality of life. Green Infrastructure also helps to mitigate health risk factors such as urban heat stress, noise pollution, flooding and poor air quality.
- **Thriving & prosperous communities** - Green Infrastructure helps to create and support prosperous communities that benefit everyone and adds value by creating high quality environments which are attractive to businesses and investors, create green jobs, support retail and high streets, and help drive prosperity and regeneration.
- **Improved water management** - Green Infrastructure reduces flood risk, improves water quality and natural filtration, helps maintain the natural water cycle and sustainable drainage at local and catchment scales, reducing pressures on the water environment and infrastructure, bringing amenity, biodiversity, economic and other benefits.
- **Climate resilient places** - Green Infrastructure makes places more resilient and adaptive to climate change and helps to meet zero carbon and air quality targets. Green Infrastructure itself should be designed to adapt to climate change to ensure long term resilience.

### What good GI looks like

2.2.3 All green infrastructure everywhere in Gwent should aim to be:

- **Multifunctional** - Green Infrastructure should deliver a range of functions and benefits for people, nature and places, and be designed to meet their needs. Multifunctionality (delivering multiple functions from the same area of Green Infrastructure) is especially important in areas where provision is limited/poor quality.

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<sup>6</sup> Adapted from the Green Infrastructure Framework – Principles & Standards for England (Natural England, January 2023)

- **Varied** - Green Infrastructure should comprise a variety of types/sizes of green and blue spaces, green routes and natural features (as part of a network) that can provide a range of different functions, benefits and solutions to address specific needs.
- **Connected** - Green Infrastructure should function and connect as a living network at all scales (e.g., within sites, across regions and at the national scale). It should enhance ecological networks and support ecosystems services, connecting provision of Green Infrastructure with those who need its benefits.
- **Accessible** - where compatible with nature conservation needs, Green Infrastructure should create and maintain green liveable places that enable people to experience and connect with nature, and that offer everyone, wherever they live, access to good quality parks, green spaces, walking and cycling routes that are inclusive, safe, welcoming, well-managed and accessible for all.
- **Characterful** - Green Infrastructure should respond to and celebrate an area's character, cultural heritage and sense of place so that it contributes to the conservation, enhancement and/or restoration of landscapes; or, in degraded areas, creates new high-quality landscapes to which local people feel connected.

### How we will work to deliver good GI

2.2.4 Green infrastructure delivery should be based on the following ways of working:

- **Partnership & collaboration** - Work in partnership and collaborate with stakeholders from the outset to identify opportunities and constraints, co-plan, develop and deliver a vision for Green Infrastructure in the area. Engage a diverse and inclusive range of people and organisations including citizens, neighbouring local authorities, developers, communities, landowners, green space managers, environmental, health, climate, transport, and business representatives.
- **Evidence-led** - Use scientific evidence and good land use practices when planning and enhancing green and blue infrastructure. Understand the types, quantity, quality/condition, connectivity and value of existing Green Infrastructure assets and the environmental, social, and economic challenges and needs in the area. Refer to good practice for caring for and enhancing Green Infrastructure.
- **Plan strategically** - Plan strategically, secure Green Infrastructure as a key asset and set standards/targets for provision in local strategy and policy, at all scales. Fully integrate and mainstream Green Infrastructure into environmental, social, health and economic policy. Create and maintain sustainable places for current and future populations, and address inequalities in Green Infrastructure provision and its benefits.
- **Good design & place-making** – Understand an area's landscape/townscape, natural, historic and cultural character to create well-designed and distinctive places.
- **Managed, valued, monitored & evaluated** - Plan good governance, funding, management, monitoring, and evaluation of Green Infrastructure as a key asset from the outset and secure it for the long-term. Make the business case for Green Infrastructure. Engage communities in stewardship where appropriate. Celebrate success and raise awareness of Green Infrastructure benefits.

## 3.0 CONTEXT

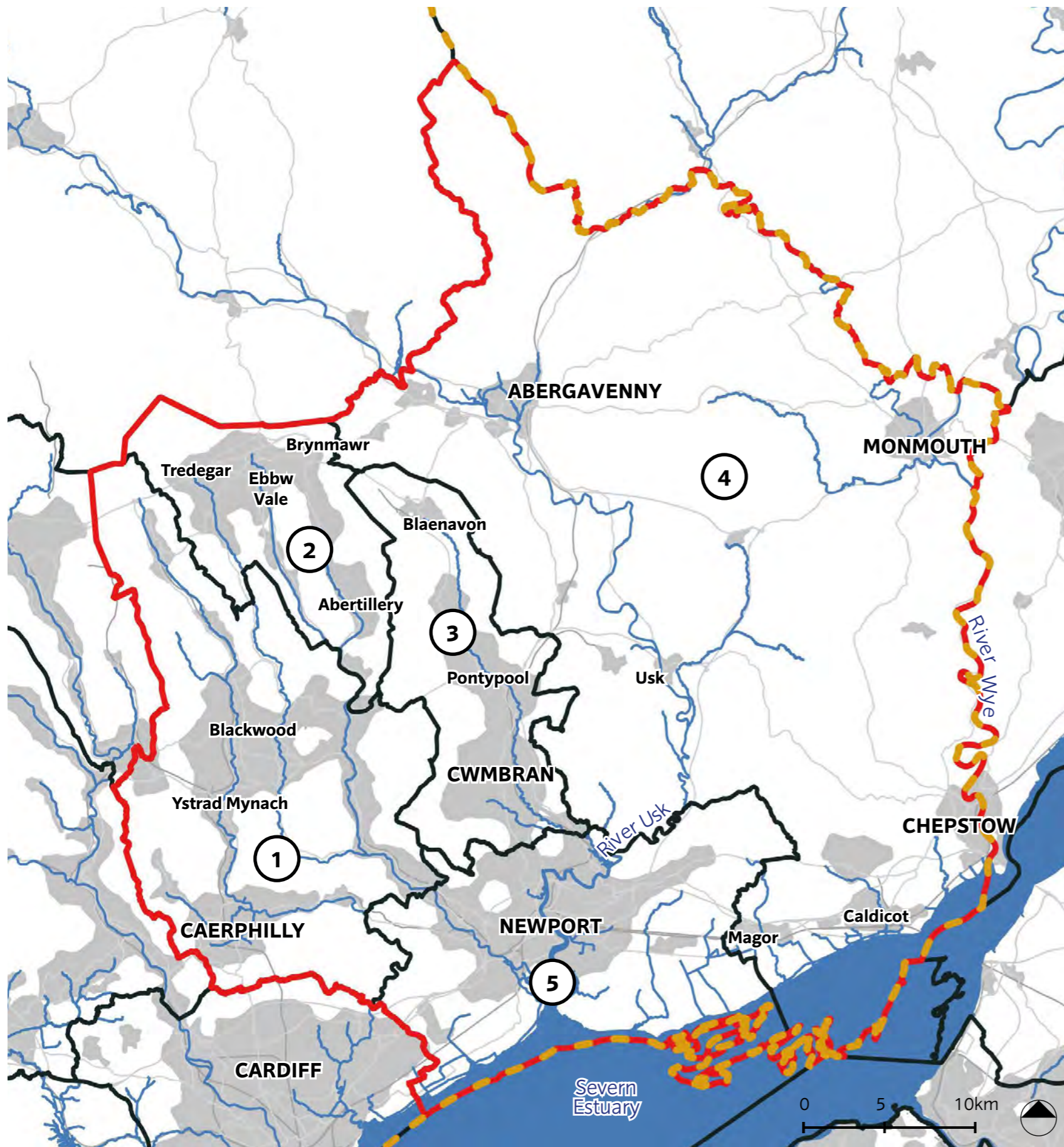
### 3.1 Location

- 3.1.1 Located in South East Wales, the Gwent region includes Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Monmouthshire County Council, Newport City Council and Torfaen County Borough Council (see **Figure 3.1**).
- 3.1.2 The Local Government Act of 1888 formed the historic county of Monmouthshire, which encompasses much of the Gwent region today. Monmouthshire was superseded in 1974 by the new administrative county of Gwent, named after the former Kingdom of Gwent. After dissolution as an administrative unitary authority in 1996, Gwent was separated into the five local authority areas we have today.
- 3.1.3 Gwent is currently home to around 591,000 people. The diversity of character across a relatively small area of 1,616 sqkm<sup>7</sup> means that Gwent holds a wealth of both natural and cultural heritage, from the historic castles along the English border to the east, to the cradle of the Industrial Revolution, the Blaenavon World Heritage Site, in the west.
- 3.1.4 Gwent's diverse landscapes are distinctive, including the uplands of Bannau Brycheiniog and the Black Mountains, the woodlands of the Wye Valley and Wentwood; the farmland of Central Monmouthshire; the urban-dominated area of Greater Newport; the unique wetlands of the Gwent Levels; and the eastern part of the South Wales Valleys.
- 3.1.5 Key statutory landscape designations in Gwent are shown on **Figure 3.2**, including the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and Cardiff Green Belt.

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<sup>7</sup> to the low tide mark





**KEY**

- Gwent Region
- Local Authorities:
- ① Caerphilly County Borough Council
- ② Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
- ③ Torfaen County Borough Council
- ④ Monmouthshire County Council
- ⑤ Newport City Council
- Wales/England Border
- Main Rivers and Waterbodies
- Urban Areas
- Railways
- Main Roads

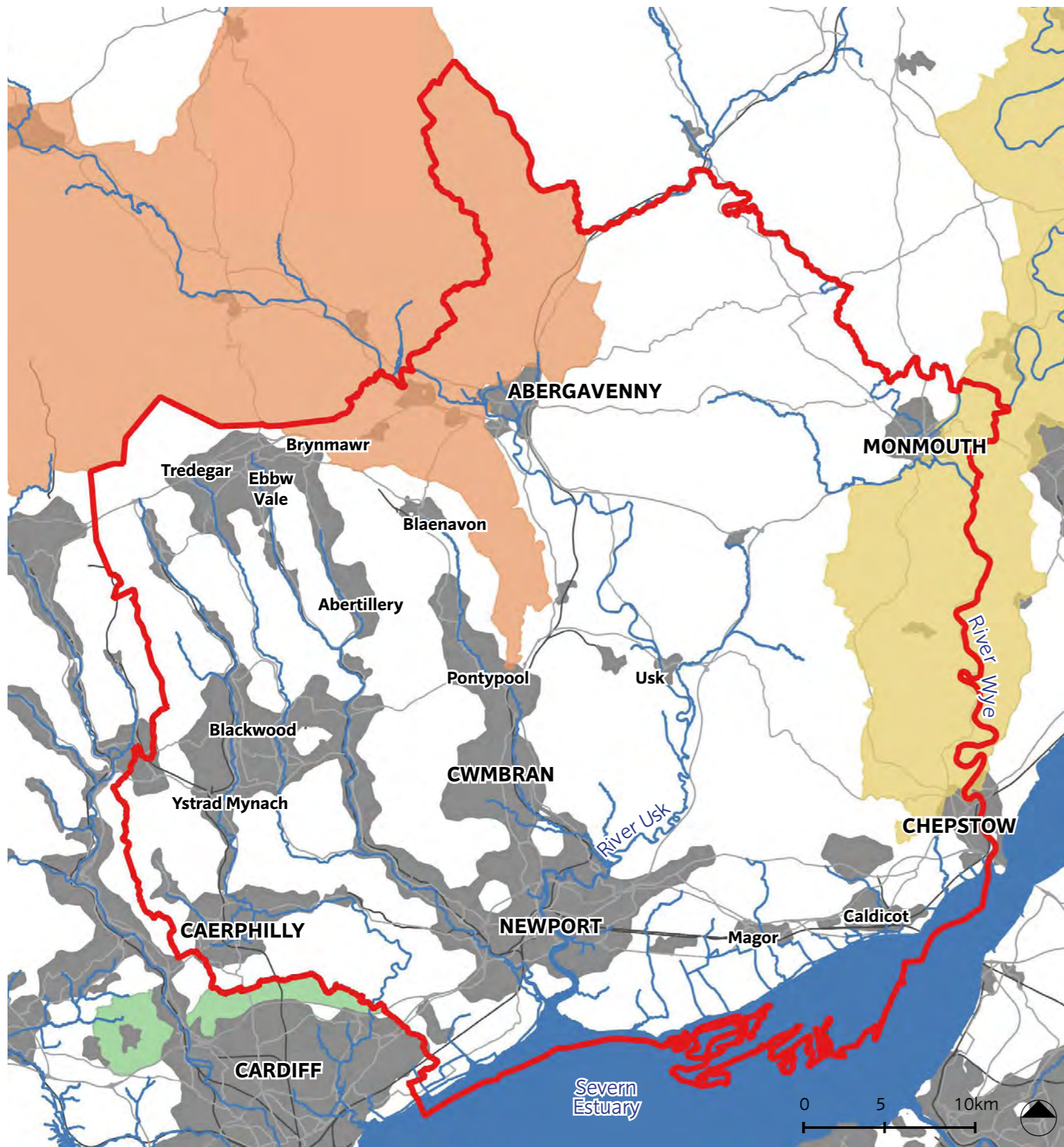


- National Park
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty









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**KEY**

-  Gwent Region
-  Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park
-  Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
-  Cardiff Green Belt (illustrative only)
-  Main Rivers and Waterbodies
-  Urban Areas
-  Railways
-  Main Roads

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## 3.2 Well-being & Green Infrastructure Policy

3.2.1 The hierarchy of current national, regional and local policy that provide the context and drivers for green infrastructure planning and delivery in Gwent is highlighted below (see **Appendix 1** for details).

	<b>Wellbeing</b>	<b>Natural Resources</b>	<b>Development Plans</b>
National	Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	Environment (Wales) Act 2016	Planning (Wales) Act 2015
		Welsh Government Natural Resources Policy 2017	Planning Policy Wales Edition 11, 2021
			Welsh Government National Development Framework 2021
	NRW State of Natural Resources Report for Wales 2020	NRW Green Infrastructure Assessment Guide 2023	
Regional	Gwent PSB Wellbeing Plan (draft 2022)	NRW South East Wales Area Statement 2020	South East Wales Strategic Development Plan (forthcoming)
Local	Local Authority Wellbeing Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monmouthshire (2018)</li> <li>• Torfaen (2018)</li> <li>• Blaenau Gwent (2018)</li> <li>• Caerphilly (2018)</li> <li>• Newport (2018)</li> </ul>		Adopted Local Development Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monmouthshire (2014)</li> <li>• Torfaen (2013)</li> <li>• Blaenau Gwent (2012)</li> <li>• Caerphilly (2010)</li> <li>• Newport (2015)</li> </ul>

### 3.3 Local Green Infrastructure Strategies

3.3.1 Local green infrastructure strategies and delivery frameworks/action plans (supported by green infrastructure assessments) are currently in place for Monmouthshire (2019), Torfaen (2019) and Blaenau Gwent (2021). The Caerphilly strategy (2020) is supported by a green infrastructure assessment and includes recommendations for developing action plans. The Newport green infrastructure assessment (2022) includes recommendations for developing a green infrastructure strategy.

#### **Monmouthshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (CBA, 2019)<sup>8</sup>**

- Setting the Scene
- The Green Infrastructure Approach
- Green Infrastructure Strategy (Vision, Objectives, Priorities)
- Settlement Green Infrastructure Networks
- Green Infrastructure Assessment (Ecosystem Services, Opportunities)
- Delivery Framework
- Action Plans

#### **Monmouthshire Green Infrastructure SPG (CBA, 2015)<sup>9</sup>**

- Setting the Scene
- The Green Infrastructure Approach in Monmouthshire
- Embedding Green Infrastructure into Development
- Potential Green Infrastructure Requirements for Key Growth Locations

#### **Torfaen Green Infrastructure Strategy (CBA, 2019)**

- Setting the Scene
- Where We Are Now (Green Infrastructure Assessment)
- Where We Want To Be (Vision, Objectives, Principles)
- How We Will Get There (Delivery Framework, Priorities for Action)

#### **Blaenau Gwent Green Infrastructure Strategy (CBA, 2021)**

- Setting the Scene
- Vision & Objectives
- Improvement Priorities
- Key Principles
- Delivery Plan
- Green Infrastructure Assessment (Appendix)

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<sup>8</sup> Strategy to be updated in 2023

<sup>9</sup> Supplementary Planning Guidance Adopted 2015

### **Caerphilly Green Infrastructure Strategy (TACP, 2020)**

- Introduction
- Policy Framework
- Green Infrastructure Assessment
- Strategy (Principles, Recommendations)

### **Newport Green Infrastructure Assessment (CBA, 2022)**

- Introduction
- Green Infrastructure Priorities
- Existing Green Infrastructure
- Green Infrastructure Opportunities
- Recommendations

3.3.2 Current local green infrastructure networks identified in Gwent are shown on **Figure 3.3**.

3.3.3 A green infrastructure strategy has also been developed by the Living Levels Landscape Partnership<sup>10</sup> for the Gwent Levels in Monmouthshire, Newport and Cardiff.

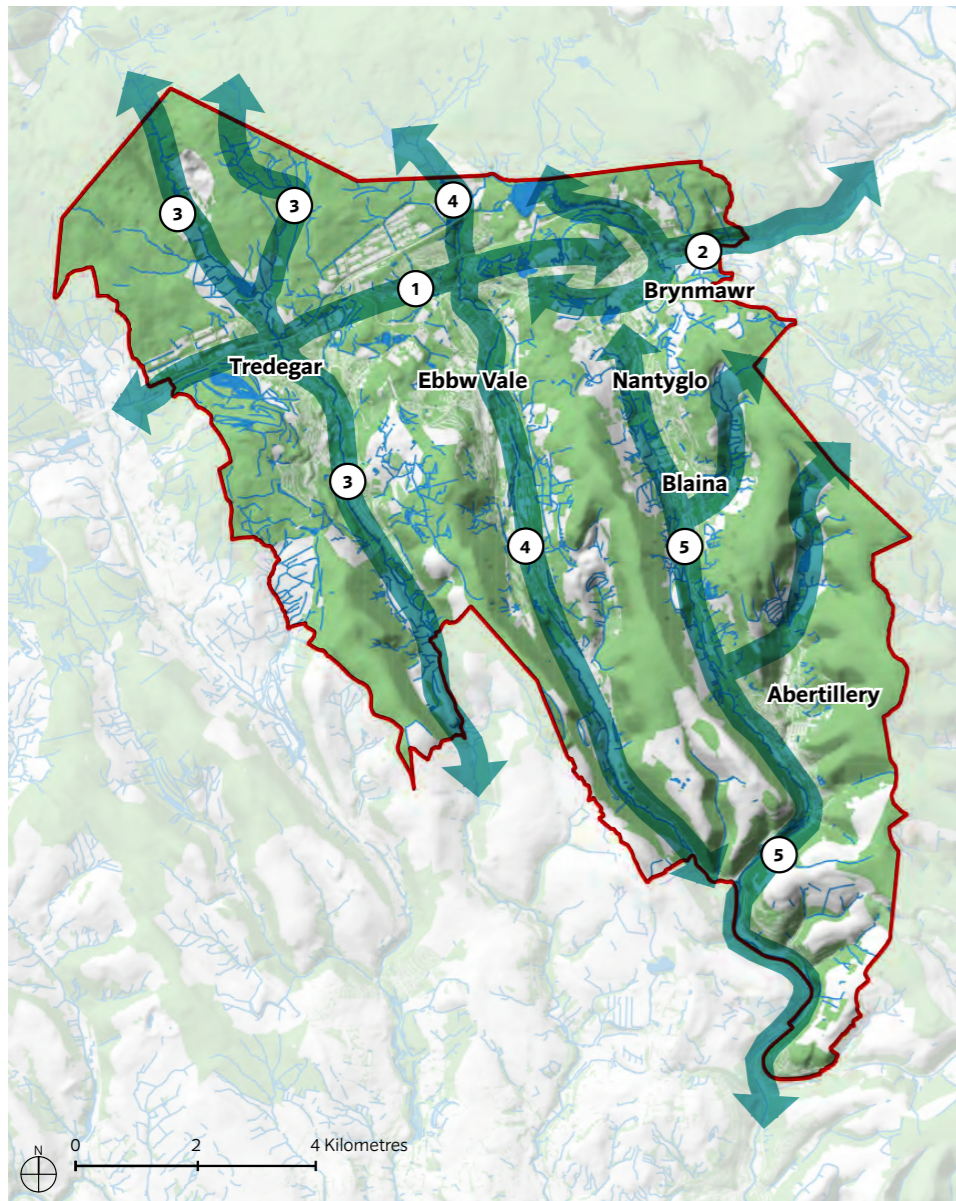
### **Gwent Levels Green Infrastructure Strategy (CBA, 2017)**

- Introduction
- Existing Green Infrastructure Assets
- Ecosystem Services
- Green Infrastructure Opportunities
- Green Infrastructure Strategy

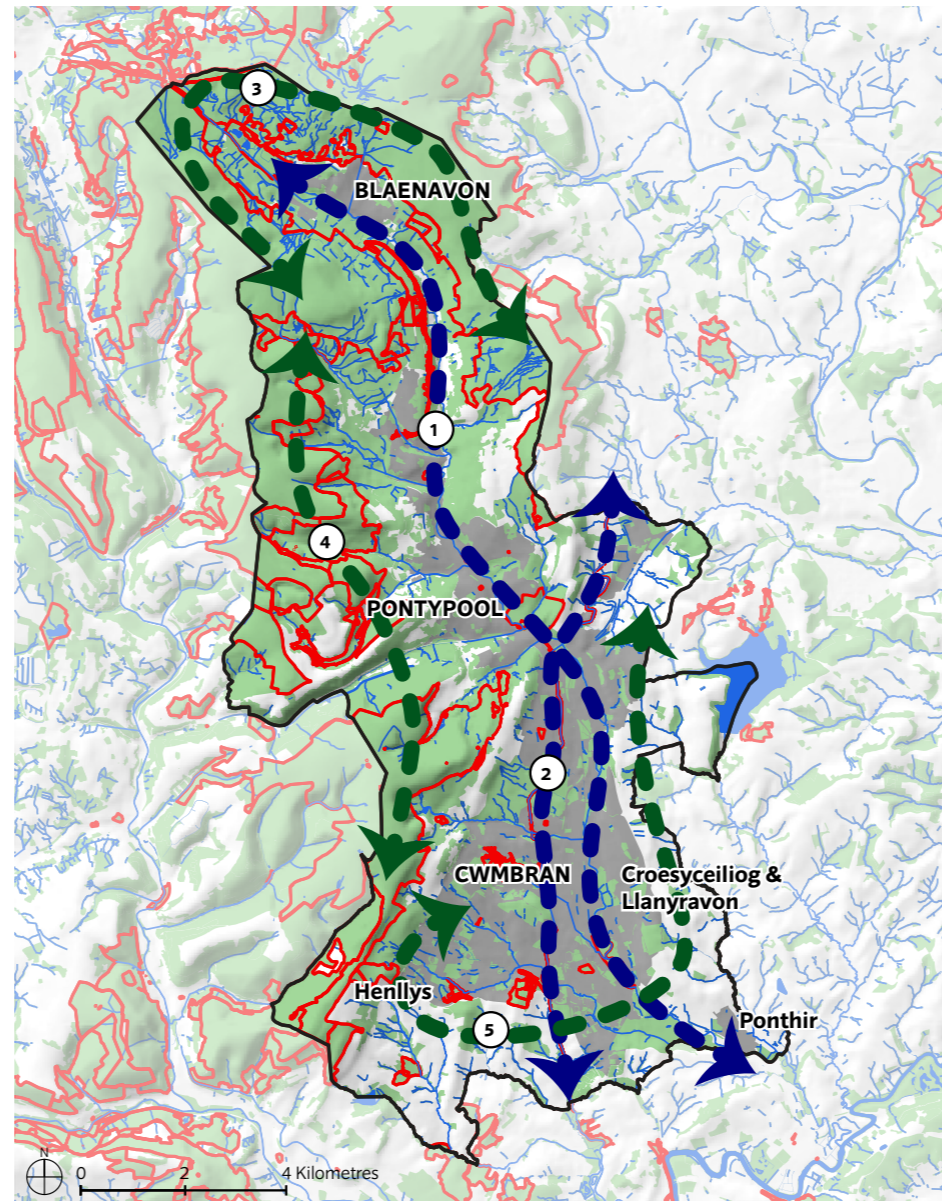
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<sup>10</sup> Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Gwent Wildlife Trust, Natural Resources Wales, Monmouthshire County Council, Newport City Council, Cardiff City Council, Cardiff Story Museum, Sustrans, The National Trust, Bumblebee Conservation Trust and Buglife.

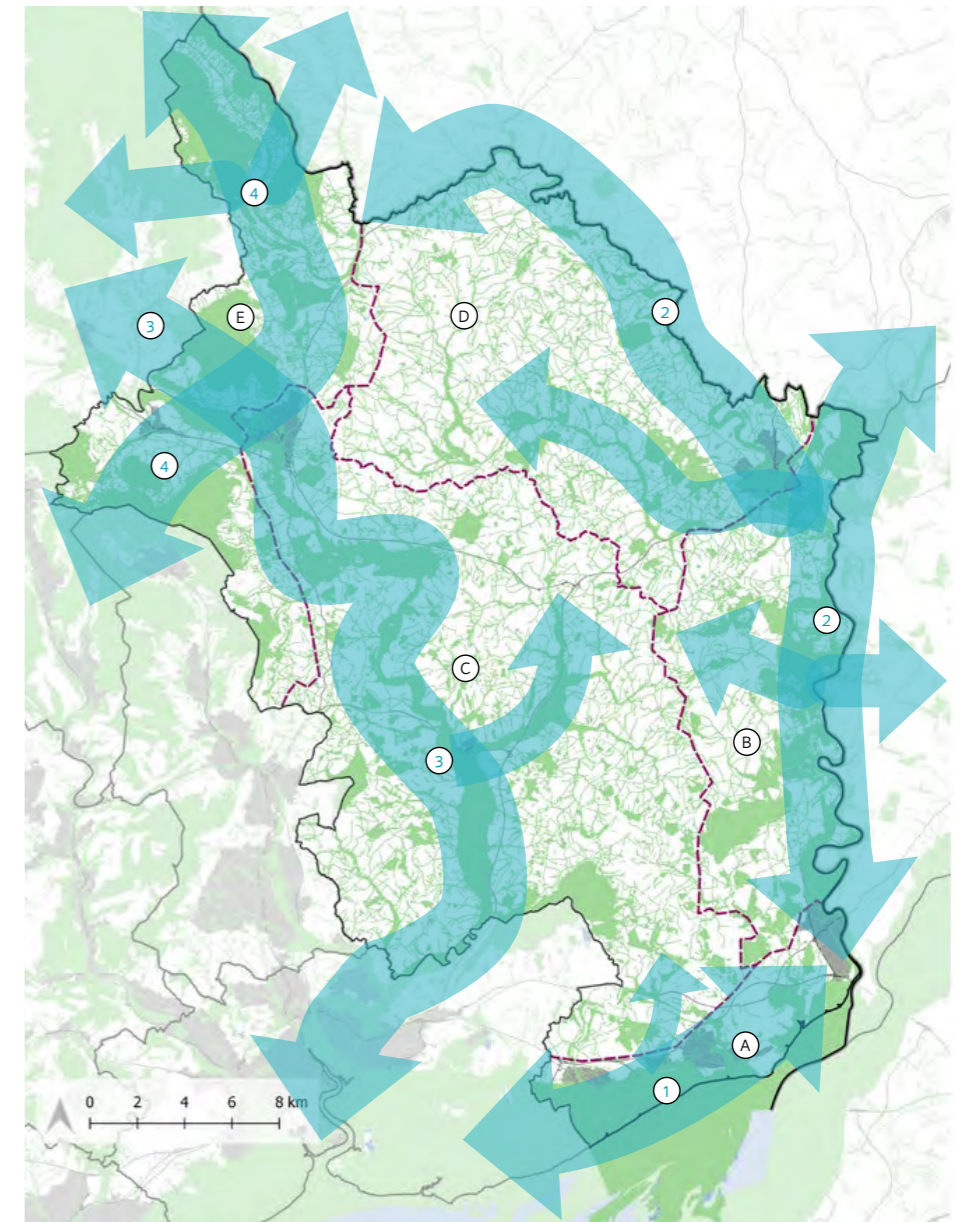
**Blaenau Gwent Green Infrastructure Strategy (2021)**



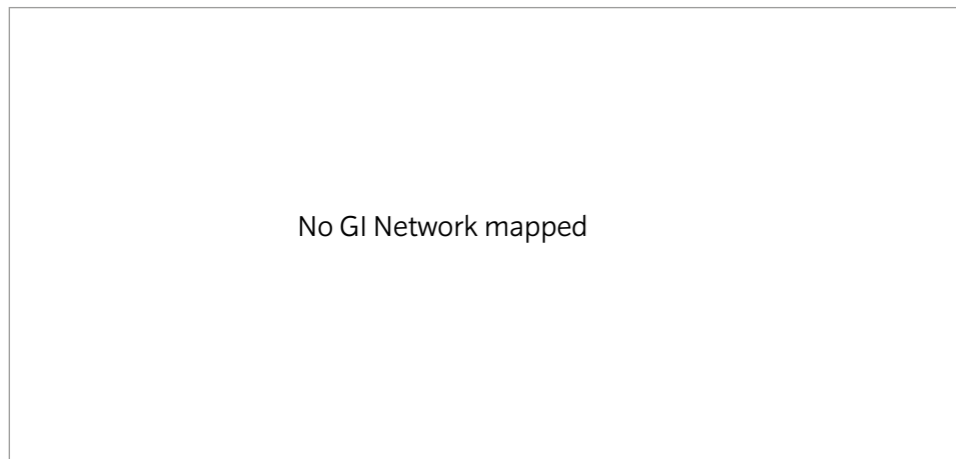
**Torfaen Green Infrastructure Strategy (2019)**



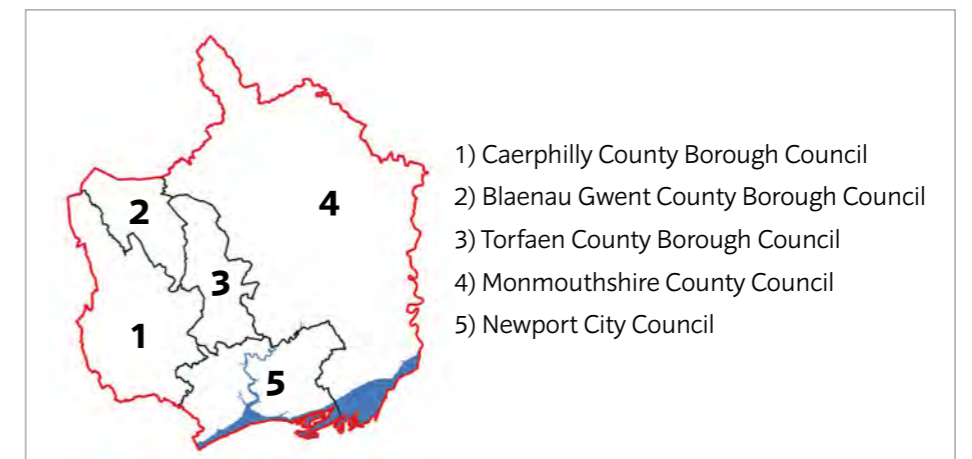
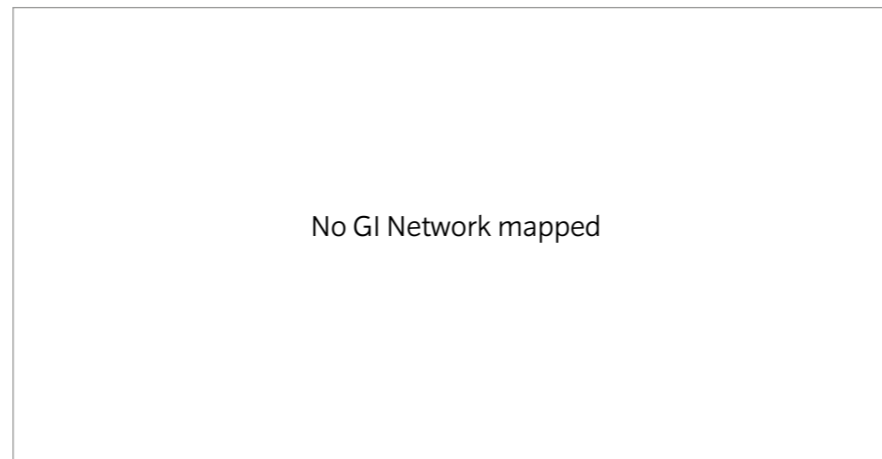
**Monmouthshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2019)**



**Caerphilly Green Infrastructure Strategy (2020)**



**Newport Green Infrastructure Assessment (2022)**



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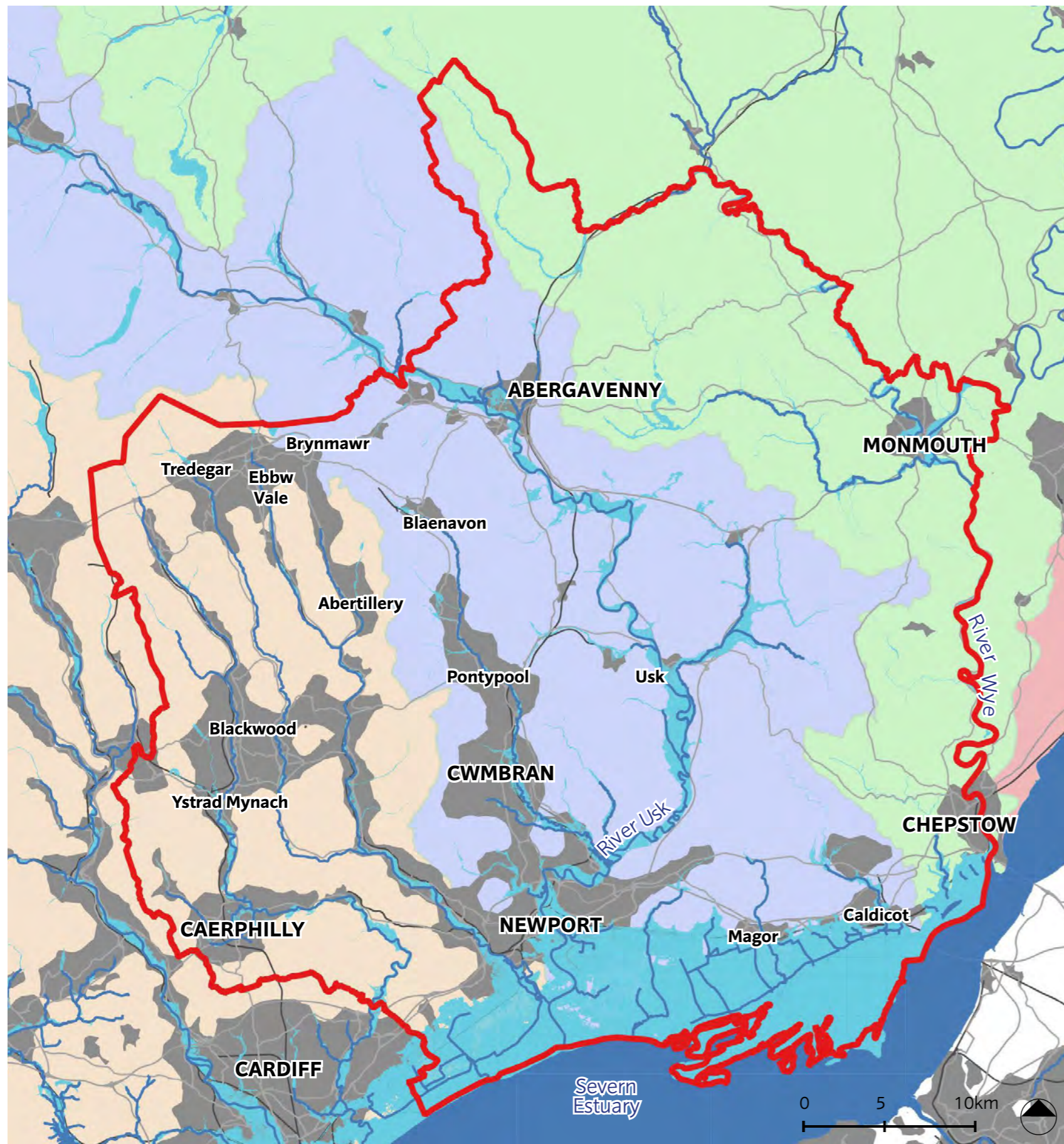
## 3.4 Water

- 3.4.1 Water is a key characteristic of Gwent, shaping the landscape and defining many of the regions' boundaries (see **Figure 3.4**). The Rivers Usk and Wye are the main watercourses draining the Gwent region, which is bounded by the Severn Estuary coastline to the south. Some of Gwent's rivers and wetland habitats are designated for their biodiversity value and importance, such as the River Wye and River Usk Special Areas of Conservation. However, most of the rivers in Gwent are failing to achieve overall good ecological status under the Water Framework Directive<sup>11</sup>. This is mainly due to pressures such as pollution, physical modification, invasive non-native species and poor habitat quality.
- 3.4.2 Parts of the Gwent area are often subject to flooding. In the upper catchments of the Wye and Usk, flooding tends to occur rapidly due to the narrow, steep valleys. Lower down the catchments the areas of flood risk are more extensive. Additionally, in urban areas such as Newport and Cwmbran, the presence of impermeable ground surfaces increases vulnerability to surface water flooding. On the Gwent Levels, the sea wall/embankment and network of main rivers and reens are an important part of the existing flood defences.
- 3.4.3 Opportunities to improve water management include natural floodplain management, particularly in the uplands<sup>12</sup>. This approach recognises the importance of nature-based solutions for enhancing natural flood defence measures to increase water retention capacity and slow water run-off. There are also opportunities to reduce pollution, naturalise watercourses and to tackle invasive non-native species.

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<sup>11</sup> [Water Watch Wales \(naturalresourceswales.gov.uk\)](http://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk)

<sup>12</sup> [South East Wales Resilient Uplands Project](#)



**KEY**

Main watercourses

**Management Catchments:**

Wye Management Catchment

Usk Management Catchment

South East Valleys Management Catchment

Flood Zones (Rivers and Sea)

Gwent Region

Urban Areas

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May 2023

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GWENT REGIONAL  
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

**DRAFT**  
Page 48 of 222

FIGURE 3.4  
WATER



## 3.5 Biodiversity

- 3.5.1 Approximately a quarter of Gwent's habitats are designated for their international, national and local biodiversity value (see **Figure 3.5a**), with 13 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), 5 National Nature Reserves, 94 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), 25 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), and over 1,600 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)<sup>13</sup>.
- 3.5.2 Gwent has a diverse mosaic of habitats, supporting a range of wildlife species. Broad priority habitats for conservation include: enclosed farmland; mountains, moorland and heath; open water, wetlands and floodplains; semi-natural grassland; woodlands; and marine and coastal margins. Priority habitats in the region are shown on **Figure 3.5b**<sup>14</sup>.
- 3.5.3 Gwent's uplands comprise a complex mosaic of heathland, acidic grassland, bracken, blanket bog and flushes, with areas of woodland and scrub. The upland ecosystems are threatened by issues such as lack of habitat connectivity and landscape crime including, off-roading, fly tipping and arson<sup>15</sup>.
- 3.5.4 Woodlands are found across Gwent, with important designated woodlands found along the Wye Valley at Cwm Clydach, Coed y Cerrig and Sugar Loaf. Woodland ecosystems are threatened in some places by lack of management, disturbance, pollution and disease<sup>16</sup>.
- 3.5.5 Opportunities include landscape-scale ecological connectivity improvements to reduce habitat fragmentation, enhancing ecosystem resilience to climate change, and improving the diversity, condition and extent of priority habitats.

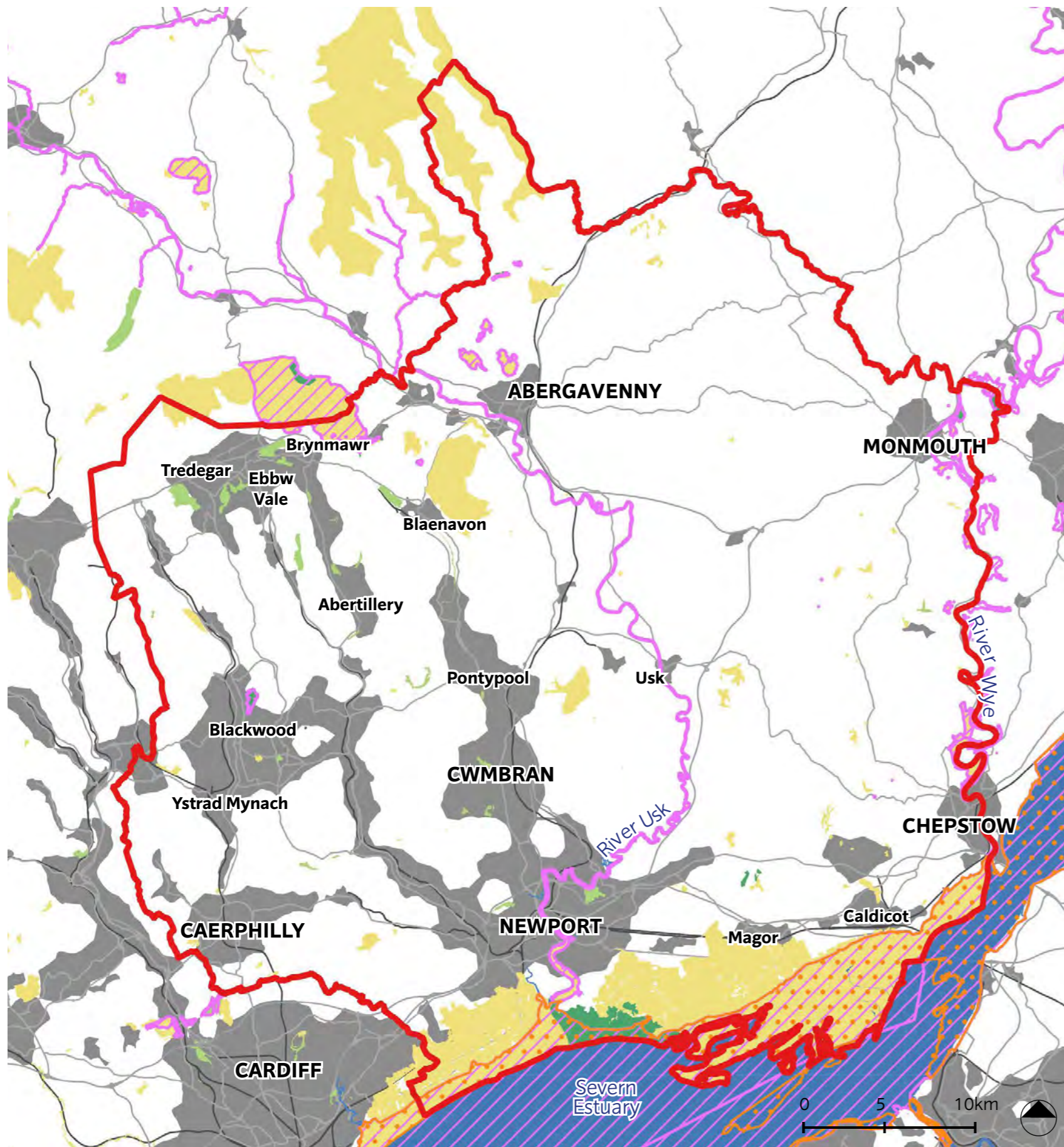
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<sup>13</sup> [Greater Gwent State of Nature Report](#)






<sup>14</sup> [South East Wales Area Statement](#)

<sup>15</sup> [Greater Gwent State of Nature Report](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Greater Gwent State of Nature Report](#)



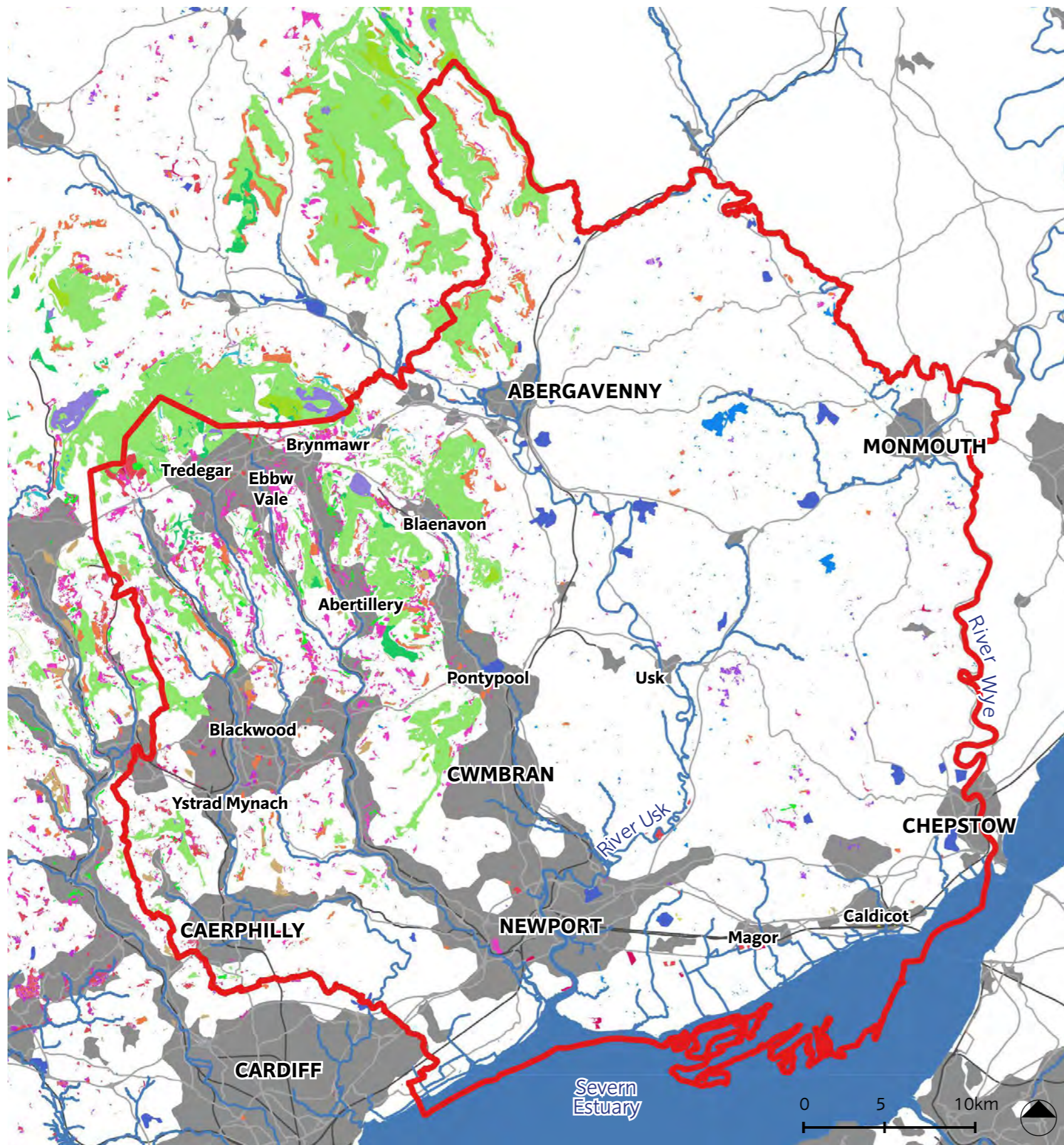
**KEY**

-  Special Protection Area (SPA)
-  Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
-  National Nature Reserve (NNR)
-  Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
-  Site of Nature Conservation Interest - to follow - data awaited
  
-  Gwent Region
-  Urban Areas

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**KEY**

**Priority Habitat:**

- Blanket Bog
- Lowland Calcareous Grassland
- Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
- Lowland Fens and Reedbeds
- Lowland Heathland
- Lowland Meadows
- Marsh Fritillary Habitat
- Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land
- Parkland
- Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures
- Raised Bog
- Traditional Orchards
- Upland Calcareous Grassland
- Upland Flushes, Fens and Swamps
- Upland Heathland
- Wood Pasture
- Gwent Region
- Urban Areas
- Main Rivers

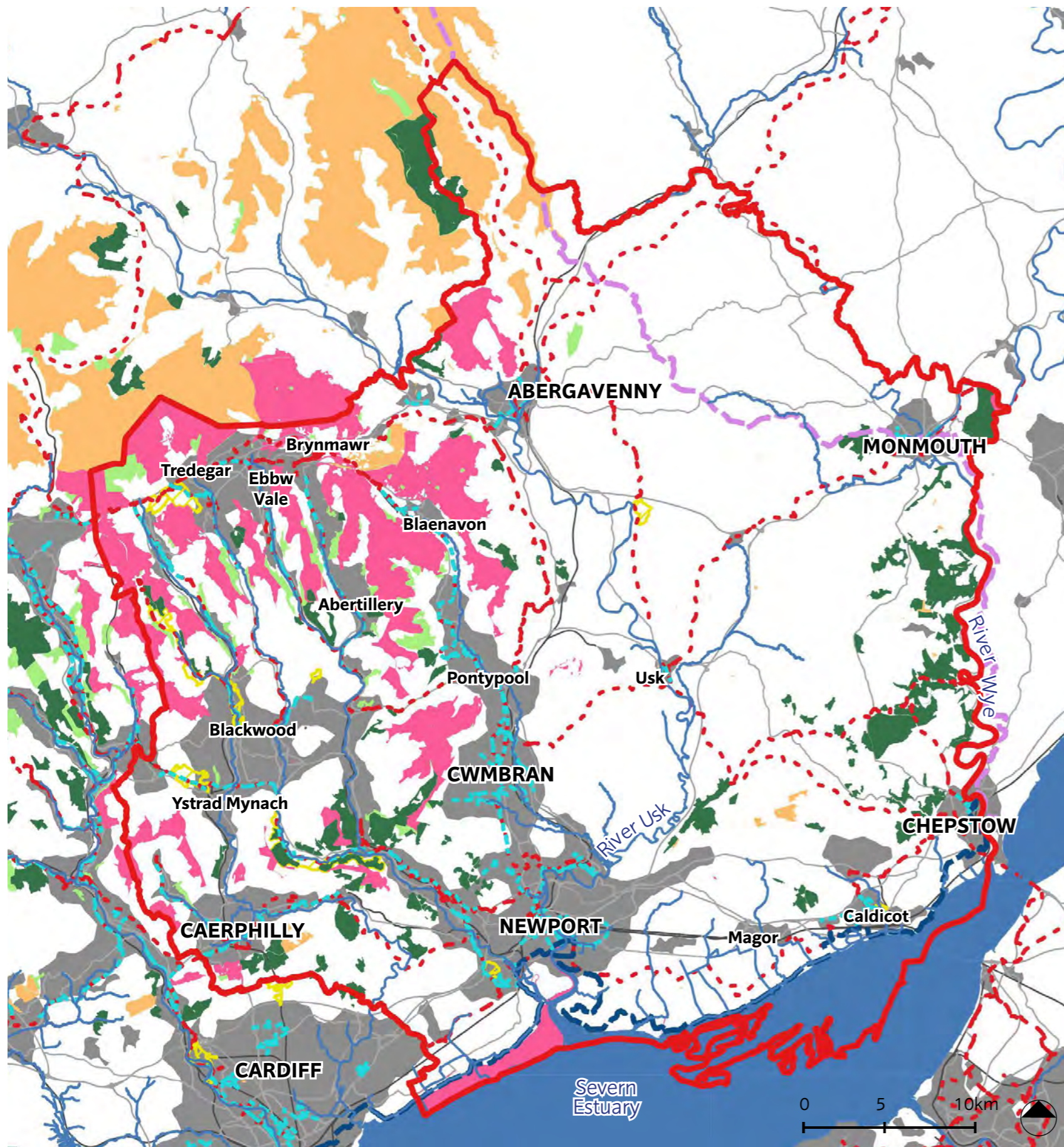
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## 3.6 Access

- 3.6.1 Gwent has a range of accessible GI assets including country parks, woodland, uplands, coastline, public parks, allotments, rivers, lakes and nature reserves (see **Figure 3.6a**). These sites, and the places where people live, are connected by a network of green corridors including national trails, cycle routes and rights of way. These assets all provide a range of health and wellbeing benefits, as well as contributing to the wider benefits of the GI network as a whole.
- 3.6.2 The majority of the accessible countryside in Gwent is found in the uplands, where there are extensive areas of access land in the Bannau Brycheiniog and the upland parts of the valleys to the south of the National Park. Elsewhere, there are large pockets of accessible woodland, such as in the Wye Valley. Country Parks are also a feature, such as Caldicot Castle in Monmouthshire and Parc Coetir Bargod in Caerphilly. National and Local Nature Reserves (NNRs and LNRs) provide opportunities for people to access nature and the outdoors, such as the Newport Wetlands NNR and Garn Lakes LNR.
- 3.6.3 Gwent has an extensive network of public rights of way, including national trails, national cycle network routes and active travel routes. National trails include Offas Dyke through the Wye Valley and Monmouthshire, and the Wales Coastal Path.
- 3.6.4 Areas experiencing the highest levels of multiple deprivation within Gwent are shown on **Figure 3.6b**. According to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, four of the region's local authority areas are among the most deprived in Wales: Blaenau Gwent (21%), Caerphilly (18%), Newport (18%) and Torfaen (17%) all have more people living in deprivation than the national average (16%). The most deprived ward in South Wales is the St James ward, which includes the Lansbury Park estate, in Caerphilly County Borough.



**KEY**

**Routes:**

-  Wales Coastal Path
-  Offa's Dyke National Trail
-  Active Travel Routes
-  National Cycle Network Routes

**Open Access Land:**

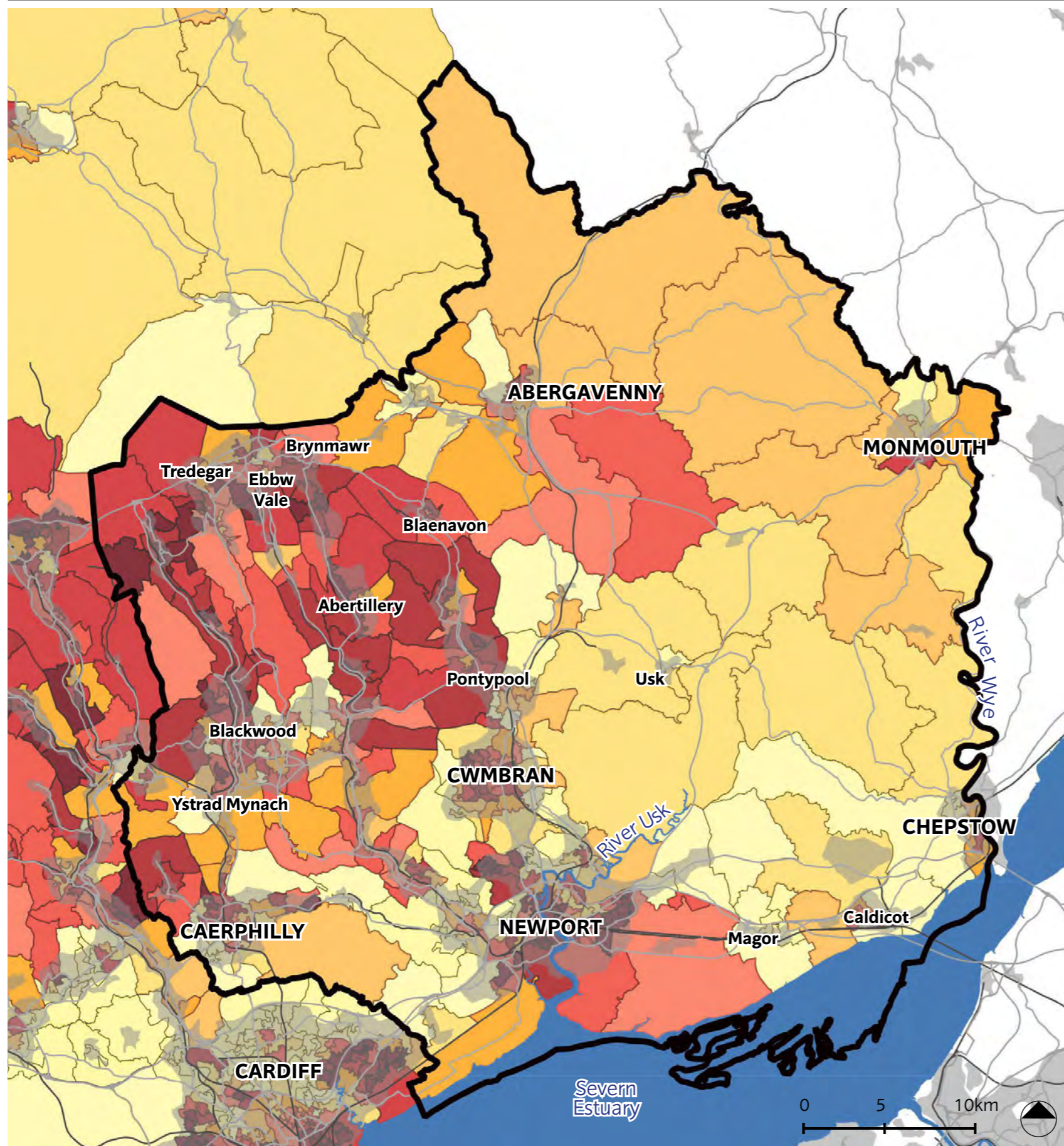
-  Open Country
-  Public Forest
-  Common Land
-  Other Statutory land
-  Country Parks
-  Gwent Region
-  Urban Areas

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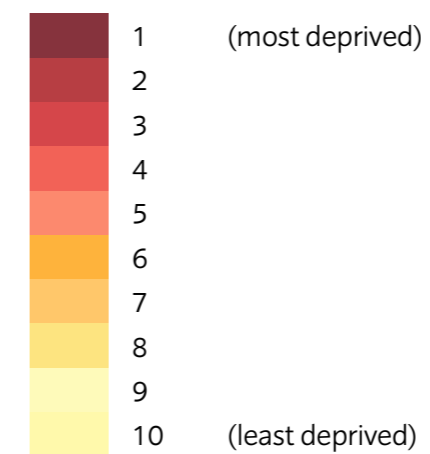
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**KEY**

**Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation: Overall Decile**



Gwent Region

Urban Areas

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3.6.5 Opportunities at the Gwent-scale relate to enhancement of strategic green space sites, such as country parks, as well as improving both quality and quantity of access links. Opportunities for new recreational sites could take advantage of existing initiatives such as the Valleys Regional Park, which aims to improve quality of life, economic prospects and health and wellbeing in the South Wales Valleys<sup>17</sup>. There are also opportunities to widen access to those who could benefit most from accessible GI assets, by looking at existing barriers to access and improving interpretation and promotion of existing sites.

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<sup>17</sup> [Valleys Regional Park](#)

## 3.7 Landscape & Heritage

- 3.7.1 At a regional scale, Gwent's landscape comprises six broad, distinctive areas: the woodlands of the Wye Valley AONB and Wentwood; the farmland of Central Monmouthshire; Bannau Brycheiniog National Park and the Black Mountains; the eastern part of the South Wales Valleys; the urban-dominated areas of Greater Newport; and the Gwent Levels<sup>18</sup>. These landscapes have a wealth of heritage assets (see **Figure 3.7a**).
- 3.7.2 The Welsh valleys are well known for their extensive industrial coal and ironworking heritage in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site<sup>19</sup> features preserved ironworks and coal mines, together with relict landscapes including mineral exploitation, manufacturing, transport, and settlement.
- 3.7.3 The Gwent Levels Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, one of the largest surviving areas of ancient grazing marsh and reen systems in Britain and the largest of its kind in Wales, provide an important example of a landscape 'hand-crafted' by people, preserving evidence of patterns of settlement, enclosure and drainage systems.<sup>20</sup>
- 3.7.4 The landscape of the Wye Valley reflects a rich archaeological, cultural and industrial heritage, including iconic heritage assets such as Tintern Abbey founded by Cistercian monks in 1131.
- 3.7.5 The range of heritage and landscape assets across Gwent provide opportunities to promote significant local distinctiveness, celebrating the variety and depth of local history, from settlement, farming and industry. Opportunities also relate to the protection and, where appropriate, restoration of natural and cultural landscapes, particularly in locations such as the uplands and Gwent levels where benefits can extend far beyond sense of place, improving resilience to climate change and supporting recreation.

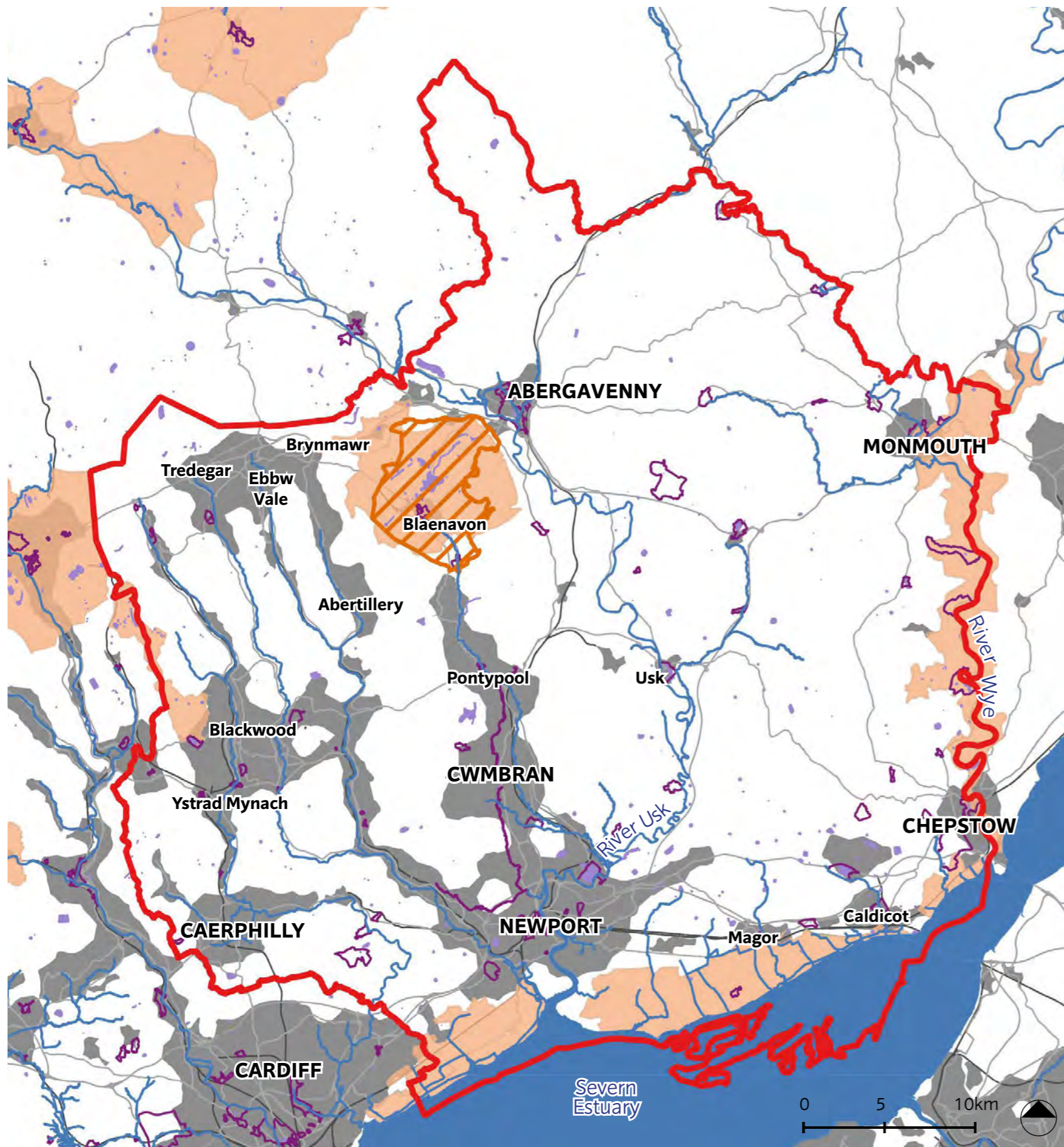
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<sup>18</sup> [South East Wales Area Statement](#)







<sup>19</sup> [UNESCO - Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site Listing](#)

<sup>20</sup> [Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust - Historic Landscape Characterisation - The Gwent Levels](#)





**KEY**

-  World Heritage Site
-  Landscapes of Outstanding or Special Historic Interest
-  Conservation Areas
-  Scheduled Monuments
-  Gwent Region
-  Urban Areas

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## 4.0 SPATIAL STRATEGY

### 4.1 Gwent Green Grid Sub-Areas

4.1.1 As well as boasting several sites of national and international significance, the Gwent Green Grid comprises a number of distinctive broadly-defined landscape sub-areas<sup>21</sup>, all of which contribute to Gwent's natural environment. As shown on **Figure 4.1**, these include:

- Bannau Brycheiniog & Black Mountains
- Central Monmouthshire
- Wye Valley & Wentwood
- Gwent Levels
- Greater Newport
- Eastern South Wales Valleys

4.1.2 A high-level appraisal of the character, GI assets and priorities/opportunities for GI in each of the sub-areas is set out below, which together provide a spatial strategy for the planning, management and delivery of green infrastructure to support the Gwent Green Grid vision.

4.1.3 Further information can be found in the Landscape Profiles<sup>22</sup> for the sub-areas developed in 2019 by Landscape Panels of partners and stakeholders working on well-being and natural resource management as part of the South East Wales Area Statement. Landscape Profiles used the best available local and national evidence at that time to define the landscape character and significance of each sub-area; consider the drivers impacting ecosystems and the sustainable management of natural resources; and highlight where there is a need to build resilience and why.

4.1.4 The Landscape Profiles were used as the evidence base for stakeholders to come together and identify specific actions for delivery under the South East Wales Area Statement's four strategic themes: Linking Our Landscapes, Climate Ready Gwent, Healthy Active Connected and Ways of Working<sup>23</sup>. The last of these is the strategic theme that underpins the others, focusing on embedding meaningful collaboration and integration which lies at the heart of the landscape profile approach.

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<sup>21</sup> Adapted from the landscape areas defined by the [Natural Resources Wales South East Wales Area Statement](#)

<sup>22</sup> [www.gwentwildlife.org/landscape-profiles](http://www.gwentwildlife.org/landscape-profiles)

<sup>23</sup> [Natural Resources Wales South East Wales Area Statement](#)



**KEY**

- Gwent Region
- Green Infrastructure
- Blue Infrastructure
- Gwent Sub-Areas
- Urban Areas

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## 4.2 Bannau Brycheiniog & Black Mountains

### Character

- 4.2.1 The Gwent region includes a small part of the Bannau Brycheiniog (formerly the Brecon Beacons) National Park, which is big on scenic quality. It includes the Vale of Ewyas and surrounding upland in the Black Mountains, and the distinctive peaks of the Skirrid and Sugar Loaf framing the Usk Valley at Abergavenny.
- 4.2.2 With exposed upland moorland with extensive views, this is a landscape noted for tranquillity, dark skies and limited development. Conifer and broad-leaved woodland are present. Pastures are often enclosed by thick hedgerows, often with narrow lanes, scattered small settlements are located in the valleys with prehistoric archaeology and Medieval sites including Llanthony Priory and historic parkland.<sup>24</sup>
- 4.2.3 More information about the landscape character and significance of this sub-area can be found in the Brecon Beacons Landscape Profile<sup>25</sup>.

### Strategic Green Infrastructure Assets & Management Plans

- Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park<sup>26</sup>
- Clydach Gorge Registered Landscape of Special Historic Interest
- Abergavenny Priory Deer Park, Llanfihangel Court and Trewyn Registered Historic Parks
- 25 Scheduled Monuments (e.g. Twyn-y-Gaer Camp and Llanthony Priory)
- Usk Bat Sites Special Areas of Conservation<sup>27</sup>
- Sugar Loaf Woodlands Special Areas of Conservation<sup>28</sup>
- Coed y Cerrig Special Areas of Conservation<sup>29</sup>
- 12 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (e.g. Black Mountains<sup>30</sup> and Sugar Loaf Woodlands)
- Coed-y-Cerrig National Nature Reserve
- Cwm Clydach National Nature Reserve<sup>31</sup>
- Coed-y-Cerrig Local Nature Reserve
- River Usk
- River Gavenny
- Usk Catchment<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> [South East Wales Area Statement](#)

<sup>25</sup> [South East Wales Area Statement: Brecon Beacons Landscape Profile](#)

<sup>26</sup> [The Management Plan for Bannau Brycheiniog National Park 2023-2028](#)

<sup>27</sup> [Usk Bat Sites Management Plan](#)

<sup>28</sup> [Core management: Sugar Loaf Woodlands](#)

<sup>29</sup> [Coed y Cerrig Management Plan](#)

<sup>30</sup> [Black Mountains Restoration](#)

<sup>31</sup> [Cwm Clydach Management Plan](#)

<sup>32</sup> [Usk Management Catchment](#)

- Wye Catchment<sup>33</sup>
- Extensive areas of accessible land (e.g. Sugarloaf and Coed y Cerrig National Nature Reserve with woodland walks)
- Offa's Dyke National Trail<sup>34</sup>
- National Cycle Network Routes 42 and 46<sup>35</sup>

### **Strategic Green Infrastructure Priorities & Opportunities**

- **Protect and enhance existing strategic GI assets** for the benefit of communities in Gilwern (and Abergavenny just outside this sub-area) and wildlife. This will support healthy living, nature recovery and climate change resilience goals, by maximising opportunities for the effective planning, management and delivery of these GI assets through the Gwent Green Grid Partnership, Gwent Regional Partnership Board<sup>36</sup>, Monmouthshire & Newport Local Nature Partnership, Blaenau Gwent & Torfaen Local Nature Partnership and establishment of new local partnerships where appropriate
- **Provide new accessible GI assets** to address inequalities of provision for the benefit of communities within Gilwern (and Abergavenny just outside this sub-area) experiencing high levels of health deprivation. This will support healthy living, access to nature and climate change resilience goals, by maximising opportunities for the effective planning and delivery of accessible GI through relevant Local Development Plans and/or other mechanisms.

4.2.4 More information about priorities and opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resources to build ecosystem resilience in this sub-area can be found in the Brecon Beacons Landscape Profile<sup>37</sup>.

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<sup>33</sup> [Wye Catchment Partnership Plan](#)

<sup>34</sup> [Offa's Dyke Conservation management plan in progress](#)

<sup>35</sup> [National Cycle Network \(Public\)](#)

<sup>36</sup> The Greater Gwent Health, Social Care and Well-being Partnership Board is a key partnership body established to lead and guide the implementation of the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014 in the Greater Gwent area (covering the areas of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen) within the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board area.

<sup>37</sup> [South East Wales Area Statement: Brecon Beacons Landscape Profile](#)

## 4.3 Central Monmouthshire

### Character

- 4.3.1 Central Monmouthshire is a tranquil, sheltered landscape with its gentle rolling hills and intervening valleys providing notable views towards the uplands. The River Usk flows south from Abergavenny, the Monnow and Trothy flow east into the River Wye.
- 4.3.2 Monmouthshire's undulating lowlands are pasture-rich with hedgerows and arable on the fertile flood plain, isolated small parcels of woodland with broadleaved and mixed plantations on hills and slopes<sup>38</sup>.
- 4.3.3 More information about the landscape character and significance of this sub-area can be found in the Central Monmouthshire Landscape Profile<sup>39</sup>.

### Strategic Green Infrastructure Assets & Management Plans

- Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park<sup>40</sup>
- Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty<sup>41</sup>
- 26 Registered Historic Parks (e.g. Llanover Park and Abergavenny Castle)
- 15 Conservation Areas (e.g. Abergavenny<sup>42</sup>, Usk<sup>43</sup> and Skenfrith)
- 73 Scheduled Monuments (e.g. Abergavenny Castle and the Usk Roman Site)
- Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites Special Area of Conservation<sup>44</sup>
- River Usk Special Area of Conservation<sup>45</sup>
- 18 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (e.g. Gaer House Woods & Llandegfedd Reservoir)
- Rivers Usk
- River Monnow
- River Trothy
- Llandegfedd Reservoir
- Usk Catchment<sup>46</sup>
- Wye Catchment<sup>47</sup>
- Clytha Park Country Park
- Accessible land (e.g. Wern Fawr public forest and above Llandegfedd Reservoir)
- Offas Dyke National Trail
- National Cycle Network Routes 46, 42 and 423

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<sup>38</sup> [South East Wales Area Statement](#)

<sup>39</sup> [South East Wales Area Statement: Central Monmouthshire Landscape Profile](#)

<sup>40</sup> [The Management Plan for Bannau Brycheiniog National Park 2023-2028](#)

<sup>41</sup> [Wye Valley AONB Management Plan](#)

<sup>42</sup> [Abergavenny Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Proposals](#)

<sup>43</sup> [Usk Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Proposals](#)

<sup>44</sup> [Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites Conservation strategy](#)

<sup>45</sup> [River Usk SAC Core Management Plan](#)

<sup>46</sup> [Usk Management Catchment](#)

<sup>47</sup> [Wye Catchment Partnership Plan](#)

## Strategic Green Infrastructure Priorities & Opportunities

- **Protect and enhance existing strategic GI assets** for the benefit of communities in Abergavenny, Usk and Raglan (and in the adjacent Greater Newport sub-area) and wildlife. This will support healthy living, nature recovery and climate change resilience goals, by maximising opportunities for the effective planning, management and delivery of these GI asset through the Gwent Green Grid Partnership, Gwent Regional Partnership Board, Monmouthshire and Newport Local Nature Partnership, Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen Local Nature Partnership and establishment of new local partnerships where appropriate
- **Provide new accessible GI assets** to address inequalities of provision for the benefit of communities in Abergavenny, Usk and Raglan (and the adjacent Greater Newport sub-area) experiencing high levels of health deprivation. This will support healthy living, access to nature and climate change resilience goals, by maximising opportunities for the effective planning and delivery of accessible GI through relevant Local Development Plans and/or other mechanisms

4.3.4 More information about priorities and opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resources to build ecosystem resilience in this sub-area can be found in the Central Monmouthshire Landscape Profile<sup>48</sup>.

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<sup>48</sup> [South East Wales Area Statement: Central Monmouthshire Landscape Profile](#)

## 4.4 Wye Valley & Wentwood

### Character

- 4.4.1 This picturesque landscape is part of the Wye Valley AONB. The landscape is rural and tranquil in character, except along the A40, A48 and M4 corridors. It contains the largest and longest river gorge in Wales, with dramatic limestone cliffs above Chepstow and spectacular scenery of the gorge and meandering River Wye. The landscape reflects a rich archaeological, cultural and industrial heritage and many of its iconic destinations such as Tintern Abbey are popular with visitors.
- 4.4.2 This predominantly wooded and riverine environment is renowned as a refuge of rare species and forms one of the largest remaining areas of ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland in the country. Wentwood Forest, which may appear to be largely coniferous, is part of the largest block of ancient woodland in Wales<sup>49</sup>.
- 4.4.3 More information about the landscape character and significance of this sub-area can be found in the Wye Valley & Wentwood Landscape Profile<sup>50</sup>.

### Strategic Green Infrastructure Assets & Management Plans

- Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty<sup>51</sup>
- The Lower Wye Valley Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest
- 20 Registered Historic Parks (e.g. Chepstow Park, Piercefield and Wyndcliff)
- 13 Conservation Areas (e.g. Whitebrook<sup>52</sup>, Caerwent<sup>53</sup> and Mounton)
- 83 Scheduled Monuments (e.g. Caerwent Roman City and Gaer Fawr hillfort)
- Wye Valley Woodlands Special Area of Conservation<sup>54</sup>
- Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites Special Area of Conservation<sup>55</sup>
- River Wye Special Area of Conservation<sup>56</sup>
- River Usk Special Area of Conservation<sup>57</sup>
- 35 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (e.g. Penhow Woodlands<sup>58</sup>, Cleddon Bog<sup>59</sup> and Dinham Meadows)
- Penhow Woodlands National Nature Reserve
- Fiddler's Elbow National Nature Reserve

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<sup>49</sup> [South East Wales Area Statement](#)

<sup>50</sup> [South East Wales Area Statement: Wye Valley & Wentwood Landscape Profile](#)

<sup>51</sup> [Wye Valley AONB Management Plan](#)

<sup>52</sup> [Whitebrook Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Proposals](#)

<sup>53</sup> [Caerwent Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Proposals](#)

<sup>54</sup> [Wye Valley Woodlands SAC Core Management Plan](#)

<sup>55</sup> [Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites Conservation Strategy](#)

<sup>56</sup> [River Wye SAC Core Management Plan](#)

<sup>57</sup> [River Usk SAC Core Management Plan](#)

<sup>58</sup> [Penhow Woodlands Traditional Management](#)

<sup>59</sup> [Cleddon Bog Precious Peatland Project](#)



- Lady Park Wood National Nature Reserve
- Cleddon Bog Local Nature Reserve
- River Wye
- River Monnow
- River Trothy
- Usk Catchment<sup>60</sup>
- Wye Catchment<sup>61</sup>
- Accessible land (e.g. Chepstow Park Wood, Wentwood and Penhow Woodlands)
- Offas Dyke National Trail
- National Cycle Network Routes 423, 32, 31, 4 and 42

### **Strategic Green Infrastructure Priorities & Opportunities**

- **Protect and enhance existing strategic GI assets** for the benefit of communities in Monmouth and wildlife. This will support healthy living, nature recovery and climate change resilience goals, by maximising opportunities for the effective planning, management and delivery of these GI asset through Gwent Green Grid Partnership, Gwent Regional Partnership Board, Monmouthshire and Newport Local Nature Partnership and establishment of new local partnerships where appropriate
- **Provide new accessible GI assets** to address inequalities of provision for the benefit of communities in Monmouth experiencing high levels of health deprivation. This will support healthy living, access to nature and climate change resilience goals, by maximising opportunities for the effective planning and delivery of accessible GI through relevant Local Development Plans and/or other mechanisms

4.4.4 More information about priorities and opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resources to build ecosystem resilience in this sub-area can be found in the Wye Valley & Wentwood Landscape Profile<sup>62</sup>.

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<sup>60</sup> [Usk Management Catchment](#)

<sup>61</sup> [Wye Catchment Partnership Plan](#)

<sup>62</sup> [South East Wales Area Statement: Wye Valley & Wentwood Landscape Profile](#)

## 4.5 Gwent Levels

### Character

- 4.5.1 The distinctive Gwent Levels form an extensive, low-lying, coastal reclaimed landscape along the Severn Estuary. This is an area of international historical and archaeological importance; a reclaimed agricultural landscape where parcels of fertile grazing and arable land are framed by a network of drainage ditches known as reens. These distinctive habitats pattern the landscape and provide a rich, biodiverse environment for plants, mammals and invertebrates. The landscape is protected by a sea wall from the Severn Estuary, with its mud flats and salt marshes and is bounded by the River Wye<sup>63</sup>.
- 4.5.2 More information about the landscape character and significance of this sub-area can be found in the Gwent Levels Landscape Profile<sup>64</sup>.

### Strategic Green Infrastructure Assets & Management Plans

- Gwent Levels Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest
- The Lower Wye Valley Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest
- Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty<sup>65</sup>
- 6 Registered Historic Parks (e.g. Wyelands, Mounton House and Mathern Palace)
- 7 Conservation Areas (e.g. Caldicot, Chepstow<sup>66</sup>, Mathern<sup>67</sup> and Redwick<sup>68</sup>)
- 37 Scheduled Monuments (e.g.. St Peter's Cave, Bishton Castle and Wilcrick Hill Camp)
- Severn Estuary Special Protection Area
- Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation <sup>69</sup>
- River Usk Special Area of Conservation<sup>70</sup>
- River Wye Special Area of Conservation<sup>71</sup>
- Wye Valley Woodlands Special Area of Conservation<sup>72</sup>
- Severn Estuary Ramsar Site<sup>73</sup>
- 15 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (e.g. Gwent Levels: Nash and Goldcliff<sup>74</sup>, Newport Wetlands and Severn Estuary)
- Newport Wetlands National Nature Reserve<sup>75</sup>
- The Severn Estuary<sup>76</sup>
- River Usk

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<sup>63</sup> [South East Wales Area Statement](#)

<sup>64</sup> [South East Wales Area Statement: Gwent Levels Landscape Profile](#)

<sup>65</sup> [Wye Valley AONB Management Plan](#)

<sup>66</sup> [Chepstow Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Proposals](#)

<sup>67</sup> [Mathern Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plan](#)

<sup>68</sup> [Redwick Conservation Area Appraisal](#)

<sup>69</sup> [Severn Estuary European Marine Site Management Scheme](#)

<sup>70</sup> [River Usk SAC Core Management Plan](#)

<sup>71</sup> [River Wye SAC Core Management Plan](#)

<sup>72</sup> [Wye Valley Woodlands SAC Core Management Plan](#)

<sup>73</sup> [The Severn Estuary European Marine Site \(2009\)](#)

<sup>74</sup> [Gwent Levels: Nash and Goldcliff](#)

<sup>75</sup> [Newport Wetlands NNR A review of the first 20 years](#)

<sup>76</sup> [Severn Estuary Shoreline Management Plan](#)

- River Wye
- Nedern Brook
- South East Valleys Catchment<sup>77</sup>
- Usk Catchment<sup>78</sup>
- Wye Catchment<sup>79</sup>
- Caldicot Castle Country Park
- Wales Coastal Path
- Accessible land (e.g. Caldicot Moor)
- National Cycle Network Routes 4 and 42

### **Strategic Green Infrastructure Priorities & Opportunities**

- **Protect and enhance existing strategic GI assets** for the benefit of communities in Chepstow, Caldicot and the Severnside settlements (and in the adjacent Greater Newport sub-area) and wildlife. This will support healthy living, nature recovery and climate change resilience goals, by maximising opportunities for the effective planning, management and delivery of these GI asset through Gwent Green Grid Partnership, Gwent Regional Partnership Board, Monmouthshire and Newport Local Nature Partnership and establishment of new local partnerships where appropriate
- **Provide new accessible GI assets** to address inequalities of provision for the benefit of communities in Chepstow, Caldicot and the Severnside settlements (and in the adjacent Greater Newport sub-area) experiencing high levels of health deprivation. This will support healthy living, access to nature and climate change resilience goals, by maximising opportunities for the effective planning and delivery of accessible GI through relevant Local Development Plans and/or other mechanisms

4.5.3 More information about priorities and opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resources to build ecosystem resilience in this sub-area can be found in the Gwent Levels Landscape Profile<sup>80</sup>.

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<sup>77</sup> [South East Valleys Management Catchment Summary](#)

<sup>78</sup> [Usk Management Catchment](#)

<sup>79</sup> [Wye Catchment Partnership Plan](#)

<sup>80</sup> [South East Wales Area Statement: Gwent Levels Landscape Profile](#)

## 4.6 Greater Newport

### Character

- 4.6.1 The most heavily urbanised of all the landscapes in Gwent is the City of Newport, with its historic core. The M4, main roads and railways are prominent in the landscape. The tidal River Usk flows through the city with its iconic transporter bridge and industrial port.
- 4.6.2 Urban greenspace is located at Gaer Hillfort, Ridgeway and Tredegar Park with some sections of the Rivers Ebbw, Lwyd and Usk lowland river corridors providing tranquil and biodiverse sections. The Roman town of Caerleon lies to the east of the city, and to the north of Greater Newport are the nearby former industrial towns of Cwmbran New Town and Pontypool<sup>81</sup>.
- 4.6.3 More information about the landscape character and significance of this sub-area can be found in the Newport Landscape Profile<sup>82</sup>.

### Strategic Green Infrastructure Assets & Management Plans

- 9 Registered Historic Parks (e.g. Tredegar Park, Bellevue Park and St. Woolos Cemetery)
- 16 Conservation Areas (e.g. Mon & Brecon Canal<sup>83</sup> and Newport Town Centre)
- 46 Scheduled Monuments (e.g. Caerleon Civil Settlement and Tredegar Fort)
- River Usk Special Area of Conservation
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest - River Usk (Lower Usk); Gwent Levels, St Brides<sup>84</sup>; Henllys Bog; and Ruperra Castle & Woodlands
- 5 Local Nature Reserves (e.g. St Julian's Park, Llwynceilyn and Henllys Open Space)
- River Usk
- River Lwyd
- River Rhymney
- Spytty Reen
- South East Valleys Catchment<sup>85</sup>
- Usk Catchment<sup>86</sup>
- Tredegar House Country Park
- Wales Coastal Path
- Accessible land (e.g. Mescoed Mawr, Coed Mawr and Garth Fawr public forests)
- National Cycle Network Routes 47, 49, 88 and 4

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<sup>81</sup> [South East Wales Area Statement](#)

<sup>82</sup> [South East Wales Area Statement: Newport Landscape Profile](#)

<sup>83</sup> [Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Proposals](#)

<sup>84</sup> [Gwent Levels: St Brides SSSI](#)

<sup>85</sup> [South East Valleys Management Catchment Summary](#)

<sup>86</sup> [Usk Management Catchment](#)

## Strategic Green Infrastructure Priorities & Opportunities

- **Protect and enhance existing strategic GI assets** for the benefit of communities in Newport, Cwmbran and Pontypool and wildlife. This will support healthy living, nature recovery and climate change resilience goals, by maximising opportunities for the effective planning, management and delivery of these GI asset through Gwent Green Grid Partnership, Gwent Regional Partnership Board, Monmouthshire and Newport Local Nature Partnership, Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen Local Nature Partnership and establishment of new local partnerships where appropriate
- **Provide new accessible GI assets** to address inequalities of provision for the benefit of communities in Newport, Cwmbran and Pontypool experiencing high levels of health deprivation. This will support healthy living, access to nature and climate change resilience goals, by maximising opportunities for the effective planning and delivery of accessible GI through relevant Local Development Plans and/or other mechanisms

4.6.4 More information about priorities and opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resources to build ecosystem resilience in this sub-area can be found in the Newport Landscape Profile<sup>87</sup>.

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<sup>87</sup> [South East Wales Area Statement: Newport Landscape Profile](#)

## 4.7 Eastern South Wales Valleys

### Character

- 4.7.1 An extensive wind-swept plateau with a strong sense of wildness, and intervening deep valleys, characterises this landscape. The Eastern Valleys of the Ebbw, Sirhowy, Rhymney, Lwyd and surrounding uplands make up part of the wider South Wales Valleys landscape.
- 4.7.2 This landscape is well known for its extensive industrial coal and ironworking heritage. The landscape has upland moorland with heather, grass, bracken and stone walls, much of which is common land. Moorland, bog, ffridd and rhos pasture are notable<sup>88</sup>. The Eastern Valleys includes the settlements of Caerphilly, Ystrad Mynach, Blackwood, Newbridge, Tredegar, Ebbw Vale, Brynmawr, Abertillery and Blaenavon.
- 4.7.3 More information about the landscape character and significance of this sub-area can be found in the Eastern Valleys Landscape Profile<sup>89</sup>.

### Strategic Green Infrastructure Assets & Management Plans

- Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park<sup>90</sup>
- Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site<sup>91</sup>
- Blaenavon Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest
- Merthyr Tydfil Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest
- Gelli-Gaer Common Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest
- 7 Registered Historic Parks (e.g. Pontypool Park, Ruperra Castle and Maes Manor)
- 24 Conservation Areas (e.g. Blaenavon<sup>92</sup>, Cwmavon<sup>93</sup> and Oakdale)
- 93 Scheduled Monuments (e.g. Pen y Fan Canal Reservoir and Blaenavon Ironworks)
- Aberbargoed Grasslands Special Area of Conservation<sup>94</sup>
- Cardiff Beech Woods Special Area of Conservation<sup>95</sup>
- Usk Bat Sites Special Area of Conservation<sup>96</sup>
- 26 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (e.g. Aberbargoed Grasslands, Cwm Llanwenarth Meadows and Llanover Quarry)
- 19 Local Nature Reserves (e.g. Beaufort Hills Pond & Woodland and Graig Goch)
- River Ebbw
- River Sirhowy
- River Rhymney
- River Lwyd

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<sup>88</sup> [South East Wales Area Statement](#)

<sup>89</sup> [South East Wales Area Statement: Eastern Valleys Landscape Profile](#)

<sup>90</sup> [The Management Plan for Bannau Brycheiniog National Park 2023-2028](#)

<sup>91</sup> [Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site Management Plan 2018-2023](#)

<sup>92</sup> [Blaenavon Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan 2017-22](#)

<sup>93</sup> [Cwmavon Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan \(2011\)](#)

<sup>94</sup> [Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC Core Management Plan](#)

<sup>95</sup> [Cardiff Beech Woods SAC Management Plan](#)

<sup>96</sup> [Usk Bat Sites SAC Core Management Plan](#)

- South East Valleys Catchment<sup>97</sup>
- Usk Catchment<sup>98</sup>
- 8 Country Parks (e.g Brynbach, Sirhowy Valley and Pen-y-fan Pond)
- Accessible land (e.g. Sirhowy Valley, Cwm Big and The Bloreng)
- National Cycle Network Routes 492, 465, 467, 468, 47, 475, 46, 469, 4 and 466

### **Strategic Green Infrastructure Priorities & Opportunities**

- **Protect and enhance existing strategic GI assets** for the benefit of communities in Caerphilly, Ystrad Mynach, Blackwood, Newbridge, Tredegar, Ebbw Vale, Brynmawr, Abertillery and Blaenavon and wildlife. This will support healthy living, nature recovery and climate change resilience goals, by maximising opportunities for the effective planning, management and delivery of these GI asset through the Gwent Green Grid Partnership, Gwent Regional Partnership Board, Caerphilly Biodiversity Partnership, Monmouthshire and Newport Local Nature Partnership, Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen Local Nature Partnership and establishment of new local partnerships where appropriate
- **Provide new accessible GI assets** to address inequalities of provision for the benefit of communities in Caerphilly, Ystrad Mynach, Blackwood, Newbridge, Tredegar, Ebbw Vale, Brynmawr, Abertillery and Blaenavon experiencing high levels of health deprivation. This will support healthy living, access to nature and climate change resilience goals, by maximising opportunities for the effective planning and delivery of accessible GI through relevant Local Development Plans and/or other mechanisms

4.7.4 The Valleys Regional Park initiative<sup>99</sup> provides an important strategic opportunity for improving quality of life, economic prospects and health and wellbeing in the Eastern South Wales Valleys. More information about priorities and opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resources to build ecosystem resilience in this sub-area can be found in the Eastern Valleys Landscape Profile<sup>100</sup>.

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<sup>97</sup> [South East Valleys Management Catchment Summary](#)

<sup>98</sup> [Usk Management Catchment](#)

<sup>99</sup> [Valleys Regional Park](#)

<sup>100</sup> [South East Wales Area Statement: Eastern Valleys Landscape Profile](#)

## **5.0 DELIVERY FRAMEWORK**

### **5.1 Approach**

5.1.1 The Delivery Framework includes strategic action plans to support funding bids by the Gwent Green Grid Partnership. The framework for delivery of the strategy is outlined below broadly based around the “ways of working” approach public bodies are required to adopt by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

#### **Integrated and Joined Up Approach**

5.1.2 The strategy promotes an integrated and joined up approach to delivering GI that considers the needs of Gwent’s communities, environment and economy. An important overarching principle underpinning the strategy is the need to recognise the multi-functionality of GI assets and to maximise the benefits different assets can deliver through an integrated approach. For example, greenspaces can be used for sustainable food production, contribute to flood management and provide access to nature or informal recreation. It is essential that the inter-relationship and connections between the individual GI projects outlined in the strategic action plans are considered in the round to ensure that opportunities for shared outcomes and mutual benefits are maximised.

#### **Long-Term Thinking and Prevention**

5.1.3 The strategy promotes long-term thinking by aiming to balance current and long-term GI needs for Gwent. It also encourages taking action now to prevent problems in the future through targeted investment in the delivery of new and enhanced GI where it is most needed. This is reflected in the range and nature of projects included in the action plans.



## Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Involvement

- 5.1.4 As reflected in the strategic action plans, the strategy promotes a collaborative approach to working with a range of stakeholders and partners to help meet its aims and objectives.
- 5.1.5 The benefits of collaboration by public bodies in GI delivery are being championed by the Gwent Green Grid partnership, which aims to bring together existing partnerships/projects to achieve greater strategic and local impact by providing a framework for connecting other initiatives and strategies; pooling funding; sharing resources and learning around ecosystem resilience, healthy living and climate adaptation; making landscape-scale biodiversity enhancements; and involving partners on a wider footprint.
- 5.1.6 The benefits of a collaborative partnership approach to delivery of GI projects is illustrated by the Living Levels Landscape Partnership<sup>101</sup>, which came together between 2018 and 2021 to work with landowners, farmers and the local community to conserve and restore the important natural heritage features of the Gwent Levels, and help people develop a far greater appreciation of the value of this unique landscape. The Partnership comprised the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Gwent Wildlife Trust, Natural Resources Wales, Monmouthshire County Council, Newport City Council, Cardiff City Council, Cardiff Story Museum, Sustrans, The National Trust, Bumblebee Conservation Trust and Buglife. A £2.5m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund contributed to the £4m scheme.

### Delivery Principles

- 5.1.7 To maximise the successful implementation of the strategy, the Gwent Green Grid partnership should seek to:
- Champion the benefits of GI across the public, private and voluntary sectors
  - Influence and enable delivery of GI
  - Provide advocacy to market and promote GI
  - Identify opportunities for funding GI projects
  - Establish partnerships for pooling funding, coordinating delivery and long-term management of specific GI projects
  - Liaise with partners in neighbouring regions to co-ordinate cross-boundary GI delivery at the inter-regional scale
  - Monitor progress in delivery of the strategic action plans and evaluate impact

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<sup>101</sup> [www.livinglevels.org.uk](http://www.livinglevels.org.uk)

- Promote adoption of best practice with regards to long-term GI stewardship
- Advise on integration of the GI Strategy into other plans, policies and programmes
- Promote best practice principles for embedding GI into development through the planning system

### **Potential Funding Streams**

5.1.8 The Gwent Green Grid partnership should continue to be proactive in seeking funding opportunities for delivery of GI in line with the vision and priorities set out in this GI Strategy. Potential funding streams that may support delivery of GI projects include:

- Welsh Government
- Developer contributions
- Landfill Disposal Tax Communities Scheme
- Small-scale community grants
- Public/private sector funding

### **Green Infrastructure Management and Maintenance**

5.1.9 The Gwent Green Grid Partnership should support the long-term management and appropriate maintenance of GI assets on land within public ownership, and be committed to sharing good practice in this regard. The partnership should also encourage other landowners and land managers of GI assets on private land to put in place appropriate Green Infrastructure Management Plans and maintenance practices.

## **5.2 Strategic Action Plans**

5.2.1 Informed by the priorities and opportunities for strengthening the Gwent Green Grid, strategic action plans have been identified for the following four delivery themes:

- Nature Recovery
- Pollinators
- Green Corridors
- Trees & Woodlands

5.2.2 The themes have been selected based on their potential to contribute to the GI Strategy's vision, principles and regional priorities for guiding the planning, management and delivery of GI in Gwent. The strategic action plan themes were informed through stakeholder engagement and confirmed by the Gwent Green Grid partnership's steering group.

### 5.3 Greater Gwent Nature Recovery Action Plan

5.3.1 The Greater Gwent Nature Recovery Action Plan (GGNRAP) developed by the Resilient Greater Gwent Partnership<sup>102</sup> in 2021 provides a 10-year plan for guiding public bodies and organisations in taking action to support nature recovery through the partner's vision of creating a resilient and connected ecological network at a regional scale across Gwent.

5.3.2 It is a strategic document, set in the context of national and regional legislation and policy drivers, aiming to halt and reverse biodiversity loss identified in the State of Natural Resources Report for Wales and the Greater Gwent State of Nature Report.

5.3.3 The GGNRAP is intended to support the production of local nature recovery action plans covering Gwent's three Local Nature Partnerships: Blaenau Gwent & Torfaen; Caerphilly; and Monmouthshire & Newport.

5.3.4 The GGNRAP provides guidance and recommendations on nature recovery actions, allowing all stakeholders to work collaboratively to promote the recovery of nature across Gwent. It encourages partnership working between all public bodies and organisations within Gwent and promotes a regional approach to nature recovery at all levels, aligned to national and local priorities.

5.3.5 The GGNRAP has five primary aims, which are aligned with the strategic themes laid out in the South East Wales Area Statement and compliment the seven well-being goals established in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015:

- Ecosystems that are functioning and resilient
- Increased diversity of species and habitats
- People connected with nature
- Reduction of pollution and invasive non-native species
- Partners that are working better together

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<sup>102</sup> The [Resilient Greater Gwent Partnership](#) was funded by Welsh Government's Enabling of Natural Resources & Well-being Grant to demonstrate a landscape wide approach and connectivity across South East Wales; to create and enhance resilient ecological networks, providing sustainably managed natural resources and principles for communities to value their landscapes and wildlife.

5.3.6 Reflecting the above aims, the desired outcomes, actions and delivery mechanisms for nature recovery are set out in Part 2 of the GGNRAP<sup>103</sup> under the following five objectives:

- A. Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels
- B. Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management
- C. Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degrading habitats and habitat creation
- D. Tackle key pressures on species and habitats
- E. Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring

## **5.4 Green Infrastructure Action Plan for Pollinators in South East Wales**

5.4.1 The Green Infrastructure Action Plan for Pollinators in South East Wales (GIAPPSEW) was commissioned by Monmouthshire County Council on behalf of Monmouthshire County Council and Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly and Torfaen County Borough Councils. Published in 2015, the Action Plan is part of the wider Pollinators for Life project funded by Welsh Government's Nature Fund, which aims to address the decline in Welsh biodiversity through landscape-scale projects.

5.4.2 Pollinators are essential for the maintenance of biodiversity and the wider ecosystem through pollination of the wild plants which form the basis of most habitats. They are important to farming and horticultural businesses, and to the public for fruit and vegetable production in allotments and gardens. They are also of intrinsic value in their own right, and some, such as bees and butterflies, are widely appreciated by the public.

5.4.3 Pollinators are in decline across Wales, Britain and Europe and have been for many years. There are a variety of factors contributing to this decline which include: habitat loss; use of pesticides; changes in farming practices; pests and diseases; and urban development. To reverse this decline, the following methods have been identified:

- increasing diversity of flower-rich resources
- increasing abundance of food resource
- extending the availability of flower-rich resources throughout the life cycle of pollinators

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<sup>103</sup> [Greater Gwent Nature Recovery Action Plan](#)

- 5.4.4 The Action Plan for Pollinators is intended to help local authorities and Welsh Government deliver on their biodiversity, health and well-being statutory duties. Local authorities own about 13-18% of the land in South East Wales and can lead by example by managing some of this land for pollinators, providing multiple benefits for the community.
- 5.4.5 The Action Plans for Pollinators are provided for 18 different green infrastructure types on publicly owned land, which include for example school grounds; roadside verges; civic spaces; allotments and community gardens; and public parks. The Action Plans in Section 5<sup>104</sup> set out the aims, desired outcomes, assessment steps, options, risks, main stakeholders and sources of further information for each green infrastructure type.
- 5.4.6 Many actions relate to changes to management regimes for the benefit of pollinators such as cutting grass to different heights and/or at different times of the year. Some actions require more extensive changes and include the development of wild flower meadows or formal planting areas. Where these are suggested opportunities have been identified to attract additional funding.
- 5.4.7 Implementation of the Action Plan not only supports increased pollinator provision but will also help develop multi-functional spaces, bringing social and health benefits and support for greater ecosystem resilience to issues such as climate change and disease.

## **5.5 Gwent Green Grid Green Corridors Strategic Access Action Plan**

- 5.5.1 To be completed (draft report requested from GGGP awaited)

## **5.6 Gwent Green Grid Trees & Woodland Priority Planting Action Plan**

- 5.6.1 To be completed (brief requested from GGGP awaited)

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<sup>104</sup> [Green Infrastructure Action Plan for Pollinators in South East Wales](#)

## 5.7 Local Green Infrastructure Planning

- 5.7.1 This strategy provides a high-level, regional framework for local green infrastructure planning by local planning authorities across Gwent.
- 5.7.2 In accordance with Planning Policy Wales (edition 11, 2021), Welsh Government requires all local planning authorities to undertake a Green Infrastructure Assessment of their areas to inform a strategic approach to the planning of Green Infrastructure networks for ensuring benefits are delivered in the right places.
- 5.7.3 Planning Policy Wales describes a Green Infrastructure Assessment as an integrated map-based evidence resource which uses existing datasets and the best available information to map existing green infrastructure and ecological assets (PPW 11, para 6.2.8). To assist with this, Natural Resources Wales has published a Green Infrastructure Assessment Guidance Note 42 (2023)<sup>105</sup>.
- 5.7.4 The availability of good quality datasets for mapping green infrastructure assets and ecosystem services is key to providing baseline evidence to support local green infrastructure/ecosystem services assessments, strategies and monitoring. A review of available green infrastructure GIS data in the Gwent region has been undertaken to support the preparation and updating of local green infrastructure strategies (see **Appendix 2**).
- 5.7.5 The aim of a Green Infrastructure Assessment is to provide a strategic level evidence base for informing a Local Development Plan, supplementary planning guidance and other relevant strategic initiatives. They are also intended to inform the local Public Service Board's approach to improving well-being outcomes by maximising the social, environmental and economic benefits of Green Infrastructure in line with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the national well-being goals.

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<sup>105</sup> [Natural Resources Wales Green Infrastructure Assessment Guidance](#)

5.7.6 Developed in accordance with Natural Resources Wales Green Infrastructure Assessment Guidance, a Green Infrastructure Assessment should:

1. Set out the baseline – identifying the type and extent of existing Green Infrastructure assets and networks at a strategic level, and highlighting the functions these provide
2. Identify priorities – identifying the main socio-economic and environmental challenges that need to be addressed, and highlighting the multiple benefits of Green Infrastructure in contributing to these
3. Identify opportunities – at a strategic level, identifying places with needs and opportunities for improving the condition or extent of existing Green Infrastructure assets, or creating new assets
4. Be a framework for site assessments – by providing evidence for informing more detailed site assessments of Green Infrastructure on development sites as part of the planning process

5.7.7 Green Infrastructure Assessments provide a robust evidence base for the strategic planning of green infrastructure through developing effective strategies and delivery plans.

## GLOSSARY

**Benefits:** Positive impacts for people and wildlife derived from green infrastructure and ecosystem services

**Biodiversity:** The variety of all life on Earth: genes, species and ecosystems. It includes all species of animals and plants, and the natural systems that support them.

**Blue Infrastructure:** Blue or blue-green Infrastructure is the term used to refer to the water elements of green infrastructure, including watercourses, waterbodies, and wetlands.

**Carbon Sequestration:** The uptake and storage of carbon, for instance by absorption of carbon dioxide by trees and plants which then release the oxygen

**Catchment:** An area of land defined by its topographic watershed, including streams, rivers, wetlands and lakes, from which rainfall collects flows into a defined outlet such as a river mouth, estuary, tributary confluence or lake

**Climate Change:** The large-scale, long-term shift in weather patterns and average temperatures across the world due to the release of greenhouse gases (most notably carbon dioxide) into the air since the mid-1800s by humans – causing temperatures to rise and resulting in permanent changes to the climate, affecting people through flooding and damage to ecosystems

**Climate Change Adaptation:** Adjustments made to natural or human systems in response to the actual or anticipated impacts of climate change, to mitigate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities

**Climate Change Mitigation:** Action to reduce the impact of human activity on the climate system, primarily through reducing the sources of, or enhance the sinks for, greenhouse gases

**Climate Change Resilience:** The ability or capacity of places, communities and individuals to thrive in the face of multiple risks, uncertainty and threats posed by climate change. Climate resilience requires mitigation and adaptation actions that must be combined to tackle the current and future impacts of climate change

**Conservation:** The protection, improvement and use of natural resources in line with principles that assure the highest economic or social benefits for people and the environment

**Designated Biodiversity Sites:** International sites (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites), national sites (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) and locally designated sites

**Ecological Network:** Habitats and species and the way that they interact and connect, often but not always in corridors of linked sites.

**Ecosystem Functions:** are the foundational functions of nature (biodiversity, soil and geodiversity, and water), those most associated with climate (carbon and energy, temperature regulation), functions that help health and wellbeing (access to nature, food, active lifestyles, clean air, enhanced soundscapes), and those associated with prosperous communities (including education and sense of place, amongst others)



**Ecosystem Services:** are the benefits (such as food, water, flood and disease control and recreation) that people obtain directly or indirectly from natural capital

**Green Infrastructure:** The network of natural and semi-natural features, green spaces, rivers and lakes that intersperse and connect places. GI can function at a range of different scales; from entire ecosystems such as wetlands and rivers to parks, fields and gardens at the local scale and street trees, hedgerows, roadside verges, and green roofs/walls at the micro scale.

**Green Infrastructure Assets:** green/blue spaces and natural/semi-natural features at a range of scales that provide valuable ecosystem services and benefits for people.

**Green & Blue Networks:** are connected areas of Green Infrastructure assets that together form an integrated and multi-functional network, which can help to define landscape or townscape structure, provide links with the countryside, promote walking and cycling, and enhance connectivity for species and habitats

**Green Roof:** A vegetative roof system that hosts plants in a growing medium installed over a waterproof membrane. Green roofs can be designed as wildlife habitats and to optimise energy conservation (through insulation) and/or for aesthetic value, and can be a source of water

**Green (or Living) Wall:** A vertical wall (partially) covered in greenery, often planted in soil at the base, but sometimes using wall-mounted boxes or special panels. Green walls offer several benefits such as contributing to heat retention and cooling, storm water retention and capturing pollutants

**Greenspace Creation:** The creation, from space that was previously not green, of accessible areas of grass, trees and other vegetation, set apart for recreational or aesthetic purposes in an otherwise urban environment

**Greenspace Enhancement:** Improvement to existing green space to make it more attractive and/or safer. Better management and stewardship can often allow green spaces to flourish so that they can be enjoyed by more people

**Landscape:** An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of their natural and/or human factors (e.g. geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement)

**Landscape-scale Conservation:** The pursuit of multiple benefits from enhancing nature across a defined area that make links to wider economic and social priorities (e.g. water quality, access to nature)

**Mental Health Benefits:** Connecting people to a healthy environment is a powerful tool for combatting mental health issues such as chronic stress, depression and anxiety. Access to green space, outdoor exercise and green activities, such as gardening or habitat conservation, can have positive impacts on people experiencing mental ill health

**Multi-functionality:** The ability to provide multiple functions at the same time (e.g. for nature, health and wellbeing, climate and prospering communities). In terms of green infrastructure, this can mean providing opportunities for recreation whilst delivering biodiversity, contributing to flood risk management, and reducing urban heat stress through shading and cooler greenspaces.

**Natural Capital:** The elements of nature that directly or indirectly produce value for people, including ecosystems, species, freshwater, land, minerals, air and oceans, as well as natural processes and functions. Natural capital assets are stocks of nature which provides a flow of ecosystem services and benefits to people over time

**Natural Flood Management:** Managing flood and coastal erosion risk by protecting, restoring and mimicking the natural 'regulating' function of catchments, rivers, floodplains and coasts

**Nature-based Solutions:** natural and modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits; also refers to solutions supported by working with natural processes. Types of nature-based solutions can include: urban green infrastructure; natural flood management and catchment-based approaches; upland restoration; resilient ecological networks; and the role of forestry and woodlands in providing a range of benefits.

**Nature Recovery:** Halting and reversing the loss of species and habitats; and enhancing sites that are designated for nature conservation and other wildlife-rich places. Newly created and restored wildlife-rich habitats, corridors and stepping-stones benefit nature recovery by helping wildlife populations to grow and move

**Nature Recovery Network:** An expanding, increasingly connected, network of wildlife-rich habitats supporting species recovery, alongside wider benefits such as carbon capture, water quality improvements, natural flood risk management and recreation. Includes the existing network of designated sites and priority habitats, as well as landscape or catchment scale recovery areas where there is coordinated action for species and habitats

**Open Space:** All open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity

**Physical Health Benefits:** Access to green space for regular exercise can significantly reduce the impacts of cardiovascular disease and other serious health problems. Regular exercise, including walking, can reduce the negative effects of health threats such as obesity, coronary heart disease and respiratory disorders

**Place-making:** The process of shaping public spaces and buildings. Rooted in community-based participation, place-making involves planning, design, and management. It brings together diverse people (including professionals, elected officials, local groups, residents, and businesses) to improve a community's cultural, economic, social and environmental situation.

**Priority Habitats & Species:** Species and Habitats of Principal Importance listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

**Rewilding:** A form of ecological management which supports nature recovery by restoring natural processes that allow the natural succession of habitats and species to occur. In some cases, it may be considered necessary to reintroduce missing keystone species to re-establish natural processes

**Stepping stones:** Pockets of habitat that, while not necessarily connected, facilitate the movement of species within urban and rural landscape

**Sustainability:** Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

**Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS):** An approach to managing surface water run-off from rainfall close to where it falls that replicates natural drainage by slowing and holding back run-off, reducing pressure on existing piped systems and reducing risk of flooding. Where designed as vegetated/green systems, SuDS can help to moderate microclimate, benefit ecology, improve water quality and provide amenity spaces with opportunities for recreation

**Sustainable Transport:** Environmentally sustainable modes of travel, including walking and cycling, low and ultra-low emission vehicles, car sharing and public transport

**Urban Cooling:** Measures for reducing the urban heat island effect where cities experience higher-than-normal heat temperatures, as compared to surrounding areas, due to urban heat stress when densely-populated urban landscapes of tarmac, brick, metal and dark rooftops soak up energy from sunlight

**Urban Greening:** Increasing and enhancing urban nature and greenspaces, including wider environmental improvements (e.g. reducing pollution and positive environmental behaviours such as recycling and public transport etc)

**Urban Tree Planting:** The process of planting trees in towns and cities. As urban sites may not be the natural habitat for trees, tree choice and location are vital if trees are to grow and flourish. Planting trees in urban areas can yield many benefits in addition to their aesthetic value, such as reductions in air pollution and noise levels

**Wellbeing:** The state of being happy and healthy. Being in or close to nature reduces anger, fear, and stress and increases pleasant feelings. Exposure to nature not only make us feel better emotionally, it contributes to our physical wellbeing, reducing blood pressure, heart rate, muscle tension, and the production of stress hormones

**Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD):** The Welsh Government's official measure of relative deprivation levels for areas in Wales. The WIMD is the most widely used of the Indices of Deprivation.

**Wetland Creation:** The creation of a distinct wetland ecosystem inundated by water, either permanently or seasonally, where aquatic vegetation thrives. Wetlands can be used for water purification, water storage, sequestration of carbon and other nutrients, the stabilisation of shorelines, and in support of unique plants and animals

**Wildlife (or Ecological) Corridor:** Linear features that enable migration and dispersal or otherwise act to link habitats in ways that reduce the isolation of wildlife populations

**Woodland Creation:** The planting of new trees to form woodland or low-density forest, providing open habitats with plenty of sunlight for inhabitants and some limited shade at ground level. It can help in urban cooling, in providing shade and shelter, in minimising run-off from fields, and in reducing the impact of flooding

**APPENDIX 1**  
**Policy Context**



Policy	Summary	Relevance to GI
<a href="#">Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</a>	<p>Overarching vision to create a Wales that we all want to live in now and in the future.</p> <p>-</p> <p>Aims to improve social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being in Wales to target challenges, such as climate change and poverty.</p> <p>Vision for Wales set out in <b>'Seven Well-being Goals'</b> for public bodies listed in the Act to work towards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Prosperous Wales</li> <li>2. A Resilient Wales</li> <li>3. A More Equal Wales</li> <li>4. A Healthier Wales</li> <li>5. A Wales of Cohesive Communities</li> <li>6. A Wales of Vibrant Culture &amp; Thriving Welsh Language</li> <li>7. A Globally Responsible Wales</li> </ol> <p>Introduces <b>'The Five Ways of Working'</b> which public bodies must consider when decision making to show they have applied the sustainable development principle:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Long-term</li> <li>2. Integration</li> <li>3. Involvement</li> <li>4. Collaboration</li> <li>5. Prevention</li> </ol>	<p>The act places a 'Well-being Duty' stating that each public body must act in accordance with the sustainable development principle.</p> <p>All parts of the Act are important to climate change adaptation because protecting Wales for future generations requires adapting to climate change.</p> <p>Provision of GI can contribute towards the seven national well-being goals in addition to well-being objectives set by public bodies at a regional/local level.</p> <p>For instance, the Welsh well-being goal of securing 'A resilient Wales' is about building healthy functioning ecosystems which support social, economic and ecological resilience.</p> <p>GI could contribute towards several factors within the national well-being indicators framework highlighted in the 'Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: the essentials' guidance document (p.18-22) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Air quality</li> <li>- Sense of community</li> <li>- Biological diversity</li> <li>- Water quality</li> <li>- Healthy ecosystems</li> <li>- Reducing flood risk to homes and businesses</li> <li>- Mental well-being.</li> </ul>

Policy	Summary	Relevance to GI
<a href="#">Environment (Wales) Act 2016</a>	<p>Provides a legal framework to manage Wales' natural resources in a more proactive and sustainable manner, contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act.</p> <p>The Act sets out the legislative framework necessary to tackle climate change.</p> <p>Supports the Welsh Government's wider work to help secure Wales' long-term well-being.</p>	<p>Introduces a new biodiversity duty, requiring all public authorities to 'maintain and enhance biodiversity'.</p> <p>Provides a context for the delivery of multi-functional GI.</p> <p>Provision of GI can contribute significantly to the sustainable management of natural resources (e.g., biodiversity, ecosystem resilience).</p>
<a href="#">Natural Resources Policy (NRP) 2017</a>	<p>Sets out <b>three national priority areas</b> to tackle the challenges to Wales' natural resources and ecosystems, and realise the opportunities they provide across the well-being goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Delivering nature-based solutions.</li> <li>2. Increasing renewable energy and resource efficiency.</li> <li>3. Taking a place-based approach.</li> </ol>	<p>A key priority of the NRP is to deliver Nature-based solutions to help improve environmental, social and economic resilience.</p> <p>This includes increasing GI in and around urban areas through nature-based solutions. GI can deliver in terms of both ecosystem resilience and benefits across the well-being goals.</p> <p>The NRP states a commitment towards planning the development of GI at the heart of communities to deliver multiple benefits.</p>

Policy	Summary	Relevance to GI
<a href="#">Natural Resources Wales/ State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) for Wales 2020</a>	<p>Natural Resources Wales' purpose is to pursue sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR), to improve Wales' well-being and provide a better future for everyone.</p> <p>Three areas for transformative change: the food, energy and transport systems.</p> <p>SoNaRR2020 is an assessment of the extent to which Wales is achieving the SMNR. It aims to assess Wales' progress against four aims and sets out a range of opportunities for action to move towards a sustainable future.</p> <p><b>Four long term aims</b> of SMNR that guide the assessments that underpin SoNaRR2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stocks of natural resources are safeguarded and enhanced.</li> <li>2. Ecosystems are resilient to expected and unforeseen change.</li> <li>3. Wales has healthy places for people, protected from environmental risks.</li> <li>4. Contributing to a regenerative economy, achieving sustainable levels of production and consumption.</li> </ol>	<p>The SMNR is assessed against several cross-cutting themes highly relevant to GI, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Biodiversity</li> <li>- Climate Change</li> <li>- Land use and soils</li> <li>- Air quality</li> </ul> <p>Links to the Welsh well-being goals e.g., of securing 'A resilient Wales' through building healthy, functioning ecosystems which support social, economic and ecological resilience.</p> <p>GI could play a key role as part of an integrated approach to meet the four long-term aims of SMNR (e.g., Aim 3, GI can help to improve air and noise pollution and reduce risk of flooding).</p> <p>The green recovery task and finish group identified a need to refocus attention towards a truly green recovery, a society that works with nature, not against it.</p>
<a href="#">Planning (Wales) Act 2015</a>	<p>The Planning (Wales) Act is a set of provisions derived from an extensive evidence base and stakeholder engagement that will provide a modern legislative framework for the operation of the planning system.</p> <p>It puts in place delivery structures, processes and procedures, to make the planning system fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.</p>	

Policy	Summary	Relevance to GI
	<p>Taken together the provisions will allow the planning system to support the delivery of national, local and community aspirations by creating sustainable places where citizens have improved access to quality homes, jobs and built and natural environments and supports the use of the Welsh language.</p>	
<p><a href="#">Planning Policy Wales (PPW) -Edition 11 (2021)</a></p>	<p>Sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government.</p> <p>The core objective of PPW is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales (As required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.)</p>	<p>GI plays a key role in the PPW which notes that development should be integrated to ensure that issues are considered holistically, and multiple benefits are identified.</p> <p>e.g., well integrated GI such as SUDS and street trees can provide several functions simultaneously, resulting in multiple benefits including flood management, habitat creation and improved air quality.</p> <p>The PPW highlights that the planning system must protect and enhance GI due to its multifunctional quality. Planning authorities should adopt a strategic and proactive approach to maximise the potential benefits of GI.</p>
<p><a href="#">Welsh Government National Development Framework (2021)</a></p>	<p>Future Wales – the National Plan 2040 is the highest tier of development plan and is focused on solutions to issues and challenges at a national scale, setting the direction for development in Wales to 2040.</p> <p>It is a development plan with a strategy for addressing key national priorities through the planning system, including sustaining and developing a vibrant economy, achieving decarbonisation and climate-resilience, developing strong ecosystems and improving the health and well-being of communities.</p>	<p>GI can contribute to a number of the Future Wales outcomes, for example ‘a Wales where people live and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places.’, and a Wales where people live in places with biodiverse, resilient and connected ecosystems.’</p>



Policy	Summary	Relevance to GI
	<p>Identifies <b>11 Outcomes:</b>  <b>A Wales where people live...</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ... and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places.</li> <li>2. ... in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services.</li> <li>3. ... in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth.</li> <li>4. ... in places with a thriving Welsh Language.</li> <li>5. ... and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth.</li> <li>6. ... in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted.</li> <li>7. ... in places where travel is sustainable.</li> <li>8. ... in places with world-class digital infrastructure.</li> <li>9. ... in places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution.</li> <li>10. ... In places with biodiverse, resilient and connected ecosystems.</li> <li>11. ... in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient.</li> </ol>	
<p><a href="#">NRW Green Infrastructure Assessment Guide 2023</a></p>	<p>The Welsh Government has asked all planning authorities in Wales to undertake a Green Infrastructure Assessment. The Guide provides an overview of the key national datasets held by NRW that could help inform the Green Infrastructure Assessments.</p> <p>It also describes how this data could be used as part of an assessment and where these datasets can be accessed.</p>	<p>The Welsh Government has asked all planning authorities in Wales to undertake a Green Infrastructure Assessment. The Guide provides an overview of the key national datasets held by NRW that could help inform the Green Infrastructure Assessments.</p>

Policy	Summary	Relevance to GI
<a href="#">Gwent PSB Wellbeing Plan (draft 2022)</a>	<p>The Gwent Public Service Board carried out its Assessment of the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Gwent in 2021/22. The PSB have used the information from the assessment to draft its Well-being Plan to help improve well-being across the region.</p> <p>Sets out what the PSB could do over the next five years to tackle the social, economic, environmental and cultural issues which affect well-being in Gwent.</p> <p>The PSB has identified <b>three draft objectives</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We want to create a fair and equitable Gwent for all.</li> <li>2. We want to create a Gwent that has friendly, safe and confident communities.</li> <li>3. We want to create a Gwent where the natural environment is protected and enhanced.</li> </ol> <p>The Gwent PSB Well-being Plan will be published in June 2023.</p>	<p>GI can contribute to achieving Gwent's well-being objectives.</p>
<a href="#">NRW South East Wales Area Statement 2020</a>	<p>The South East Area Statement area covers the Local Authorities of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen, also referred to as Gwent.</p> <p>The Area Statement was produced using a landscape scale approach to address the increasingly complex and widespread environmental, social and political challenges that transcend traditional management boundaries.</p> <p>Aims to inform internal and external planning and helps stakeholders consider different ways of working together.</p>	<p>The Area Statement includes some specific mentions of GI, including the intent to 'develop a common language to improve shared understanding of green infrastructure', and to 'work together to develop a multi-sector and cross organisational action plan to deliver better green infrastructure for health opportunities for Gwent', but is broadly relevant to GI across all of its themes.</p>

Policy	Summary	Relevance to GI
	<p>To ensure everyone involved in the Area Statement process is thinking of South East in the same context, <b>four strategic themes</b> are used to investigate and understand place:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Linking Our Landscapes.</li> <li>2. Climate Ready Gwent.</li> <li>3. Healthy Active Connected.</li> <li>4. Ways of Working.</li> </ol>	
<p>South East Wales Strategic Development Plan (forthcoming)</p>	<p>All Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) and Local Development Plans (LDPs) prepared in Wales now have to be in general conformity with Future Wales: The National Plan 2040.</p> <p>The South East Wales SDP was the first SDP in Wales to formally commence preparation in 2022. This introduces a tier of regional planning to address matters extending beyond Local Authority boundaries.</p>	<p>As a cross-boundary asset, strategic GI lends itself well to a more regional scale of planning. SDPs may provide a mechanism through which to consider regional scale planning for connections and larger, strategic GI assets.</p>
<p>Local Authority Wellbeing Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monmouthshire Public Service Board Well-being Plan (2018)</li> <li>• Well-being Plan for Torfaen (2018-2023)</li> <li>• Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan (2018-2023)</li> <li>• Caerphilly Public Services Board Well-being Plan (2018-2023)</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#"><u>Monmouthshire Public Service Board Well-being Plan</u></a></p> <p>Aspires to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce inequalities between communities and within communities.</li> <li>• Support and protect vulnerable people.</li> <li>• Realise the benefits that the natural environment has to offer.</li> </ul> <p>Well-being Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life.</li> <li>2. Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change.</li> <li>3. Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change.</li> </ol>	<p>Many well-being plan aspirations and objectives overlap with GI aspirations, and green infrastructure planning can contribute to achieving well-being objectives through the provision of quality green spaces.</p>

Policy	Summary	Relevance to GI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newport's Well-being Plan (2018-2023)</li> </ul>	<p>4. Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Well-being Plan for Torfaen 2018-2023</u></a></p> <p>Vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We want Torfaen to be a great place to live, work and visit. A place where the environment is protected and enhanced, every child has the best start in life and people have opportunities to work, learn and live healthier and prosperous lives.</li> </ul> <p>Well-being Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a functional, connected network of natural areas that support the current and future well-being needs of local populations.</li> <li>Develop mitigation and adaptation responses to the impacts of climate change.</li> <li>Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life.</li> <li>Support healthy lifestyles and enable people to age well.</li> <li>Tackle the inter-generational patterns of poverty and develop economic resilience.</li> <li>Improve local skills through work-force planning, training, apprenticeships, and volunteering opportunities.</li> <li>Create safe, confident communities and promote community cohesion.</li> </ol>	

Policy	Summary	Relevance to GI
	<p><b><u><a href="#">Blaenau Gwent Well-Being Plan 2018-2023</a></u></b></p> <p>Aspires to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritise five key well-being objectives, to take forward, in order to bring about positive changes for local people and communities.</li> <li>• Successfully improve the well-being of the area and maximise the areas contribution towards achieving the National Well-being Goals.</li> </ul> <p>Well-being Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The best start in life for everyone.</li> <li>2. Safe and friendly communities.</li> <li>3. To look after and protect the natural environment.</li> <li>4. To forge new pathways to prosperity.</li> <li>5. To encourage healthy lifestyles.</li> </ol> <p><b><u><a href="#">Caerphilly Public Services Board Well-being Plan 2018-2023</a></u></b></p> <p>Aspires to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on the local Well-being Objectives over the 5-year timeframe of the plan.</li> <li>• Achieve long-term change in the way we work together as public sector organisations, and how we work with businesses, the third sector and our residents.</li> <li>• Bring about improvements in well-being of both current and future generations.</li> </ul> <p>Well-being Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Positive Change: A shared commitment to improving the way we work together.</li> </ol>	

Policy	Summary	Relevance to GI
	<p>2. Positive Start: Giving our future generations the best start in life.</p> <p>3. Positive People: Empowering and enabling all our residents to achieve their own potential.</p> <p>4. Positive Places: Enabling our communities to be resilient and sustainable.</p> <p><b><u>Newport's Well-being Plan 2018-23</u></b></p> <p>Aspires to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that, for generations to come, Newport will be a city that is an even better place to live, work, visit and invest.</li> <li>• Provide children and young people with a good start in life, build strong and resilient communities, give people the skills and opportunities to flourish and tackle health inequalities.</li> <li>• Empower and involve communities so they can improve their own well-being and become stronger and more resilient.</li> </ul> <p>Well-being Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. People feel good about living, working, visiting and investing in Newport.</li> <li>2. People have skills and opportunities to find suitable work and contribute to sustainable economic growth.</li> <li>3. People and communities are friendly, confident and empowered to improve their well-being.</li> <li>4. Newport has healthy, safe and resilient environments.</li> </ol>	

Policy	Summary	Relevance to GI
<p>Adopted Local Development Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monmouthshire County Council Adopted Local Development Plan (February 2014).</li> <li>• Torfaen Local Development Plan (adopted December 2013).</li> <li>• Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Local Development Plan (Adopted November 2012).</li> <li>• Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan (Adopted November 2010).</li> <li>• Newport Local Development Plan (Adopted January 2015).</li> </ul>	<p>The <a href="#">Monmouthshire County Council Local Development Plan</a> covers the period 2011-2021. It includes a policy on green infrastructure, 'S13: Landscape, Green Infrastructure and the Natural Environment'.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Torfaen Local Development Plan (LDP)</a> sets out the council's land use policies and proposals to control development in the county borough up to 2021. It does not include a specific policy relating solely to green infrastructure but does reference green infrastructure in several of its policies for example, 'S3: Climate Change' and 'BW1: General Policy- Development Proposals'.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Local Development Plan</a> provides a clear vision for how new development can address the challenges faced by the County and where, when and how much new development can take place up to 2021. It includes a policy on green infrastructure, 'DM15: Protection and Enhancement of the Green Infrastructure'.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan</a> covers up to 2021. It does not include a policy on green infrastructure.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Newport Local Development Plan</a> covers the period 2011-2026, and was adopted in January 2015. It does not include a specific policy relating solely to green infrastructure but does reference green infrastructure in several of its policies for example, 'SP2: Health' and 'GP5- General Development Principles- Natural Environment'.</p>	<p>Local development plans can include policies for the provision and enhancement of GI. In some instances they do not have a specific GI policy, but include GI is incorporated into other policies where relevant.</p>

**APPENDIX 2**

**Regional Green Infrastructure GIS Data Review**





## Regional Green Infrastructure GIS Data Review

Category	GI Asset Type	Dataset Name/Date/Source	Dataset Description
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<b>Special Protection Area (SPA)</b>	<a href="#">Special Protection Areas</a> (2022) Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	This spatial dataset contains the digital boundaries of all Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in Wales. The EC Birds Directive of 1979 requires member states to establish SPAs to conserve the habitats of two categories of birds: i) Species which are rare or vulnerable, of which there are forty-eight in the UK. ii) Some migratory species which visit our shores regularly.  Attribution: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019741. Crown Copyright and Database Right.
	<b>Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</b>	<a href="#">Special Areas of Conservation</a> (2022) Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	This spatial dataset contains boundaries of designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in Wales. The EC Habitats and Species Directive came into force in 1992 with the aim of conserving biodiversity by protecting a wide range of habitats and species of animals and plants.  Attribution: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019741. Crown Copyright and Database Right.
	<b>Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</b>	<a href="#">Sites of Special Scientific Interest</a> (2023) Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	This spatial dataset contains the boundaries of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in Wales. SSSIs cover a wide range of habitats from small fens, bogs and riverside meadows to sand dunes, woodlands and vast tracks of uplands. Most are in private ownership, although some are owned and managed by local wildlife trusts, or other voluntary conservation bodies.  Attribution: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019741. Crown Copyright and Database Right.

Category	GI Asset Type	Dataset Name/Date/Source	Dataset Description
	<b>National Nature Reserve (NNR)</b>	<a href="#">National Nature Reserve</a> (2022) Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	National Nature Reserves represent the very best examples of wildlife habitats and geological features. They are owned or leased by NRW, or the land is held by an approved body, such as a County Wildlife Trust. Each reserve has a programme of work to manage the site's special features. All of them are also Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and may provide places for educational projects, research and management trials.  Attribution statement: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019741. Crown Copyright and Database Right.
	<b>Local Nature Reserve (LNR)</b>	<a href="#">Local Nature Reserve</a> (2022) Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	Local Nature Reserves contain natural features of special interest to the local area. These are all publicly accessible sites. LNR prove to be useful not only to protect habitats and wildlife but increase people's awareness of their environment. They are places where children can learn about nature, and they are often situated in or near urban areas.  Attribution statement: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019741. Crown Copyright and Database Right.
	<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)</b>	Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation – data held by Local Authority	Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINCs) are areas that are recognised for the value of their geology, wildlife and biodiversity. These areas are given a level of protection within the local planning system.
	<b>Priority Habitats</b>	<a href="#">Priority Habitat - High Sensitivity</a> (2021) Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	Shows semi-natural habitats which are listed as priority habitats under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016  Attribution statement: Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Category	GI Asset Type	Dataset Name/Date/Source	Dataset Description
	<b>Habitat networks</b>	<a href="#">Habitat networks</a> (2022)  Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	NRW's habitat network maps help provide an understanding of the general patterns of ecological connectivity across a landscape. Maps are for broad leaved woodlands, semi natural grassland, heathland, fens and bog ecosystems in upland and lowland versions for the whole of Wales.  Attribution statement: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019741. Crown Copyright and Database Right
	<b>Current Relative Value of Ecosystem Resilience (CuRVe)</b>	<a href="#">CuRVe</a> (2021)  Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	CuRVe is a series of interconnected web-based maps that together form an atlas. It is a tool that can help users to explore how ecosystem resilience varies across Wales and understand the underlying reasons for this variation.  Attribution statement: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019741. Crown Copyright and Database Right. Contains data supplied by Natural Environment Research Council.
<b>Water</b>	<b>Rivers</b>	<a href="#">Ordnance Survey Data</a> (2023)	Natural and near natural running watercourses  Attribution statement: Contains OS data © Crown copyright 2023
	<b>Lakes &amp; Ponds</b>	<a href="#">Ordnance Survey Data</a> (2023)	Permanent and seasonal standing water bodies  Attribution statement: Contains OS data © Crown copyright 2023
	<b>Management Catchments</b>	<a href="#">Water Framework Directive (WFD) Management Catchment Cycle 2</a> (2017)  Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	Management catchments are the unit of geography for which action plans are drafted in implementing the Water Framework Directive.  Attribution statement: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019741. Crown Copyright and Database Right.

Category	GI Asset Type	Dataset Name/Date/Source	Dataset Description
	<b>Flood Zones</b>	<a href="#">Flood Map for Planning: Rivers and Sea</a> (2022)  Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	<p>Flood Zone 3 displays the extent of flooding from: rivers with a 1% (1 in 100) chance or greater of happening in any given year, including an allowance for climate change. the sea with a 0.5% (1 in 200) chance or greater of happening in any given year, including an allowance for climate change. Flood Zone 2 displays the extent of flooding from: Rivers with less than 1% (1 in 100) but greater than or equal to 0.1% (1 in 1,000) chance of happening in any given year, including an allowance for climate change. the Sea with less than 0.5% (1 in 200) but greater than or equal to 0.1% (1 in 1,000) chance of flooding in any given year, including an allowance for climate change.</p> <p>Attribution Statement: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and database right. All rights reserved. Some features of this information are based on digital spatial data licensed from the UK Centre for Ecology &amp; Hydrology © UKCEH. Defra, Met Office and DARD Rivers Agency © Crown copyright. © Cranfield University. © James Hutton Institute. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right.</p>
<b>Access</b>	<b>Public Rights of Way Network</b>	<a href="#">Public Rights of Way. Source: The definitive map and statement.</a> (2022)	Routes which are publicly accessible and includes facilities such as footpaths, bridleways and pavements. They often provide or enhance connectivity between other green and open spaces.
	<b>Active Travel Routes</b>	<a href="#">Welsh Government Active Travel Approved Routes</a> (2022)  Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	<p>Walking and cycling routes for everyday short distance journeys, such as journeys to school, work, or for access to shops or services. These routes are identified for improvements under the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.</p> <p>Attribution statement: © Crown copyright and database rights 2023 OS</p>
	<b>National Cycle Network</b>	<a href="#">Sustrans: National Cycle Network</a> (2021)  Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	<p>UK-wide network of signed paths and routes for walking, cycling, and exploring outdoors</p> <p>Attribution statement: Sustrans National Cycle Network data contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database rights (2021). Data provided by Sustrans: <a href="https://www.sustrans.org.uk/">https://www.sustrans.org.uk/</a></p>

Category	GI Asset Type	Dataset Name/Date/Source	Dataset Description
	<b>Open Access Land</b>	<a href="#">NRW: Open Access - Registered Common Land (2017)</a>  <a href="#">NRW: Open Access - Open Country (2016)</a>  <a href="#">NRW: Open Access - Other Statutory Access Land (2016)</a>  <a href="#">NRW: Open Access – Other Dedicated Land (2017)</a>  <a href="#">NRW Open Access – Dedicated Forests (2016)</a>  Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	<p>Areas of open country, registered common land or dedicated land (under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) open to people to walk, run, explore, climb, watch wildlife etc., without having to stay on paths.</p> <p>Attribution statement: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019741. Crown Copyright and Database Right.</p>
	<b>Country Park</b>	<a href="#">NRW: Country Parks (2014)</a>  Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	<p>An area designated for people to visit and enjoy recreation in a countryside environment. The purpose of a Country Park is to provide somewhere for visitors who do not necessarily want to go out into the wider countryside.</p> <p>Attribution statement: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019741. Crown Copyright and Database Right.</p>

Category	GI Asset Type	Dataset Name/Date/Source	Dataset Description
Landscape & Heritage	<b>National Park</b>	<a href="#">National Park</a> (2022)  Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	National Parks were established to protect beautiful and relatively wild countryside by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserving the characteristic beauty of the landscape;</li> <li>• Providing access and facilities for public open-air enjoyment;</li> <li>• Protecting wildlife, buildings and places of architectural and historic interest; whilst allowing sustainable farming use to continue as before.</li> </ul> <p>Attribution statement: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019741. Crown Copyright and Database Right.</p>
	<b>Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty</b>	<a href="#">Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty</a> (2022)  Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in Wales. AONBs are established under the Countryside Act of 1949, but unlike National Parks, AONBs are not created specifically for opportunities for recreation. However, recreation within AONBs is acceptable if it is consistent with the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses. <p>Attribution statement Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019741. Crown Copyright and Database Right.</p>
	<b>World Heritage Sites</b>	<a href="#">Cadw World Heritage Sites in Wales</a> (2021)  Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	World Heritage Sites are places that the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO has inscribed on a list of international sites because of their outstanding universal value, the importance of which is so great as to transcend national boundaries. <p>Attribution Statement: Designated Historic Asset GIS Data, The Welsh Historic Environment Service (Cadw), 2023, licensed under the Open Government Licence <a href="http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/">http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/</a></p>

Category	GI Asset Type	Dataset Name/Date/Source	Dataset Description
	<b>Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest</b>	<a href="#">Cadw: The Registered Landscapes of Outstanding and of Special Interest in Wales</a> (2022)  Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	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.  Attribution Statement: Designated Historic Asset GIS Data, The Welsh Historic Environment Service (Cadw), 2023, licensed under the Open Government Licence <a href="http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/">http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/</a>
	<b>Registered Historic Parks and Gardens</b>	<a href="#">Cadw: Registered Historic Parks and Gardens</a> (2022)  Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	Registration identifies sites which are of special historic interest to Wales. The Register was compiled in order to aid the informed conservation of historic parks and gardens by owners, local planning authorities, developers, statutory bodies and all concerned with them.  Attribution Statement: Designated Historic Asset GIS Data, The Welsh Historic Environment Service (Cadw), 2023, licensed under the Open Government Licence <a href="http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/">http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/</a>
	<b>Scheduled Monuments</b>	<a href="#">Cadw: Scheduled Monuments</a> (2023)  Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	Archaeological sites of national importance are given legal protection by being placed on a 'Schedule' of monuments.  Attribution Statement: Designated Historic Asset GIS Data, The Welsh Historic Environment Service (Cadw), 2023, licensed under the Open Government Licence <a href="http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/">http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/</a>
	<b>Conservation Areas</b>	<a href="#">Conservation Areas</a> (2022)  Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	Conservation areas are distinct parts of the historic environment designated by local planning authorities for their special architectural or historic interest.  Attribution Statement: Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Category	GI Asset Type	Dataset Name/Date/Source	Dataset Description
	<b>Tranquil Areas</b>	<a href="#">Tranquil Areas Wales (2017)</a> Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	A map of the land of Wales, graded to show levels of Tranquillity. Provides a strategic baseline for monitoring change in tranquillity in Wales to inform strategic planning and policy-making.  Attribution statement: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved.
	<b>LANDMAP</b>	<a href="#">Landmap Wales (2017)</a> Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	A tool to help sustainable decision-making and natural resource planning at a range of levels from local to national whilst ensuring transparency in decision-making. Includes five spatial datasets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geological Landscape</li> <li>• Landscape Habitats</li> <li>• Visual and Sensory</li> <li>• Historic Landscape</li> <li>• Cultural Landscape</li> </ul> Attribution statement: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved.
<b>Natural Resources</b>	<b>Plantation Forestry</b>	<a href="#">National Forest Inventory (2022)</a> Source: <a href="#">Forestry Commission Open Data</a>	The National Forest Inventory (NFI) woodland map covers all forest and woodland area over 0.5 hectare with a minimum of 20% canopy cover, or the potential to achieve it, and a minimum width of 20 metres.  Attribution Statement: Contains, or is based on, information supplied by the Forestry Commission. © Crown copyright and database right 2021 Ordnance Survey 100021242
	<b>Agricultural Land</b>	<a href="#">Welsh Government: Predictive Agricultural Land Classification (2022)</a> Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	Land managed for agriculture, including grazing land, crop production fields and hedgerows.  Attribution Statement: Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.
	<b>Welsh Information for Nature-based Solutions</b>	<a href="#">Welsh Information for Nature-based Solutions (2022)</a>	This data shows where the best places are to take action and enhance the environment. This can help with well-being and increase biodiversity. By using the maps together with other data and local knowledge, suitable decisions can be reached at both the local area scale and the whole Wales scale on the sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR)



Category	GI Asset Type	Dataset Name/Date/Source	Dataset Description
	<b>All Wales Green Space</b>	All Wales Green Space dataset  Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	Identifies all areas in Wales that have not been built on or covered with a man-made surface. It is the best available record of green space in Wales. The dataset shows areas that are designated for nature conservation (such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Nature Reserves and local wildlife sites) and areas with a legal right of public access. At a lower level of accuracy, the data set can be further broken down into a typology of sites e.g. open space, amenity space etc., quality assurance e.g. Green Flag Awards, and non-statutory access e.g. public parks, country parks etc.  The All Wales Green Space dataset is not publicly available but is available to all public bodies who are signatories of the Public Sector Geospatial Agreement.
<b>Urban Green Space</b>	<b>Public Parks &amp; Gardens</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">OS Open Greenspace</a> (2023)</li> <li>• Local authority data (where available)</li> </ul>	Areas of land designed, constructed, managed and maintained as a public park or garden. These normally have a defined perimeter and free public access, and generally sit within or close to urban areas. Access is granted for a wide range of uses and not usually restricted to paths or tracks within the area. May include managed facilities such as benches/flowerbeds and more natural areas.  Attribution statement: Contains OS data © Crown copyright 2023
	<b>Playing Fields and Other Sports Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">OS Open Greenspace</a> (2023)</li> <li>• Local authority data (where available)</li> </ul>	Large, flat areas of grass or specially designed surfaces, generally with marked pitches, used primarily for outdoor sports, i.e. football, rugby, cricket. Other Sports Facilities include land used for sports not specifically described by other categories. Includes those facilities where participation in sport is the primary use of the area.  Attribution statement: Contains OS data © Crown copyright 2023
	<b>Play Space</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">OS Open Greenspace</a> (2023)</li> <li>• Local authority data (where available)</li> </ul>	A specially prepared area intended for children's play, usually linked to housing areas or parks and containing purpose-built equipment. Not captured if within schools or paid-for tourist attractions.  Attribution statement: Contains OS data © Crown copyright 2023
	<b>Golf Course</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">OS Open Greenspace</a> (2023)</li> <li>• Local authority data (where available)</li> </ul>	A specially prepared area intended for playing golf.  Attribution statement: Contains OS data © Crown copyright 2023

Category	GI Asset Type	Dataset Name/Date/Source	Dataset Description
	<b>Allotments &amp; Community Growing Spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">OS Open Greenspace</a> (2023)</li> <li>• Local authority data (where available)</li> </ul>	<p>Areas of land for growing fruit, vegetables and other plants, either in individual allotments or as a community activity. Produce is for the grower's own consumption and not primarily for commercial activity.</p> <p>Attribution statement: Contains OS data © Crown copyright 2023</p>
	<b>Cemeteries &amp; Religious Grounds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">OS Open Greenspace</a> (2023)</li> <li>• Local authority data (where available)</li> </ul>	<p>Areas of land associated with burial areas, and areas of land associated with churches and other places of worship. Only included where there are significant areas of greenspace (over 500m<sup>2</sup> of natural space - identified as surfaces that are not manmade, such as grass, woodland and bare earth).</p> <p>Attribution statement: Contains OS data © Crown copyright 2023</p>
	<b>Domestic Gardens</b>	<a href="#">OS Mastermap Greenspace</a> (2023)	Privately owned greenspace within individual dwellings which are generally not publicly accessible. These plots vary in size but often make up a significant part of the green fabric of urban areas. Land may include trees, shrubs, grass and flowering plants.
	<b>Urban Woodland</b>	<a href="#">National Forest Inventory</a> (2022)  Source: <a href="#">Forestry Commission Open Data</a>	<p>The National Forest Inventory (NFI) woodland map covers all forest and woodland area over 0.5 hectare with a minimum of 20% canopy cover, or the potential to achieve it, and a minimum width of 20 metres.</p> <p>Attribution Statement: Contains, or is based on, information supplied by the Forestry Commission. © Crown copyright and database right 2021 Ordnance Survey 100021242</p>
	<b>Urban Trees</b>	<a href="#">NRW Urban Tree Cover</a> (2018)  Source: <a href="#">DataMapWales</a>	<p>Woodlands or groups of trees within an urban setting, and individual street trees.</p> <p>Attribution statement Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019741. Crown Copyright and Database Right. 2023</p>

NRW's [Wales Environmental Information Portal](#) provides a portal to view open data on access, flood, habitats, hydrology, landscapes, marine, designated land, water quality, and woodlands.



**APPENDIX 3**

**Stakeholder Workshop Stage 1 Report**





# **Green Grid Gwent Partnership**

## **Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy**

### **Stage 1 Workshop – Scoping the Strategy**

**22 March 2023**

## **About CBA**

CBA is an independent, award-winning landscape, environmental and heritage practice. Working collaboratively with clients, stakeholders and other consultants is at the heart of everything we do.

We have considerable experience of preparing green infrastructure strategies and action plans at all scales for public sector-led partnerships throughout Wales and England. Our work has been recognised as best practice by awards for professional excellence from the Landscape Institute and Royal Town Planning Institute.

[www.cbastudios.com/green-infrastructure](http://www.cbastudios.com/green-infrastructure)

## **About the Wellbeing Planner**

The Wellbeing Planner provides customer focused services that help groups of people, whatever their circumstance, to work together more effectively.

Success in a team, a community or business is based on shared understanding to inspire collective action. Whether it's tackling climate change or to focus the efforts of a corporate team, success comes from people working towards a shared goal.

This paper provides a record of the first workshop for the development of the GGGP's Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch. For information on the Wellbeing Planner, please visit [www.wellbeingplanner.co.uk](http://www.wellbeingplanner.co.uk)

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## **Background**

This first workshop represents the start of a process for engaging the GGGP organisations in shaping the Gwent Green Infrastructure Strategy. The Strategy will provide a regional framework for a new collaborative and strategic approach to local green infrastructure (GI) planning, funding, delivery, and management across Gwent. It will set out a shared vision, common priorities, and themes for collaborative ways of working to secure delivery of green infrastructure.

The process is being undertaken in two stages:

- Stage 1 – Scoping the Strategy
- Stage 2 – Developing the Strategy

This workshop set out to capture participant feedback about the scope of the eventual strategy.

## **Methodology**

The workshop was a two-hour online event.

CBA presented an outline/framework for the proposed scope of the Regional GI Strategy as a primer for the discussions (see copy in Appendix Three). This highlighted the following suggested themes for the Strategy:

1. Nature
2. Climate
3. Heath
4. Economy
5. Place
6. Communities
7. Ways of Working

The participants took part in a series of activities to discuss the following topics:

1. GI knowledge and data.
2. Strategic GI principles.
3. Regional priorities for action.

For more details of the workshop agenda see Appendix One.

## **Observations**

### **1. GI knowledge and data**

In answer to the question about the knowledge and data available to inform the Regional GI Strategy, the participants made 59 comments covering the following areas (in no particular order):

- Health and Wellbeing
- Land Use Planning
- Woodland and Trees



- Various studies, assessments, profiles and mapping exercises
- Local Strategies and Plans
- Regional or National Data Sets
- Various Projects being delivered within the area and
- Guidance Notes.

When asked of if the knowledge and data available was adequate, the participants noted that information exists, but they had concerns about how up to date and consistent the current data sets were on a regional level.

More broadly the participants question how the data might be used in a way that engaged communities or to glean further insights and understanding from what was available – such as understanding the ecosystem services provided by the different landscapes in the area. Participants also discussed how they might incorporate Citizen Science into the GI Strategy? Or include more community characteristics and activities into what is, otherwise, it's a very 'green / nature conservation' agenda.

In addition, participants were asked what else needed consideration in terms of knowledge and data. They were interested in understanding what data sets are being recorded, how is the data collated and ultimately used to aid regional decision making by non-specialists? On topics as diverse as river water quality, biodiversity, monitoring / evaluation and flood risk management.

## **2. Strategic GI Principles**

When asked 'what do we know about the different principles for GI Planning and Management with the different local authority GI Strategies?' the participants replied (in no particular order) that the principles needed to be:

- Multifunctional.
- Aid climate resilience.
- Promote good health and wellbeing, including how to take health inequalities into account.
- Support a wide variety of native species.
- Be smart and sustainable and
- Consider geographic links rather than just administrative boundaries.

Next the participants were asked 'what principles seem most critical and applicable at a regional level?' The participant's response were the following critical principles (in no particular order):

- Health – based on Marmot's Principles i.e., that no actions would be taken as a result of the new strategy that could increase health inequalities within the local population.
- Nature - that the strategy follows traditional Nature Conservation or Environmental Protection principles.
- Ways of Working - that the strategy would help collective effort at a regional level – regarding issues such as coordination, sharing information and resources and aid working together towards a similar goal; and

- Communities/Place/Economy - include social benefits through links with local plan objectives, but also broader issues reflecting the rurality of the area such as food production, land management and the rural economy.

### **3. Regional Priorities for Action**

The final question asked the participants to share their views about what they felt were the key regional or cross cutting priorities for Green Infrastructure action and delivery across Gwent. The answers have been collated into the following list (in no particular order):

- a) Health and Wellbeing.
- b) Accessibility and Equality of Opportunity.
- c) Responding to the Climate Emergency.
- d) Responding to the Nature Emergency.
- e) Forests and Trees specifically – including links to the National Forest for Wales.
- f) Ensuring a consistent Ways of Working across the region between local authorities which provided clarity, accountability, connected initiatives whilst recognising the range of different groups, communities, and projects that exist across the region; and
- g) Provide multiple benefits.

To see the notes taken during the meeting, see Appendix Two.

### **Next Steps**

The feedback generated by this Stage 1 workshop about GI knowledge/data, strategic GI principles and regional priorities for action will be helpful for scoping and developing the Regional GI Strategy.

Stakeholders will have a further opportunity to help inform the Strategy in Stage 2 via a second online workshop on 21st April 2023, which will focus on discussing and shaping emerging thinking around the draft regional spatial framework plan. This is likely to include generating ideas for developing:

- A shared long-term vision – for creating a connected and resilient Green Grid for Gwent through collaborative working.
- Strategic objectives and opportunities – for landscape scale GI to support national/regional well-being, climate, and nature recovery priorities.
- Strategic action plan themes – for delivering strategic proposals for landscape scale GI actions at the regional level.

## **Appendix One – Workshop One Agenda and Participant List**

### **Introductions**

10.00      Introductions / get people on xleap (Dafydd) 10 minutes.

### **CBA Presentation**

10.10      Presentation (CBA) 10 minutes

To answer the question, 'what's it all about' and for CBA to also share what they know in the first instance about the sources of knowledge / data available to this project.

Also provide a short overview for the strategy to set the scene.

### **Scoping The Strategy**

10.20      Break out groups: First Question (Dafydd) 10 minutes

- a) What do we know about the knowledge / data that's available to the project partners?
- b) Any surprises? Is it adequate?
- c) What other things do we need to consider?

10.30      Plenary (Dafydd) (10 minutes)

Probe about potential and key gaps in evidence. What's critical.

10.40      Second Question 15 minutes

- d) What do we know about the different principles for GI planning and management within the different local authority GI strategies?
- e) What principles seems most critical and applicable at a regional level?

10.55      Plenary (Dafydd) (10 minutes)

Explore what key principles for strategic GI planning and management at a regional level could look like?

11.05 – 11.15      Comfort Break

## **Scoping The Strategy continued**

11.15 Breakout Groups: Third Question (Dafydd) 15 minutes

What are the key regional/cross-cutting priorities for GI action/delivery across Gwent?

Think of suggestions individually

Use Breakout Rooms to discuss, share and refine ideas.

Add all their ideas to xleap. No filtering, sorting, or sifting. Just collecting ideas.

11.30 Plenary (Dafydd)

See if there are any common regional / cross-cutting GI priorities emerging.

## **Next Steps**

11.55 Any other questions / Ends (Dominic) 5 minutes

- How will the scoping information help shape the strategy?
- Stage 2 workshop (21 April) to share, discuss and refine the emerging strategy?
- Any other questions?

## Participant List

Amy Nethercott	Natural Resources Wales
Catrin Grimstead	Natural Resources Wales
Christopher Harris	RSPB
Colette Bosley	Monmouthshire County Council
Dafydd Thomas	Wellbeing Planner
Daniel Davies	Natural Resources Wales
Dewi Thomas	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Dominic Watkins	CBA
Gemma Beynon	Natural Resources Wales
Gemma Bode	Gwent Wildlife Trust
Gillian Barter	Natural Resources Wales
Harriet Bleach	Natural Resources Wales
Harriet Stanford	CBA
Hazel Clatworthy	Monmouthshire County Council
Helen Fairbank	Greener Gwent Grid Partnership
Henrietta Lucas	Torfaen County Borough Council
Jane Rickard	Welsh Government
Jayne Carter	Natural Resources Wales
Kate Stinchcombe	Monmouthshire County Council
Mark Mcloughlin	Natural Resources Wales
Matt Harris	Torfaen County Borough Council
Matthew Lewis	Monmouthshire County Council
Nia Watts	Monmouthshire County Council
Paula Keen	Woodland Trust
Phil Griffiths	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Sarah Davies	ABUHB

## **Appendix Two – Notes from the Workshop**

### **1. GI Knowledge and Data**

#### **What do we know about the knowledge / data that's available to the project and partners?**

##### Workshop Comments

- Better than used to be. Essential all data shared. Needs to be accurate and kept up to date. Need staff resource to do this.
- There is a lot of knowledge & data out here - we don't know what we know!
- We need to better define the ecosystem services within the landscape.
- The data that is available is nothing new and should be available from NRW. It's important that the data sets are updated regularly rather than a 'a shot in time' which is what tends to happen when working on strategies like this.
- Replacement Torfaen Local Development Plan being drafted.
- What is the status of the GGGP Gwent Green Corridors Strategic Access Plan?
- River water quality - need to include health of our rivers and coasts, as well as terrestrial ecology.
- There is a huge amount of information available. How do we ensure we focus on the most relevant data sources?
- Do we need a Phase 1 habitat survey for Gwent? As far as I am aware data, we hold is NRW survey data from 1990.
- Emerging Nature Recovery Action Plans (i.e., not 'biodiversity action plans' as referenced in the presentation).
- What is the status of the Gwent Strategic Development Plan?
- Is up-to-date Gwent-wide data available for the landscape-scale GI assets (broad habitats, statutory designations, and strategic access)?
- The Map in the presentation doesn't look at intraregional - need to consider how these can connect and join up.
- Needs to include the blue infrastructure.

##### Health and Wellbeing

- Gwent Wellbeing assessment of socio-economic and environmental wellbeing.

##### Land Use Planning

- Monmouthshire is currently working on a Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033 - Deposit due Spring 2024 - due to be adopted 2025.
- Newport Replacement Local Development Plan.
- Caerphilly is also working on a replacement LDP.

##### Woodland and Trees

- Ancient Woodland Inventory (on DataMapWales).
- Ancient Tree Inventory (on Woodland Trust website).
- Treemap (all trees >3m high) available from Bluesky or through Woodland Trust for specific partnership projects.
- Woodland Trust Veteran Tree data.

- 'The Ancient Woods of South-East Wales' by Oliver Rackham, published posthumously in 2022.

#### Studies, Assessments, Profiles and Mapping

- Newport GI feasibility study for city centre 2022.
- Torfaen Draft Green Infrastructure Assessment- pdf and online resource.
- Connections with BBNP NRAP and Ecosystem Resilience mapping.
- Gwent Levels Sea Wall botanical survey.
- Gwent Levels Saproxylic Invert study in orchards and foreshore.
- Monmouthshire has horseshoe bat mapping.
- NRW Landscape Profiles - review of these this financial year.

#### Strategies and Plans

- Torfaen PSB GI Strategy.
- Wye Valley AONB Management Plan.
- Southeast Wales GI Pollinator Action Plan.
- Newport Council Climate Change Plan (and other authorities plans).
- MCC working on its Climate and Nature Emergency Strategy.
- Councils Corporate & Community Plans.
- Newport Local Area Energy Plan.

#### Regional / National Data Sets

- Data wise - Wales Environmental Information Portal and Data Map Wales  
<https://smnr-nrw.hub.arcgis.com/apps/c7770d2881394c899123bae210afe370/explore> and  
<https://datamap.gov.wales/>
- Gwent Local Wildlife Site and SINC data.
- DataMapWales - NRW Green Infrastructure Viewer.
- NRW national Green Infrastructure Dataset.
- Protected species data Southeast Wales Biodiversity Records Centre.
- Landmap.
- Green Belt and Green Wedge Method Statement for the South East Wales Area - currently being undertaken - due Summer 2023 prepared by LUC.
- Protected Sites baseline data.
- Current Relative Value of Ecosystem Resilience CuRVE.
- Satellite / remote sensing data.

#### Projects

- Updated GWT Nature Reserve information.
- Lots of data / studies from Living Levels landscape partnership and SMS projects - <https://www.livinglevels.org.uk/>
- BBNP LNP Nature Recovery Tool with multiple layers of data available for the National Park.
- <https://www.livinglevels.org.uk/documents-library>
- Local Nature Partnerships.

## Guidance

- Resilient Ecological Networks Guidance - this needs to inform how we develop RENs for Gwent.
- The role of protected sites in RENs development.

## Unsorted

- Priority and S6 & 7 Habitats and Species.
- Protected site information on NRW's website.
- MCC Motion for the Rivers and Ocean.

## **Any surprises? Is it adequate?**

- Up to Date Data.
  - NRW remote sensing from 1990 ... seems to be way out of date.
  - Having been working in this area for many years I worry our obsession with up-to-date data (within reason) keeps us all busy in collating while the decline in biodiversity / people's health and wellbeing / water quality continues to decline rapidly.
- Living Wales Data available that we could use now, but don't know where things are with that. Available from WG. It has a 1m resolution, so the quality is good.
- My role is to focus on the SE Area Statement Healthy, Active, Connected themes = this theme can be described as aiming to address health (and wellbeing) inequalities through nature based solutions, and has a focus on communities e.g., aspects include community food growing, volunteering, and connecting communities to nature in general, and so it covers the 'Communities' aspects you've mentioned and so could be incorporated. Training, apprentices could be included in Economy (Green skills). Tackling crime / addressing safety and barriers to using greenspace / irresponsible use may need to be drawn out.
- Citizen Science
  - Huge interest by public in citizen science. How do we manage and get the best out of this?
  - EarthTrack has been developed to facilitate the routine collection of land cover, land cover change and environmental variables to support routine and continuous characterisation, mapping and monitoring of landscapes from Earth Observation (EO) data. EarthTrack Nature is designed for citizen science and is currently developed for use in Wales by a range of users, with particular focus on recording biodiversity.  
<https://earthtrack.aber.ac.uk>
- There is a lot of data there but pulling it all together is going to be time consuming and difficult.
- We don't seem to have a clear understanding of the ecosystem services provided within our landscapes, and the wellbeing economy that we need to better understand to fund our response to the Nature, Climate and Health emergencies.
- Questions and Comments
  - How do we ensure we engage with communities consistently on a regional level?
  - Can Data Map Wales centralise all this data?
- Climate Adaptation needs consideration.



- We need to embed climate risk assessment (CCRA) and UKCP18 to inform our 'what' and 'where' to ensure our decision deliver long term ecosystem resilience for wellbeing benefits.

### **What other things do we need to consider?**

- Relevant partnerships / programmes that extend beyond Gwent including Wye Valley AONB, Living Levels, Brecon Beacons NP nature recovery plans, Usk and Wye catchment plans, Severn Estuary strategies / plans etc.
- How is this data recorded and put together?
- Is this a blue/green infrastructure strategy?
  - With so much concern about river water quality, I think it needs to include blue infrastructure as well.
  - We need to consider all broad habitats to ensure we deliver ecosystem resilience and effectively respond to the nature and climate emergencies.
- As a regional strategy it's a high-level document and the data sets should reflect this. We shouldn't be focussing on local and the fine details and data.
  - I agree this is a key principle of the regional approach.
- How do we use all relevant data sets but keep the data meaningful, easy to use and easy to convey to non-specialists even at a regional level.
- How do we share data?
  - Data Map Wales??
- The needs of others whose priorities might be different.
  - This has come from managing the sea wall ... one person might be focused on flooding and the other might be focused on biodiversity. There are others out there who are engaged and thinking about other this other than green infrastructure.
- How do we review the data as implementation progresses and whether it's still suitable and has been updated. We need it to be able to reflect if schemes and programmes have been delivered in the short/medium term. For example, if a large-scale strategic planting scheme is undertaken how does that impact this strategy and the associated data?
- How do we monitor and evaluate success?

## 2. Strategic GI Principles

### What do we know about the different principles for GI Planning and Management with the different local authority GI Strategies?

#### Questions and Comments

- Needs to apply Lawton principles of 'bigger, better and more joined up' habitats.
- Are the components the same within our strategies?
- I'm aware of the 5 Principles of Green Infrastructure from Swansea which has been applied in some respects in Newport e.g., the GI city centre feasibility study. The five principles are listed here with examples.
- Recognising the differences, the LA's cover, rural, urban but also features that cross them all.
- To what degree are individual plans between LAs coordinated. Is this important? Should there be a consistent approach, or should each plan be tailored to individual circumstances?
- Need to map across the relevant drivers in the region to ensure that the correct themes are identified.
- Must keep the high-level view and aims for all to work towards
- Recognising similar challenges and opportunities when working at this regional scale
- Recognising overlaps in LA areas and the physical areas they cover is useful in building relationships and ensure better cross working.
- Resilient Ecological networks (RENS) and the DECCA framework should be worked into the themes.
- Recognising that the actions of each LA impact upon the others.
- Recognise limits, can't be all things at all times.

#### Multifunctional

- GI needs to be multifunctional.
- Recognising community and places aren't defined by lines on a map, so looking at how we work across these for multi benefits.
- Multifunctional - making sure that all GI in the city centre provides as many benefits as possible. For example, it may reduce pollution and/or flooding, offer shelter and/or food for native animals (birds, insects and/or small mammals), provide shade during hot summer days, and create attractive pleasant and/or calming spaces for people to meet, relax and play.
- Strong in Monmouth - place character - reflect the priorities in the areas - different priorities - natural environment.
- Appreciating that we should also consider the people within the areas, in addition to biodiversity.
- MCC's GI strategy - sets out a strong vision "Monmouthshire has a well-connected multifunctional green ... Infrastructure network comprising high quality green spaces and links that offer many benefits for people and wildlife. The network's integrity and connectivity are maintained, protected, and enhanced in a planned and managed way, which recognises the interdependency and multi-functionality of landscape, heritage and biodiversity elements. Investment in green infrastructure underpins the County's ongoing economic,

social, and environmental success by supporting sustainable growth, improving quality of life and place, delivering ecosystem services and tackling climate change. Monmouthshire is a green and healthy place to live, with an increasingly coherent and resilient ecological network of wildlife habitats, helping conserve biodiversity. This approach is applied to all project delivery and Planning and Policies.

#### Adapted for Climate Change

- Adapted for climate change - absorbing water to reduce flooding, providing summer cooling and accommodating wildlife. GI also helps mitigate climate change by capturing and locking up carbon.
- GI as a tool for climate resilience, including sequestration and adaption.

#### Healthy

- Healthy - helping our physical and mental health by absorbing pollution, providing clean air, clean water, food, and space to exercise, socialise and play and space to have contact with nature.
- Big piece of work within health board is around the MARMOT principles - 8 principles - how some of these can be reflected and how they cross-over. Interesting to look how these cross-over and embed into this strategy as well.

#### Biodiverse

- Biodiverse - supporting a wide variety of native species providing shelter and food and creating green corridors across the city centre linking to existing strategic wildlife corridors.
- We delivered in Monmouth the eco-system approach - part of the wider tool.
- Ecosystem resilience.

#### Smart and Sustainable

- Smart and Sustainable - providing solutions, techniques and technologies that are low maintenance and reduce pollution and waste and maximise the use of recycled or sustainably sourced materials.

#### Geographic Links (rather than administrative boundaries)

- Networks and connectivity - of spaces and habitats, how these connect regionally.
- Stepping back from local level to look at the regional level.
- Recognising LA borders don't restrict movement of people, wildlife, water.
- Looking at geography and recognising how things link up.
- Captured the area strategy - changed to a landscape regional base. Some elements: climate and wider perspective biodiversity recovery, communities were missing but has come through the Green Assessment approach from WG. Key things are some of the regional strategies that have emerged since, not coming out from Area Statement, but through some of the partnership work through the Gwent Green Plan, Living Levels - partnerships with priorities we need to pick up on. References need to go back to - nature and emergency strategies - key elements with drivers.

## Unsorted

- Newport's green infrastructure assessment, Caerphilly is more a GI assessment (like Newport) - common themes that GI should be multifunctional, all imply a variety of GI is good to plan for; different sizes for the need of the local area, connected GI is better GI at different scales - awareness of localised assets/settlement scale - related to this is accessibility.
- Value existing green infrastructure in planning considerations e.g., green open spaces including long-established mature trees in the grounds of hospitals such as Neville Hall.

## **What principles seem most critical and applicable at a regional level?**

### Comments and Questions

- Huge amount of data about the GI itself - how does the health data come into this and how it can link - links the inequalities - where do you start with the GI projects? Where's best to put some of the interventions.
- Are we limited in the number of principles we should have?

### Health Inequalities

- HAC of the Area Statement theme - ties into health through equalities
- Where are the inequalities and how do we ensure when delivery these how you look at what's inaccessible?
- Provision and access to quality GI / greenspace in areas most needed, to address (health and wellbeing) inequalities. Ties into Marmot Principles from Gwent Wellbeing Plan and Healthy Active Connected from Area Statement. Data needed to identify locations.
- Marmot Principles - addressing health inequalities.
- How does this link into health inequalities agenda through links to the Marmot principles. Not increasing inequalities in the implementation of this work / strategy. Connecting across silos. What does health inequalities look like in a spacial way? Increase accessibility.

### Traditional Nature Conservation Principles

- Biodiversity, flooding, recreation, climate change.
- Resilient ecological networks.
- Stop damaging what we have ... bigger, better, and more joined up - value what we have, expand it to create new and restore what we have.

### Principles that help collective working or processes

- Coordination of various strands of activity.
- Vital to identify shared priorities to focus resources.
- With the GGGP - assessing projects - ID mechanisms and taking forward into this process and integrate into the strategy - learning, monitoring and evaluation is critical and how we work with the communities across the board.
- Potential difficulty if a priority is identified by just one LA, so not shared, how to decide to take ones like this forward.
- GI principles needed to support the Gwent Wellbeing Plan's 3 objectives.
- Value what is already there in all planning considerations.

- Catchment scale working - this will include working regionally with Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean as well.
- The importance of cross-authority programmes.
- Working together towards a similar goal ... at a regional level.
- From a planning angle, it is all about taking a GI approach at master planning. Developers are recognising that now. Strategies are working!
- Key role is to inform LDP etc. Reality is GI isn't coming first. GI underpins everything and the strategy should reinforce that.
- Range of partnerships (GGGP, PSB etc) – how do they all work together?

#### Wider societal or social benefits

- HAC theme - linking it back to the Gwent WB Plan objectives - a fair and equitable for all - the wellbeing objectives is about accessibility - a principle is about green space access. Regionally, having access close to where people are and how they can get to the green space (active travel). High level principle for GI.
- Food production and the rural economy, given that a vast amount of land within the region is farmed and privately owned.
- Reality of land management economics, as action by farmers and landowners still the main driver of GI management across the region.

#### Unsorted

- Addressing the barriers, safety issues, lack of confidence e.g., fly tipping, litter, anti-social behaviour that deter people from using green space / GI.
- Maybe if we look at where challenges and opportunities are similar e.g., they will be similar within a particular landscape type, and they will be similar for a particular issue such as active travel, green prescribing - this would help us focus our resources and thinking about where and how we work together to deliver better GI.

### 3. Regional Priorities for Action

#### What are the key regional / cross cutting priorities for GI action / delivery across Gwent?

##### Questions and Comments

- Green infrastructure is solution to a lot of issues, so look at which exact issues it can address to gain high level buy in, use this to develop and agree priorities.
- Local projects should meet the principles of regional strategy.
- How do we make sure GI actions are relevant to, and adopted by, everyone? Need to make sure there is significant buy-in from local communities, businesses, landowners (farmers), etc. How do we ensure that GI actions become embedded in wider society?
- Regional priorities will inevitably be quite high level but delivered at a local level. Similar challenge with the Gwent PSB - very different geographies, demographics etc, but need to have overarching priorities that will need to be delivered locally, based on local differences.
- How do we measure progress? What tools do we have?
- From planning perspective, WG are trying to promote strategic development plans, with local plans under that. This needs to sit with that plan and policies. This work could feed into planning strategic plan.
- This strategy is to inform and influence change. We need to make significant changes, and this should be considered in planning. Arguably, one of the biggest focuses is centred around economy and growth and isn't considered around value that nature provides. Maybe planning will change with us if this comes through in the strategy.
- Need to set a context for future implementation so we can collectively make the case to WG that we need to embed funding to support these activities to avoid situation that we're in now where partnerships are running out of money. It is a very unstable situation and WG haven't come up with a solution.

##### Health and Wellbeing

- GI as a tool to address health inequalities in areas needed most (QUALITY meaningful green space and GI not just measured by proximity, as it could poor quality and have anti-social behaviour).
- Health benefits.
- Health inequalities - work towards a Gwent wide green / nature prescribing approach (pilots are taking place in Caerphilly and Newport that I'm aware of)
- The health and wellbeing piece isn't as visible as it could be ... bring it to the fore.

##### Accessibility and Equality of Opportunity

- Access to sites, active travel.
- Linking different LA access routes.
- Inclusivity and accessibility.
- Affordability ... thinking of the costs that people might face to use the green spaces.
- The access discussions have been around cycling ... what about public transport?

- Public transport links to the regionally significant (and some of the local) sites need to be considered.
- How do we encourage people with disabilities to these larger more / strategic sites which goes beyond to a local priority to a regional priority.

### Climate Emergency

- Climate adaptation - Cardiff Capital Region has signed up to carbon disclosure project.
- Climate should always be at the top.
- Climate and Nature thinking are cross-cutting and should be applied across all themes, but they are both so significant in their own right they need to be managed and delivered separately (not in isolation) - this is why the AS was split up in to themes and also being reflected within emerging Corporate Plans.

### Nature Emergency

- Resilient Ecological Networks.
- Upland bogs, Blaenau Gwent & Caerphilly - habitat improvement cross border.
- Resilient Ecological Networks - Good framework to look at - DECA framework - RENS is an output of good GI.
- Nature is diverse, resilient, connected and delivering for both environment and people.
- Restoration of damaged habitats such as peat bogs and ancient woodland with engagement and education to build understanding of their significance to nature recovery and the climate crisis.
- Climate is just one driver of biodiversity loss, so although it is significant driver, I would argue Nature and ecosystem services that are resilient to change is what we should be aiming for.

### Forests and Trees

- What do we need to do at a wider level, e.g., trees. This would be more of a regional approach to plant more trees, as this benefits from a regional approach.
- Links to the National Forest for Wales.

### Ways of Working

- Consistency of approach across the region between Authorities.
- Development and implementation of the Landscape Profiles under the SE Wales Area Statement.
- Influencing the SE Wales strategic development plan's development.
- Development and support of cross-border initiatives.
- Clarity on what's regional and local, and what will fall under each.
- Linked green spaces, strategic water corridors, healthy and connected communities is another theme missing that interaction with people and healthy wellbeing - missing in terms of some of the discussions we have had previously within the brief. There is a 4th one - linking into the DEF, AS, PSB, Strategic Development Plans, Gwent ENRAP - but HAC was missing. Have been doing but not picked up specifically in the discussions. Connected bit comes back to Ways of Working.
- Accountability and engagement across organisations and departments.

- Having a GI Framework which is robust and flexible to accommodate the differences between the component local authorities. Differences in priorities, differences in processes, differences in capacity.
- A conversation about regional and local ...
- Setting a clear implementation framework to allow the development of partnership delivery and the justification for future public investment (and links to the economics of wider land management).
- Involving and considering diverse range of communities in GI projects, could be community led - helps to connect people to nature, get buy in. Diversity such as age, ethnicity, genders, ability, intersectionality of these etc.

### Multiple Benefits

- What does the wellbeing objectives say? Safe, confident, and friendly communities - enhancing natural environment - start thinking about what other priorities there might be can they deliver on one or more of these objectives.
- Training / volunteering / apprenticeships - green skills, links to economy.
- HAC theme of the AS - speaks about tying into equalities and inequalities - looking at the diverse communities and what barriers they have. Anti-social behaviour ties in, thinking about it just about proximity of green spaces is only one priority.
- Built environment (both rural and urban) - existing and new builds: retro fitting existing builds e.g. green roofs etc, and maximising opportunities in new builds e.g. swift bricks and quality GI.
- What big issues can GI help, social issues that GI could provide opportunities to improve wellbeing etc?
- Climate Change Emergency perspective, should the theme stand alone or should run through everything? Should we pick this out as its own theme, or should it be implicit in everything we do? GI is one of the levers we can use to try and deal with those two emergencies. Don't just want to silo those two issues away - twin crises of our time! Acknowledging that it should be a fundamental purpose of green infrastructure around those two areas but does also include the HAC.
- Potentially resilient ecological networks, climate resilience, wellbeing /health /access, and economy.
- Should Climate & Nature Emergency be a separate strategic theme or run through all strategic themes?
- Looking at what problems GI resolve ... use the issues to draw people into the conversation / identification of solutions.
- GI is a delivery mechanism which can deliver common priorities these could be Strategic Resilient Ecological Networks, Linked Greenspaces, Strategic Green/blue corridors & waterscapes, Healthy & Connected Communities. How are these translated into implementable local plans?

### Unsorted

- Needs to set a context for future implementation and partnerships, to support future funding bids.
- Gwent Green Corridors Strategic Plan - that developing action plans from that - regional piece of work - does this strengthen the HAC, then it would be how the GI Strategy would work towards that plan? More about the Health and Wellbeing



- wider than just access - better opportunities - MARMOT. About engaging with the relevant groups - something missing from the partnership, but on reflection looking at what we have been delivery and should be a focussed area.
- Education - how schools and groups can access and make use of the green spaces.



# Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy

## Stage 1 – Scoping the Strategy

GGG Partnership Workshop - 22 March 2023



# What is the regional GI strategy about?

- **Strategic document** – shared long-term vision for creating a connected and resilient Green Grid for Gwent through collaborative working
- **Regional spatial framework plan** – strategic objectives and opportunities for landscape-scale GI to support national/regional well-being, climate and nature recovery priorities
- **Strategic action plans** – for delivering strategic proposals for landscape-scale GI actions at the regional level (thematic)
- **Shared GIS data** – providing access to consistent/up-to-date datasets about different types, quantity, functionality and condition of GI assets found across Gwent



# Who is the regional GI strategy for?

- 5 local authorities (aligning local GI strategies with regional themes)
- Organisations working at the regional level/cross-boundary
- Natural resource management & health organisations
- Gwent Public Service Board organisations

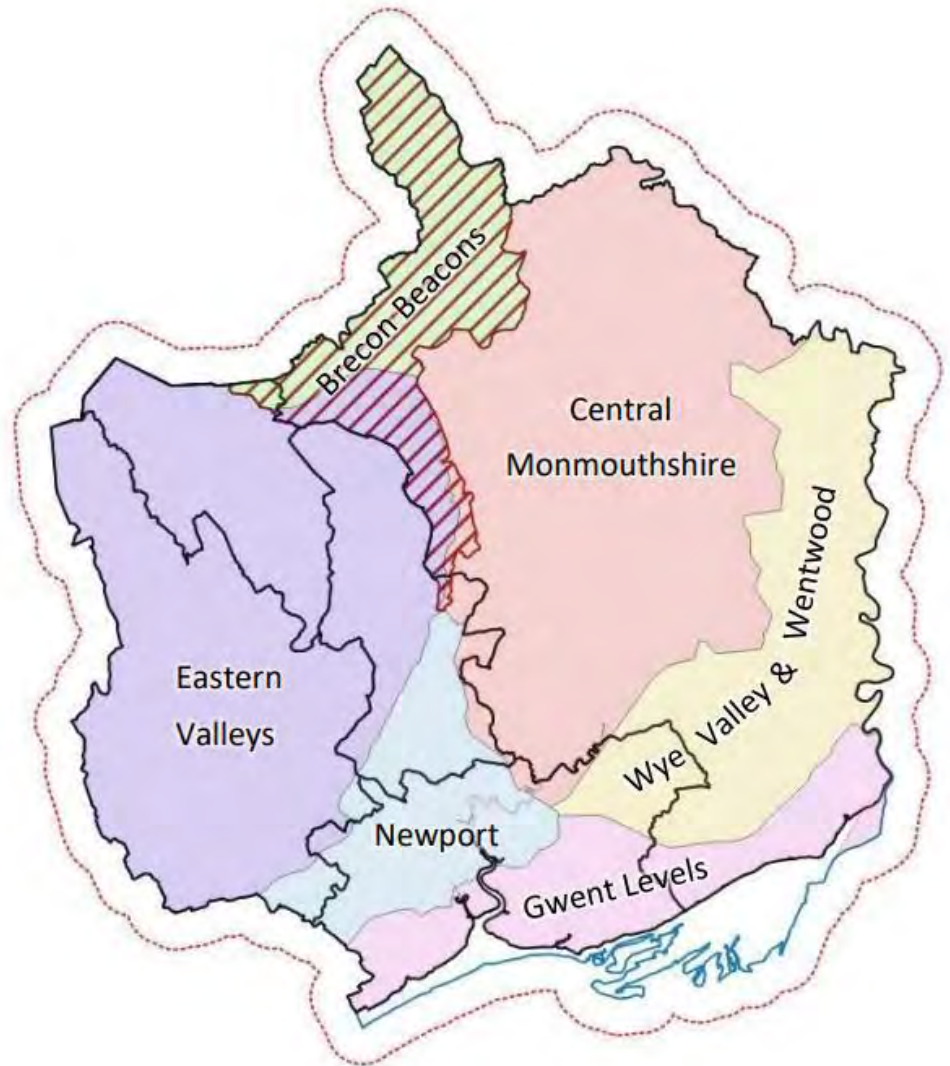


# How does it fit into the big picture?



# Regional GI strategy themes & landscape areas\*

- **Nature** – Linking our Landscapes\*
- **Climate** – Climate Ready Gwent\*
- **Health** – Healthy Active Connected\*
- **Economy**
- **Place**
- **Communities**
- **Ways of Working\***

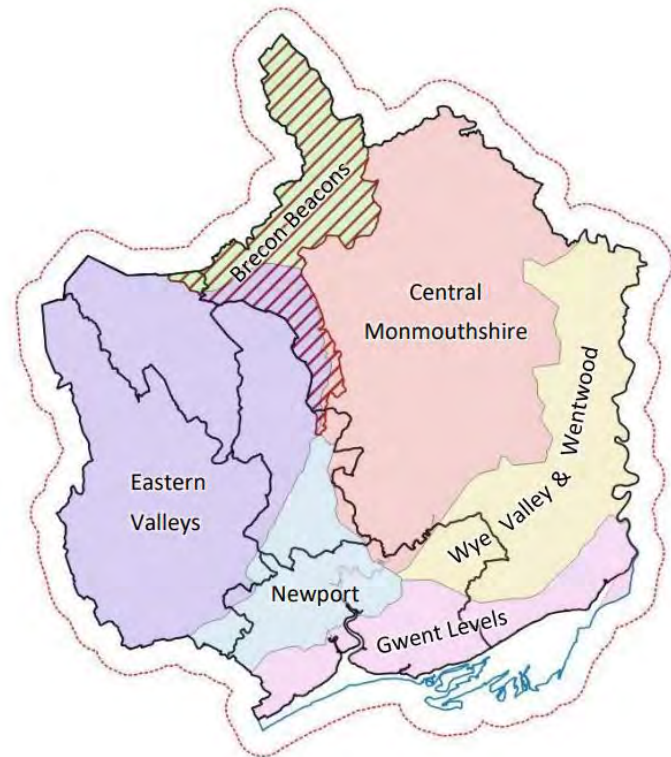
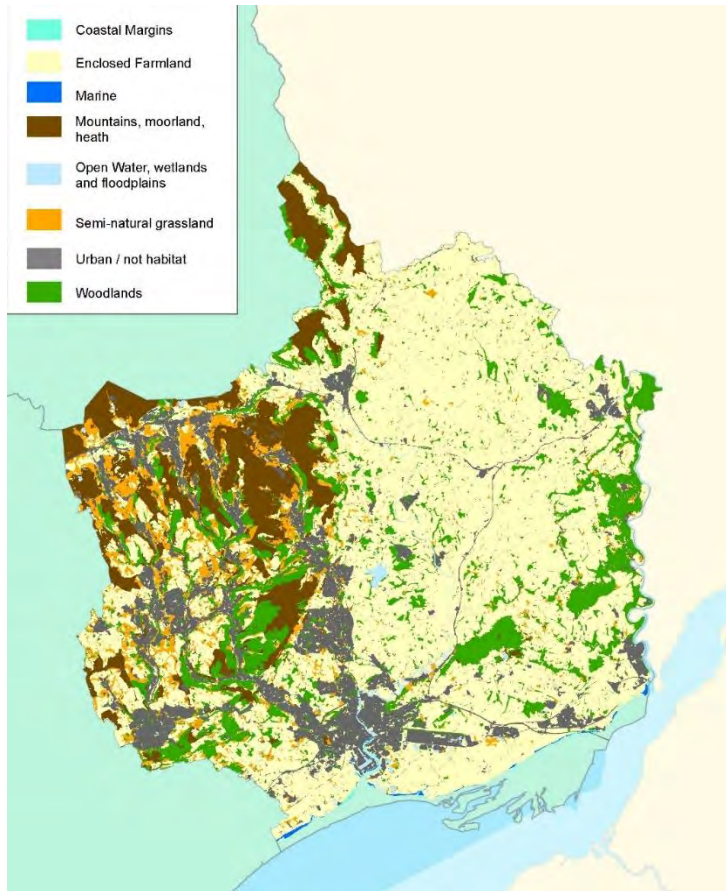


(\*Source: NRW SE Wales Natural Resources Area Statement)

# Local GI strategies themes

Regional GI Strategy (CBA, 2023)	Monmouthshire (CBA, 2019)	Torfaen (CBA, 2019)	Blaenau Gwent (CBA, 2021)	Newport (CBA, 2022)	Caerphilly (TACP, 2020)
<b>Nature</b>	Enhance biodiversity and increase ecosystem resilience	Support biodiversity and ecological resilience	Support biodiversity and ecological resilience	Biodiversity and ecosystem resilience	Biodiversity
<b>Climate</b>	Increase climate change resilience	Build climate change resilience	Build climate change resilience and mitigation	Climate change and sustainability	Water management
<b>Health</b>	Improve health and wellbeing	Develop active travel networks and promote outdoor physical activity	Develop active travel networks, promote outdoor physical activity & encourage local food growing	Health and well-being	Health, well-being and access
<b>Economy</b>	Support sustainable economic development			Economy	Tourism and regeneration
<b>Place</b>	Strengthen landscape character and distinctiveness			Sense of place	Landscape amenity
<b>Communities</b>		Tackle landscape crime/irresponsible use of greenspaces; Promote training, volunteering and apprenticeships opportunities	Tackle landscape crime/irresponsible use of greenspaces; Promote training, volunteering and apprenticeships opportunities	Social cohesion	Community and education

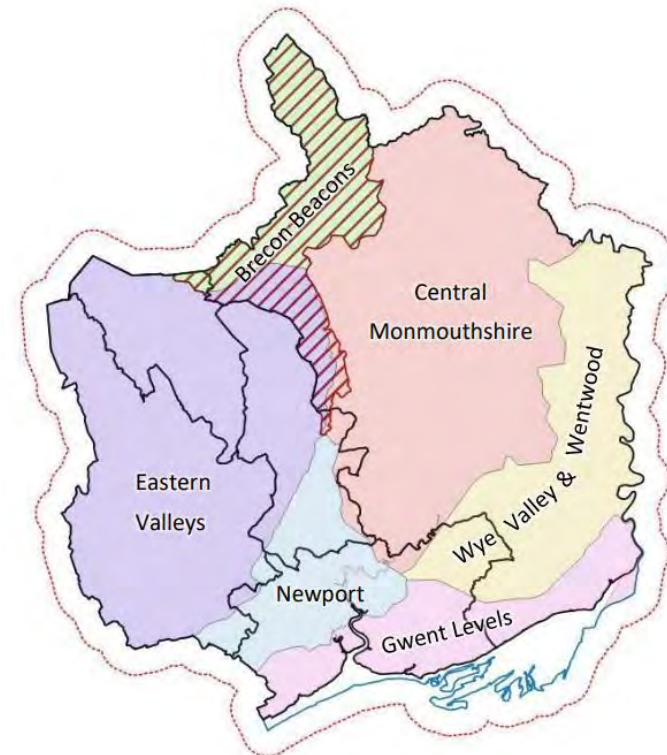
# Regional landscape-scale GI assets – broad habitats





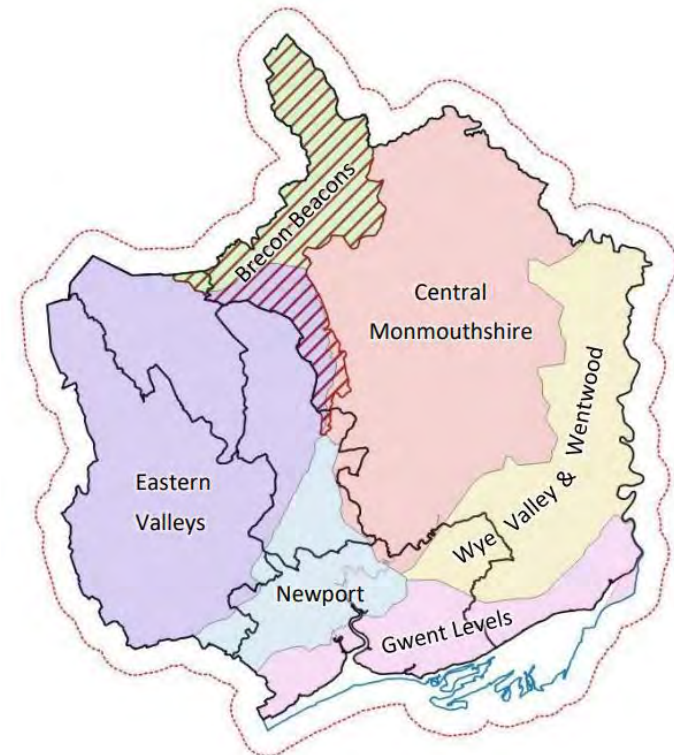
# Regional landscape-scale GI assets – statutory designations

- |  |  |
|--|--|
|  Local Nature Reserves                |  Special Protection Areas           |
|  National Nature Reserves             |  Special Areas of Conservation      |
|  Sites of Special Scientific Interest |  Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty |
|  Wetlands of International Importance |  National Parks                     |



# Regional landscape-scale GI assets – strategic access

- Open access land
- Valleys regional park
- Promoted national/regional trails
- Active travel network
- Rights of way network



# Scoping the Strategy

- Gaps in GI knowledge/data?
- Strategic GI principles/objectives?
- Regional priorities for action?



**APPENDIX 4**

**Stakeholder Workshop Stage 2 Report**





# **Green Grid Gwent Partnership**

## **Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy**

### **Stage 2 Workshop – Developing the Strategy**

**21 April 2023**

## **About CBA**

CBA is an independent, award-winning landscape, environmental and heritage practice. Working collaboratively with clients, stakeholders and other consultants is at the heart of everything we do.

We have considerable experience of preparing green infrastructure strategies and action plans at all scales for public sector-led partnerships throughout Wales and England. Our work has been recognised as best practice by awards for professional excellence from the Landscape Institute and Royal Town Planning Institute.

[www.cbastudios.com/green-infrastructure](http://www.cbastudios.com/green-infrastructure)

## **About the Wellbeing Planner**

The Wellbeing Planner provides customer focused services that help groups of people, whatever their circumstance, to work together more effectively.

Success in a team, a community or business is based on shared understanding to inspire collective action. Whether it's tackling climate change or to focus the efforts of a corporate team, success comes from people working towards a shared goal.

This paper provides a record of the first workshop for the development of the GGGP's Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch. For information on the Wellbeing Planner, please visit [www.wellbeingplanner.co.uk](http://www.wellbeingplanner.co.uk)

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Appendix Three – Workshop Presentation	Additional Attachment

## **Background**

This is the second of two workshops, engaging the GGGP organisations in shaping the Gwent Green Infrastructure Strategy. The Strategy will provide a regional framework for a new collaborative and strategic approach to local green infrastructure (GI) planning, funding, delivery, and management across Gwent. It will set out a shared vision, common priorities, and themes for collaborative ways of working to secure delivery of green infrastructure.

The process is being undertaken in two stages:

- Stage 1 – Scoping the Strategy (first workshop held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023)
- Stage 2 – Developing the Strategy

This second workshop aimed to generate ideas and shape emerging thinking around:

1. A shared long-term vision – for creating a connected and resilient Green Grid for Gwent through collaborative working.
2. Strategic objectives and opportunities – for landscape scale GI to support national/regional well-being, climate, and nature recovery priorities.
3. Strategic action plan themes – for delivering strategic proposals for landscape scale GI actions at the regional level.
4. A shared long-term vision – for creating a connected and resilient Green Grid for Gwent through collaborative working.
5. Strategic objectives and opportunities – for landscape scale GI to support national/regional well-being, climate, and nature recovery priorities.
6. Strategic action plan themes – for delivering strategic proposals for landscape scale GI actions at the regional level.

## **Methodology**

The workshop was a two-hour online event.

CBA provided an introductory presentation to the workshop, which included a summary of the Key Messages/Themes identified by stakeholders from the Stage 1 Scoping Workshop. This highlighted four main regional GI priorities - health, climate, nature and ways of working.

Participants were invited to:

- Suggest a long-term vision for the GI Strategy.
- Shape the Strategic GI Objectives and Opportunities.
- Identify the Strategic GI Action Plan Themes.

For more details of the workshop agenda see Appendix One.

For a copy of the presentation see Appendix Three for details.



## Observations

### Developing a shared long-term GI vision for the Gwent Green Grid

The Postcards from the Future exercise generated two statements:

- Statement One: A recognised and well connected multi-functional green infrastructure network that has delivered climate mitigation, nature recovery and healthy outcomes for all.
- Statement Two: A green Gwent for all, thriving in nature now and in the future. Additional comment included: Nature is accessible to me. Reduced flood risk and drier climate and that I feel healthier as an outcome. And that those benefits are passed onto my children. Wildlife is thriving.

The participants agreed about a vision having the following:

- Green spaces needing to be accessible for all.
- Green spaces needing to benefit people's health and wellbeing, and
- The vision needed to include thriving wildlife and the environment.

During the discussion the participants emphasised that the language for the vision should be simple in order that people could understand what the GI Strategy was aiming to achieve.

Other key observations from participants included that the Vision should build on and reflect the regional vision statement for natural resources management in the SE Area Statement, and the visions within local GI Strategies.

### Strategic GI Objectives and Opportunities

The discussion about the Strategic Green Infrastructure Objectives produced the following points:

- Participants couldn't agree on whether there should be a focus on a single objective or multiple benefits for the strategy's objectives – but the multifunctional green spaces could benefit both humans, ecological connectivity and the complex issues like tackling climate change.
- Participants felt the objectives could contribute to improving health and wellbeing by providing accessible and useable green spaces, thereby reducing local health inequalities (to support the Gwent PSB Wellbeing Plan objectives)
- The Objectives needed to emphasise the economic value of designated landscapes and heritage for tourism.

There were also comments about the partnership's ways of working – including the creating an evidence base for decision making, how to work together to achieve

strategic outcomes, using SMART objectives to track progress and getting private sector representation onto the partnership.

Other observations included that the GI Objectives should reflect the regional priorities in the SE Area Statement and align with objectives in local GI Strategies.

The workshop conversation generated a rich list of Strategic Green Infrastructure Opportunities for Gwent.

- The discussion highlighted the importance of effective collaboration, partnership, and communication between different sectors, including farmers, local authorities, health boards, and housing associations, working at the regional and local levels.
- The opportunities ranged from enhancing upland management for flood risk and carbon storage to promoting outdoor learning and play and greening public sector estates.
- The focus was on operating at appropriate scales and building strategic linkages across regions, such as strategic cycle routes, walking paths, strategic partnerships on specific topics (e.g., food) and the strategy working at a landscape scale/catchment scale.
- Participants felt there were some issues better suited to a Gwent wide approach rather than at the Sub-Area level e.g., eradicating Invasive Non-Native Species. But providing green infrastructure at community level, or 'nature on your doorstep,' was seen as important for the larger conurbations at the Sub-Area level.

The main conclusion from this discussion was that there is a need to work at different scales on different issues and this needs to be kept in mind.

### Strategic GI Action Plan Themes

In terms of Strategic GI Action Plan Themes, the participants highlighted the following:

- Promoting improved health and wellbeing should be considered as a key theme.
- A clear engagement process is needed to raise awareness, encourage responsible recreation and an appreciation or love of green spaces.
- Need for clarity on ways of working amongst the partnership members. For example, by setting principles for interventions or bids for resources.
- The need to align resources between the partnership members.

The rest of the discussion highlighted the importance of creating and maintaining high-quality green spaces that are accessible to all, while also addressing the challenges posed by climate change and other environmental issues. The focus was on using a holistic approach that considers the needs of people and wildlife, and on creating a framework of principles and action plans to guide future work.

Participants asked for the following to be considered:

- A list of the different strategic GI projects/interventions within Gwent.
- Clarity on how the GI Strategy aligns with the Gwent Public Service Board's Wellbeing Plan
- Taking the opportunity to demonstrate how GI interventions bring different agencies and agendas together.

### Overall Observations

There was considerable alignment amongst participants on the GI vision.

However, the lack of agreement about green infrastructure objectives being multifunctional and multi-theme could be a challenge to the partnership going forward. Although important to recognise that having that flexibility would create opportunities to enable green infrastructure objectives being secured through a broader range of funding bids or other activities by Partnership members.

A great deal of potential exists to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for the population, but this remains a difficult challenge – particularly in terms of accessibility for certain members of the population.

Green infrastructure has the potential to support local and regional economic development, but this requires effective engagement / involvement with private sector partners to ensure the economic benefits are realised whilst achieving environmental and social goals.

Engagement and involvement are key challenges for this agenda going forward. This means finding different ways to effectively engage and involve partner organisations as well as local communities.

For the notes taken during the workshop see Appendix Two.

### **Next Steps**

The feedback from stakeholders generated by the Stage 1 and 2 workshops will be used to help shape the Regional GI Strategy's vision, objectives, and action plan for delivering strategic GI opportunities at the regional level.

## Appendix One – Participants and Workshop Agenda

### Workshop Participants

Amy Nethercott	Natural Resources Wales
Catrin Grimstead	Natural Resources Wales
Christopher Harris	RSPB
Colette Bosley	Monmouthshire County Council
Dafydd Thomas	Wellbeing Planner
Daniel Davies	Natural Resources Wales
Dewi Thomas	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Dominic Watkins	CBA
Gillian Barter	Natural Resources Wales
Harriet Bleach	Natural Resources Wales
Harriet Stanford	CBA
Helen Fairbank	Greener Gwent Grid Partnership
Henrietta Lucas	Torfaen County Borough Council
Jayne Carter	Natural Resources Wales
Kate Stinchcombe	Monmouthshire County Council
Mark Mcloughlin	Natural Resources Wales
Phil Griffiths	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Sarah Davies	ABUHB
Damian Assinder	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

**Agenda** (times are draft and can flex on the day)

### **Introductions**

10.00 Introductions / get people on xleap (Dafydd) 10 minutes.

### **CBA Presentation**

10.10 Presentation (Dominic) 10 minutes

### **A shared long-term vision**

10.20 Break out groups (Dafydd) 10 minutes

Imagine its 2043 and you're writing a postcard back to yourself about what the Gwent Green Grid's GI looks like in 20 years' time.

As a group, come up with the words you'd put on the postcard (in no more than 25 words).

10.30 Plenary get each group to feedback (Dafydd) (10 minutes)

- Share the statements.
- Are they similar?
- Are they different?
- Summarise??

### **Strategic GI Objectives and Opportunities**

10.40 Break out groups (Dafydd) 10 minutes

What do you think the overarching strategic GI objectives for supporting delivery of the long-term GI Vision should be?

10.50 Break out groups (Dafydd) 20 minutes

What do you think the key strategic GI opportunities for Gwent as a whole should be?

What do you think the key strategic GI opportunities for Gwent's Sub-Areas should be?

11.10 Plenary get each group to feedback (Dafydd) (5 minutes)

### **11.15 – 11.25 Comfort Break**

## **Action Plan Themes**

### **Strategic GI Action Plan Themes**

11.25 Break out groups (Dafydd) 15 minutes

What do you think the themes for the region-wide strategic GI project action plans should be?

11.40 Plenary get each group to feedback (Dafydd) 15 minutes

### **Next Steps**

11.55 (Dominic) 5 minutes

Any questions?

## Appendix Two – Notes from the Workshop

### A shared long-term GI Vision

#### Breakout Group One: Postcards from the Future

Imagine its 2043 and you're writing a postcard back to yourself about what the Gwent Green Grid's GI looks like in 20 years' time. As a group, come up with the words you'd put on the postcard (in no more than 25 words).

Statement One: *A recognised and well connected multi-functional green infrastructure network that has delivered climate mitigation, nature recovery and healthy outcomes for all.*

Statement Two: *A green Gwent for all, thriving in nature now and in the future.*  
(Additional comments included: Nature is accessible to me. Reduced flood risk and drier climate and that I feel healthier as an outcome. And that those benefits are passed onto my children. Wildlife is thriving).

#### Practice Statements

- We now have an established and connected network of multifunctional green spaces that are easily accessible for all, benefitting our health and wellbeing. There is a long-term commitment to levelling up biodiversity.
- A Green Gwent for all, thriving in nature, now and in the future.
- Gwent is a place where everyone can easily access green and open spaces that are beneficial to wildlife, local environment, and nature now and in the long term.
- Nature is accessible to me; I feel healthier and I'm seeing a reduction in flood risk and drought than 20 years ago as are my children.
- Gwent is a place where everyone can easily access green and open spaces that are beneficial for well-being, wildlife, and nature, now and in the long term.
- It must be quality greenspace because access/proximity is not the whole picture. On paper greenspace could be close by but it might not be welcoming/safe to spend time in. Of course, quality could also mean healthy ecosystems (nature is thriving).

#### Notes taken during the group discussion.

- Green Infrastructure in 2042 is multifunctional, accessible, equitable, healthy, functional, connected, maximising wellbeing for future generations and resilient to change.
- Multi-functional.
- Multifunctional, greater biodiversity.
- Nature-rich.
- Healthy places and communities.
- Thriving and prosperous communities.
- Working together.
- Continuing long term investment.
- Climate resilient.

- People as well as places.
- A green and healthy place to live, with an increasingly coherent and resilient ecological network of wildlife habitats, helping conserve biodiversity.
- Empowered communities.
- More trees in towns, especially inner cities.
- That all of the above can be taken for granted and part of everyday life that we're all redundant.
- NRW Corporate plan vision: Nature and people thriving together.
- A well-connected multifunctional green infrastructure network.
- Loads of benefits for people, places and nature.
- Connected and resilient green grid.
- Health and well-being boosted.
- A green Gwent for all?
- We can all access green space, locally and across Gwent, regardless of who we are. This space is used by us and nature etc!
- Access for all.
- Collaborative.
- Green spaces are connected.
- For people?
- Improvement to urban green spaces.
- More connected?
- Better condition?
- Easy access to green spaces.
- Making nature and green spaces more accessible.
- Levelling up access to nature and green spaces.
- Bigger and better?
- Gwent has great green spaces, thriving nature and a healthy environment for all to enjoy, now and into the future? for more everyday language?
- The vision for Southeast: (one of the 4 visions from the Area Statement e.g.): Our water is clean, our soils are healthy, our air is fresh, and our landscapes are living. Nature is valued and biodiversity enhancements are embedded in decision-making. Our habitats and species are thriving, biodiversity is maximised, and wildlife is abundant.



## Breakout Group Two: Strategic GI Objectives and Opportunities

### Breakout Group Two: What do you think the overarching strategic GI objectives for supporting delivery of the long-term GI Vision should be?

- The Area Statement sums up all the themes, Health, Climate, Ways of Working and Landscapes.
- All these themes interlink but are also cross-cutting.
- Tackling inequalities.
- I don't think there should be just a focus on health it needs to cover all multifunctional aspects.
- All partners will have their own priorities, must be multifunctional to deliver all these outcomes as much as possible.
- Having climate pushed higher up the agenda and gained more attention, it's not just ecology. Can we link the other themes as easily as ecology?
- Can Multifunctional be the main overarching driver? And 'ways of working' be underpinning?
- We either think about it from the human perspective, or from nature. Broader than just the human side - humans implementing it.
- Needs an ecosystem service approach.
- Key message of being healthy and happy, and then the objectives need to state how.
- In terms of access, what is termed accessible spaces? People from outside of Gwent going to Wetlands, should it stay local. How does small places in the borough?
- Objectives should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely.
- Having themes allows for flexibility in delivery and funding available.
- Need to focus on How we'll achieve them to then deliver.
- Deciding what is best practice.
- Ways of working - help with what scale you should do w,y and z in what you want to deliver? How to work in regional / local? That is why Gwent Green Grid was set up, the partnership is critical to deliver across the board. Can be difficult in times but need to do it to deliver strategic outputs. E.g., planting trees.
- The benefit to the economy seems missing and working in partnership with the private sector - 'ways of working' could help with this. E.g., working with Housing developers to maximise biodiversity.
- How to better connect the health issues/benefits with the environment issues/benefits.
- Benefits - specifics in local areas to contribute to the overall goal.
- Anxiety around climate changed linked to the mental wellbeing of populations.
- Evolution of partnership working - how it becomes possible that there is not a theme being prioritising.
- Targets for a percentage of people who have good access to green spaces, and how this can be developed and delivered.
- Green Infrastructure strategy has objectives that includes improving health and wellbeing. But the objectives are missing how to strengthen the character of the landscape and how that tie into economic development in the area.
- There is a need to build evidence base.

- Tourists? Is this the economic side to use certain green spaces for tourism? Landscape and leisure. Having a setting that attracts - industry, worthwhile jobs, tourism.
- Visually - perhaps the objectives need to be laid out as a system to convey how they link together, the multifunctionality, one is not more of a priority than the others, rather than a list.
- Creating an environment that people want to stay in their area, travel to, Greater Wilder Event an example. Awareness raising and carrying out works on the ground, engaging people for participation.
- Perhaps a private sector/economy/wellbeing economy rep or expert needs to be on the Partnership.
- The 4 points of a healthy, active and connected communities; linking landscapes; being climate ready and having good ways of working summarise what we need to do. . We need to tweak the language. Are we agreeing as a group, that we don't have a priority focus? This is what is on the screen, but its missing economic development.
- More of an infographic, as the way we display it will reduce how it looks to priorities.
- Landscape scale - regional landscape scale - dedicated landscapes.
- Accessibility and usability of our Green Infrastructure.
- Accessible and usable green spaces. Under partnership and engagement.
- It must be quality greenspace because access/proximity is not the whole picture. On paper greenspace could be close by but it might not be welcoming/safe to spend time in.
- Accessible and functional green space and good quality.
- The 'healthy, active, connected' objective needs to encompass addressing health inequalities specifically.

Breakout Group Three: What do you think the key strategic GI opportunities for Gwent as a whole should be?

- Upland management, flood risk, carbon storage, woodland connectivity.
- Flood management - upland management and flood risk downstream - tree planting. Not necessarily urban tree planting, wider planting scheme. More general about woodland management.
- There is a need to connect and identify regional ways of working.
- Having a linking belt through the Southeast.
- Areas of deprivation.
- Pollinator - element of the works we do - trees, bog restoration.
- Opportunity to join up on things such as managing flood risk, pollution risk, estates etc.
- Areas most at risk from climate change.
- Recreation spaces?
- RENS.
- Southeast Wales action plan for pollinators, further opportunities on this. Pollinators working on it for some time.
- Recognise the big issues eg water, flooding, air etc.
- Working with farmers or does the Sustainable Farming Scheme cover this?
- Enhance biodiversity & increase ecosystem resilience.
- How you make a green infrastructure accessible strategically? Unless we encourage public transport. Linking pathways, cycle routes.
- Advocating for increased/enhanced Green Infrastructure on active travel routes across Gwent.
- Look to build and improve collaboration opportunities.
- Strategic cycle route, linking over the top BG and Caerphilly. Routes into Monmouthshire? Linking towns?
- Improve communication between all levels.
- Consideration of land use planning and how this links to the strategic GI e.g., strategic development plans, strategic sites allocated in the local development plans.
- Monmouth looking to link up through active travel, Caldicot and Abergavenny. Will connect communities along the railway line. All add to the strategic links.
- Support strategic and local access opportunities.
- Joined up shared process, evidence, data to maximise GI at regional scale - economies of scale to maximise contribution GI for nature, climate, and people.
- Work with a range of landowners / land managers to repurpose or enhance land for nature/biodiversity/habitat/other greenspace (private gardens, housing associations, health board, local authorities, etc).
- Main access routes running through, coast path, linking to it is important. The Usk valley path. World Heritage path. Plenty of opportunities for access. What about Play? Or is that going to be local. An approach to create wild play opportunities, consolidation, and simpler structures. An element of providing healthy and active opportunities for play.
- Outdoor learning and play.
- Greening of public sector estates.
- Agroecological farming practices - linking in with Food Partnerships.

- Landscape scale for working on GI is very useful. Should it be the focus?
- It's about operating at the appropriate scale.

Breakout Group Four: What do you think the key strategic GI opportunities for Gwent's Sub-Areas should be?

- Previously there were waste crime and peat restoration projects.
- Issues with disabled play.
- Partnerships can be quite time limited.
- Landscape focus is useful as there are similarities across landscape types.
- Need to recognise our local area and not the Cardiff. We need to recognise our opportunities and not providing for other areas (keep just as urban communities). That said urban communities is not a good description for Monmouthshire.
- Invasive Non-Native Species better tackled at a regional scale.
- Work together regionally, but through the lens of 'landscapes' - being better at joined up integrated delivery were delivering that shared vision for Green Infrastructure for nature, climate and health.
- Is it providing green infrastructure in urban areas, so people don't have to leave the urban areas due to lack of transport.
- Agree, nature on your doorstep. Connecting people to nature especially those disconnected living in urban areas. Important for City of Newport (which may expand in future) for example and many other towns in Gwent.
- It could work at different scales - regional or local, depending on what it is.

## Strategic GI Action Plan Themes

### Breakout Group Five: What do you think the themes for the region-wide strategic GI project action plans should be?

#### Health (wellbeing, inequalities)

- Health and wellbeing.
- Health inequalities.
- Combining health data with Green Infrastructure mapping to enable a target approach to improving access.

#### Engagement (awareness raising, responsible behaviour, appreciation, love of green spaces)

- Awareness raising.
- For me, there is something about communications and engagement (if that is the scope of Gwent Green Grid Partnership). Getting the message across to people that live and work in Gwent of the multiple benefits of the range of Green Infrastructure and the Gwent Green Grid Partnership work, and INVOLVING and empowering a wide range of people, community led activity, to get buy in and that they are part of this movement. There is a risk of possible contention otherwise.

#### Ways of Working: Principles, links to other interventions / bids etc.

- Common framework and principles of what good Green Infrastructure looks like.
- Do we need an action plan? Why do we need it? What's added value?
- Gwent Green Grid Charter - what are the key asks for individuals / businesses/ local authorities/ regional partnerships.
- This would be interesting to explore. There is a 'Gwent Healthy Travel Charter' so Gwent partners would be familiar with the concept.
- Not just authorities, but places and all stakeholders and partnerships.
- Do we need to consider how we are making the strategy available? So that we can provide a forum making all aware of projects and work being undertaken - it needs to have a living structure that can be updated.

#### Aligning Resources

- Do we need considering on what is happening within the region? E.g. HLF bid, we want to link into what is already happening, overview of what is going on in the region.
- Agree, need to tie in with what is already happening.
- Are there particular areas of funding streams that are not picked up? People and restoration? How does that come through in terms of delivery? How are we delivering? What funding pots are we tapping into to deliver?
- I don't think that we should be overly led by what funding streams are available, it is about what we want.

#### Unsorted

- Doesn't have climate, ways of working not applicable - awareness raising and engagement?

- Accessible QUALITY greenspace, not just proximity/that it is nearby. Must have an eye on addressing the barriers / work with those who work in this area - anti social behaviour, fly tipping, litter, off road bikes, feeling unsafe, lack of confidence, disconnection with nature, cultural barriers.
- Set of core principles of what 'good Green Infrastructure' looks like.
- Regional networks and accessibility pick up on this. Climate change mitigation.
- Climate change mitigation.
- Is Climate change across everything? The project action plans set against multiple themes.
- The theme climate change mitigation, then delivery of different elements under this. Gathering data.
- Need to get the balance of people and wildlife right.
- Bog restoration. Woodland management.
- Peatland restoration - Natural Resources Wales peat grants.
- Placemaking.
- Mitigation flooding, shade, doing this work to mitigate the climate. Tree planting, woodland management, health - prioritise more for health. Green space. Climate, health, place making - funding pots, ecology.
- Nature recovery.
- Coastal management.
- Perhaps we should be identifying themes and signposting to those action plans that are already out there.
- How to capture the multi-functionality of a meshed action plan.
- Framework of principles for people to align to.
- Is there something around 'public owned land' that needs to be spelled out - committing this to delivery for good quality Green Infrastructure? Would this help for other public bodies e.g., Health Board in justification for funds for long term sustainable management for sites e.g., Nevill Hall hospital grounds.



# Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy

## Stage 2 – Developing the Strategy

GGG Partnership Workshop - 21 April 2023



# Stage 1 Scoping Workshop Key Messages/Themes

Feedback highlighted four main regional GI priorities:

- **Health** – focus on the health & wellbeing benefits of GI, in particular addressing inequalities of provision for communities experiencing high levels of health deprivation
- **Climate** – respond to the climate emergency by using nature-based solutions for helping communities/places be adaptable and resilient to change
- **Nature** – respond to the nature emergency by taking action to reverse biodiversity loss and habitat fragmentation at the landscape-scale
- **Ways of Working** – need for a shared vision/objectives and clear plan of action to guide a more consistent, inclusive and collaborative approach to local GI delivery across Gwent





# Workshop Aims

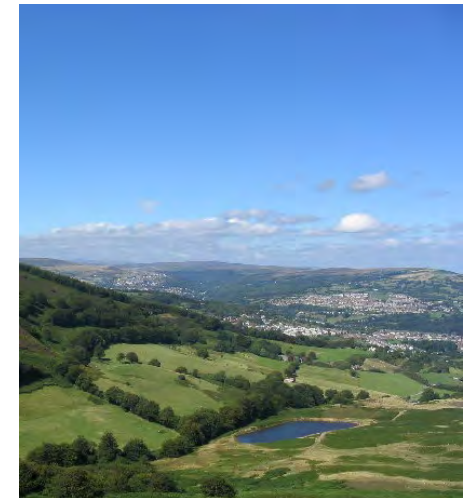
Generate/discuss ideas to help shape emerging thinking around:

- **A shared long-term GI vision** – for creating a connected and resilient Green Grid for Gwent through collaborative working
- **Strategic objectives & opportunities** – for landscape-scale GI to support national/regional well-being, climate and nature recovery priorities
- **Strategic action plans themes** – for delivering strategic proposals for landscape-scale GI actions at the regional level



# Developing a vision for the Gwent Green Grid

- Imagine its 2043 and you're writing a postcard to yourself about what the Gwent Green Grid's GI looks like in 20 years' time...
- As a group, come up with the words you'd put on the postcard (in no more than 25 words)



# What do you think the overarching strategic GI objectives for supporting delivery of the long-term GI Vision should be?

For example:

- **Healthy, Active & Connected Gwent** – protecting and improving health & well-being by connecting people/communities to accessible green space and nature?
- **Linking Gwent's Landscapes** – regional/landscape-scale ecological network connectivity improvements to strengthen biodiversity & ecosystem resilience and support nature recovery?
- **Climate Ready Gwent** – regional/landscape-scale climate adaptation & mitigation to strengthen ecosystem & community resilience to change?
- **Good Ways of Working** – strategic regional collaboration through effective partnerships to maximise local GI delivery?



# What do you think the key strategic GI opportunities for Gwent as a whole should be?

For example:

- Developing a catchment-based approach to natural flood management and other nature-based solutions to flood risk?
- Increasing urban tree canopy cover in key settlements to support regional well-being and nature recovery objectives?
- Improving strategic access opportunities within green corridors linking key regional destinations?



# What do you think the key strategic GI opportunities for Gwent's Sub-Areas should be?

For example, strategic opportunities for improving GI in the Gwent Levels include:

- Adopting a landscape-scale approach to wetland management/ditch system
- Developing a sustainable approach to farming to protect soils, water & biodiversity
- Working with and adapting to natural estuarine processes
- Enhancing access for urban communities in Newport, Cardiff & Severnside Settlements



# What do you think the themes for the region-wide strategic GI project action plans should be?

Examples of action plan themes could include:

- Strategic ecological networks & connectivity?
- Strategic accessible greenspaces?
- Strategic green corridors & access?





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# Regional Partnership Board Annual Report 2022/23





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## Foreword



The Regional Partnership Board Annual Report provides RPB partners with the opportunity to highlight progress over the last year and to set out case studies where innovation and good practice have been developed through partnership working. The progress highlighted in this annual report is significant when considering the challenges and unprecedented demands placed on partners following the Covid-19 pandemic, the workforce challenges and difficulties in recruitment, as well as recent cost of living increases and cuts to budgets. We are moving

on from one of the toughest winter periods ever experienced with 27th Dec 2022 the busiest day for the NHS in its 70-year history; an increase in demand replicated across the whole of health and social care services.

The challenges highlighted set out the need for partners to come together to collaborate more than ever, to create synergy across services and reduce duplication. The RPB is central to creating the partnership environment to tackle these challenges and has recently develop a new Area Plan

for 2023/24 which sets out how we intend to work together, pool resources and transform services. This annual report sets out progress made through the previous Area Plan and also how we made steps to deliver the 'Further, Faster' ambition set by Welsh Government.

We are passionate about improving and creating the best health and wellbeing outcomes for the people of Gwent and put people at the heart of everything we do. We work closely with our communities to co-produce care and support services and enable people and their families to feel supported and listened to; and I am pleased to include perspectives from our citizen panel, third sector and provider partners within this annual report

As RPB Chair I feel it is important to ensure the RPB recognises the hard work of all partners and identifies innovation and good practice to develop further. However, we cannot be complacent as there are significant challenge ahead, but this annual report is an opportunity to recognise the efforts of all staff, volunteers, providers and unpaid carers for their huge efforts over the last year. This report belongs to them as well as the RPB and partners.

**Ann Lloyd, CBE – Gwent Regional Partnership Board Chair**

## **Perspective from Partners**

### **Lorraine Morgan, Citizen Panel Chair**

This had been my last year as Chair, but I have now been re-elected, so will continue to focus on the voices of citizens around the table and how their well-being and quality of life concerns are responded to by the RPB, and services transformed for the better. I am so pleased that we also now have two vice chairs, which shares the voluntary work well. We are now holding blended meetings – virtual and face to face and so we will hope to see some old friends return. It has been a very difficult few years for many people, but many of us have also learned new communication skills.

Our meetings remain topical, but we do continue to monitor whether any issues have been acted on and changed for the better. I have enjoyed my involvement in the Engagement and Voice Task and Finish groups with Welsh Government which have concentrated on RPB guidelines and stronger evidence on co-production within RPBs and citizens.

We continue to include Hospital Discharge experiences as one of our standing items on the agenda and we now have joining us, the new Llais Cymru local body who were the previous Community Health Council but now include social care in their monitoring and citizen support role.

As we emerge out of a pandemic but into uncertain territory around serious social care workforce issues and long NHS waiting lists, we remained concerned about difficulties in accessing GPs for citizens. So, our focus must be more on how our well-being affects our ability to live our lives – and how citizens are really involved in measuring their own outcomes. To this end we had a very informative session from Dr Sally Lewis on Value Based Healthcare and how citizens can share their own reported outcomes to practitioners. We plan to work further with VBHC.

The speed of change is slow but still encouraging if we see some clear co-production within that change. The admin team and our support team from the RPB have been and continue to be so engaged with us – and show their understanding as citizens themselves. So, I would like to, on behalf of the whole Citizen Panel thank them for their real dedication in keeping us informed and engaged.

### **Jason O'Brien, Strategic Director for Children and Family Services Torfaen**

As we continue to recover post pandemic, we are faced with the increasing cost of living crisis and subsequent economic downturn, which has impacted on all parts of our communities and public services. This, combined with a shrinking workforce across health and social care, has continued to present challenges and has further confirmed the need for services to work collaboratively across all sectors. The Regional Partnership Board is an example of shared priorities and joint ownership of resolution, where sectors and agencies can support one another, challenge one another, and reach collective solutions in order to meet the needs of those who present as being the most vulnerable. Our challenge going forward is to ensure that our work is increasingly effective and transparent, whilst drawing on and creating community resilience to enable people to live the lives they want to live independently and safely

**Tracy Daszkiewicz, Executive Director of Public Health & Strategic Partnerships, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board**

Over the past year strategic partners working together have established Gwent as the first Marmot region in Wales. What this means is a shared commitment to improving and protecting the health of our communities, through greater efforts around prevention and tackling health inequalities and assuring equity. We will work together to better understand the social, environmental and economic determinants and how they contribute to health inequalities.

We want our residents to live long lives in good health, living in safe communities, have opportunities for education and employment and live in good quality homes. Working to the Marmot principles enables us to put in place programmes which enable a focus on those who are disproportionately impacted by poor health and do more faster for those who need it most.

**Melanie Minty, Policy Adviser for South West and South East Wales, Care Forum Wales.**

In the last annual report, I reflected on the genuine partnership approach emerging in Gwent and I am pleased to say that the relationship has continued to mature. I have been able to contribute as provider representative to debate within the RPB and its subgroups, for instance feeding into the regional response to Welsh Government's challenge to provide additional winter capacity. In the coming months, we will be reviewing regional provider structures with a view to establishing a clearer purpose and distinction between the various provider groups in Gwent and a process for them to feed into a new, more strategic provider forum. I hope that this will strengthen the voice of regulated care services across third and private sectors whilst enabling closer working with third sector representatives on key priorities for the coming year.

**Stephen Tiley, Chief Executive Officer, GAVO**

2022/2023 continues to be challenging with the fallout of the COVID 19 pandemic still impacting on the way we work and the cost-of-living crisis hitting much of the Third Sector and its services. The cost-of-living crisis in particular is also having a heavy impact on our Public Service partners, so more than ever it's been vital that we have worked together for the benefit of the residents of the Region. Our County Voluntary Council Health and Social Care Teams across the GAVO regions of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire and Newport and Education Programme for Patients Project have been actively ensuring services have continued during challenging times, providing support and strategic links to the sector. We are very fortunate that we have built strong relationships with partners around the Regional Partnership Board whereby we can raise the issues affecting the sector across the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board footprint and have the opportunity to address those issues for resolution. Collaboration is at the heart of our work at the partnership, and this continues to progress for the benefit of our communities. Moving from Integrated Care Fund money to Regional Integrated Fund money has brought elements of change and will continue to change through the coming years but having partners that want to work together have ensured these are worked through together. I am enthused to be a part of the positive work of the partnership moving forward on behalf of the Third Sector.

## Executive Summary

The Regional Partnership Board have recently developed and agreed a new Area Plan following the publication of the Gwent Population Needs Assessment (PNA) April 2022. The Area Plan sets out how the RPB will deliver the regional priorities identified in the PNA and forms the work programme for the strategic partnerships supporting the RPB.

All partners are still experiencing issues and challenges following the COVID-19 pandemic and this has been exacerbated with the busiest winter period in NHS history, cost-of-living increases and significant workforce recruitment and retention across health and social care.

Working in partnership and creating synergy across our services are fundamental to meeting the challenges and the RPB provides a forum to develop the solutions required whilst ensuring the focus is on outcomes. The continued focus on coproduction with citizens is key as well as working side by side with our third sector and independent providers.

We have the opportunity through the recent 'Further, Faster' announcement from Welsh Government to further invest in our community services as the pressure on hospitals is not just a health board challenge. The RPB and partners need to ensure we help people to remain at home, but also return home quickly and safely, following treatment. Winter planning is still proving to be a continuous all year process and the strain on front line workers will require close monitoring, given the pressures they have worked under over the previous years. Yet again it is testament to the passion and commitment of all RPB partners and their staff that we have been able to continue with the delivery of priorities in the Area Plan and key successes include:

- **Adult Strategic Partnership** has continued to support the coordinated effort to deliver a Winter Plan programme with regards to admission avoidance and discharge to assess and community resourcing. The partnership has been key to the development, monitoring, evaluation and delivering the national '1000 beds' aim; and has continued to work very closely with local care home and domiciliary care providers to support sustainable services through a regional commissioning programme.
- **Carers Strategic Partnership** has started to develop support for carers and enabling effective hospital discharge in line with national priorities; as well as delivering other Welsh government national priorities for carers of all ages. Providing information and support to carers during national carers week and carers rights day as well as administering the Carer's small grant scheme has continued as well as the commitment to supporting young/young adult carers in education.
- **Children and Families Board** are continuing to deliver the NEST Framework planning tool to ensure a 'whole system' approach for developing mental health, well-being and support services for children and young people as well as developing residential solutions to reduce the number of out of county placements.
- **Dementia Board** have continued to implement the All Wales Dementia Care Pathway of Standards with dedicated sub groups and workstream leads. People

living with dementia, their carers and families play a key role in supporting this work and engagement continues with our communities to help coproduce services. We have continued to lead and coordinate the Dementia Friendly Community programme of work in Gwent, to further build on dementia aware, inclusive and connected communities.

- **Heath & Housing Strategic Partnership** has focused on the development of the rapid rehousing requirements. Members have continued to implement capital projects and improve existing resources especially using digital technology. Key priorities have been identified through the area plan, and members will continue to deliver on these as well as developing a Strategic Capital Plan for the region
- **Mental Health and Learning Disability Partnership** have continued to support and improve access to, and awareness of, approved mental wellbeing self-help information, resources, and workforce training programme (Gwent Connect 5). The Coproduction steering group continues to work with people with lived experience in the coproduction of future support provision, The Foundation Tier programme continues as well as planning through our self-harm and suicide sub group.
- **Regional Autism Group** – The regional group organised have developed an implementation plan to deliver against the new Welsh Government Autism Code of Practice and launched the code at a conference during Autumn 2023 – the event was attended by over 150 partners and families and Gwent RPB were only area in Wales to launch the code.

## **PART 1: PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW**

### **i. Purpose, role, membership, operating structure, and key priorities of the regional partnership board.**

**“Working together for a Healthier Gwent for the right care and support, in the right place, at the right time”**

#### Role and Priorities

The Gwent RPB will deliver the key aims of Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 of co-operation, partnership and integration and are set out as the following strategic priorities:

- To improve care and support, ensuring people have more say and control
- To improve outcomes and health and wellbeing for people across the region
- Provide co-ordinated, person centred care and support
- Make more effective use of resources, skills, and expertise across partners.

The Gwent Regional Partnership Board will also deliver the strategic intent set out in Welsh Government’s ‘A Healthier Wales: our Plan for Health and Social Care’, specifically the four themes of the Quadruple Aim:

- Improved population health and wellbeing
- Better quality and more accessible health and social care services
- Higher value health and social care, and
- A motivated and sustainable health and social care workforce.

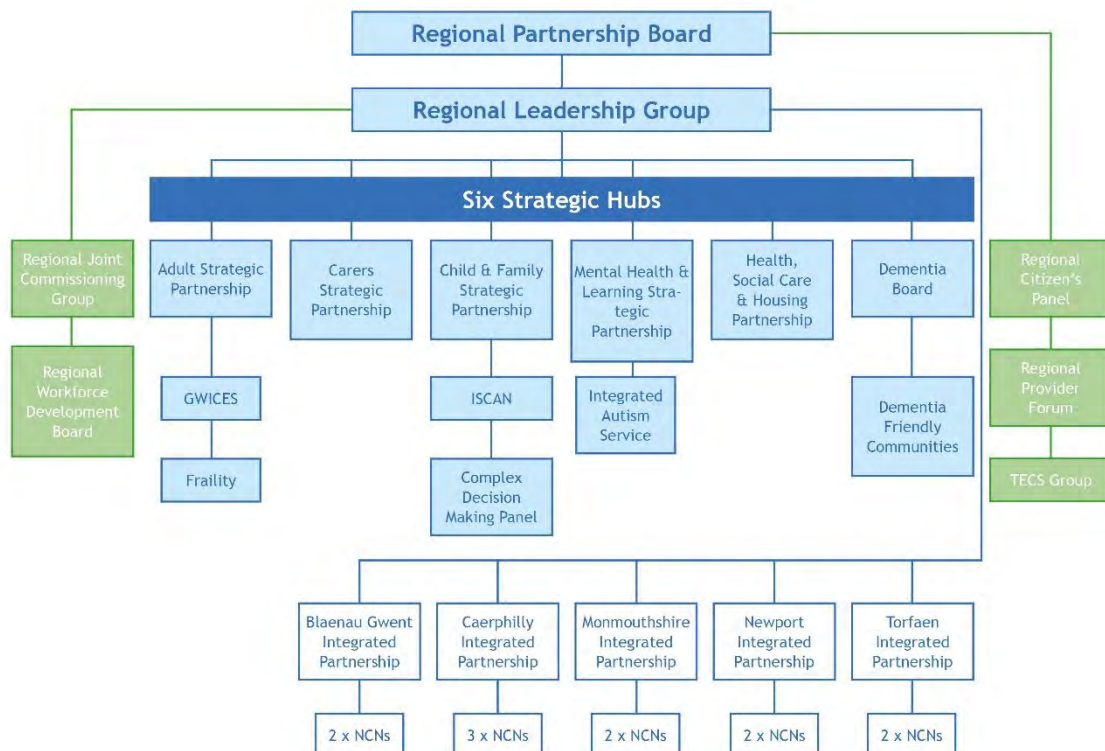
To deliver RPB priorities and the objectives of the Area Plan, the RPB have established 6 strategic integrated partnerships, which also have oversight of the relevant programmes of work and projects within the new Regional Integration Fund. These sub partnerships report to the RPB and update on progress against Area Plan priorities and challenges:

- Carers Strategic Partnership.
- Children and Families Strategic Partnership.
- Dementia Board.
- Gwent Adult Strategic Partnership.
- Health, Housing and Social Care Strategic Partnership.
- Mental Health and Learning Disability Strategic Partnership.

The thematic partnerships each deliver sections of the Area Plan as part of a strategic work programme, which is also translated at a local level via the Integrated Partnership Boards and Neighbourhood Care Networks. The RPB has also established enabling and supporting partnerships as part of the requirements set out in the SSWB Act and this includes:

- The regional citizens panel (including carers), with two representatives to sit on the Board.

- The Value-Based provider and third sector forum, to connect to the RPB directly – having two elected representatives to sit on the Board.
- A regional Joint Commissioning group.
- A regional Workforce Development Board.
- A regional Technology Enabling Care (TECS) group.




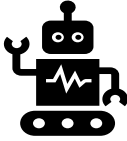







The Gwent Area Plan (<https://www.gwentrpb.wales/area-plan>) sets out actions for an integrated system of health, care, and wellbeing across Gwent. Collaborative leadership from Health, Local Government, and Third sector colleagues has driven the development of the plan. It is ambitious, and it sets a clear route map for the delivery of an integrated model of health care and wellbeing across Gwent. The Regional Partnership Board (RPB) will provide leadership and oversight on the delivery of the plan, supported by appropriate governance and performance management systems.

The Plan is structured around the statutory core themes identified in the published Population Needs Assessment and priority population groups **older adults, children and young people, carers, autism** and people with **mental health** and **learning disabilities**. A step change in the pace of transformation is required for all of the groups and we have also included a **Housing, Workforce, Commissioning** sections to our Area Plan aligning to the structure set out above comprising regional activity (strategic partnerships) local activity (5 x integrated boards) and locality models (NCN's).



ii. **Key Developments over the last year**

	<p><b>Carers Annual Report:</b> Carers team supports implementation of various programmes across the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>415 successful applicants provided with £415,000 to support</b></li> <li>• Young Carers in School: <b>599 members of staff have taken part in 17 face-to-face</b> ‘Young Carers: Identifying Us’ training sessions and 19 virtual sessions</li> <li>• <b>Over 100 Young Carers supported through schools.</b></li> <li>• <b>Training and awareness:</b> a broad range of Gwent services have been represented at training sessions where 8 Community Awareness sessions were held attended by 120 people, 39 workshops were held attended by 332 people and 52 people completed the on-line training</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Dewis figures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The total number of <b>published resources in Gwent over the past year has increased by 400 resources.</b></li> <li>• <b>Detailed views of resources have increased by 9,568.</b> This is the amount of times someone has searched for something on Dewis and then clicked to find more information. In March 2022 there was 31,227 clicks and in March 2023 there was 40,795.</li> <li>• <b>Registered users have increased by 365.</b></li> <li>• <b>Expired resources have reduced from 158 to 65</b> showing that currency of the directory is improving.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Dementia Conference</b> There were over <b>130 partners</b> who attended the Gwent Dementia Friendly Communities conference at The Christchurch Centre, in September 2022 and <b>35 partners</b> who attended the Gwent Dementia Friendly Webinar and <b>87% respondents</b> wanted to become more involved in the dementia agenda across Gwent.</p> <p><b>Dementia Friends</b> Dementia Friends sessions and supporting online connections with communities. <b>1,468 Dementia Friends</b> have been made across <b>98</b> sessions during <b>2022 – 2023.</b></p>
	<p><b>Assistive Technology (AT)</b> Over 650 AT devices have been distributed to all sectors across Gwent including the Happiness Programme, HUG and RITA to support well-being and positive stimulation.</p>
	<p><b>Workforce &amp; College Consortium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Social Care Work Placements</b> - regional work placement process was launched in September 2022 to support students to apply for LA work placements and for LA social care teams to adequately prepare to accept these placements. 13 work placement applications have been received and facilitated by LA social care teams.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coleg Gwent campuses, the ‘Placement to Progression’ events.</b> Held in Oct/Nov across 4 Coleg Gwent campuses, events have supported students with securing work placements while providing local providers the opportunity to promote part-time vacancies to the current student cohort. 52 work placement applications have been received by providers and 24 commissioned providers attended the events, all were from the adult care sector or 3<sup>rd</sup> sector.</li> <li>• <b>ABUHB Work Placements. 25 students</b> have been cleared and are ready to start placements with ABUHB. As of the 14<sup>th</sup> of November, these students will be placed on wards</li> </ul>
	<b>Micro carers MCC pilot:</b> There are currently 7 micro carers on the directory, providing around 70 hours of carer each week as of Dec 22. There are 3 more micro carers going through training. Updated figures will be available following the project evaluation. Costings of Recruitment agencies costing a total of £1575 for 70 hours, whereas Micro carers costings a total of £1155 for 70 hours. <b>Micro carers provide a saving of £420 per week.</b>
	<b>Launch of Autism Code of Practice and Autism Conference.</b> <b>240 people attended,</b> day long awareness and training event <b>100% delegates</b> felt better informed of autism after the event.
	<b>Communications and Engagement</b> Regional Partnership page views have increased from 7,470 (2021-2022) to 22,502 (2022-2023) – See Annex: 4.
	<b>AskSARA</b> As of February, all metrics (users, new users, sessions, reports, bounce rate) have increased. The user/report percentage and bounce rate remain at very positive levels, indicating users are interacting well with the site. Good variety of referral sources. <b>90% of users would recommend AskSARA, 71% were helped to find a solution or equipment.</b>

### iii. *Progress on implementing changes in the revised Part 9 guidance. Specifically*

#### **Housing and Education**

Housing partners are key members of the RPB and supporting partnerships in line with ‘A Healthier Wales’ and enabling effective delivery of capital grants. The revised Part 9 guidance requires: ‘*At least one housing representative from a local authority and at least one registered social landlord onto the membership of each board*’. The Gwent region has an established a Health, Social Care & Housing Partnership and the Chair of this group, Chief Executive of Melin Homes, was nominated by Registered Social Landlord (RSL) colleagues to represent them on the RPB.

The Children’s Commissioner 2018/19 Annual report called for greater focus from the regional boards on prioritising integration of services for children with complex needs.

The Amendment Regulations add a requirement for at least one senior local authority officer from the education sector to be a member of the board. A nominated Director of Education sits on the RPB. It is worth noting that Directors of Education have identified a nominated representative on the Children and Families Strategic Partnership which reports directly to the RPB, and the collective regional education voice is also present during discussions.

## **Children and Young People**

Integrated Family Support Services (IFSS) provides targeted support and help connect children and adult services, focusing on the family as a unit. IFSS work with families to help them to make positive changes, so that any concerns are lessened, and children can stay safely at home. In the ABUHB region, Newport City Council were originally the lead organisation and coordinated operations across the region. The 5 local authorities funded a shared service specifically delivering the original IFST model. The pooling of funds for IFST is a requirement under Part 9 of SSWB Act, and these arrangements were in place prior to the Act implementation date of 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016 for the IFST model.

From 2016 to 2018 the 5 LAs reviewed and remodeled approaches to interventions for Edge of Care services. This included a review of the efficacy of our previous IFST provision. There was concern and potential risk of having parallel services with duplication for families. All IFSTs have evolved the original model of support to meet the needs of families experiencing parental substance misuse, domestic violence, and parental mental ill health more effectively. The 5 Gwent LAs have different structures with set ups which vary for family support, intensive interventions, family contact, preventions, and edge of care services. The previous IFST provision had been overtaken with the developments of improved edge of care services using the best elements of the IFST model but moving away from some of the less useful aspects. The 5 LAs all offer intensive family support with a mixture of models, staffing and partners but rooted in research and evidence-based practice. Partners include health colleagues, consultant social workers, specialist domestic abuse workers as well as family support workers. The 5 LAs all take a role with the Children and Families Strategic Partnership and work together as appropriate; for example, on continued joint approaches to the use of RIF with edge of care services to further develop effective family support interventions and work in the court arena.

Under the Children and Families Strategic Partnership we have developed a regional Integrated Service for Children with Additional Needs (ISCAN) subgroup, and this supports children with complex needs with a single front door approach and focuses on transition between children and adult services.

As outlined in Part 9 of the SSWB Act, the 5 LAs work together to share practice and collaborate with training and expertise. The five LAs have developed a Gwent offer across four areas of: Family Group Conferences, Mediation, Family and Friends, and Edge of Care services. All are delivered using a trauma focus and a strengths-based approach so embracing the learning of IFST methodology. The RIF resource is monitored regionally and work with the RIF team continues in order to evaluate this work across the region. Looking forward the five LAs will be looking to the evaluation

of the Cardiff and Vale Family Drug and Alcohol court (FDAC) to consider for further development of services across the region.

The Children and Families Partnership have also led on implementation of the national NEST/NYTH policy and have developed and monitor an implementation plan to ensure consistent approaches across the region.

### **Joint Commissioning and Pooling of funds Including Progress Against KPMG Report Recommendations on Pooled Budgets**

The Regional Commissioning Group (RCG) has developed a regional Market Position Statement (MSR) as set out under Section 144B of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. The RCG have developed an action plan to deliver the identified priorities for care homes, domiciliary care, community services, advocacy and ensuring effective links with provider groups. The MPS has been adopted by all Councils and the Gwent Regional Partnership Board.

The RCG has a cross-cutting function across the regional strategic partnerships and has undertaken work on their behalf of RPB. The group is also an information and good practice sharing forum across the regional partnerships as well as specialist technical advice to partners on commissioning related activity. The focus over the next period is to continue to support the domiciliary care and care home sectors as they face a crisis in recruitment and retention This works links closely to that of the Workforce Development Board and the development of a regional workforce strategy.

### **Progress**

Providers of care are experiencing considerable challenges but despite this, good progress had been made against Part 9 requirements and revised regional Area Plan for commissioning and this includes:

- Section 33 Pooled Fund Arrangement signed by all parties.
- A review of the previously agreed regional contract for care homes for older people resulted in no significant changes to the existing document
- Reconvened the working group with care homes regarding a regional fee methodology with good progress being made
- Development work underway to establish a common joint contract monitoring framework for care homes for older people
- Development work underway to establish a common joint contract monitoring framework for domiciliary care services
- A relaunch of the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector Gwent Social Value Forum – large participative event planned for September 2023
- Development of a commissioning approach to mental and learning disabilities commissioned services within ABUHB - awaiting Divisional response
- A discussion took place regarding pooled funds opportunities in Gwent – no further pooled funds were identified that this time.
- A review of day services in Gwent – concluded – further work being taken forward

- A review of direct payments in Gwent – concluded – further work being taken forward
- Establishment of a monthly webinar for care homes in Gwent – on-going
- Establishment of a monthly webinar for domiciliary care services in Gwent – on-going

The KPMG report has been used to develop the regional agenda and helped to provide a focus on key areas. The Gwent RPB continues to look for new opportunities to use the flexibilities afforded by pooled budgets and the current pooled fund supporting care homes is maintained. Torfaen Council host the pooled fund manager under a Section 33 Agreement.

The regional commissioning work program will ensure that the issue of pooled funds remains a 'live issue' and is routinely considered as an option when discussing, devising and developing joint commissioning arrangements. The existing regional pooled fund arrangement under the Section 33 Agreement 'Accommodation Arrangements for Care Homes for Older people in Gwent' remains in place. A report is presented to the RPB annually.

## **PART 2: GENERAL PROGRESS UPDATE**

### ***2a) Delivery against Key Objectives***

The Area Plan outcomes are delivered and monitored through the 6 strategic Partnerships that also ensure the national themes set out in the Population Needs Assessment (PNA) are prioritised:

- children and young people with complex needs (including new part 9 definitions).
- unpaid carers.
- older people, with specific reference to supporting people living with dementia.
- People with physical disabilities.
- People with learning disability/autism.
- People with poor mental health or emotional support needs.
- People with sensory impairment
- People experiencing VAWDASV or homelessness and the secure estate (as set out in the Code of Practice)

In addition to the above statutory themes, the RPB have also included focussed sections for Housing, and Autism.

Partnership working with strategic boards is key to creating synergy across the region and avoid duplication of efforts; and the PRB also links closely with the Area Planning Board, which lead on substance misuse issues and Safeguarding Boards. At a strategic level the RPB links closely with the regional Public Service Board to ensure there is a collaborative approach to the delivery of the Area Plan and regional Wellbeing Plan and VAWDASV agenda as well as delivering ambitions of a Marmot region.

*This section of the annual report sets out key work taken forward through each of the partnerships under the RPB and key outcomes delivering the Regional Area Plan.*

## **Gwent Adults Strategic Partnership (GASP)**

### **Area Plan Outcome identified through the Population Needs Assessment:**

- To improve emotional well-being for older people by reducing loneliness and social isolation with earlier intervention and community resilience.
- To support older people to live, or return following a period of hospitalisation, to their own homes and communities through early intervention, integrated care models and a whole system approach.
- To mitigate the long-term impact of Covid-19 pandemic through, especially reducing waiting lists and times to access support, appointments, and medical procedures.

### **Market Position Summary**

- There is an increasing need to further support the emotional wellbeing for older people, through reducing loneliness and isolation issues and providing multi-agency early intervention and community support to boost wellbeing.
- The RPB will need to strengthen partnerships and practices across health, social care, and independent/third sector to ensure we are supporting people to remain well at home for as long as possible, and are able to return home from hospital, through an enhanced reablement approach.

## **2022-23 Regional Integration Fund (RIF) Programmes**

### Revenue

There are four strategic programmes that report into the Gwent Adults Strategic Partnership and further information is include in the RIF annual report included in appendix.

1. Connected Communities
2. Place Based Graduated Care
3. Improving System Flow
4. Assistive Technology

### Capital

Within Gwent, accommodation focused solutions for Older Adults, secured HCF funding for 10 schemes totalling a value of £2.4m over three years, of which £1.2m was delivered in 2022-23 across 7 of the schemes.

## **Partnership Progress**

- RPB has once again overseen the winter planning across the region and following last year implementation of the Discharge to Recovery and Assessment pathway (D2RA) a further programme was devised for the region which was overseen by the GASP. This included the commissioning of a number of beds in the care home sector on a block purchase basis. Evaluation to follow.

- GASP has been key to the development, monitoring and evaluation and subsequent capturing of learning of and from the Winter Plan programme and the RIF initiatives that pertain to adults and older adults in the region.
- GASP also considered the review of older peoples' services and Gwent Frailty programme.
- The GASP and the Regional Commissioning Group has continued to work closely with local care home and domiciliary care providers following the pandemic to ensure responsive, sustainable services in the face of the increasing workforce challenges.
- Continued to develop a regional commissioning approach for care homes and domiciliary care agencies for example by monitoring bed vacancies in care homes, financial risks associated with high numbers of voids and to monitor the activity of domiciliary carers.
- The pandemic effected the timescales and testing of a common fee methodology, however, this is now moving forward at an accelerated pace and is expected to be fully implemented during 2023/24 an accelerated pace over the next year.
- The group will also further explore with third sector partners opportunities to prevent hospital admission and facilitate timely discharge. This work is now reflected in the RIF funding programme.

### Case Study: Reablement Testimony

My husband had 2 strokes last year and spent almost 10 months in hospital, resulting in care needs when he came home in December 2022. He came under your reablement team from day one. The reason for my email is to give you feedback on the service as we always hear the bad and often not the good.

The initial assessment was carried out in a polite and caring manner, followed up by weekly calls from reablement team to review and plan for longer term care. Whenever I needed to call the office for any reason or asked to speak with reablement team, the response was always friendly and helpful. Thank you and please pass this on to the ladies who answer the phone too.

Your care team across the board have been excellent and outstanding in their care and support for my husband as the client and me as the next of kin. Nothing has been too much trouble for anyone, and they have all been kind, caring, professional and helpful, always demonstrating respect for this being our home.

They not only delivered the care but also chatted with my husband in meaningful ways to help him recover from his acute brain injury, listened to him talking about his doggies with pride and never showed they had probably heard it many times before. Charlie our large old dog of almost 15 lo

***They gave him laughter to start his day, and safety to end it. We both cannot thank you all enough for everything and Charlie our large old dog of almost 15 loved them all***

We had lots of different people calling but some were more regular but please say a massive thank you from our family and tell them all to be proud of the difference they make in someone's home. **Wife of Service User**

## **Children & Families Strategic Partnership**

### **Area Plan Outcomes identified through the Population Needs Assessment:**

- To improve outcomes for children and young people with complex needs through earlier intervention, community-based support, and placements closer to home.
- To ensure good mental health and emotional well-being for children and young people through effective partnership working especially mitigating long term impact of Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Market Position Summary**

- There is a need to continue strengthening services and partnerships around a single front door approach to reduce hand offs between organisations and establish a sequenced approach to multiple intervention needs.
- The RPB will continue to implement principles of NEST/NYTH and across all services to remain focused on what matters to children, young people, and families as we move to a whole system approach.
- Given the new programme of government priority to eliminate profit in residential care for children looked after, the RPB will support this agenda and also the early intervention and preventative services that help reduce children becoming looked after.

### **2022-23 Regional Integration Fund (RIF) Programmes**

#### **Revenue**

There are five strategic programmes that report into the Children and Families Strategic Partnership and further information is include in the RIF annual report included in appendix.

1. Early Intervention & Support: Edge of Care
2. Supporting Care Experienced Children
3. Supporting Children development needs/ND
4. Good emotional health & wellbeing
5. Workforce development/professional support


#### **Capital**

Within Gwent, accommodation focused solutions for children with complex needs secured HCF funding for 20 schemes totalling a value of £12.7m across three years, of which £4.3m was delivered in 2022-23 across 15 of the schemes. In addition, there were 9 Legacy ICF schemes which utilised £439k of Programme Managed funds in 2022-23.



## Partnership Progress

- The five LAs with colleagues in ABUHB continue to develop residential solutions for children in the region following development of Windmill Farm in Newport using capital grant funding. Windmill Farm is a four bedroomed children's home developed specifically as a home for children who need time in a safe and trauma informed environment as partners support them and their family to establish the best care in the longer term.
- Heling Hands project supporting and upskilling staff with emotional wellbeing and additional needs - Approx. 200 professionals/staff received attachment informed positive behaviour support training and evaluation forms suggest over 95% scored high or very high to 'this training experience will be useful in my work'
- Action for Children Platform Gwent4YP Support service continues to provide individual peer support and group peer support sessions with 88% of young people self-reporting improved emotional wellbeing.
- The Skills for Living project delivered by Action for Children within the RIF Care Experienced Children Programme supports care experienced young people to overcome their experiences and make changes in their lives. "Giving them a Life Worth Living [CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)
- The partnership work closely with Welsh Government to roll out the NEST/NYTH model to all partners and have developed an implementation plan following an audit

	<h1>NYTH   NEST</h1>
<p><b>Gwent Single Point of Access for Children's Emotional (SPACE) Wellbeing Service</b></p>	
<p><b>Background summary - provide the context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CAMHS transformation programme supported the development of Single Point of Access for Children's Emotional (SPACE) Wellbeing Service in 2019 working across the five local authorities in Gwent region. The model is driven by the 'No wrong door' approach endorsed by the Children's Commissioner in 2020. The service operates in line with the Single Front Door principle of the NEST/NYTH model as per the national objective. It enables children, young people and families to access the right service at the right time. It is recognised as an example of good practice in Wales.</li> <li>• SPACE Wellbeing is a process through which professionals and families can seek early help and support and panels meet weekly and include CAMHs, Families First, Youth Service, NYAS, Families Intervention Team (FIT) and Platform but are supported by other services who can offer support for the reasons that a child / young person is referred for.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>What worked well, what didn't work so well:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The volume of referrals over the past four years has been challenging to process in a timely manner but by ensuring close links with services, duplication of referrals and offerings by services is reduced.</li> </ul>	

- The governance of the SPACE Wellbeing Service is overseen by the Regional SPACE-Wellbeing Steering Group (RSSG) which is in place to ensure collaborative working

**What 'good' or 'success' looks like:**

Feedback from professionals who have submitted referrals concludes that the 'no wrong door' approach streamlines how referrals are processed and support is directed in a timely manner:

***"Thank you for making SPACE Wellbeing work, you have no idea how much relief it has brought to GPs! "***

***I am most proud of the multi-agency approach to working and how this helps support families and young people not to bounce around services when they are in need.***

***I feel that ABUHB SPACE Wellbeing Service acts as a bridge between our Social Service and Health Service. This improved collaboration, speeds up delivery of much needed mental health and wellbeing support to the youth and families in our communities. I am very proud to be a member of this first class team and accept the challenge to develop a more efficient and streamlined service so that young people can rely on us get the right service at the right time.***

**Meeting the needs of the babies, children and/or young people:**

The SPACE Wellbeing Service focusses on a holistic approach to early support ensuring families feel contained and receive a therapeutic experience from the outset. The panel' aim is to ensure packages of support are sequenced / co-ordinated where multiple services are involved; panel chair aims to 'hold the thread',

**Conclusion:**

The SPACE Wellbeing Service continues to be the mainstay of referrals for children and young people who need the support to grow and develop. Communication between the Health Board and Local Authorities is a priority to ensure the sustainability of the single point of access. The next steps include:

- Training and development of the new administrative assistants and ensuring they are supported plus continued professional development for the SPACE Wellbeing Co-ordinators;
- Ensure that referrals are appropriate for services attending the SPACE Wellbeing panels;
- Monitor unmet needs and liaise with services to minimise these;
- Exploring digital access and process to help with parents making good, quality self-referrals;
- Continue to promote the SPACE Wellbeing Service ethos of 'right service, first time'

**MH & LD strategic partnership including Regional Integrated Autism Service - key priority areas**

## Area Plan Outcomes identified through the Population Needs Assessment

### Mental Health:

- Increased understanding and awareness of mental health amongst the public to reduce stigma and help people to seek support earlier.
- To improve emotional well-being and mental health for adults and children through early intervention and community support.
- To support people with learning disabilities to live independently with access to early intervention services in the community; and greater public awareness and understanding of people with learning disabilities needs.

### Market Position Summary

- We need to promote the mental wellbeing of people in Gwent and ensure that the workforce is supported to be able to provide people with the support they need at the right time.
- There is a need to increase the number of bespoke and individual support packages for people with a learning disability which will involve more one to one support in the community and will require the recruitment of a greater number of volunteers.

### 2022-23 Regional Integration Fund (RIF) Programmes

#### Revenue

There are three strategic programmes that report into the Mental Health and Learning Disability Partnership and further information is include in the RIF annual report included in appendix.

1. LD Independence & Wellbeing
2. Enhanced Foundation Tier (recently renamed Gwent Emotional and Mental Wellbeing programme)
3. Transition

#### Capital

Within Gwent, accommodation focused solutions for Emotional Health & Wellbeing secured HCF funding for 13 schemes totalling a value of £2.4m across three years, of which £0.751m was delivered in 2022-23 across 3 schemes. Accommodation focused solutions for People with Learning Disabilities secured HCF funding for 7 schemes totalling a value of £4.2m over three years, of which £3.2m was delivered in 2022-23 across 3 of the schemes. In addition, £0.45m of Legacy ICF programme managed funds was fully utilised in 2022-23 to deliver Augusta House Phase 2.

### Partnership Progress



- **Foundation Tier work:** The Gwent Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Foundation Tier Programme, is funded through the Regional Integration Fund and focuses on

two distinct but complementary projects, which set out to improve access to, and awareness of, approved mental health resources.

1. Gwent Connect 5 ('changing the conversation on mental wellbeing') workforce training programme

- **Gwent Connect 5** is a mental wellbeing workforce training programme, supplying contemporary evidence-based tools and techniques, which can be applied within everyday life and working practice. It is managed by the Public Health team who work in partnership with organisations across Gwent, with the aim of improving population mental wellbeing by changing the way the frontline workforce has conversations about mental health and wellbeing.
- In total, **66** local trainers have now completed the Gwent Connect 5 Train the Trainer programme and **60** of these trainers are currently members of the Gwent Connect 5 Trainers Network and **169** modules were delivered across Gwent in 2022-23. More than 30 local organisations have access to in-house Gwent Connect 5 trainers.
- Training has been provided to over 40 partners including the Gwent Regional Partnership Team, South Wales Fire & Rescue service, Gwent Police, Department of Work and Pensions, Diverse Cymru, South East Wales Carers Trust, ABUHB and Local Authority staff. Over 25 trainers are currently delivering the Gwent Connect 5 training across Gwent. Most trainers are delivering in-house, whilst 5 local Trainers from Third/Not-for-Profit organisations commissioned to deliver to organisations who do not have access to an in-house trainer.
- Outcome measures from the pre and post course evaluation forms demonstrate a small but positive increase in reported motivation, confidence, skills and knowledge to have a mental wellbeing conversation from attending Gwent Connect 5.

2. Melo – website, for details on wellbeing self-help information, resources, and training.

- '**Melo Cymru**' website launched in January 2021, developed by the Public Health Team and supported by partners. The site acts as a repository for approved self-help resources and information on mental wellbeing. It is an accessible bilingual resource, and the Reach deck tool enables speech to text and reading and translation of text into 99 languages. This makes online content more accessible for people with Dyslexia, low literacy levels, mild visual impairments and those who speak English as a second language.
- Since the initial website launch in January 2021, there have been **43,000** visitors to the site. However, we are expecting this figure to substantially increase with the refreshed version of website launched on the 18th of August 2022.
- Melo is promoted across social media channels (Twitter – English and Welsh, Facebook – English and Welsh and Instagram – English and Welsh) and shared through partner social media channels. There is a continued increase in followers across these platforms. Melo has seen an increase in Facebook followers over the last year in both English and Welsh views.
- There are also more resources on Melo that are downloadable/printable, that can be printed off for people who are digitally excluded or can be given

out by GPs and other partners. On Boxing Day 2022, Melo was also promoted as the matchday ‘sponsors’ at Dragon Rugby. This game was the biggest game of the season for our regional rugby club, with almost 9,000 seats sold.

- Melo has been recognised nationally as a beneficial resource, and discussions continue to take place regarding possible roll out of the website as a national wellbeing resource.
- In addition, the promotion of Melo continues to be part of ABUHBs Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner programme’s staff induction training and an integral part of the Gwent Connect 5 training.

***In September 2022 the website was relaunched and expanded from an 8-page site, to a 105-page website. Since the relaunch of Melo there are now 378 resources, 61 courses, 78 helplines and 40 topics on the site.***

***Please see our refreshed website for more information:***

***<https://www.melo.cymru/>***

#### **Psychological Health Practitioners (PHP’s).**

- The PHP service (formerly PWP service) provides support from non-registered, mental health practitioners, increasing GP service provision for people with mental health difficulties of mild-moderate severity.
- During 2022/23 they delivered over **12,700** appointments, **63%** of which were delivered face to face.
- There is a current focus to adjust the current way in which PHPs are used at surgery level; as they continue to be booked after a GP appointment (**63%** of the appts) which means that GP time is not being freed up as intended. The service is currently monitoring and piloting strategies to increase bookings direct from reception and other surgery staff.
- The majority of people seen are referred to self-help and community-based resources, with less than **25%** being referred into statutory services.
- The service has an outreach worker who continues to deliver a proactive service to ethnic minority communities in Newport; working in collaboration with third sector and education partners to find suitable confidential spaces to support individuals.
- The PHP service is working closely with the new Mental Health 111 (press2) service and primary care teams, to clarify pathways to access mental health support.

## Mental Health 111 Service Data April 2022-March 2003



Accessing mental health services was previously difficult to navigate and people needing support often were unsure which services they should contact. The introduction of Mental Health 111 has simplified the pathway and allows anyone living in Gwent to access support quickly. This is an all-age service and does not have exclusion criteria. The ethos of the service is that a crisis is defined by the person calling, and not the service or staff, allowing for a person-centred approach.

The Mental Health 111 service was introduced on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022 between 9am and midnight. From 19<sup>th</sup> March 2023 the service has been operational 24/7. The service is accessed by calling 111 and selecting option 2 for mental health. To date, 95% of calls are answered in under 40 seconds by a Mental Health & Wellbeing Practitioner who is trained to have a meaningful conversation about why the person has called, carry out an assessment and, if required, deliver brief interventions over the phone. If the caller requires a mental health assessment, they will be triaged by a clinician within the service and booked in for an assessment or referred to the most appropriate service.

### Call Stats

**7666**  
CALLS TAKEN  
and RECORDED

AVERAGE 49  
CALLS PER DAY

**95%** calls  
answered in <40 secs

AVERAGE  
WAIT TIME = 33 secs

## **Autism:**

### **Area Plan Outcomes identified through the Population Needs Assessment:**

- To provide more timely diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder and access to support services and information and advice.

### **Market Position Summary**

- To provide more timely diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder and access to support services and information and advice pre and post diagnosis.
- Improve awareness, understanding and acceptance of neurodiversity across the region to health, social care and wider RPB partners, including Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) as well as communities.
- Increase understanding and awareness of the varying support needs of people on the Autistic Spectrum, their families, and carers (Some people may require full time and care support, some may be non-verbal and have complex needs, some may need support with day-to-day activities, whilst other people live fully independent lives).
- Support more opportunities and practical support for learning, training, volunteering, and paid employment, to support independent living.

### **Progress**

We have an established Gwent Autism and Neurodevelopmental Strategic Group that is Co-Chaired by individuals with lived experience and carers. This group grows from strength to strength and is coordinated by the Gwent Regional Partnership Team and has members including, The RPB Autism Champion. Local Authority leads, ABUHB leads and Clinicians, Elected members, Education leads, Third Sector and Charities.

### **First Autism Code of Practice Event in Wales**

The Gwent Autism Steering group coordinated and led the first multiagency Autism Code of Practice event in Wales, on October 2022, which was very successful. It was facilitated by experts by experience who Chair the steering group and was attended by a range of partners such as, Welsh Government, National Autism Leads, the Gwent Regional Partnership Board Autism Champion, Gwent Regional Partnership Team, ABUHB leads, ASD and Local Authority Leads and Gwent Police. The presentations and workshops gave neurodivergent people, families, carers and paid professionals a chance to discuss the Autism Code of Practice and ask questions and share their experiences. We had over **240** attendees and over **30** information stands at the event. All feedback from the event is now being fed into our action plan for Gwent, to ensure we are capturing the needs and voice of experts by experience, in the planning of future support provision.

**“Helpful to speak to other autistic individuals and hear about their experiences.”**

**“It was beneficial to hear about our rights as parents and carers.”**

### **Neurodevelopment (ND) Improvement Fund**

We have been working closely with clinical leads, partners and the Gwent Autism and ND Strategic group, to ensure full use of the Neurodevelopmental Improvement Fund. This has been utilised to increase children’s additional support sessions, increase assessment capacity, increase post diagnostic support and for the production of digital material for individuals and their families, whilst awaiting assessment.

The Third Sector allocation of ND funding (2022/23) was utilised in Gwent to provide local community support for families, supporting parents with a child awaiting an ND assessment via CAMHS and individuals awaiting an ASD/ADHD diagnosis. Five third sector organisations were successful in gaining funding, Hope GB, Torfaen Opportunity Group (TOGS) The ADHD Sisterhood, Growing Space and Autistic Minds. The support included:

- a project providing support specifically for families
- a project providing support to adults
- 3 projects providing support to both groups.

The projects have supported a total of **200** individuals through phone and online support and provided signposting opportunities and resources to **181** of those individuals. Of the individuals supported, **139** had an ASD diagnosis, **16** have an ADHD diagnosis, and **4** have Tourette syndrome. Additionally, the programme has provided information and support to **222** individuals on benefits/Personal Independence Payment (PIP), as well as to parents and professionals. Learning and feedback from the projects, is now being used to help inform some of the detail in the Autism Code of Practice Action plan for Gwent, which is being developed and monitored by the Gwent Autism and ND Strategic Group.

### **ADHD Training**

In 2023, The ADHD Foundation (Neurodiversity Charity) Dr Tony Lloyd, worked with Monmouthshire ASD leads to provide a pilot training session funded through the ND Improvement fund. The session was well received with **46** attendees, who all found the training very beneficial. More sessions have been requested throughout 2023.

### **Carers**

#### **Area Plan Outcomes identified through the Population Needs Assessment:**

- Support unpaid carers to care through flexible respite, access to accurate information, peer to peer support, effective care planning and through increased public understanding



- Improve well-being of young carers and young adult carers, and mitigate against the long-term impact of Covid-19 pandemic

### **Market Position Summary**

- There is still a need to increase awareness of the needs of carers and for frontline staff to be able to recognise when people take on caring responsibilities and signposted to information, especially young carers.
- Peer to peer support and respite provision are continually highlighted as being a priority need for carers and there is a need to increase support through third sector and community partners to increase befriending opportunities and community groups.

### **2022-23 Regional Integration Fund (RIF) Programmes**

#### Revenue

There is one strategic programme that report into the Carers Strategic Partnership Board and further information is include in the RIF annual report included in appendix.

#### 1. Unpaid Carers

#### **Partnership Progress**

- We continue to deliver against the four Welsh Government National priorities for unpaid carers. A complete carers annual report has been submitted to Welsh Government and can be found within the annexes of this report.
- The Gwent Regional Carers Hub and Spoke is a single point of access for all carers in the Gwent region that co-produces services for carers alongside existing provision across the partnership area. In 2022/23:
  - 2,731 Carers accessed the service
  - 2,295 were signposted for additional support
  - 579 were referred to other organisations for additional support
  - 51 Carers Assessments took place
  - 92 Hub Events took place, and 146 Spokes were held
  - We have continued to invest in our Small Grants Scheme (SGS) and the Regional Integration fund has supported this further. Post lockdown, we have seen an increase in the number of applications requesting short breaks and respite. In 2022/23 852 applications were received, and 166 carers were successful in receiving a small grant
  - 420 Carer's were referred for support within other services and 1,201 signposts were made to other services for those who were ineligible.
- HUG by LAUGH (HUG) is a new therapy device developed by design researchers, engineers, and health professionals from Cardiff Metropolitan University. The Hug is a teddy device with weighted arms and a heartbeat which helps to reduce anxiety and use other mechanisms to provide comfort. In the evaluation study, it was found that HUG improved the quality of life for 87% of the people who used HUG for six months. This is currently being piloted for unpaid carers in other areas beyond dementia. During end of February/March 2023, 32 hugs have been provided for young carers at schools, 25 hugs to carers of the diverse community autism

project, 1 to the carers hub and 1 to the young project at community house. It is hoped to evaluate its impact in six months' time.

- The Gwent Young Carers in schools Accreditation programme is delivered by the Care Collective on behalf of the Gwent Carers Strategic Partnership. A total of 94 of the 233 primary/secondary schools in Gwent are engaging with the programme.
- Coleg Gwent provides post 16 education across Gwent and has achieved an Advanced Accreditation of our Carer Friendly Accreditation programme (a carers employment initiative developed for all public and private workplaces and communities to become more Carer friendly.);to date 19 services have been awarded Carer friendly status and 1 employer
- We have a number of initiatives in place that support unpaid carers with hospital discharge and this area will be strengthened in 2023.

### Young Carers Action Day



This year the annual Young Carers Action Day took place on 15th March 2022 and the theme was 'Make time for young carers. Many activities and information provision took place across the Gwent local authorities where young and young adult carers benefitted from improved self- esteem, friendships formed, respite from their daily care activities and social development.

In Monmouthshire 15 young carers participated in activities at Gilwern Outdoor centre, 920 people viewed the Twitter posts, schools participated in to celebrate the day e.g. Life skills course at Caldicot comprehensive. Young carers were able to take a break from their caring role, make new friends and raise the profile of young carers.

In Blaenau Gwent 24 young carers were provided with a full day of activities at Bryn Bach Park which included, crazy golf, the cave, go Karting, climbing the wall, lunch was provided and transport. 34 Young carers Learnt new outdoor skills, had some respite, built their confidence, made new friendships and improved their mental and physical health by engaging in physical activities.

***“Hi, I just wanted to thank you all for today ‘N’ had a brilliant time Thanks J” – Parent***

In Torfaen 80 young carers were engaged. A disco was held for those aged 5 -10 This activity resulted in social media reach of 214 people with a 103-post engagement.

Bowling for the 11-13 and 14-17 age groups with a social media reach of 380 people with 2014 post engagements

***“I enjoyed spending time with my friend ” – YC***

The Regional partnership team sent out information over social media over the week leading to Facebook post impressions of 8,812 to a reach of 3,978 and 164 post engagements. For twitter there were 4888 post impressions, 183 post reach and 43 post engagement.

In Caerphilly 206 young carers engaged in a number of activities e.g. rock climbing day, family swim, poster competition, vouchers, little mix tribute show and deliveries of Beth's bakes cakes. These small rewards provide sense of pride and recognition, promoting the message that being a young carer is a positive thing, even though it can sometimes be challenging. In addition, a social media campaign and invited YCs and their parents to share positive stories.

***“My young carers, In the last 2 years they’ve been through so much, I went into hospital Oct ’21. and was in until May ’22. They’ve also had to move house as I lost the use of my legs so couldn’t get up the front steps. But even though we’ve been to hell and back they’re still the happiest little helpers I could ever wish for (well apart from the moody teenager lol) I’m so proud of them all xxxx” – Parent***

**Carers Mental Health and Wellbeing Support – Carers Café Project**

We have supported the carers café model: an ICF/RIF funded project that provides greater support and information to carers within Older Adult Mental Health hospital settings throughout Gwent. The project aims to improve the wellbeing of carers and other family members, and ultimately impact positively on the health of the service user, enable carers to feel equipped with the necessary skills to support their caring role and ensure Carers are confident and able to consider their own needs. This year:

- We held 276 cafes supporting 566 carers;
- 396 carers report an improvement in wellbeing;
- 87 referrals were made for carers assessments, 181 advised of benefit
- Entitlements and 516 were provided IAA to support their caring role
- 234 were advised to register as carers with their GP's, 172 were signposted to Organisations and 39 carers accessed training
- 254 felt listened to by professionals with 219 feeling they were more aware of the need to look after themselves
- 350 Carers felt involved in care planning and how services were delivered and 382 felt they were given enough information about diagnosis and treatment
- 467 carers stated they knew their rights.

**Dementia**

**Area Plan Outcomes identified through the Population Needs Assessment:**

- To improve outcomes for people living with dementia and their carers

### Market Position Summary

- We need to strengthen partnerships, services, and coproduction models to improve the outcomes for people living with dementia and their carers.

### 2022-23 Regional Integration Fund (RIF) Programmes

#### Revenue

There are two strategic programmes that report into the Strategic Dementia Partnership Board and further information is include in the RIF annual report included in appendix.

1. Dementia – Assessment and Diagnosis
2. Dementia – Living with Dementia

#### Capital

Within Gwent, £1.2m of HCF funding was issued to support accommodation focused solutions for Older Adults, including those with Dementia. In addition to this, £3.2m of ICF Legacy funding was utilised in 2022-23 for the delivery of the Crick Road Dementia Scheme.

### Case Study: Crick Road – Dementia Project

Severn View Park, is an innovative and inclusive 32-bedroom care home, designed to replace Monmouthshire Councils, Severn View home in Chepstow. Severn View Park is being constructed by Lovell and will support older people with dementia, both residentially and in the form of respite and shorter-term support.

Severn View Park will establish a new way of providing care, creating individual households designed around a communal, courtyard garden, and will ensure that residents of the home and the local area come together as one community. The Scheme is scheduled for handover by March 2024.

The scheme is being delivered through ICF funding

Total Project Cost	£6,937,903
ICF	£4,810,931
MCC	£2,126,972

Currently on site with the development of an innovative care home that specialises in dementia care (long-term and short-term care) and rehabilitation

The scheme will provide an exciting opportunity to deliver best practice in design and outcomes for people receiving council run services and support



### Partnership Progress:

- ABUHB have adopted the Dementia Friendly Hospital Charter for Wales. The Charter builds on the foundation offered by the Royal College of Nursing's Staffing, Partnership, Assessment, Care and Environment (SPACE) principles. It acts as a short, clear statement of the key principles that contribute to a dementia friendly hospital. It provides a set of principles and indicators that focus on the needs of people with dementia and their families, carers and supporters and offers an improvement guide to assist hospitals in their self-assessment against the dementia friendly principles. Importantly, the Charter informs people of what to expect when they receive care and visit a dementia friendly hospital. The following animation has been created to further raise awareness of the charter and it's aims: English <https://youtu.be/KudreUFNZ-E> / Welsh <https://youtu.be/8gu4AB5VFLM>
- Since Covid and restricted visiting, the distress and concerns from carers around in-patient hospital care has been highlighted through a number of complaints, through webinars and 'patient stories'. Locally, feedback about people's lived experience of dementia care when they are in hospital has been used to influence, shape and improve dementia care across our hospital wards. Our Hospital Dementia Action Plan has been significantly revised based on feedback and what matters to people.
- Through using Twitter, Facebook, internal intranet and external web pages, ABUHB have described the improvement plans that support both the Dementia Friendly Hospital Charter and overall dementia care including John's Campaign, patient bedside boards, dementia volunteer companions, Dementia Champions, and carers information.
- The Dementia Board have set up additional subgroups with workstream leads to take forward work, in readiness for the implementation of the All Wales Dementia Care Pathway of Standards to take forward workplans.
- Our Gwent Dementia Friendly Communities group now has over **170** partners flying the flag for dementia awareness, inclusion and support across Gwent.
- We have continued to work with schools, colleges, charities, community groups and partners across Gwent, providing online and in person Dementia Friends sessions and supporting online connections with communities. 1,468 Dementia Friends have been made across **98** sessions during 2022 – 2023.
- Our Gwent Dementia Friendly Communities group now has over 170 partners flying the flag for dementia awareness, inclusion and support across Gwent.

**Dementia Action Week 2023: Free Digital Skills Training to Help People Living with Dementia**



**Dementia Friendly Communities**

Cymunedau Digidol Cymru  
Hyder Digidol, Iechyd a Lles

**Digital Communities Wales**  
Digital Confidence, Health and Well-being

Darparwyd gan  
Delivered by  
**ewmpas**

Rhaglen Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government Programme

As part of Dementia Action Week 2023 Gwent Dementia Friendly Communities partnered with Digital Community Wales to offer free online training sessions for people living with dementia, their family, friends, carers and professionals. The sessions provided an opportunity to increase dementia awareness and understanding within the community and provide people with practical knowledge to help support people to live well with dementia in the community. Six sessions were held in total including:

- Inspiring Digital Activities (24 attendees)
- Digital Storytelling (24 attendees)
- Digital Tools to Support People Living with Dementia (16 attendees)
- Reminiscence (18 attendees)
- Smart Speakers and Devices (15 attendees)
- How Digital Tools can Support People with the Cost of Living (9 attendees)

***“Thank you for the training sessions this week – they have been very inspiring!” – Member of Gwent DFC’s***

A social media communications plan supported the advertisement of the free training sessions across the RPB’s Twitter and Facebook accounts. A blog post was also produced with DCW to highlight the partnership, Dementia Action Week and the training itself – <https://www.digitalcommunities.gov.wales/blog/dementia-action-week-2023-free-digital-skills-training-to-help-people-living-with-dementia/>

***“While dementia can be challenging to manage, technology and the internet have provided a wide range of new tools, devices, and resources that can make a significant difference to the lives of those living with the condition.” – Angela Jones, Digital Inclusion Advisor, Digital Communities Wales***



Following a task and finish group that met throughout the year we re-launched Johns Campaign in March 2023 for carers of patients in hospital with Dementia which allows carers to support their loved ones along the hospital pathway. John's Campaign is a framework to ensure that unpaid carers of people living with dementia are welcome on hospital wards. It encourages staff to recognise the importance of unpaid carers and their valuable expertise to always maintain a positive attitude to the involvement of unpaid carers. It recognises carers valuable contribution to the patient's assessment, care planning and ongoing recovery, demonstrating sensitivity to their needs whilst someone they care for is in hospital. At the centre of this initiative is the

patients' needs to help the recovery of the patient, the wellbeing and ongoing involvement of the carer, the support of better communication with carers and the enablement of the patient's secure discharge.

## **Health, Social Care & Housing**

### **Area Plan Outcomes identified through the Population Needs Assessment:**

- A multi-agency partnership approach to ensure appropriate housing and accommodation for older people and vulnerable citizens
- To ensure effective use of Disabled Facilities Grants and appropriate partnership support and available resources.
- Homelessness requiring a collaborative response from public services and partners, especially the non-use of B&B accommodation for young people, and through prevention and early intervention.

### **Partnership Progress**

- The HSC&H Partnership continue to oversee the ICF Capital grant and prepare for the implementation of the new RIF Housing with Care Fund (4-year programme) to support tenanted accommodation for people with complex needs, particularly where affordable housing standards are not appropriate, Intermediate care accommodation (e.g. step up/down, children's residential) and Discretionary funding (aids/adaptations, feasibility studies, etc.)
- MCC and TCBC Care and Repair are continuing to deliver Hospital to Healthier Homes project to support hospital discharge. Every £1 spent on home adaptations to support quicker hospital discharge generates £7.50 saving for health and social care.
- The Partnership continue to provide regional support to individual partners in relation to the Homelessness and ending evictions agendas during the pandemic and going forward will coordinate a regional response to the Rapid Rehousing policy.
- Oversight of the Housing Support Grant (HSG) Programme especially in relation to early intervention programmes and housing related support to homelessness services and activity to help people stabilise their housing situation, prevent people from becoming homeless, or people affected by homelessness to find and keep accommodation.
- A Substance Misuse and Housing task group reporting to both the Area Planning Board and Regional Housing Support Grant Coordination Group developed a specific free online substance misuse training course targeted towards housing staff.

**Case Study: Transitional accommodation – Former Caerphilly Police Station**

HCF funding of £632,256 was utilised for the delivery of long-term sustainable accommodation for 6 self-contained units, within the same building for adults (16+) with mental illness, previous substance use or alcohol dependence or young people with support needs to address their emotional and mental wellbeing needs. Project

This scheme forms part of a wider ICF, SHG and HFG funded project in partnership with CCBC and Linc Cymru.



**2b) Supporting Better Integration and Delivery**

**Regional Integration Fund**

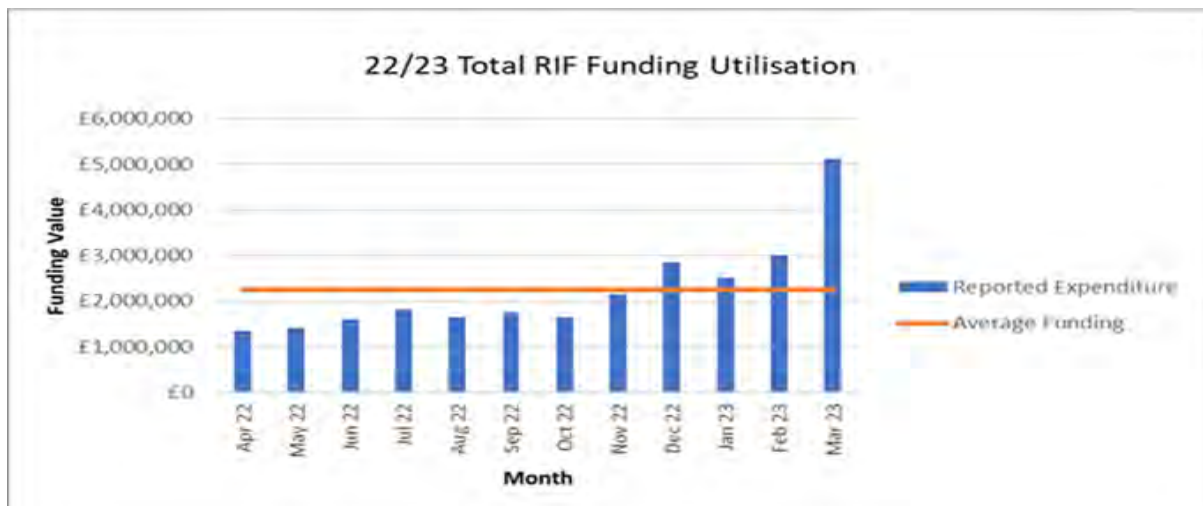
Welsh Government provided a 5-year commitment of partnership funding at the outset of 2022-23 within the Regional Integration Fund. The policy funding guidance introduces the concept of 6 National Models of Care as an output of the 5-year programme, with regional learning and best practice intended to shape a national specification for the following national models:

- Community based care – prevention and community coordination
- Community based care – complex care closer to home
- Promoting good emotional health and well-being
- Supporting families to stay together safely and therapeutic support for care experienced children
- Home from hospital
- Accommodation based solutions

Whilst the Regional Integrated fund guidance targets the models of care as the intended outputs, it acknowledges that funding is historic and existing allocations are in place. As a region, we have continued to deliver the strategic programmes identified within the RIF strategic outline plan during 2022-23 alongside seeking to describe the contributions and learning against the national models of care. Continued conversations with Welsh Government are taking place to manage the transition and ensure local ownership and oversight of Regional Integrated Funds with the development of the models of care. The core RIF allocation for 2022-23 was £26.8million. £15.4million utilised as Year 1 ‘acceleration funding’ and £8.3million as Year 1 ‘embedding funding’, with circa £3million has been provided in ring-fenced funding which consists of Dementia, Memory Assessment Service, Integrated Autism Service and Unpaid Carers.



In addition to the core RIF allocation, Welsh Government provided a further £0.666 million of additional funding, making the total 2022-23 allocation provided by Welsh Government £27.5million. This growth in funding relates to Carers Short Breaks, the Neurodivergent Improvement Programme and the Learning Disabilities Programme which is shown in the graph below. The utilisation profile also takes account of the approval of uncommitted funding utilised for the RPB winter plan delivery in the Autumn as strategic tests of change, and the usage of slippage materialised across the programme in Month 12.



In 2022-23 the Regional Partnership Board spent a total of £27.5m Revenue and the following has been achieved (the following headlines do not reflect specific activity within the RPB winter plan):

- 19,310 unpaid carers have accessed services, with 2083 feeling less isolated and 2479 achieving personal outcomes.
- 2,597 children at risk of entering care have been supported, to date 600 have achieved personal outcomes.
- We have provided intensive support to 267 care leavers to develop coping strategies and achieve personal outcomes.
- 611 neurodivergent children and their families have been supported, with 515 reporting good experiences.
- Additional capacity within Memory Assessment Services has enabled a total of 3644 people with cognitive impairment, living with dementia and young onset dementia to be supported and assessed.
- 12,462 contacts have been provided to support people to live well with Dementia, and an additional in-year referral acceptance of 2,577 people.
- The connected communities programme has assisted 25,276 adults via a range of prevention and wellbeing services to remain well within the community. Of which, 4968 report maintaining or improving their emotional health and wellbeing and 4396 are more aware of the support available to them.
- 12,498 individuals have received intermediate care in the community via the Place Based Graduated Care programme. 45% of stroke survivors have been supported to rehabilitate within the community, and 53% of individuals receiving intermediate care were prevented from hospital admission/crisis.

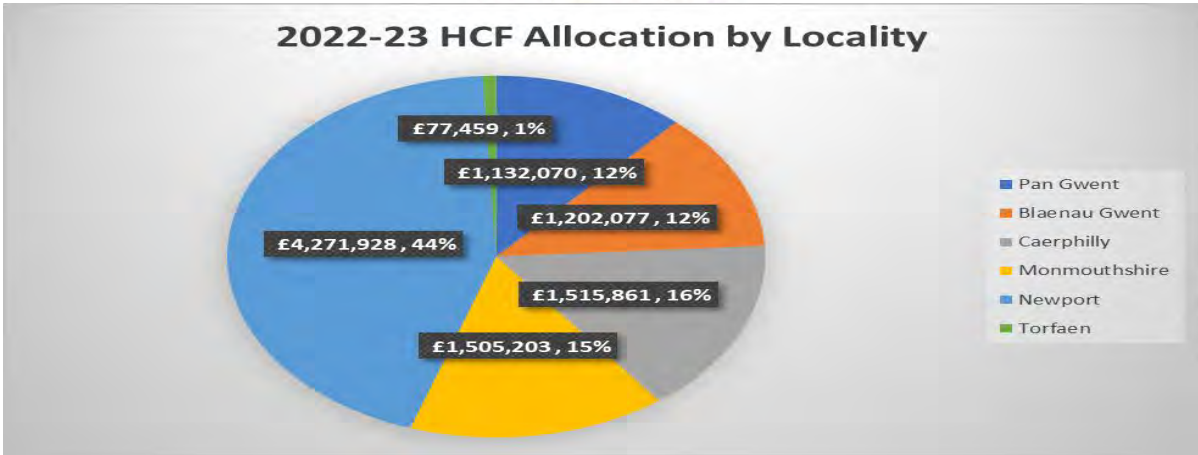
- Improving System Flow programme capacity supported 8824 individuals to leave hospital, with 1689 of these individuals receiving aids and adaptations to return home as independent as possible, and 2007 individuals achieved personal outcomes.
- 2505 people with learning disabilities achieved personal outcomes via the LD independence and wellbeing programme, with 1195 new individuals identified during 2022-23.
- 25,000 individuals have accessed information and advice via the Enhanced Foundation Tier programme, along with 169 training sessions provided across the partnership to support awareness and recognition of emotional wellbeing in self and others.
- The CVC led Third Sector Grants fund has supported 3107 individuals within the community, with 2511 reporting maintaining or improving their emotional health and wellbeing.

### 2022-23 Regional Partnership Capital Programme

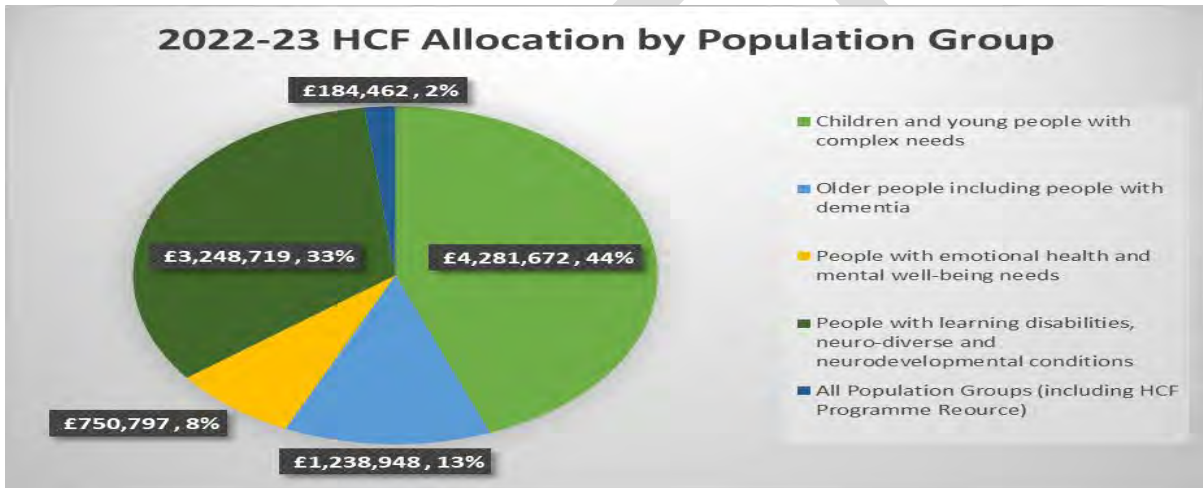
Welsh Government provided significant growth in partnership capital funding at the outset of the 2022-23 financial year, building on the successes and learning from the ICF Capital programme. Welsh Government have therefore introduced two sources of capital funding for the region as the Housing with Care Fund (the successor to the ICF Capital programme), and the new Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund. Both funding streams support key programmes for government commitments and are intended to be complementary and supported by RIF revenue to develop new models of preventative care.

With 2022-23 being the first year of a refreshed capital programme for Regional Partnership Boards, significant focus has been on fund utilisation against policy funding guidance in the early years of the programme, pending the development of a regional Strategic Capital Plan. With a significant collaborative effort between the Partnership PMO and partnership delivery organisations, the RPB were able to optimise the funding available to the region, utilising £9.7million of the £11.2million HCF allocation, achieving the highest number of committed accommodation bed spaces within Wales, with a pipeline of 44 units and 95 bed spaces being funded.

The graph below illustrates the fund utilisation on a county basis. Within Gwent, Newport City Council have secured £4.3m spend within the HCF programme, the second highest within Wales, whilst Caerphilly and Monmouthshire both secured £1.5m each, the third and fourth highest within Wales respectively. Whilst few developments were commenced in Torfaen during 22-23, there are a number of opportunities being explored for potential partnership funding in future years.



The graphs below provide an illustration of the Housing with Care Fund investment by population group and by geographical area for 2022-23.



In addition to the Housing with Care Fund, the Region utilised £3.3m of the Integrated Rebalancing Care Fund in 2022/23 for the Newport Integrated Health & Wellbeing Centre in 2022/23. With an expected completion date of December 2024, the remaining balance has been re-profiled into future years.

### Improving System Flow

The Improving System Flow programme has two workstreams. The first is delivered by the Home First model which provides turnaround services at the hospital front door and preventing admission to the hospital where appropriate. Where admission is required, the second workstream provides a streamlined discharge liaison capacity to support people to be discharged to recover at home as quickly and safely as possible, transferring seamlessly between pathways. The overarching objective for the Improving System Flow programme is that community admission prevention and discharge support services are strengthened and redesigned to ensure that they are right sized to meet the needs of an individual. Through the redesign of services outcomes for individuals will be improved through the avoidance of unnecessary days in a hospital bed and subsequent deconditioning.

### 2022 to 2023 Delivery Summary

The programme primarily supports older people including those living with Dementia. The programme's Home First model has provided turnaround services at the front door of the hospital and the project has prevented unnecessary admissions, promoting efficient system flow. The emphasis on involving individuals in deciding where they receive care and support, as well as facilitating timely discharges with the necessary support in place, reflects good person-centred care practice and promotes individual involvement in the care journey.

Timely discharge of individuals from the hospital with appropriate support in place has been a notable programme success. By streamlining the discharge process and involving individuals in discharge planning the programme has facilitated smoother transitions and reduced unnecessary hospital stays.

- A total of 8,824 individuals accessed the services delivered by the programme. This demonstrates the programme's ability to reach a considerable number of people and suggests that it effectively addresses the needs of a diverse range of individuals.
- 1,689 individuals received aids and adaptations through the programme. This highlights the commitment to enhancing living conditions and promoting independence by providing necessary equipment or modifications at home.

### **2018-22 Dementia Action Plan**

The regional Dementia Board oversee development and implementation of the national Dementia Action Plan (DAP) across Gwent; and general progress is highlighted in part 2a above, including how the RPB has delivered against the DAP aims. The Dementia Board have considered the new national Dementia Standards and strategic alignment across the DAP priority areas and this will be embedded during 2022/23. The RIF allocation has been distributed and allocated against the national DAP aims.

## **PART 3: COMMUNICATION, ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL VALUE**

### ***(i) How your Board engaged directly with service users, or groups representing service users.***

#### **Communication and Engagement Strategy**

The RPB will be working to refresh its communications and engagement strategic approach in light of Rebalancing Care consultation (up to 14<sup>th</sup> August). The Gwent RPB website has undergone a redesign during 2022-2023, with many areas now finalised. The website redesign continues to take place and is due to be completed by the end of 2023. The new look website will be key to further raising the profile of the RPB with both the public and professionals. The new design will act as platform to share the work of the RPB across Gwent with the aim to engage citizens in policy decisions and share information, advice and assistance and below data, demonstrated increase in website usage since the commencement of the redesign. <https://gwentrpb.wales/>

<b>The English facing site from 01 April 2021 to the 31 March 2022</b>	<b>The English site from 01 April 2022 to the 31 March 2023</b>
<b>Users – 2,214</b> <b>Sessions – 3,070</b> <b>Page Views – 7,470</b>	<b>Users – 3,912</b> <b>Sessions – 6,034</b> <b>Page Views – 22,502</b>

The RPB raises awareness of national campaigns through social media (Twitter and Facebook) and includes key messages from Monday to Friday each week of national campaigns ([20 Gwent Regional Partnership Board \(@BoardGwent\) / Twitter](#))

#### **Citizen's Panel**

The Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) sets out through coproduction principles the need for partners, including citizens to work together. The Citizen Panel Chair and Vice Chair attend Regional Partnership Board (RPB) meetings and feedback topics raised at the Citizen's Panel Meetings. The Vice Chair is also an unpaid carer and ensures the voice of carers is included in discussions. Due to the pandemic the meetings are now hybrid so panel members can join either via teams or in person at the Civic Centre. The meeting has extended to 2 hours.

***“Attending the Gwent Citizen panel gives me a chance to voice concerns, on matters that are important to me, in Health and Social Care, as well as catching up with new and useful information. It also gives access to people who can often make things happen. I enjoy the privilege of raising points from my community and feeding back to them.” – GCP Citizen***

Standard agenda items discussed at each meeting: notes from previous meeting with an action log to monitor progress, community updates from partners including hospital discharge, update from Llias, Area Plan Priorities and upcoming Events. A more detailed list of topics discussed during 2022/23 is included in annexe 4.

***Co-operation and participation with relevant partners and adults with care and support needs, carers, people with dementia and children and young people.***

- The Regional Autism group include parents of people living with autism and meets regularly to monitor and implement the new autism code of practice.
- The Citizen Panel Vice Chair is an unpaid carer and identified RPB carers member. Carers sit on the Gwent Carers Strategic Partnership Board and provide a voice for carers across the region. The board also links to established carers groups and coordinators in each of the 5 local authority areas and ABUHB
- The Dementia Board oversee Dementia Friendly Communities across the region with a regional group coordinating delivery and Dementia Friends awareness. People with Dementia and their carers sit on local groups and help coproduce approaches to deliver DFC. We have been continuing to link with people living with dementia and their carers via online webinars and forums during the past year and also a number of face-to-face events with ABUHB.
- The Mental Health & Learning Disability strategic partnership have engaged with people within mental health and learning disability services to develop an Engagement and Involvement Strategy for Gwent, to help transform future services and are continuing to implement coproduction training for both professionals and experts by experience and all citizen panel notes are easy read and produced by a third sector partner
- The RPB have continued to engage with members of Coleg Gwent to promote careers across health and social care and how to design course content to promote the sector.
- The RPB continues to engage with the Regional Youth Forum around a Mental Health Campaign following the completion of the national UK Youth Parliament's Make Your Mark survey.
- Neuro Development parent group - we are working together with parents awaiting an assessment for their child to develop solutions together around how we might provide support to families on the waiting list. We have been working with the group to create a group identity (name/mission statement) and working on our 'key objectives' going forward.

# Co-Production in Partnerships



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Aneurin Bevan  
University Health Board

## What is co-production?

Partnership co-production is the process in which those who use or have used a public service become involved in the development of that service. Within the Health Board and other partners this is seen in voluntary and paid opportunities for service users and carers to be involved in a variety of projects such as sitting on interview panels, co-producing new pathways and becoming a peer mentor. This not only benefits the services, but also the individual and overall co-production is a process that is highly valued with the aim to embed it within all aspects of mental health and learning disabilities.

A multi agency steering group made up of public service staff, 3rd sector representatives and those with lived experience of mental illness and learning disability ambassadors meet every 6 weeks to collaboratively make progress on a work plan created to focus on embedding co-production throughout the Health Board and partners.

## "Nothing about us without us"

### Victoria Stock says...

"The opportunity to work co-productively has been a real positive for me in both a personal and professional manner. Being able to offer my insight from a lived experience view point and also my working role within mental health alongside those in other organisations and the Health Board has given me a true reality of the challenges we face. But together we can make a difference and I am excited for the amazing outcomes from working co-productively with the team."

Victoria Stock, Lived Experience Volunteer for the Health Board



As a team we are exploring new and exciting ways to embed co-production, including liaising with the National Forum for service user and carers on policy documents, exploring the use of time credits to show the value and payment of volunteers time, recruiting representatives to sit on the Partnership Board and sub-groups and setting up the foundations for Lived Experience Advisory Panels.

### Stephen Ash says...

"I have been working alongside the health board in the Gwent area and also working with Senedd advisory group. I have also been working with the Melo website. I feel with my life experiences with mental health and autism that I have made a difference to services. Before working alongside services I used to have the opinion that they couldn't be bothered to help people who are neurodiverse but since working alongside the health board I have changed my opinion and it's made me appreciate things are changing for the better."

Stephen Ash, Lived Experience volunteer for the Health Board

### Sally Hewitt says...

"We want to ensure that co-production is a key under-pinning principle that ensures that people who have lived experience are involved at all levels of service design and delivery. We are also committed to ensuring that people with lived experience have a real opportunity to shape policy and throughout 2023 the Welsh Government will be working co-productively to develop the successor of both Together for Mental Health and Talk to me 2, as we see this as key to driving forward improvements."

Sally Hewitt, Senior Policy Lead, Mental Health and Vulnerable People for Welsh Government

For more information please contact: Libby.Ford@wales.nhs.uk or Lorna.Anderson@wales.nhs.uk

Engagement with people living with dementia

We have been working in collaboration with partners and communities providing webinars through ABUHB, to highlight the Dementia Care Standards, and gather peoples experiences of dementia care. This included bespoke webinars for people who are deaf, people from ethnic minority communities, carers and people who identify as LGBTQ+



Evening and daytime online and face to face enagement opportunities have also taken place, to highlight the Dementia Standards, and what this will mean for people living with dementia, their family, and carers.



**Wales Listens Campaign:** Improvement Cymru has launched a Wales Listens Campaign, which encourages regions to engage with specific communities and work with those communities to identify what they feel is important to ensuring good dementia care and support.

*How we have engaged with wider stakeholders, including Public Service Boards, other strategic partnerships, service providers from the third and independent sectors*

Third sector partners sit on the RPB including the Chairs and senior strategic leads from the 2 CVCs: Gwent Association Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) and Torfaen Voluntary Alliance (TVA). The chair of the Provider Third Sector Forum also sits on



the RPB to ensure a voice for local providers and third sector partners. The third sector are also represented on the strategic partnerships under the RPB including CVC reps on Carers Board, GASP, Dementia Board and a specific third sector network developed under the Children and Families Board. The voice and input from third sector colleagues has contributed to partnership working across the region at all levels and in particular ensuring RIF funding was appropriately utilised across the third sector, in line with Welsh Government's requirement for RPBs to ensure an identified proportion was made available. Third sector staff have also been seconded to work in the Performance Management Office administering RIF.

The Regional Partnership Team that supports the RPB work closely with Public Service Board colleagues and sit on a joint regional needs assessment and engagement group. A PSB Chair has also attended and shadowed RPB members at meetings. The 5 PSBs have now merged a regional board and developed a regional stakeholder engagement group and RPB officers attend to ensure synergy.

***Progress to establish social value forums to promote social value and share good practice.***

The RPB continues to engage with WCVA and the Wales Cooperative centre in adopting a Social Value Forum Toolkit and will look to support the development of social enterprises across the regions working with our third sector umbrella organisations. We will work at pace during 2023 to rebrand our current forums in line with new duties set out in Rebalancing Care and refreshed codes of practice.

The Regional Commissioning Group continue to explore new opportunities linked to RIF funding will provide a renewed focus to further develop the role of 3<sup>rd</sup> sector social value based services in the region. This may be linked to day services or to supporting hospital discharge, admission avoidance and maintaining low level support in the community.

The Mental Health and Learning Disability Partnership are also exploring a new coproduction approach to commissioning based on a consortium approach across third sector providers.

**Gwent Regional Domiciliary Care Provider Fora**

The Gwent Regional Domiciliary care provider fora is a long-established forum led by the Regional Team and ABUHB to provide support to domiciliary care providers in Gwent. Meetings are held on a monthly basis collaboratively between the local authorities and ABUHB, and address current issues being experienced by providers. During the pandemic, these meetings were increased to weekly, to ensure that providers were suitably supported while receiving up to date legislative information.

**Care Home Executive Liaison Group (CHELG)**

As with third sector and domiciliary care providers, the regional team also engages with care home providers. Support is provided to ABUHB at monthly care home webinars. These were increased during the pandemic to weekly, although occurred

more frequently when new legislation was released. This allowed local authorities and ABUHB to ensure care homes were suitably supported through a critical period.

More recent meetings have focussed on the recruitment and retention issues faced by providers, and the effects of the cost of living crisis on services. Regular engagement with care providers in Gwent while also ensuring key priorities are addressed by RPB through provider representatives. Providers also engage with ongoing workstreams, such as regional fee methodology and a regional approach to contract monitoring procedures in care services.

*“I must commend Gwent for their partnership approach with commissioned services which I know is much appreciated by care homes, domiciliary care agencies and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector bodies alike. Prior to the COVID pandemic partnership working was well developed in the region and this provided a head start when it came to working through the many and varied issues brought about during the 2020 to 2022 period. The weekly webinars were particularly valued.”*

**Melanie Minty, Provider Representative, Gwent RPB**

#### **PART 4: FORWARD LOOK**

The new Area Plan sets out the key actions and priorities following the Population Needs Assessment and will continue to focus on priorities requiring collaboration and include:

- Reduce length of hospital stays for older people and return safely back home with sustainable support through our winter planning and delivering Further Faster agenda
- Continued focus on children with complex needs and children looked after, especially provision and impact of out of county placements.
- The increasing need to support people living with dementia and their carers especially with community support and earlier intervention.
- The domiciliary care marketplace requires innovative solutions to long term recruitment.
- Isolation, loneliness, and impact on mental health.
- Respite is critical for carers and needs to be available in a timely and flexible way (formal, informal) especially in crisis situations.
- Recruitment across health and social care, especially Domiciliary Care workers.

The RPB will continue to monitor and support progress of the Area Plan through 2023/24 as well as

## **ANNEXES**

### **Annexe 1: Register of RPB bi-monthly meetings**

<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>Meeting type</b>	<b>Key topics covered</b>
July 2022	Business Meeting	RPB Chair election and ratification. Terms of Reference update. Winter Plan and preparing for future challenges. Regional Integration Fund Outline Plan sign off. Programme Closure report. Frailty Budget proposals for consideration and sign off. Draft RPB Annual report. Views from Regional Citizen Panel. RPB Self-Assessment.
September 2022	Business Meeting	Eliminating profit from Children's Services. Winter Plan update and risk assessment. Regional Integration Fund financial plan and Memorandum of Understanding. Market Stability report. RPB Self-Assessment. Views from Regional Citizen Panel.
October 2022	Special Meeting	RPB Capital Workshop
November 2022	Business Meeting	Winter Plan and risk assessment. Workforce transformation and planning. Partnership Programme Development and Delivery. NCN Development and Integrated Partnership Strategic Planning. RPB Statutory Duties and Self-Assessment. Views from Regional Citizen Panel. Views from the Third Sector. Views from the Provider Forum. Autism and Neurodevelopment.
December 2022	Special Meeting	Regional Integration Fund
January 2023	Business Meeting	Winter Plan review and system pressures. Redesign of Services for Older People and Frailty Service. RPB Statutory Duties and Self-Assessment. Views from Regional Citizen Panel. Views from the Third Sector. Views from the Provider Forum. Partnership Programme Development and Delivery.
March 2023	Business Meeting	RPB Chair's update. Redesign of Services for Older People and Frailty Service. Frailty budget sign off. Winter Plan review and system pressures. RPB Statutory Duties and Self-Assessment. Regional Partnership Board Footprint meeting (with Welsh Government) – proposed amendments to Part 2 and Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act.

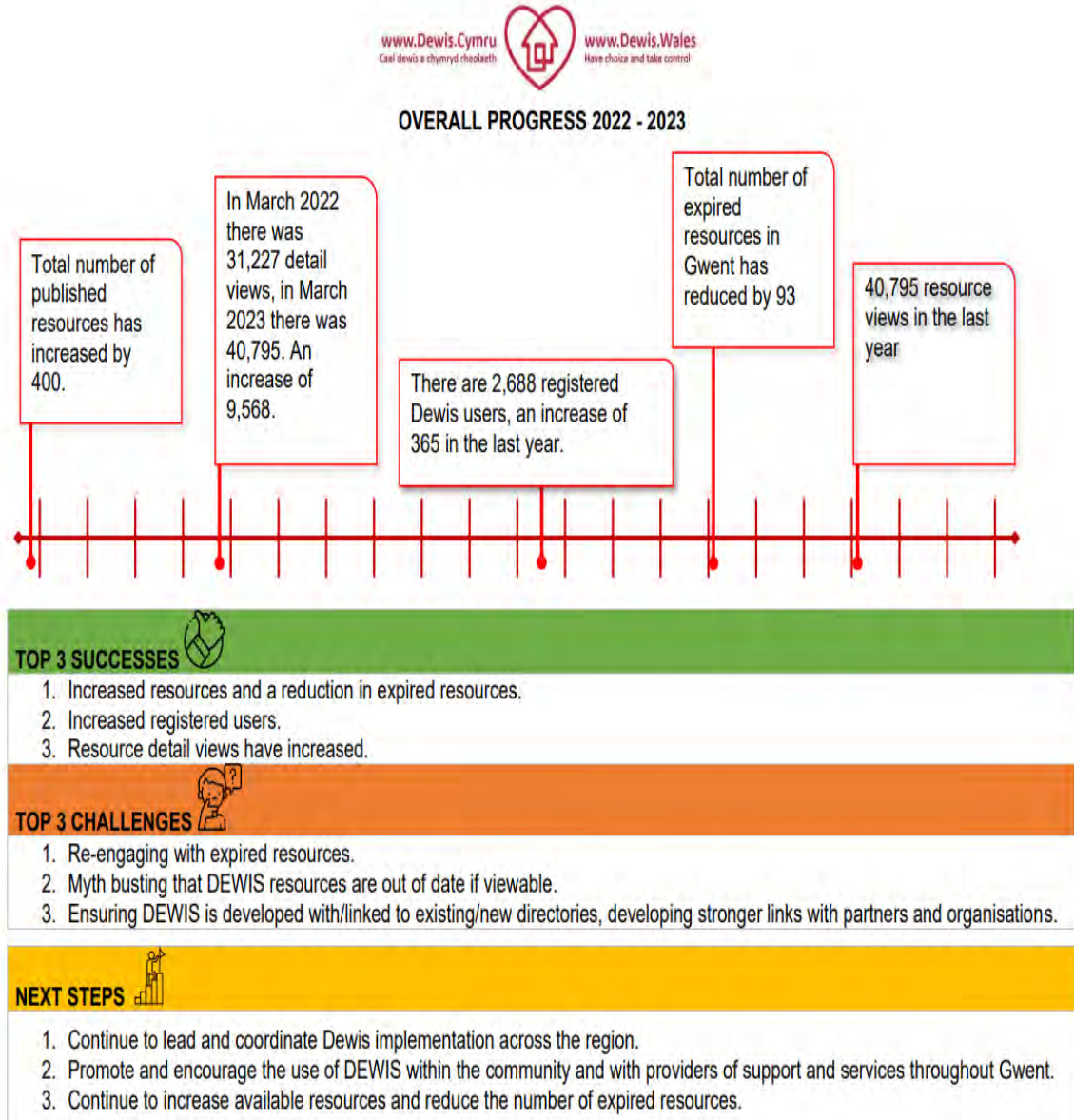
## Annexe 2: Membership of the Regional Partnership Board

The required membership of the Regional Partnership Board is set out in statutory guidance in Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act. The Board also has the flexibility to co-opt additional members should they wish. The current RPB membership as of March 2023 is set out below:

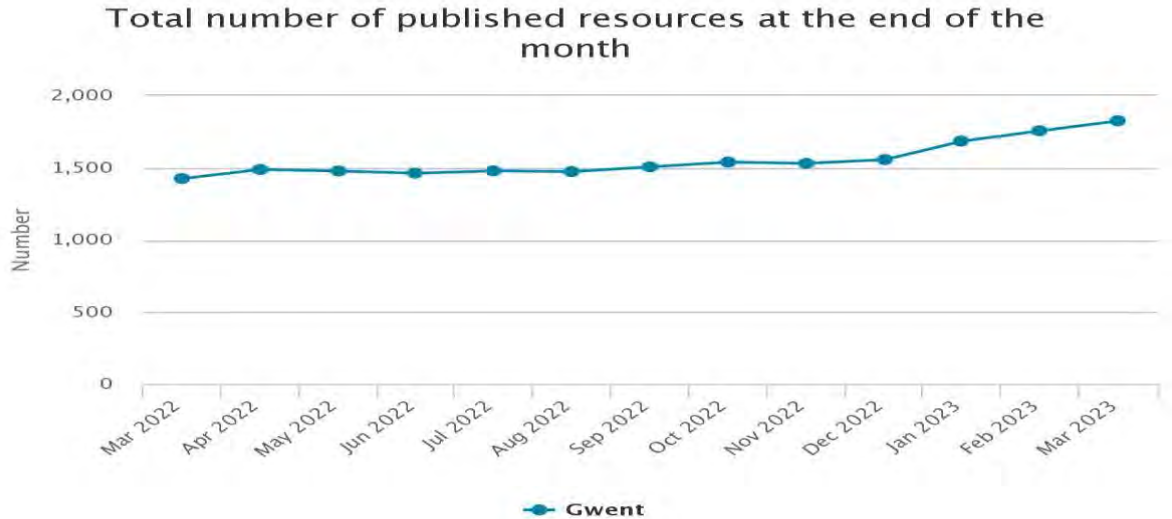
Name	Title	Organisation
Ann Lloyd	ABUHB Chair	ABUHB (Chair)
Phil Robson	Independent Member	ABUHB
Katija Dew	Independent Member	ABUHB
Nicola Prygodzicz	Chief Executive	ABUHB
Chris O'Connor	Interim Executive Director of Primary Care, Community and Mental Health	ABUHB
Tracy Daszkiewicz	Executive Director for Public Health & Strategic Partnerships	ABUHB
Cllr Hayden Trollope	Executive Member	Blaenau Gwent
Tanya Evans	Interim Director, Social Services	Blaenau Gwent
Cllr Elaine Forehead	Executive Member	Caerphilly
Dave Street	Director, Social Services	Caerphilly
Cllr Tudor Thomas	Executive Member	Monmouthshire
Jane Rodgers	Director, Social Services	Monmouthshire
Will McLean	Monmouthshire	Education Rep
Cllr Jason Hughes	Executive Member	Newport (Vice Chair)
Sally Jenkins	Director, Social Services	Newport
Cllr David Daniels	Executive Member	Torfaen
Jason O'Brien	Director, Social Services	Torfaen
Paula Kennedy	Chief Executive	Melin Homes
Melanie Minty	Care Forum Wales	Provider Rep
Lorraine Morgan	Citizen's Panel Chair	Citizen Rep
Christine Kemp-Philp	Citizen's Panel Vice Chair	Citizen Rep
Stephen Tiley	GAVO	Third Sector Rep
Anne Evans	TVA	Third Sector Rep

## Annexe 3: DEWIS Citizen Portal

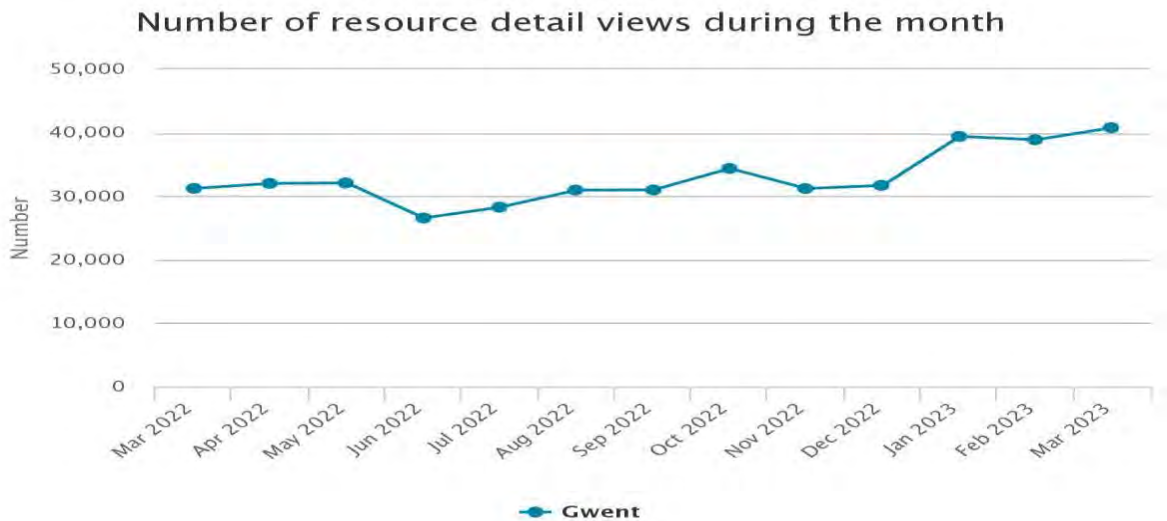
### Overall Progress



### March Data 2022-2023



The graph above shows the Total number of published resources in Gwent over the past year, in March 2022 there was 1,425 published resources and in March 2023 there was 1,825 published resources. Over the last year there has been an increase of 400 published resources



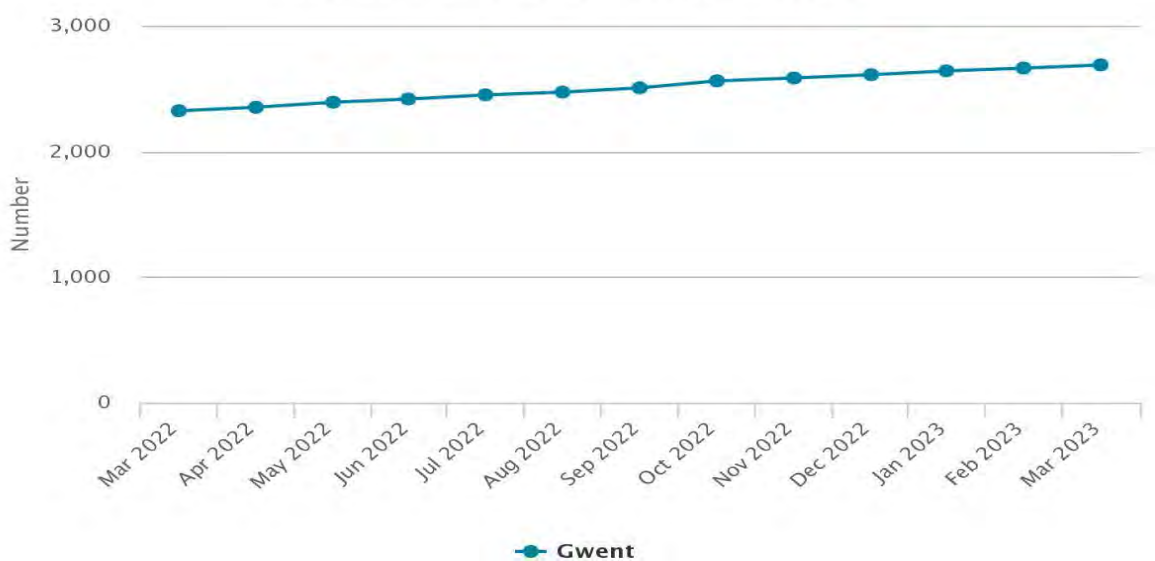
The graph above shows how many clicks there has been in Gwent over the past year, this shows how many times someone has searched for something on Dewis and then clicked to find more information about the resource. In March 2022 there was 31,227 clicks and in March 2023 there was 40,795. Over the last year there has been an increase of 9,568 clicks.

### Number of resources expired during the month



The graph above shows the Total number of expired resources in Gwent over the past year, in March 2022 there was 158 expired resources and in March 2023 there was 65 expired resources. This has been a decrease of 93 expired resources.

### Total number of registered users



The graph above shows the Total number of registered users over the last year. In March 2022 there was 2,323 registered users and in March 2023 there was 2,688. There has been an increase of 365 users over the last year.

## Annexe 4: Gwent Citizen Panel discussed topics 2023/24

Meeting topics
<b>Unpaid Carers.</b> Carer's week takes place in June every year, the theme for the last year was making carers valued. We have a young carers hub – in the last year held 28 events. Supporting Life Alongside Caring – a small grant scheme and a young carer in school's programme
<b>Finding the Light in Dementia presentation.</b> There is a training platform called 'My Favourite Things'. This has been developed with people who have dementia through the dementia, engagement and empowerment project and the 3 Nations Working Dementia Group. The training is available for hospital staff, volunteers, care homes, or anyone working within dementia linked roles.
<b>Jackie's Revolution presentation.</b> Jackie's Revolution has moved from a concept to a campaign. The sole purpose of Jackie Revolution is to ensure that it's based on community and citizens and our community has been identified as the people born between 1945 and 1964, the so-called baby boomer generation. The intention is that our community has real choice and viable options to live and die in our own homes or wherever we choose.
<b>Wellbeing Plan presentation.</b> Online consultation.
<b>Cost of Living Crisis.</b> This is something that we're trying to raise through all the strategic partnerships and dementia friendly communities, as this is a topic that's affecting everyone.
<b>Obstructive Parking – Crime Commissioner and Gwent Police.</b> A Member of the panel put together a presentation. Dropped curb parking is endangering disabled people.
<b>ASB – Crime Commissioner and Gwent Police.</b> A number of ongoing projects were discussed.
<b>Community Podiatry Services presentation.</b> The acting head for podiatry in ABUHB took attendees through a presentation. Any health care professional can refer a patient to the service
<b>Market Stability Report.</b> As a requirement of WG each LA and Health Board are required to produce a MSR and the Regional Partnership Board must publish a regional summary. The report has been taken through all LA councils for comment and sign off of the report.
<b>Housing Support Grant presentation.</b> Housing Support Grant brought together 3 funding streams: Supporting People Programme, some Homelessness Prevention Grant funding and Rent Smart Wales funding.
<b>Direct Payments presentation.</b> Direct Payments are monetary payments made to an individual who is eligible to receive a service for care and support from a Local Authority.
<b>Value Based Care presentation.</b> Value based healthcare is the equitable, sustainable and transparent use of the available resources to achieve better outcomes and experiences for every person.
<b>Track the Act – Carers Wales presentation.</b> Under the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014, unpaid carers in Wales have equal legal rights to support as well as the people they look after.
<b>ABUHB CEO</b> attended the September meeting to discuss Covid 19 Pandemic, vaccination programme, annual plan and answer questions from the panel.



<b>Compassionate Communities</b> – ABUHB presentation contained patient stories.
<b>Police and Crime Plan Engagement Survey</b> – Link sent to panel to complete.
<b>Engagement Reports</b> – GAVO and TVA. Results from the survey which asked of those who have accessed health services during the pandemic. BAME has been renamed Diverse Communities.
<b>The State of Caring in Wales</b> – Carers Wales presentation. There are a growing number of carers. Welsh Government Strategy for Unpaid Carers: 4 national priorities and delivery plan.
<b>Time Credits</b> – Paper time credits have now gone digital. The panel were encouraged to join the scheme.
<b>ABUHB Primary Care Update</b> – Digital, face to face and home visiting is important as a blended approach. The telephony service must be fit for purpose. Recruitment and retention is important. Dental work was suspended due to the pandemic, this caused a backlog and urgent care is to be prioritised.
<b>Day Services</b> – Several day services were closed and people with learning disabilities were accessing more local services available to them.
<b>Population Needs Assessment</b> – RPT presentation looked at population increase and core themes including Dementia, Older people, Carers, Mental Health, Children Looked After, Learning Disabilities, Autism, Housing and next steps.
<b>Older Persons Commissioner</b> – Helena Herklots presentation on priorities: Protecting and Promoting Older Peoples Rights, Stopping the Abuse of Older People, Ending Ageism and Age Discrimination and Enabling Everyone to Age Well.

## Annexe 5: Assistive Technology

The Assistive Technology (AT) Programme seeks to maximise the use and impact of Assistive Technology solutions to improve health and well-being outcomes, maintain and improve independence, and support the transformation of models of care. The programme goal is to work with partners across Gwent to optimise the implementation and effectiveness of AT and technology-enabled care (TEC) solutions, which enhance health and well-being outcomes, maintain and improve independence and aid escalation prevention.

### 2022 to 2023 Delivery Summary

The Assistive Technology (AT) programme includes regional Better Care projects, a Technology Coach and AT projects centrally managed by the RPB PMO team. Over the last year, there has been a positive increase in the collaboration and sharing of existing AT projects across the region and clarity of AT leads across local authorities, housing associations, third sector and within the health board.

Organisations across Gwent continue to innovate and use AT products that are person-centred and in ways that are making a positive difference. There has been an increasing investment in AT and Telecare over many years and there is a good level of awareness of the products available across all partners. Over the 2022-23 period, the programme has assisted 754 people in various capacities. Additionally, 290 people received training delivered through 92 sessions. The Gwent AT Network delivered an Inspiring Digital Activities Festival of training in partnership with Digital Communities Wales in March. The 4 sessions resulted in training 37 people accessing training.

### Programme Case Studies

1. [How Care and Repair is Helping to Tackle Hospital Waiting Times.](#)
2. [How British Red Cross support staff and patients within the Emergency Department](#)
3. [Newport and other counties in the region have produced wellbeing town maps.](#)
4. [The Happiness Programme has been rolled out across Gwent including County Hospital.](#)
5. [15 'happy to chat' benches have been installed in Monmouthshire to help tackle loneliness.](#)

### **Assistive Technology and Dementia**

- RITA (Reminiscence Interactive Therapy Activities), developed by My Improvement Network, enhances care for older individuals, including those with dementia and mental health conditions. It uses a touchscreen device with interactive screens to offer meaningful activities that blend entertainment with therapy. RITA assists patients, particularly those with memory impairments, in recalling and sharing past events through music, news reports, speeches, games, karaoke, and films. Over **120** RITA devices were purchased in 2020/2021 and distributed to care homes, hospitals, and healthcare teams. An additional **140** devices were purchased in 2021/2022 and distributed in partnership with local authorities and third-sector organizations in Gwent. RITA is also being used by mobile teams and has been trialled in complex care settings. More information is available on the Gwent RPB website - <https://www.gwentrpb.wales/rita>
- **500** HUG devices were purchased for distribution across Gwent as a pilot in the financial year 2021/2022. A guide has been co-produced with partners to support implementation across the region. Although designed for people living with Dementia, the device is being tested in a range of different settings including – care

homes, hospital wards, hospice care, carers and organisations within the third sector. A HUG evaluation by TEC Cymru is due for completion in Summer 2023. More information is available on the Gwent RPB website - [HUG by LAUGH - Gwentrpb](#)

- The Happiness Programme, developed by Social Ability, blends interactive, sensory light technology with a guided programme and training and support. Developed for people living with cognitive physical care needs the projector, known as a Magic Table 360, offers meaningful and engaging activity through over 80 interactive activities. The activities are a collection of interactive games, quizzes and mindful immersive content some of which are specific to Wales. Over **140** devices have been distributed across all sectors in Gwent with early feedback positive. More information is available on the Gwent RPB website [Happiness Programme - Gwentrpb](#)
- Stay Well at Home Pilot – The Stay Well at Home project is a free non-intrusive monitoring service being tested by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) in partnership with a smart home monitoring provider, HOWZ. This system aims to help people retain their independence by supporting people to stay safer at home for longer. The pilot project started in April 2023 with five patients.

The Regional Partnership Team in partnership with Monmouthshire Council have completed a 12-month Micro Care pilot. The pilot aimed to explore if micro carers could support local care capacity and delivery, providing an alternative to traditional domiciliary care provision. Micro-care pilots have been introduced in other regions as a response to the national shortage of care workers and to meet the growing demand for care at home, particularly in rural areas where recruitment is difficult. During the initial stages of the project, a 'Community Catalyst' was commissioned on a consultancy basis to support with project roll out.

The pilot has focused on two identified areas where micro carers could potentially support local care capacity:

- Providing care to those that self-fund their care and support
- Providing care to those in receipt of direct payments.

The first 12 months of micro care in Monmouthshire has seen 9 micro carers meet the standards laid out in the code of practise and entered onto the micro care directory. There are currently 21 citizens being supported by micro carers in their local community, delivering a total of 161 hours of care and support each week. There are 5 citizens funding their own care through a micro care service, and 16 citizens via a direct payment.

Following the success of the first 12 months of the pilot, Monmouthshire CBC intend to continue the project for a further 12 months with a full-time member of staff.

Next steps will look to see if the Monmouthshire micro care model could be scaled up and learning shared with the other Gwent local authorities.

### [Micro Carer Video- Liza and Phoebe](#)



**microofal**  
ffynh Bach o dddeion!

**Dewch i fod yn ficro ofalwr a gwnewch wahaniaeth mawr!**

Awyddus i gefnogi pobl yn eich cymuned?  
Diddordeb mewn gweithio drosoch chi'ch hun?  
Chwilio am waith hyblyg, lleol?

Yna, hoffem ni glywed gennych!

Ffoniwch ni ar: **07977094126** am sgwrs anffurfiol am ddod yn ficro-ofalwr Neu Sganiwch y Cod QR isod neu danfonwch e-bost at [microcarer@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:microcarer@monmouthshire.gov.uk) i gafrestru eich diddordeb.

Rydym yn cynnig cefnogaeth AM DDIM i sefydlu busnes a hyfforddi.





monmouthshire sir fynyw Ffôn: 07977094126  
E-bost: [microcarer@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:microcarer@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

**microcare**  
a little bit of good

**Become a micro carer and make a big difference!**

Passionate about supporting people in your community?  
Interested in being your own boss? Looking for flexible, local work?

Then we want to hear from you!

Call us on: **07977094126** for an informal chat about becoming a micro carer Or Scan the QR code below or e-mail [microcarer@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:microcarer@monmouthshire.gov.uk) to register your interest.

We offer **FREE** support with business set-up and training.





monmouthshire sir fynyw Tel: 07977094126  
Email: [microcarer@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:microcarer@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

## Annexe 7: Annual Carers report



**Annex 6.DementiaFriedly Communities Conference report 2022**

**Annex 9: Regional Integration Fund End of Year Report 2022-23**

DRAFT

## One Newport Forward Work Programme

July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marmot Report Findings (Stuart Bourne)</li> <li>• Consultation Draft Local Action Plan</li> <li>• Shared Prosperity Fund (Tracey Brooks)</li> <li>• Consultation – Gwent Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy</li> <li>• Regional Partnership Board Annual Report 2023-23 (Final Draft)</li> </ul>
September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gwent PSB (feedback from July meeting)</li> <li>• Gwent Well-being plan 2023-28 (receive final version)</li> <li>• Performance Framework (if agreed by Gwent PSB at July meeting)</li> <li>• Review of Sub-groups</li> <li>• Newport Well-being Plan 2018-23 – Final Report</li> <li>• Safer Newport Update</li> <li>• Key Cities (suggested by Mark Cadwallader USW)</li> <li>• Newport Local Area Energy Plan Annual Report (for information but Laura Waldron could attend to discuss if required)</li> <li>• Applied Data Hub (check Shaun – this was a joint Mark Cadwallader / Shaun discussion)</li> <li>• Board Development Plan (if needed; this would be a new plan)</li> <li>• City Centre Placemaking Plan (check Tracey Brooks)</li> <li>• Young Persons Promise (check Huw)</li> <li>• Gwent PSB minutes</li> <li>• Regional Partnership Board minutes</li> <li>• 2024 meeting dates</li> </ul>
December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newport Local Action Plan (sign off following consultation)</li> <li>• Local Action Plan performance reports (next time – Mar 2024)</li> <li>• Gwent PSB minutes</li> <li>• Regional Partnership Board minutes</li> </ul>

One Newport’s terms of reference state that “Any member of the Board may request that an item is placed on the agenda of a forthcoming meeting. This should be notified to the Secretariat at least four weeks prior to the meeting concerned. Late items may be accepted at the discretion of the Chair. “