

Newport Local
Development Plan

Draft Vision, Issues and Objectives

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Creu Lleoedd Cymru
Placemaking Wales

Llofnodydd y Siarter | Charter Signatory



NEWPORT
CITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR DINAS
CASNEWYDD

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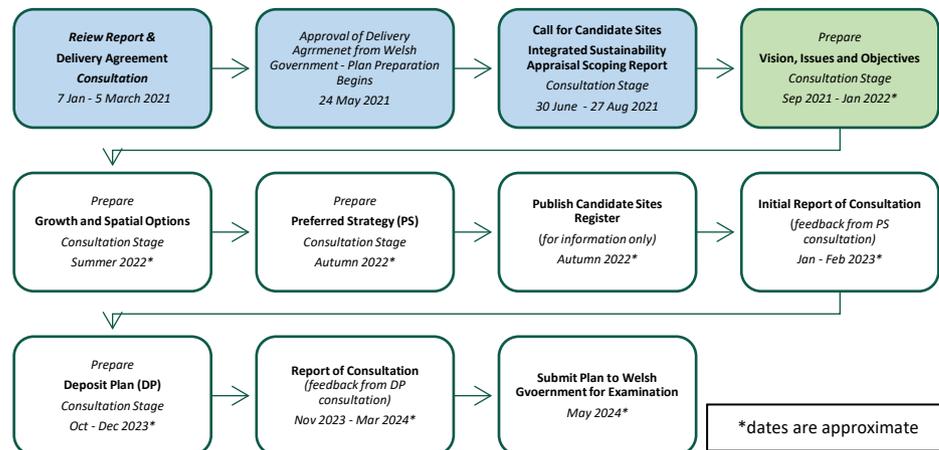
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I. Introduction

Newport City Council (the Council) is preparing a Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) to cover the period 2021-2036 and when adopted this will replace the current Local Development Plan (LDP). The RLDP will contain policies and proposals which together will provide for the development needs and aspirations of the City as well as protecting and enhancing the social, cultural and environmental assets of Newport.

Where are we now?

The Council is in the very early stages of preparing the RLDP. The various stages and timescales are set out below (blue completed, green underway):



These stages and timescales are set out in further detail within the published Delivery Agreement. For more information about the RLDP please go to the Council's website at www.newport.gov.uk/rldp.

Where are we trying to get to?

The Council is working towards preparing the Preferred Strategy, but it must first consider:

- The issues, challenges and opportunities facing Newport;
- Develop the Vision for the RLDP and set a number of Objectives to meet this; and
- Identify the optimal growth and spatial options available for the RLDP (*to follow later in 2022*).

This report sets out what the Council believes are the key issues, challenges and opportunities facing Newport based on available evidence, and provides a draft Vision and Objectives for the new Plan.

Once these have been through a process of engagement they will be used to inform the growth and spatial options for the RLDP, in terms of the amount of growth to be provided for in the RLDP and how that growth will be distributed spatially. In undertaking this work the Council should have a clear picture which we can develop a series of realistic growth and spatial options.

2. Draft Vision

Every LDP requires an overarching Vision which clearly sets out what it is trying to achieve over the Plan period. It should set a positive aspirational tone whilst also addressing the specific local needs and challenges for the area. The Vision will then subsequently inform the Objectives of the Plan to address the identified issues, challenges and opportunities for Newport in further detail.

The following Vision has been drafted having regard for the latest National Policy, in addition to Council's LDP Review Report, the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) Scoping Report, and Newport's Well-being Plan. This is considered a well-balanced foundation to inform the RLDP. However, this represents an initial draft of the Vision, and will be further refined based on the feedback from this consultation to further incorporate the desires of the community.



Draft RLDP Vision

Newport will be a destination where people will want to live, work and visit:

- A strategically significant City which will contribute towards the national growth of Wales.
- A City that tackles inequality through sustainable patterns of development, creating places that are safe, connected, inclusive, healthy, and well designed with access to housing, jobs and services.
- A City that promotes and protects its historic assets, diverse cultures and languages.
- An economically thriving City which supports and attracts business and industry at all scales, particularly where they focus on sustainable, innovative and technologically leading practices, which contribute towards cultivating a skilled and adaptable workforce.
- A resilient City which sustainably manages its natural resources, protecting and enhancing the biological and ecological values of the natural environment, including the benefits of ecosystem services, in a carbon neutral and climate responsible manner.

3. Draft Objectives

Following on from the overarching Vision, the Objectives will provide greater detail on how the Vision can be achieved through the planning system.

In order to focus the future preparation of the RLDP we have set out 10 key themes which will be the focus for the evidence base and policy development. In drawing these up and looking at the current situation a number of key issues have been identified which need to be addressed as the Plan is progressed. Combined, the key issues set out in each theme contribute to the draft objectives summarised below and detailed in Sections 3.1-3.10.

As with the Vision, these represent an initial draft of the key issues and objectives and will be refined based on the feedback from this consultation to further incorporate the desires of the community.

Draft RLDP Objectives

Economy and Employment

Provide for Newport's economic growth by offering a diverse range and choice of new and improved employment opportunities, which are adaptive to change and meet the needs of Newport and beyond, supporting a strong skilled and resilient workforce.

Population and Communities

To provide high-quality homes that meet the needs of Newport, as a national growth area, and to ensure that these homes are supported by the necessary social, environmental, cultural and physical infrastructure to provide safe and healthy places for people that maintain and enhance community and settlement identities.

Health and Well-being

To improve health and well-being through the creation of well-connected, accessible, healthy and active places, tackling health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

To create quality positive places where development realises the multiple benefits from the creation of inclusive, connected, adaptable and accessible communities that are cohesive and where Newport's culture, including the Welsh language, is valued and promoted.

3. Draft Objectives

Transport and Movement

Reduce the need to travel and increase the use and provision of sustainable travel options.

Natural Resources

Sustainably manage the natural resources in Newport to meet the needs of present and future communities, by ensuring resource efficiency, improved health outcomes, and the creation of a successful circular economy and green growth.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

To maintain, enhance and improve the biodiversity and geodiversity of Newport and its surrounds, including improved resilience, diversity, connectivity and adaptability, whilst ensuring net benefits are facilitated from development.

Historic Environment

To preserve, enhance and realise the value of Newport's heritage resources, through investment, interpretation and maximisation of those opportunities provided by the distinctive historic environment and archaeological assets.

Landscape

To protect and enhance the quality and character of Newport's landscape, townscape and seascape, and maximise the opportunities these features offer.

Climate Change

To ensure that development and land uses in Newport are resilient to the effects of climate change, and actively tackle the causes and impacts of climate change through minimisation, adaptation and mitigation.

3.1 Draft Objectives

Economy and Employment

Draft RLDP Objective

Provide for Newport's economic growth by offering a diverse range and choice of new and improved employment opportunities, which are adaptive to change and meet the needs of Newport and beyond, supporting a strong skilled and resilient workforce.

What is the current situation?

- Future Wales identifies Newport as a National Growth Area, it notes that Welsh Government supports Newport as the focus for regional growth and investment and wants to see the City play an increased strategic role in the South East Wales Region.
 - The Newport economy is of national importance, playing a significant role within South East Wales, as an accessible and affordable location supported by national infrastructure. It also plays a key role as part the Cardiff Capital Region and the Western Gateway. Following recent economic investments, Newport will continue to enhance its identified roles and contributions to both local and larger economies.
- The LDP forecasted 81,800 jobs by the end of the Plan period in 2026, which is an increase of 7,400 new jobs. The latest Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) shows job growth has increased throughout the monitoring period and is above the LDP target set for this period (2015-2021).
 - High Streets around the UK continue to lose footfall, and their economic vitality is under threat. Newport's City Centres footfall has been falling for several years and the impact from the pandemic has only exacerbated this. The level of vacancies, reduction in footfall and pressure from out-of-town retail remains a concern, but the vitality of district and local centres is encouraging.
 - Across Newport there is a high proportion of residents with no qualifications, and a low proportion of residents with higher qualifications compared to the Welsh average. Improved access to skills and education opportunities could bring levels more in line with that experienced across Wales as a whole.
 - Many of Newport's businesses, particularly small to medium enterprises (SMEs), have been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit. Newport's economic recovery strategy seeks to address both the impacts and opportunities presented by the Covid-19 pandemic.

3.1 Draft Objectives

Economy and Employment

- The current LDP has created over 31 hectares of new employment land over the plan period, including several high tech and innovative enterprises such as the data centre at Imperial Park. Of this, 13.67 hectares of the delivered employment land was allocated by the plan. The RLDP will need to support the delivery of further employment land in line with Newport's growing population and support continued investment in high tech and innovative enterprises.

Key Issues for the Plan to address

- How will the Plan support the nationally important role of Newport's economy as identified in Future Wales?
- How many jobs does Newport need and in what sectors (i.e. office; industrial; high tech; warehousing; etc) for the next 15 years?
- How much employment land do we need and where does it need to be provided?
- How will the plan support development at Newport Docks?
- How do we support and encourage professional up-skilling and education of the Newport workforce?
- How has the role of the City, district and local centres changed and what should their functions be and what is the best way to support these centres?
- Do we need a more flexible approach to the uses within and around the centres?
- Do we need to improve supporting infrastructure (i.e. parking, public transport links, street trees, etc)?
- Do we need a greater mix of residential uses in the centres?
- Has the role of the night-time economy been considered as part of a vibrant safe and diverse city centre?
- How do we support the Rural Economy in a sustainable way?
- How do we encourage and support a diverse sustainable tourism industry, and its capacity as a destination for events?
- What are the impacts of Covid-19 / Brexit and how do we support the post pandemic economic recovery?

3.2 Draft Objectives

Population and Communities

Draft RLDP Objective

To provide high-quality homes that meet the needs of Newport, as a national growth area, and to ensure that these homes are supported by the necessary social, environmental, cultural and physical infrastructure to provide safe and healthy places for people that maintain and enhance community and settlement identities.

What is the current situation?

- Future Wales identifies Newport as a National Growth Area which notes that Welsh Government supports Newport as the focus for regional growth and investment and wants to see the City play an increased strategic role in the South East Wales Region.
- Since 2014, Newport's population growth rate has been the highest in Wales, more than double the national rate, reinforced by new housing completions and an increase in the net migration inflow to the county. Population growth in Newport is predicted to continue to increase; and with it requirements for homes, jobs, facilities and infrastructure.
- The current LDP has delivered 6,415 homes (only 485 units below the current plan requirement), of which 1,359 are affordable (only 135 units below the plan requirement), as of April 2021.
- The LDP has provided a residential Gypsy and Traveller site but further work is required to understand the transit site need for Newport and the wider region and where this need should be provided.
- The current LDP sets out a brownfield led growth strategy and has successfully delivered 94% of its total housing development on brownfield land. While brownfield sites will continue to play an important role going forward, it is recognised that there is a limited supply and there is likely to be a role for greenfield sites in meeting the housing needs and growth aspirations of the next plan.
- Housing prices in Newport have steadily increased over the period of 2011- 2021, and as such the RLDP will seek to ensure developments deliver a mix of housing types, tenures and sizes according to local needs supported by necessary social, physical and environmental infrastructure.
- Newport has both some of the wealthiest and poorest neighbourhoods in Wales and it is recognised that entrenched poverty places more pressure on our public services and can break down the bonds that create strong supportive communities. The current LDP has ensured the protection and delivery of numerous community facilities (e.g. a new primary school at Glan Llyn and Jubilee Park). Therefore, if Newport is to be a national

3.2 Draft Objectives

Population and Communities

centre for growth an appropriate level of facilities, access to the physical environment, homes etc will need to be improved and provided.

Key Issues for the Plan to address

- How will the plan support Newport as a centre for growth in the South East Wales Region?
- What is Newport's population forecast for the next 15 years? And how many homes does Newport need to provide to meet this demand?
- How will the plan meet the identified housing needs by delivering a diverse range of new homes of different tenure, type and location in response to Newport's specific housing needs, ensuring that an appropriate proportion is affordable and accessible to all?
- Where should these homes be located?
- What is the best way to maximise the use of brownfield sites in the interests of sustainability?
- What are the most sustainable locations for urban expansion?
- The plan will need to identify the level of need and deliver the necessary accommodation to support Gypsy & Traveller communities.
- How will the plan promote high-quality development, that is safe and accessible, that will create and regenerate places for people, and will maintain and enhance community and settlement identity?
- How will the plan ensure that development takes place in sustainable locations, supported by the necessary social, environmental and physical infrastructure, including employment opportunities?



Apartments and townhouses along River Usk

3.3 Draft Objectives

Health and Well-being

Draft RLDP Objective

To improve health and well-being through the creation of well-connected, accessible, healthy and active places, tackling health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth.

What is the current situation?

- The creation of a healthier Wales is one of the seven Well-being goals, as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act. Planning has an important role in achieving this national ambition, and it must ensure that health and well-being are key considerations for planning.
- New developments should support the foundational economy (that is those parts of the economy which are integral to the well-being of places, communities and people and which deliver people's everyday needs) through regeneration initiatives, health and social care, social housing, tourism and steps to encourage greater community benefits.
- Some of the main challenges for Newport, which contribute to disadvantage within local communities, are health inequalities. General health in Newport is predominately good, however there are some areas with high rates of poor health based on 2011 Census data. It is important that the environment within which people live sustains and encourages a healthy lifestyle as well as providing access to services and good quality spaces that consider the needs of all, including our ageing population.
- The Covid pandemic has illustrated the huge importance of the quality and accessibility of open and green spaces for people's physical and mental health and well-being. Areas of deficiency may therefore have a population that does not participate in informal physical activity, and who may also be subject to other effects associated with environmental inequality (e.g. impacts on mental health and well-being). The current level of accessible open space varies across the authority area. Whilst some areas are well in excess of the required formal and informal spaces in those areas, the authority has an overall shortfall of 21 ha.
- The way in which we travel can have direct and indirect implications on our own health and the health of others. National policy is clear that future developments should be shaped around sustainable forms of transport and connected places that make us and the environment healthier. For example, implementation and improvements to infrastructure such as the National Cycle Network and supporting active travel should be integral to all new developments (please see the transport and movement section of this report for more detail)
- Pollution from all sources can impact on health and it should be noted that a particular issue for Newport is its eleven Air Quality Management

3.3 Draft Objectives

Health and Well-being

Areas. Although there are other legislative functions to control pollution, planning must ensure that places are developed in a manner which reduces pollution for healthier and more liveable spaces.

- Statistics indicate that Newport has consistently shown higher rates of crime and anti-social behaviour compared to Wales as a whole. The focus therefore will be to tackle this and ensure that new developments positively address this issue.

Key Issues for the Plan to address

- How can the plan support the foundational economy of Newport?
- What is the current level of health, social, recreational and leisure facilities available and where do these need to be protected, enhanced and/or improved?
- How can the plan ensure necessary community facilities are delivered to support new developments?
- How can the plan encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities?
- How can the plan create safer environments which decrease the opportunity for crime?

- How should the plan provide, protect and improve open spaces, play spaces and sport facilities?
- How should the plan support the provision and enhancement of green infrastructure networks?
- How can parks and accessible natural greenspaces be delivered / managed to enhance the contribution they make to increasing social activity, improving community cohesion?
- How can the plan improve access to the countryside for recreation?
- How can the plan help to reduce the need to travel?
- How can we encourage and facilitate accessible, and sustainable travel choices, including low carbon options?
- How can the plan negate the impact of development, including agriculture, on air quality?

3.4 Draft Objectives

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Draft RLDP Objective

To create quality positive places where development realises the multiple benefits from the creation of inclusive, connected, adaptable and accessible communities that are cohesive and where Newport's culture, including the Welsh language, is valued and promoted.

What is the current situation?

- There are areas in Newport that are considered to be deprived, based on the level of income, employment, health, education, access to services, community safety, physical environment, and housing in those areas. The ranking of deprivation is undertaken nationally. However, the current regeneration initiatives in some of these deprived areas and the general upward trends in wider economic based statistics, such as jobs growth, house values, and proportions of economically active people in Newport, would hopefully suggest more positive futures.
- Newport has a need for affordable housing, of which the current LDP has delivered 1,359 affordable housing over the plan period. Whilst a significant number of affordable housing has been delivered in Newport, there remains an outstanding need to be met. There are various ways to

deliver affordable housing and planning is only one part of this supply chain. An important factor in affordable housing is not only the link to house prices and people's financial situation, but also other factors that influence the suitability of their home. Specialist housing that recognises the diversity of Newport's population as well as adapted homes that allow people to live independently are an integral part of the supply of affordable housing.

- Newport is made up of various and distinct communities and the planning system aims to create places where people want to live and spend time. The promotion of placemaking in planning and design helps support balanced communities, foster a shared sense of place, and promotes community cohesion for both new and existing communities.
- The availability and accessibility of day-to-day facilities and employment opportunities contributes to the quality of a place, and is key to addressing inequality, health and well-being. It is important that in addition to achieving an appropriate supply of facilities these are physically accessible and meet people's needs.
- Newport has an ageing population, with 25% of residents currently falling within the 45- 64 age category, and an upward trend seen overall for the proportion of older residents over the past 4-5 years. This will place pressure on local services (e.g. social and health care), emphasising the need to provide enough facilities, that are easily accessible, to meet community needs.

3.4 Draft Objectives

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- There is a range of educational and training facilities in Newport, including Primary, Secondary and Tertiary education. However, a high proportion of Newport residents have been identified as having no qualifications, and a low proportion of residents with higher qualifications. The RLDP can support improved access to education and training opportunities that could help bring levels more in line with that experienced across Wales as a whole.
- Newport is a multilingual city with a diverse mix of languages used, adding to the overall cultural and social value of the city. Compared with the figures for Wales, Newport has a low proportion of Welsh speakers in the population. Opportunities to enhance and protect the Welsh language may include, providing access to key community and educational services, good quality homes and jobs, and promotion of Welsh heritage through the preservation and restoration of key cultural areas/features.
- How can the plan help to promote, strengthen, and enhance the cultural identity and community cohesion throughout Newport?
- What is the best approach to supporting the aging population of Newport?
- How can the plan promote and increase the use of the Welsh language in Newport?
- How should the plan guide development to sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?
- How can the plan promote the provision of a range of high-quality services and jobs in areas of highest need to reduce inequalities?
- How can the plan ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures to meet the needs of all members of the community?
- How can the plan support improved access to education and training opportunities?

Key Issues for the Plan to address

- How will the Plan continue to support the regeneration initiatives within deprived neighbourhoods?
- How can the plan help to reduce inequalities and deprivation across Newport?

3.5 Draft Objectives

Transport and Movement

Draft RLDP Objective

Reduce the need to travel and increase the use and provision of sustainable travel options.

What is the current situation?

- There are several known capacity issues within and surrounding Newport, notably associated with the M4, within the City, and along A-roads to the north. It is recognised that road infrastructure has struggled to keep pace with the increases in road vehicles experienced in recent years. The decision not to go ahead with the M4 relief road was supplemented by a 'network of alternatives' being developed by the South East Wales Transport Commission (also known as the Burns Report) to deal with the congestion on the M4. There are many recommendations from the report that will be implemented within and will affect Newport e.g. new railway stations, active travel routes etc. The implementation of these recommendations, being led by Transport for Wales, will influence future land use choices and assessments for the next LDP.
- The Wales Transport Strategy (2021) sets a vision for Wales to achieve 'An accessible, sustainable transport system', this is to be achieved through three headline priorities, which will need to be reflected in the

RLDP: (1) Bringing services to people in order to reduce the need to travel; (2) Allowing people and goods to move easily from door to door by accessible, sustainable and efficient transport services and infrastructure; and (3) Encouraging people to make the change to more sustainable transport.

- The 2011 Census highlighted relatively low levels of active travel, and although improvements have been made, it will be important to strengthen and improve active travel networks to support the shift to more sustainable forms of travel. Opportunities in this respect are identified through the South Wales Metro Project, which includes significant expansion and enhancement of the rail network, bus services and cycle and pedestrian networks. Growth should be coordinated with strategic transport infrastructure improvements to maximise opportunities for connected and accessible development.
- The current LDP has been successful in delivering its brownfield strategy and has continued to implement a centre first approach to development; this can assist in encouraging a modal shift towards more sustainable forms of travel. The limits to the brownfield supply of land will mean that development of greenfield sites will need to be considered as part of the RLDP and the most sustainable travel options will need to be delivered.
- Newport's strategic location in South Wales, and its proximity to Cardiff and Bristol means it's always going to have an element of out-commuting. The challenge is to try and reduce the number of trips out of Newport in

3.5 Draft Objectives

Transport and Movement

the interests of creating a sustainable city. Where this cannot be reduced, such trips should be encouraged via more sustainable forms of transport.

- There are direct and indirect impacts from our choice of travel methods both positive and negative. The current reliance on unsustainable forms of transport results in an impact on air quality, health and climate change. (N.B each of these matters are dealt with in elsewhere in the report.)

Key Issues for the Plan to address

- How can the priorities set out in Wales Transport Strategy and the South East Wales Transport Commission Report be supported? What opportunities are available from the implementation of these strategies?
- How can the location of new development e.g. employment and housing, achieve and improve modal shifts towards more sustainable forms of travel?
- How can the plan help to reduce the need to travel?
- How can we encourage and facilitate accessible, and sustainable travel choices, including low carbon options?
- What new infrastructure is required to meet future growth levels?

- How can the plan support more electric and low emission vehicle charging points and improve and/or extend active travel routes?
- What can be done to alleviate the pressure on existing road infrastructure, taking into account future growth?
- How can we ensure rural development does not contribute towards further increases in unsustainable travel patterns?
- How can we ensure future travel choices have a positive effect on air quality, health and climate change across Newport as whole?



3.6 Draft Objectives

Natural Resources

Draft RLDP Objective

Sustainably manage the natural resources in Newport to meet the needs of present and future communities, by ensuring resource efficiency, improved health outcomes, and the creation of a successful circular economy and green growth.

What is the current situation?

- A State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) is produced by Natural Resources Wales which provides an assessment of whether Wales is achieving the sustainable management of natural resources - air, land, water, wildlife, forests, fisheries, plants and soil. This information is then used to create the Welsh Natural Resource Policy and Area Statements for Wales. The Area Statements, in particular, are key parts of the evidence base for the RLDP which should seek to achieve sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR)
- Newport is the best performing authority in the UK for recycling its waste and is working towards meeting the Welsh Government target of 70% recycling rates by 2025. In addition, Newport has made long-term improvements to energy generated from waste and reductions in landfill

usage. While Newport currently has only one Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) which serves a large number of people, the construction of a second HWRC is included in Newport's Corporate Plan as one of the 20 Commitments by 2022.

- Newport has a relatively sparse provision of land-based minerals, with no active mineral processing operations within the area's boundary. It is a key location for the landing of marine sand and gravel, and the current LDP safeguards the infrastructure to support the transportation of minerals which includes Newport Docks. Newport relies upon importations to meet its needs and there is a national policy objective to reduce the distance from such imports and increase the use of secondary and recycled materials, which will be increasingly relevant to satisfy future growth aspirations.
- Soil is an important resource that impacts on both natural and human ecosystems. The best and most versatile agricultural land is threatened by our changing climate. The protection and enhancement of this land and soil will directly impact on the level of food production, drainage, water quality and quantity, ecological resilience as well as the source of sustainable building materials. Newport's agricultural land is mostly lower quality, but we do have some areas of higher quality land, particularly to the east and west of the authority. There are important choices to be made as to how to use this land sustainably.

3.6 Draft Objectives

Natural Resources

- Newport's coastal location and its two main rivers (Usk and Ebbw) alongside their tributaries and the expansive ditch / reen network across the Gwent Levels means that nowhere in Newport is far from a water source. In terms of water supply the current LDP, informed by Dwr Cymru's Water Resource Management Plan, evidenced a water supply adequate to support the level of growth. In terms of water quality, it is noted that the vast majority of the waterbodies in Newport have an overall status of 'moderate' in terms of their ecology, quantity and chemical status which means there is work to be done to improve. There is a perception due to the Welsh climate that there isn't a need to use water efficiently, however this is not the case. If water is used efficiently this can have positive impacts, e.g. the reduction in the amount of energy needed to treat and supply it, as well as reduce the level of abstraction from rivers that can impact on ecological designations.
- Poor air quality is one of the largest environmental risks to ecosystems and health in Wales. Newport has eleven Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAS). The latest monitoring report (2019) concluded that the majority of Newport's eleven AQMAS have shown a degree of improvement. However, most of the AQMAS are at / just above the objective level. It is important to note that in addition to the impact from transport and fuel consumption, agriculture is also a source of pollutants which also needs to be addressed.
- All new development has an impact on our natural resources (e.g. construction material, changes to drainage, loss of agricultural land,

importation of soils, introduction of air pollutants, creation of new woodland etc). As resources are finite and part of our ecosystems the plan must recognise its impact and encourage reduced consumption, increased recycling, locally accessible jobs, sustainable food production, creating high quality developments (i.e. through the creation of circular economies and communities). Developments and the change of use of land requires the consumption of natural resources and has a direct (as well as indirect) impact on our natural resources. The choice to use previously developed sites for new development is the basis of the current LDPs strategy for Newport, which has been very successfully implemented.

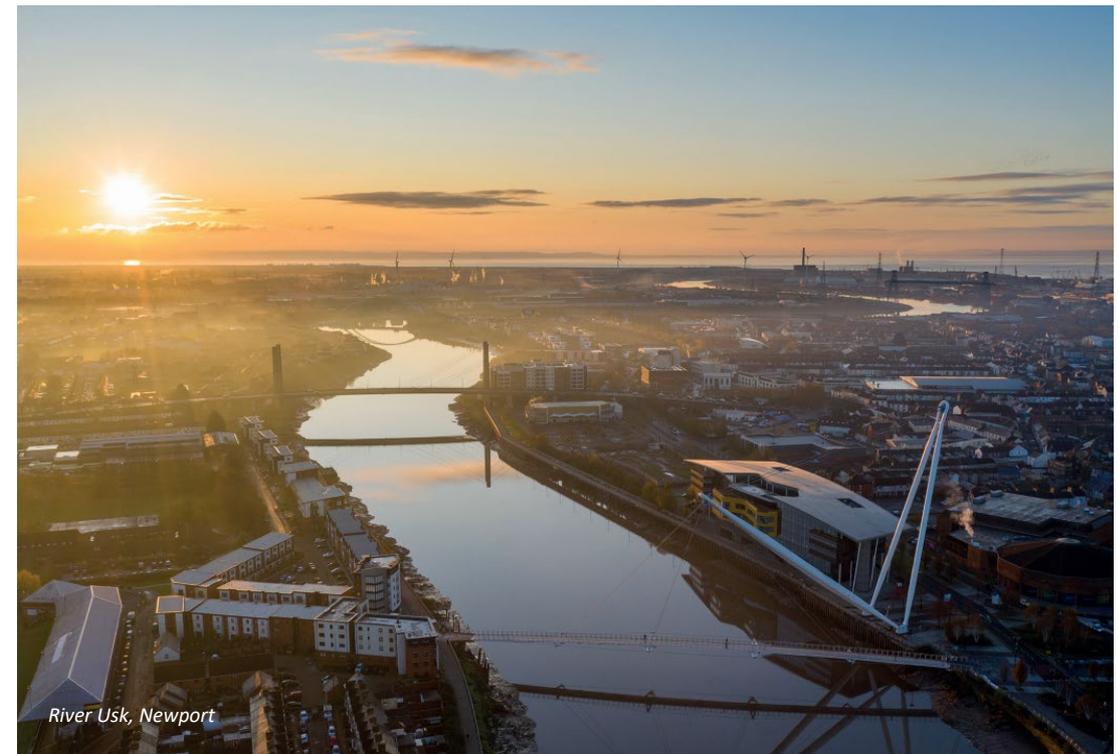
Key Issues for the Plan to address

- How can the plan ensure that development results in the sustainable management of natural resources? (For example, the benefits of increasing renewable energy developments and tree cover is supported but how should we manage the extraction of raw material and manage our waste to meet the increased pressure of growing populations?)
- How can the plan support and create circular communities that is the focus on local resilience in terms of social (food production and distribution) economic (sustaining local jobs) environmental (waste reduction and increased recycling and cultural (shift to active travel, repairing goods, zero waste shopping etc.)?)

3.6 Draft Objectives

Natural Resources

- How can the plan help reduce consumption of resources in development and encourage the use of secondary and recycled materials?
- How can the plan support improved recycling rates and long-term improvements to energy generated from waste and reductions in landfill waste? Is the allocation of a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) necessary?
- How can the plan reduce the reliance on primary aggregates and where it is needed ensure the supply is sustainably located?
- How can the plan ensure good quality agricultural land is well utilised and protected?
- How can the plan ensure that soil is a consideration of development proposals?
- How can the plan assist in reducing water consumption?
- Is there an adequate supply of water to sustain the growth levels set out in the plan?
- How can the plan negate the impact of development, including agriculture, on air quality and promote and facilitate nature based solutions to pollutants?
- How can the plan ensure that the tranquillity of Newport's two areas of 'undisturbed' tranquil landscapes is preserved into the future?



3.7 Draft Objectives

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Draft RLDP Objective

To maintain, enhance and improve the biodiversity and geodiversity of Newport and its surrounds, including improved resilience, diversity, connectivity and adaptability, whilst ensuring net benefits are facilitated from development.

What is the current situation?

- The plan area contains many sites designated for biodiversity at the international, national and local level. These protected sites include the River Usk Special Area of Conservation (SAC), the Severn Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA), SAC and Ramsar site, the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) across the Gwent Levels, National Nature Reserve (NNR), Local Nature Reserves (LNR), Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), Priority Habitats under the Biodiversity Action Plan, as well as European protected species, and species such as the Shril Carder Bee which can only be found at six other locations in Britain.
- Newport City Council declared a Climate and Ecology Emergency in 2021 which recognises the impact of climate change on biodiversity. The draft

climate change plan sets an action for ecosystem resilience noting the need to increase, restore and connect habitats and species.

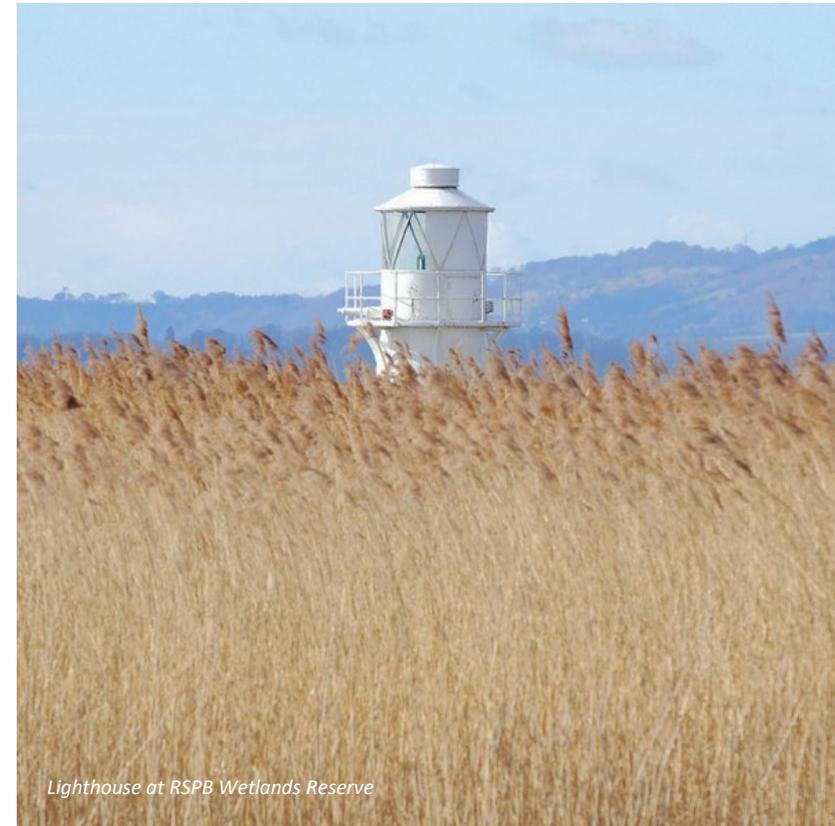
- There are many priority habitats, urban and green spaces, coastal areas, and waterbodies that support overall ecological connectivity in the plan area. It will be important for any new development to ensure that this ecological network is supported and enhanced both locally and sub-regionally.
- New development is required to secure biodiversity enhancement and maximise opportunities for biodiversity net gain, whilst improving ecological connectivity, avoiding, minimising and mitigating harm.
- The Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites (RIGS) located in Newport are part of a network of geological and geomorphological sites considered worthy of protection. They are considered to provide an educational, scientific, historical and recreational resource which make an important contribution to the overall biodiversity, heritage and landscape of Newport. New development will need to ensure that no detrimental impact upon this important and finite element of natural heritage occurs.

3.7 Draft Objectives

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Key Issues for the Plan to address

- How can the plan ensure impacts on designated and important biodiversity sites, habitats and species are positive and result in net gains?
- How can the plan protect and enhance ecological networks, including those that cross administrative boundaries?
- The plan can explore opportunities to enhance existing and establish new green infrastructure corridors to improve connectivity, particularly within urban areas.
- How can the plan minimise impacts on designated and important geodiverse areas and secure their protection into the future?
- The impact of the RLDP on internationally designated sites will be assessed through a Habitat Regulations Assessment.
- How can the plan promote the resilience of ecosystem as defined by the diversity, extent, connectivity, condition and adaptability of those ecosystem?



Lighthouse at RSPB Wetlands Reserve

3.8 Draft Objectives

Historic Environment

Draft RLDP Objective

To preserve, enhance and realise the value of Newport's heritage assets, through investment, interpretation and maximisation of those opportunities provided by the distinctive historic environment and archaeological assets.

What is the current situation?

- Newport has a wide range of historically important buildings and sites which are a source of pride and a key part of its cultural identity. In total there are over 400 Listed Buildings, 15 Conservation Areas, 11 Historic Parks and Gardens, 67 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, 4 Archaeologically Sensitive Areas and over 50 square kilometres of landscape registered as being of Outstanding Historic Interest.
- National and international designations affords several of these assets protection, however the LDP still plays a role in their protection and to ensure their significance and setting is positively enhanced by new development. Opportunities to enhance public understanding of historic assets have been and will continue to be sought.
- Conservation Areas and other locally defined heritage assets aid our understanding and appreciation of place, and this concept should be brought as good practice where development should be sensitively designed to maintain a strong sense of place, using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit.
- Archaeology is a significant aspect of Newport's heritage from the well documented Roman Fortress at Caerleon to the unexpected discovery of the internationally important Newport Ship, this illustrates the importance of this finite resource and for necessary archaeological investigations are undertaken prior to any works.
- Heritage forms a key part of the Newport Offer and Newport has benefited economically from the protection of its historic resources, particularly the regeneration of the City Centre. It is essential that Newport is allowed to thrive, develop and grow, this should not be done at the expense of its heritage. Therefore, it is imperative that new development is of the highest quality and does not prejudice the protection of the historic environment in Newport.
- Unfortunately, there are many historic assets known to be at risk in Newport and these could potentially deteriorate further without intervention or as a result of inappropriate development. Whilst there are examples of successfully restoration e.g. Market Arcade, there are more which need this investment.

3.8 Draft Objectives

Historic Environment

Key Issues for the Plan to address

- How can the plan conserve and enhance the significance of buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their setting?
- How can the plan conserve and enhance the special interest, character and appearance of conservation areas, historic landscapes, parks and gardens and their setting?
- How can the plan ensure the conservation and enhancement of archaeological remains, and archaeologically sensitive areas, and support the undertaking of archaeological investigations and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation strategies?
- How can the plan ensure locally distinctive approaches to development that create a strong sense of place?
- How can the plan assist in the restoration, preservation and enhancement of at risk heritage assets?
- How can the plan promote opportunities related to the culture, identity, skills, tourism and regeneration benefits of heritage?



Grade 1 Listed Newport Transporter Bridge

3.9 Draft Objectives

Landscape

Draft RLDP Objective

To protect and enhance the quality and character of Newport's landscape, townscape and seascape, and maximise the opportunities these features offer.

What is the current situation?

- Newport is predominantly rural with only 30% of the county borough classified as urban, although nowhere is far from the urban area. It has a rich and diverse landscape made up of a range of different features, including the three main national landscape character types, with the following key features:
 - Gwent Levels: Reclaimed lowland levels.
 - Newport: Largely urbanised with key transport infrastructures.
 - Wentwood: Picturesque scenery and woodland, including long views towards the Severn Estuary.
- The location, scale and design of any proposed development is required to take account of its landscape setting.

- Newport has one central urban area and is surrounded by nine designated villages. It is important to protect key settlement identities, including setting, avoiding coalescence and supporting visually attractive places as a result of good design, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping.
- Newport currently has the only Green Belt in Wales which maintains the separation between the built up areas of Newport and Cardiff. This designation goes beyond the life of a LDP and any amendments will only be considered through a Strategic Development Plan, along with any future Green Belts, in accordance with Future Wales. In addition, there are four Green Wedges designated to prevent coalescence between urban areas (e.g. Malpas and Cwmbran).
- The LDP currently identifies six Special Landscape Areas, these have been designated using the nationally recognised LANDMAP assessment process. These areas are noted as being national and regionally important landscapes which do not preclude development, but require development to contribute positively to their special characteristics.
- Newport's coastal areas and adjacent levels are areas of outstanding visual, historic and ecological interest. There has been recent pressure from development on these areas (i.e. tourism, solar farms, agriculture, etc.).

3.9 Draft Objectives

Landscape

- The National Marine Plan for Wales was adopted in 2019 and with it the need for development affecting the coast to take into account the Marine Plans policies. The River Usk is tidal and so the influence of the Marine Plan is significant. Of particular note is the need to consider the impact of development on the seascape, which is a landscape with views of the coast or seas and the adjacent marine environment.

Key Issues for the Plan to address

- How can the plan ensure that Newport's valued landscapes, townscapes, and seascapes are protected and enhanced? With a particular focus on the Gwent Levels.
- What is the settlement hierarchy in Newport and what are their roles?
- Should the current urban and village boundaries be extended or tightened to allow or manage development?
- What justification would be required for development in rural areas?
- Should the current Green Wedge designations be preserved, amended or removed?
- Should the current Special Landscape Areas be preserved, amended or removed?

- How should the impact of the National Marine Plan be reflected in the LDP?



3.10 Draft Objectives

Climate Change

Draft RLDP Objective

To ensure that development and land uses in Newport are resilient to the effects of climate change, and actively tackle the causes and impacts of climate change through minimisation, adaptation and mitigation.

What is the current situation?

- Newport currently accounts for around 5% of Wales' total carbon emissions. Following the Welsh Governments declaration of a climate emergency, and the setting of a net zero emissions targets for 2050, Newport City Council has declared a Climate and Ecology Emergency and has developed a draft Climate Change Plan which discusses the role of the LDP in achieving the objectives of the plan.
- The priority in dealing with climate change is to reduce the consumption of energy and resources. Future growth aspirations will increase the levels of demand. This means that building design (including retrofit), sustainable travel, access to services and appropriate sources of energy are key aspects for the RLDP to tackle.

- Per capita transport related emissions in Newport are significantly higher than Wales and the UK's figures. There is a large portion of properties utilising the gas network in Newport. Low carbon electricity must become the main source of energy in Newport. Renewable electricity should be better utilised to meet growing demand for both heating and transport.
- The potential to establish a district heat network within Newport has been identified by Future Wales. Large developments will continue to be required to investigate opportunities to deliver district heat networks.
- Housing contributes significantly to climate change and if Wales is to meet its climate targets, buildings will need to operate at close to zero emissions by 2050. This will require a substantial change in how buildings are heated and powered in the future.
- The amount of energy used in buildings will have to be significantly lower, while the remaining energy demand will need to be delivered through low carbon and renewable sources. Amendments to building regulations will assist with the changes required but there is a need for buildings to be flexible to meet these future standards and for developments to be ambitious in meeting the zero-carbon challenge.
- The RLDP has to identify the opportunities for renewable energy within its boundary, in line with national planning policy, with a particular focus on the delivery of locally owned schemes. There were 13 renewable energy schemes (totalling 80.35MW) permitted during the current LDP.

3.10 Draft Objectives

Climate Change

- Flood risk in Newport is a significant issue which influences current and future planning decisions. Climate change will exacerbate this issue further. There are a number of different sources of flood risk across Newport including, but not limited to, surface water, coastal and rivers (i.e. fluvial).
- National policy sets out a sequential approach to managing flood risk. There is an initial requirement to avoid any flood risk and to not worsen existing conditions. Where demonstrated that this is unavoidable, the flood risk must be managed to maintain or improve resilience of people and property in those areas over the lifetime of the development.
- Carbon capture and storage is an essential part of limiting the impact of climate change. Therefore, maintaining and expanding habitats such as woodland is key. Wentwood Forest has been identified as part of the National Forest for Wales, by the Welsh Government. The National Forest for Wales initiative will see the linking together of woodlands to form a network, increased levels of tree planting to improve ecosystem connectivity, carbon capture, amenity and well-being as well as provide a source of sustainable construction material.
- Fuel poverty affects around 28% of households in Newport, which is lower than the national average for Wales at 31%. The move to net zero and decarbonisation provides an opportunity to also tackle fuel poverty.

- There are opportunities to upskill and meet gaps in expertise, innovation and installation and retain the economic benefits that result from meeting this climate change challenge (e.g. jobs, investment, energy costs, etc.).

Key Issues for the Plan to address

- How should the declaration of a climate and ecological emergency in Newport be reflected in the plan?
- How can the plan reduce consumption and impacts from non-renewable energy sources (e.g. transport and heat emissions in urban and rural communities)?
- How can the plan encourage the delivery of zero-carbon buildings and renewable and low carbon energy schemes?
- How should the plan require new development to demonstrate it has satisfied the energy hierarchy?
- Where should the plan identify areas with potential to accommodate more renewable and low carbon schemes and encourage local ownership?
- How should the plan reduce the need to travel or the number of journeys made and promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport?

3.10 Draft Objectives

Climate Change

- How can the plan increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria?
- How can the plan increase the resilience of the built and natural environment to the effects of climate change?
- How can the plan encourage nature-based solutions (e.g. utilising green infrastructure networks) to support climate change adaptation?
- How can the plan ensure existing and new communities manage and improve their resilience to the impact of flood risk?
- What infrastructure might be required to reduce the impact of flood risk on existing and new communities?
- How can the plan ensure that surface water drainage is considered appropriately alongside the Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) process?
- How can the plan support and encourage the creation and protection of woodlands for their multiple benefits, including ecological connectivity, carbon capture and construction materials?
- How can the plan support opportunities for economic benefits from supplying solutions to the climate change challenge and the skill gaps associated with it?
- How can the plan support the emerging jobs and upskilling required to meet the challenge of climate change?



Installation of solar panels at Lliswerry High School

4. Evidence Base

As part of the RLDP process an evidence base will be prepared to inform the RLDP's policies and responses to the Issues identified in Section 3.

This will include both updates to various elements of the existing evidence base, along with new evidence.

Anticipated Evidence Base

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population and Economic Forecasts • Retail and Leisure Study • City, District and Local Centres Assessments • Candidate Site Assessments • Viability Assessments • Housing Needs Analysis • Sustainable Travel Assessment • Infrastructure Plan • Circular Economy Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Infrastructure Assessment • Gypsy & Traveller Needs Assessment • Urban Capacity Study • House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) & Flats Survey/Analysis • Settlement Boundary Review • Village Appraisals • Community Facility Assessment • Renewable Energy Assessment • Biodiversity and Ecological Survey
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Housing Market Assessment • Air Quality Management Assessment • Transport Assessment • Minerals Survey • Soil Quality Assessment • Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment • Water Resource Management Plan • Agricultural Land Classification Assessment • Area Statement for the South East Wales Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update to South Wales RIGS Audit (2013) by British Survey • Historic Assets Survey • Conservation Area Appraisals • Landscape Appraisal • Archaeological Investigation Report • District Heat Network Feasibility Study • Integrated Sustainability Appraisal • State of Natural Resources (SoNaRR)
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This is not a definitive list, and as such the need for additional evidence may emerge during the engagement and as the Plan progresses.

5. National Policy

Comparison of Draft RLDP Objectives against the Well-being Goals from the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It details the ways in which specified public bodies must work together to improve the well-being of Wales. The seven well-being goals provide a shared vision to work towards.

1. A prosperous Wales

An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

2. A resilient Wales

A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).

3. A healthier Wales

A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

4. A more equal Wales

A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).

5. A Wales of cohesive communities

Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.

6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

7. A globally responsible Wales

A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

5. National Policy

Comparison of Draft RLDP Objectives against the Well-being Goals from the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Comparison of Draft RLDP Objectives against the Well-being Goals from the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Well-being Goals:

1. Prosperous
2. Resilient
3. Healthier
4. More Equal
5. Cohesive Communities
6. Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language
7. Globally Responsible



Source: Well-being of Future Generations: Essentials Guide (3rd Ed, May 2021)

Draft RLDP Objectives	Link to Well-being Goals
1 Economy and Employment	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
2 Population and Communities	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
3 Health and Well-being	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
4 Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion	1, 4, 5, 6
5 Transport and Movement	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
6 Natural Resources	1, 2, 3, 7
7 Biodiversity and Geodiversity	2, 7
8 Historic Environment	5, 6, 7
9 Landscape	2, 3, 6, 7
10 Climate Change	1, 2, 3, 4, 7

5. National Policy

Comparison of Draft RLDP Objectives against the Key Planning Principles and National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes from Planning Policy Wales

Planning Policy Wales sets out the Key Planning Principles and National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes. Collectively, they serve as a framework to guide the preparation of the RLDP to deliver sustainable places and development outcomes

Key Planning Principles and National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes

1. Growing our Economy in a Sustainable Manner

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

2. Making Best Use of Resources

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

3. Facilitating Accessible and Healthy Environments

Our land use choices and the places we create should be accessible for all and support healthy lives. High quality places are barrier-free and inclusive to all

members of society. They ensure everyone can live, work, travel and play in a way that supports good physical and mental health. Our built and natural environments should be planned to promote mental and physical well-being. The best way of achieving this is to involve and collaborate with others to ensure issues are understood and prevented at the earliest opportunity through effective engagement with those affected by or having an interest in the development concerned.

4. Creating and Sustaining Communities

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

5. Maximising Environmental Protection and Limiting Environmental Impact

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

5. National Policy

Comparison of Draft RLDP Objectives against the Key Planning Principles and National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes from Planning Policy Wales

Comparison of Draft RLDP Objectives against the Key Planning Principles (KPP) and National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes (NSPO) from Planning Policy Wales

Key Planning Principles and National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes

1. Growing our Economy in a Sustainable Manner
2. Making Best Use of Resources
3. Facilitating Accessible and Healthy Environments
4. Creating and Sustaining Communities
5. Maximising Environmental Protection and Limiting Environmental Impact

	Draft RLDP Objectives	Link to KPP and NSPO
1	Economy and Employment	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Population and Communities	1, 2, 3, 4
3	Health and Well-being	3, 4
4	Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion	1, 3, 4
5	Transport and Movement	1, 2, 3, 4
6	Natural Resources	1, 2, 5
7	Biodiversity and Geodiversity	2, 5
8	Historic Environment	4, 5
9	Landscape	2, 5
10	Climate Change	1, 2, 3, 5

6. Have Your Say

The Council would like to hear from as many people as possible to help refine these Draft Vision, Issues and Objectives to best represent the communities that live in, work in and visit Newport.

If you'd like to share your comments on the matters discussed in this paper, you can do so using any of the methods set out in the table on the right. To access the comments form for the Draft Vision, Issues and Objectives or for further information on this process please visit www.newport.gov.uk/rldp.

We will also be holding a series of consultation events to discuss the Draft Vision, Issues and Objectives with the community. Please check the website or contact the Planning Policy Team for details.

Your comments are welcomed in either Welsh or English and should be received by the Council no later than **25th March 2022**.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR):

To show that the consultation was carried out properly, the Council intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. The name of the person or organisation who sent the response will be published with the response.

Information will be held in accordance with the Replacement Local Development Plan GDPR Privacy Notice (Newport City Council). A paper copy of the Privacy Notice can be provided on request.

Email:	Send the completed form via email to LDP.consultation@newport.gov.uk
Post:	Send the completed form to Council, addressed as follows - Visions, Issues and Objectives Feedback Planning Policy Newport City Council Civic Centre Newport NP20 4UR
Contact details:	If you have any queries, please contact the Planning Policy Team as follows - Email: LDP.consultation@newport.gov.uk Phone: 01633 656 656