



Monmouthshire Replacement Local Development Plan

2018-2033

Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper
(Updated September 2024)

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Issues Vision and Objectives

1. Introduction

Purpose of this paper

- 1.1. This Paper sets out the key issues, challenges and opportunities facing the County informed by a range of evidence, including the Gwent Public Service Board (PSB) Well-being Plan (August 2023), MCC's Taking Monmouthshire Forward – Community and Corporate Plan 2022-2028 (April 2023), LDP Review Report (March 2018), LDP Annual Monitoring Reports (2014-2024) and RLDP Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report (September 2024), along with wider contextual factors such as national guidance/legislation and the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal. It also sets out the RLDP vision and objectives to address the issues, challenges and opportunities identified.

Background

- 1.2. The Council is preparing a Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) for the County (excluding the area within Bannau Brycheiniog National Park), covering the period 2018 to 2033¹. The RLDP is a key Council policy document that allocates land for development, designates areas for protection and contains policies against which future planning applications will be assessed. When adopted, the RLDP will replace the existing adopted LDP as the statutory land use development plan for the County.
- 1.3. The preparation of the Issues, Vision and Objectives is one of the first key stages in the RLDP preparation process. This Paper identifies the key issues, challenges and opportunities facing the County and sets out the vision and objectives for the RLDP. The RLDP Issues, Vision and Objectives have been kept under review and updated as necessary as part of the continued development of the RLDP evidence base.

What are the Issues, Vision and Objectives?

- 1.4. The **issues** relate to the key issues, challenges and opportunities that the RLDP is seeking to address (economic, environmental, social and cultural aspects) and form the basis of the RLDP objectives. As noted in paragraph 1.1, the issues are informed by a wide range of evidence. The issues, challenges and opportunities are also informed by key sustainability matters which must be developed as part of the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) of the RLDP. The sustainability issues must be addressed in order for the Plan as a whole to be considered sustainable. The sustainability issues are developed utilising baseline information, which describes the position of a number of different economic, social, cultural and environmental characteristics relating to the County at a set point in time (the baseline).
- 1.5. 1.5 The role of the RLDP **vision** is to clarify the core purpose of the RLDP and provide a framework for developing the Preferred Strategy and future detailed policies. It should be unique to local circumstances, set out the vision of how Monmouthshire will develop, change or be protected over the plan period, and, provide the land use emphasis of this (Para 5.11, Development Plans Manual Edition 3, 2020).
- 1.6. In order to address the key issues and challenges and deliver the Vision, 17 Objectives have been developed for the RLDP. This has enabled us to understand the

wider context and identify the main social, environmental, economic and cultural issues facing the County and set out objectives to address the issues to deliver sustainable development in Monmouthshire over the plan period. These build upon the Adopted LDP objectives, taking account of a range of policy drivers that have emerged in recent years, including the Well Being of Future Generations Act 2015, the Gwent PSB Well-being Plan and the Council’s Community and Corporate Plan. The Gwent PSB steps replace the objectives previously set out in the Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan. The objectives identified should be capable of being addressed through the land use planning system. The RLDP Objectives have been kept under review and updated as necessary as part of the continued development of the RLDP evidence base.

RLDP Issues, Vision and Objectives

- 1.7. The Issues, Vision and Objectives have been updated since the Adopted LDP (2011 – 2021) to reflect the current position within Monmouthshire. This included a review of the adopted LDP Issues, Vision and Objectives to support the LDP Review Report and the plan making stages to date. The Gwent PSB Well-being Plan (August 2023) provides well-being objectives and is a key contributor to the latest update of the issues, vision and objectives for the RLDP along with MCC’s Taking Monmouthshire Forward – Community and Corporate Plan 2022-2028 (April 2023). Planning Policy Wales Edition 12 (February 2021) supports this approach, recognising the significance of local well-being plans as a key evidence source for LDPs.
- 1.8. Sustainability Issues/Objectives are included in the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) for the Monmouthshire RLDP Report (September 2024). The Sustainability Issues have also been considered and incorporated as appropriate in this document, but are not repeated in their entirety
- 1.9. The Issues and Objectives have been grouped in accordance with the Seven Well-being Goals as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Well-being Goals are set out in Appendix 1. It should be noted that many of the issues and objectives cross a number of well-being goals, and have, therefore, been grouped as a best fit with the goals. However, the cross-cutting themes should not be overlooked.

Consultation on RLDP Issues, Vision and Objectives

- 1.10. The issues, vision and objectives were formally consulted upon as part of the Preferred Strategy Consultation in 2022 with a total of 89 representations received. The RLDP issues, vision and objectives have been kept under review and updated as necessary as a result of consultation responses on the Preferred Strategy and as part of the continued development of the RLDP evidence base.

2. RLDP Issues

2.1. The table below provides an extract of the issues facing the County and how the RLDP can influence these issues. The RLDP issues have been reviewed and updated throughout the RLDP process, as appropriate. The issues have been grouped in accordance with the seven well-being goals as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to ensure that they are framed within this context. This allows for the appreciation of social, economic and environmental matters to be embedded into the Plan.

A Prosperous Wales (Well-being Goal 1)
Employment & Economy
Issue
<p>Issue 1 - There has been a slow uptake of employment land in the past. There is subsequently a need to consider whether existing available land is suitably located and fit for purpose. There is also a need to consider potential future demand for employment land along with Council aspirations for innovation across Monmouthshire and regional partnerships including the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCDC), Marches Forward Partnership and The Western Gateway. Opportunities associated with such partnership working include economic investment/innovation and transport and digital connectivity.</p> <p>Issue 2 - While unemployment is low there is a net-outflow of commuters, both levels of out commuting and distances travelled to work are relatively high. There is a need to provide support for inward investment and local employment growth/opportunities to reduce the need to travel to work.</p> <p>Issue 3 - Wage levels available for local jobs are lower than the average for Wales and the UK. Evidence continues to suggest that the income for economically active women who both live and work within the County is significantly lower than that of men within the same category. This coupled with high property prices makes it difficult for young people and future generations to live and work locally. Additional employment opportunities for young people are required to help reduce the numbers of this age group leaving the County.</p> <p>Issue 4 - Monmouthshire has a dual economy. The qualifications, skills and earnings of the residents are above the regional and national average, however, for those working in the area earnings are lower and employment is relatively less skilled.</p> <p>Issue 5 - The increasingly ageing population and shrinking working age population is limiting employment growth within Monmouthshire and social sustainability of communities. This is exacerbated by limited job opportunities and affordable housing availability.</p> <p>Issue 6 - There is a need to sustain and regenerate the County’s rural economy. There is current uncertainty regarding the impact of Brexit on agricultural subsidies.</p>

Issue 7 - Higher levels of those in employment work at home compared to the Welsh average (2021 Census). Efficient digital infrastructure is essential to support home working and the general connectivity of the County's rural areas and to support economic growth.

Issue 8 - The role of high streets is changing due to out of town retail such as Cribbs Causeway, the increase in internet shopping, changing shopping habits (e.g. top-up grocery shopping), austerity, business rates and the cost of living crisis. As a result, vacancy rates in some of the County's town centres have increased. There is a leakage of expenditure out of the County and a need to protect and restore the vitality and viability of the County's town and local centres.

Issue 9 - Tourism plays a significant part in the Monmouthshire economy particularly in assisting in the diversification of the rural economy and in sustaining the County's historic town centres. In 2022 2.34 million visitors came to Monmouthshire, having an overall economic impact of £285 million. Staying visitors generate a higher economic impact than day visitors at £216 million in 2022 compared to £140 million in 2021 (Monmouthshire STEAM Report August 2023) highlighting the continued need for visitor accommodation. Changes relating to second homes and proposals for a tourist tax in Wales could affect this sector.

How can the RLDP influence these Issues?

A(i) The RLDP encourages a vibrant economy within the County, specifically by ensuring that sufficient employment sites are suitably located in attractive, accessible and sustainable locations and are of an appropriate size and type to meet the needs of the market/key employment/growth sectors, including, through support of start-up and growing businesses to help diversify the economy.

A(ii) The RLDP aims to ensure that there is a portfolio of sites available which is appropriate to market conditions and the needs of the Monmouthshire economy along with the wider Cardiff Capital Region. Consideration can be given to using CPO powers to ensure sites come forward.

A(iii) The RLDP ensures that, wherever possible, jobs and homes are located in close proximity to each other to provide greater opportunity for people to work and live locally. The RLDP will also ensure a range and choice of homes are available, in new developments, particularly where there is a need for affordable housing, to assist in regaining a balanced population.

A(iv) The RLDP takes a role in strengthening the local economy, ensuring an appropriate economic base to enable people to live and work in the County.

A(v) The RLDP contains policies that support the diversification of the rural economy.

A(vi) The RLDP helps to address digital exclusion by seeking to support the improvement of rural broadband and delivery of high speed connections.

A(vii) The RLDP contains policies that protect the vitality and viability of existing town centres, providing additional retail, commercial and social development opportunities where appropriate, including in relation to the regeneration of Caldicot and Usk, and ensures that the distribution of development supports these main centres in order to retain retail expenditure.

<p>A(viii) The RLDP has reviewed the towns’ primary shopping frontages (PSF) and related policies to have regard to the evolving role of the high street as a centre for a variety of retail, leisure and community uses. Sustainably located and well-connected development can support town centres.</p> <p>A(ix) The RLDP contains policies that encourage tourism development while at the same time ensuring that the natural and built heritage that attracts visitors to the area is preserved and enhanced.</p>
<p>A Resilient Wales (Well-being Goal 2)</p>
<p>Air</p>
<p>Issue</p>
<p>Issue 10 - While air pollution is not a major problem throughout Monmouthshire, it can cause significant problems for people’s health and there are localised problems in Chepstow and Usk, each having an Air Quality Management Area. The greatest problems associated with air quality in the County are caused by vehicle emissions.</p>
<p>How can the RLDP influence these Issues?</p>
<p>B(i) The RLDP seeks to minimise any polluting effects that might arise from new development in the County by ensuring it is sustainably located and well-connected to amenities. This can support modal shift to reduce the usage of private vehicles and to allow for increased walking, cycling and use of public transport. It also takes measures to ensure that the location of new development does not worsen conditions in existing Air Quality Management Areas or result in new ones. It supports the provision of ultra-low emission vehicle charging infrastructure.</p>
<p>Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity & Landscape</p>
<p>Issue</p>
<p>Issue 11 - Monmouthshire is renowned for its beautiful landscapes and major biodiversity resources including River SACs. The best of these assets should be protected, managed and enhanced for future generations.</p> <p>Issue 12 - There is a need to improve connectivity within the landscape through protecting and improving existing wildlife networks and corridors, including both green and blue infrastructure, and creating new linkages to allow species to move and adapt to climate change impacts. GI is also beneficial to human well-being.</p>
<p>How can the RLDP influence these Issues?</p>

- C(i)** The RLDP ensures that new development is sustainable, does not cause harm to international, national and locally protected sites and species and, that where appropriate, necessary mitigation measures are taken to avoid any such adverse effects. The River Wye and River Usk water bodies within the County are currently experiencing water quality issues, specifically in relation to phosphate levels. The RLDP places a requirement for development to achieve phosphate neutrality or betterment in the River Usk and River Wye.
- C(ii)** The RLDP must ensure biodiversity is considered in any development in order to protect any interest on the site and delivers Net Biodiversity Benefit.
- C(iii)** An Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment have been produced alongside the RLDP to ensure that any cumulative effects of development in Monmouthshire and adjoining areas does not result in harm to internationally designated nature conservation sites.
- C(iv)** The RLDP contains policies to protect and enhance the green and blue infrastructure networks across the County.

Flooding

Issue

Issue 13 - Parts of the County are vulnerable to flooding. Climate change is likely to increase the risk of flooding, so mitigating climate change and ensuring building resilience is crucial.

How can the RLDP influence these Issues?

D(i) The RLDP ensures new built development is located away from flood risk areas and has a role to play in terms of reducing the risk from present day flood risk, as well as in relation to climate change adaptation and resilience. The provision of green open spaces and SUDs drainage features help reduce the risk of flooding.

Minerals & Waste

Issue

Issue 14 - Monmouthshire has made good progress in the promotion of the recycling and composting of waste, and the elimination of waste to landfill. Monmouthshire also has to make an appropriate contribution to the regional requirement for waste management.

Issue 15 - Mineral extraction plays a limited role in Monmouthshire’s economy but there is a need to safeguard the County’s resources in order to make an appropriate contribution to the sustainable supply of aggregates to the South Wales economy as a whole.

How can the RLDP influence these Issues?

E(i) The RLDP identifies sites that are appropriate for waste management or disposal facilities to meet local or regional requirements.

E(ii) The RLDP ensures that mineral resources are safeguarded and exploited in a sustainable fashion that also enables Monmouthshire to meet its obligation to make a contribution to the requirements of the South Wales region.

Land

Issue
<p>Issue 16 - There are limited opportunities for brownfield development within the County's existing urban areas.</p> <p>Issue 17 - Monmouthshire has a significantly high percentage of best and most versatile agricultural land (i.e. Grade 1, 2 or 3a). While there is a need to conserve these resources, there are limited opportunities within the County for brownfield development and development on lower grades of agricultural land (i.e. Grade 3b, 4 and 5). Welsh Government clarification of policy priorities of protecting BMV land over renewable energy development has had implications in the findings of the Renewable Energy Assessment.</p>
How can the RLDP influence these Issues?
<p>F(i) The RLDP will seek to prioritise the use of previously developed land where opportunities arise.</p> <p>F(ii) The RLDP seeks to protect best and most versatile agricultural land whilst at the same time recognising that this will not always be possible where there is an overriding need for development.</p>
A Healthier Wales (Well-being Goal 3)
Human Health
Issue
<p>Issue 18 - While Monmouthshire performs relatively well on indicators relating to health, there is a need to promote opportunities for healthy living particularly in the context of an ageing population.</p> <p>Issue 19 - While an ageing population brings many opportunities, it also brings challenges, increases in the number of people living with long term conditions can create pressures on existing health care provision.</p> <p>Issue 20 - On the whole Monmouthshire's residents have good access to public open space, however, there are deficiencies in many of the County's communities in relation to community and formal recreational facilities. This can contribute to rural isolation in certain areas.</p> <p>Issue 21 - Obesity is a growing problem throughout Wales. Although obesity rates in Monmouthshire are below the Welsh average consideration should be given to promoting healthy lifestyles.</p>
How can the RLDP influence these Issues?
<p>G(i) The RLDP can assist in creating a healthier Monmouthshire by ensuring sufficient policies are in place to support the provision of blue and green infrastructure and retention and/or improvement of the existing resource.</p> <p>G(ii) The RLDP provides policies to ensure health care provision is supported.</p> <p>G(iii) The RLDP helps ensure the provision of public open space and recreation facilities are protected by designating Areas of Amenity Importance as well as requiring new development to make a contribution to the provision of additional/improved facilities.</p>
A More Equal Wales (Well-being Goal 4)
Population

<p>Issue</p> <p>Issue 22 - Monmouthshire is a predominantly rural County with almost half (47%) of the total population living in wards defined as being in rural areas (i.e. with a population of less than 10,000).</p> <p>Issue 23 - The population of Monmouthshire at the time of the 2021 census was 92,961 an increase of 1.8% since 2011, a slower rate of growth than seen previously over previous census periods, although still higher than the Welsh average at 1.4%. This growth is being fuelled by in-migration.</p> <p>Issue 24 - Monmouthshire has a significantly higher proportion of older age groups (65+) and lower proportion of young adults (16 – 44) compared to the Welsh average, the sharpest decline of which is in the working age population. The relative absence of young adults is often linked to the affordability of housing across the County and has an impact on future prospects of economic growth.</p>
<p>How can the RLDP influence these Issues?</p> <p>H(i) The RLDP must decide on the level of growth appropriate for Monmouthshire and the spatial distribution of this growth between different urban and rural communities to address the challenges we face (including demography and affordability), balancing the greater sustainability of urban settlements with the difficulties of maintaining services in rural areas.</p> <p>H(ii) There is a need to achieve a more balanced population structure to ensure there is a sufficient population of working aged people to support the Monmouthshire economy and to provide more opportunities for young people to both to stay within and move to the area. Due to the County’s population shrinking due to more deaths than births, inward migration is essential to ensure communities are socially and economically sustainable. The RLDP plays a role in strengthening the local economy, ensuring an appropriate economic base to enable people to live and work in the County and ensuring that demand for homes is satisfied by providing good quality affordable homes for those who need them.</p> <p>H(iii) The RLDP can help to address issues surrounding the ageing population through facilitating the provision of accessible services supported by connective infrastructure to meet local population growth needs.</p>
<p>A Wales of Cohesive Communities (Well-being Goal 5)</p>
<p>Housing</p>
<p>Issue</p> <p>Issue 25 - Average house prices in the County are high at £400,496 when compared to the Welsh average of £238,871 (Hometrack, May 2024)¹. The most significant increases have been experienced in recent years.</p>

¹ Based on sales and valuations over six month period October 2023 – March 2024. Sales only over same period related to £360,465 for Monmouthshire and £230,710 for Wales. Data accessed on 13/05/2024

<p>Issue 26 - House prices are also high in relation to earnings and there is a pressing need for additional affordable housing in the County in both urban and rural areas to assist in ensuring a balanced population.</p> <p>Issue 27 - A range and choice of housing is needed to both meet the needs of an ageing population and to attract and retain the younger age groups.</p> <p>Issue 28 - There is limited scope for significant or long-term expansion of the existing urban areas within the County due to a mix of physical, environmental and policy constraints.</p>
<p>How can the RLDP influence these Issues?</p> <p>I(i) The RLDP affects the amount of housing to be provided by both deciding on overall levels of growth/spatial options and by setting thresholds and proportions to determine the amount of this residential development that is affordable. It also helps ensure a range and choice of homes are available in new developments and influences the type, tenure and nature of housing built within the County.</p> <p>I(ii) The RLDP will have to resolve the amount of housing to be built in rural areas, balancing the need to sustain rural settlements by supporting services and enabling people to remain in their communities with the need to protect the countryside and ensure sustainable patterns of development.</p> <p>I(iii) The RLDP enables provision of urgently needed affordable housing within exemplar, mixed, sustainable and well-connected places.</p>
<p>Infrastructure</p>
<p>Issue</p> <p>Issue 29 - Poor access to community facilities and declining local service provision is a particular issue for rural communities.</p> <p>Issue 30 - Limited public transport, particularly in rural areas, makes it harder to access jobs, services and facilities, which could be exacerbated by rising fuel prices. There are nevertheless future opportunities for investment in public transport through the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and advances in technology.</p> <p>Issue 31 - There is a need to ensure that adequate physical, digital and social infrastructure is provided to support new development. This includes broadband infrastructure, the provision of sufficient water and sewerage infrastructure, transport infrastructure and active travel to support non-car modes of travel.</p>
<p>How can the RLDP influence these Issues?</p> <p>J(i) The RLDP allocates land for housing and employment in rural areas in an attempt to sustain existing rural community facilities and services, weighing this against the need to avoid unsustainable travel patterns.</p> <p>J(ii) The RLDP helps ensure adequate provision of infrastructure to serve new development and contains policies to enable improvements or enhancements for existing development, e.g. provision of ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV) charging, broadband connectivity and renewable energy.</p> <p>J(iii) The RLDP contains the policy framework to support the priorities of the local transport strategy.</p>

A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language (Well-being Goal 6)

Cultural Heritage

Issue

Issue 32 - Monmouthshire has a significant built heritage resource in terms of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Historic Parks and Gardens, Historic Landscapes and Archaeologically Sensitive Areas that, together with their settings, require protection and enhancement.

Issue 33 - There is a need to protect, promote and enhance the best of our landscape and heritage which are an important part of our culture and play a key role in tourism and economic growth, along with providing support for the Welsh Language to ensure it is safeguarded and supported.

Issue 34 - The distinctive settlement pattern of Monmouthshire relates to historic towns and villages and their relationship with the surrounding rural areas. There has nevertheless been substantial suburban expansion in the South of the County, particularly adjacent to the M4 corridor. This area continues to receive further pressure for growth following the removal of the Severn Bridge Tolls in 2018 and the ambitions and opportunities associated with regional partnerships such as the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD), Marches Forward Partnership and The Western Gateway, which include economic investment/innovation and transport and digital connectivity.

How can the RLDP influence these Issues?

K(i) The RLDP contains measures to preserve and enhance the built heritage and best of the historic environment of Monmouthshire.

K(ii) The RLDP helps protect, promote and enhance the best of our landscape and heritage which are an important part of our culture and plays a key role in tourism and economic growth, along with providing support for the Welsh Language to ensure it is safeguarded and supported.

K(iii) Community involvement provides an opportunity to seek views on how Welsh language and culture interact with RLDP policies and proposals. The future of the Welsh language depends on a range of factors beyond the planning system, particularly education, demographic change, community activities and a sound economic base to maintain thriving sustainable communities. The planning system can contribute to the future well-being of the Welsh language by creating conditions for well-paid employment opportunities and a range of quality housing options resulting in sustainable communities. Planning policies must not seek to control housing occupancy on linguistic grounds².

K(iv) The RLDP plays a key role in promoting good quality sustainable design that enables new development and future growth to respect and enhance the existing distinctive character of Monmouthshire.

Landscape

² Technical Advice Note 20 paragraphs 1.7.3, 2.2 and 2.6.4

Issue
Issue 35 - Monmouthshire has a rich and diverse landscape that brings wider benefits to the local economy particularly through tourism and health and well-being. Monmouthshire as a whole incorporates parts of the Wye Valley National Landscape (AONB), the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BNNP) and the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site.
How can the RLDP influence these Issues?
L(i) The RLDP seeks to protect high quality landscapes throughout the County, paying particular attention to those contained in the Wye Valley National Landscape (AONB), the Blaenavon World Heritage Site and in the setting of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BNNP).
A Globally Responsible Wales (Well-being Goal 7)
Climatic Factors
Issue
Issue 36 - The volume of traffic in the County continues to increase (StatsWales, July 2024). There is a pattern of relatively long travel to work distances, high levels of car ownership and reliance on the private car.
Issue 37 - Small Scale and Local Authority wide Renewable Energy schemes are generally supported across Monmouthshire.
Issue 38 - Monmouthshire’s rurality, limited public transport, high levels of car ownership and the subsequent reliance on the private car, combined with high energy consumption and waste management can all contribute to carbon emissions. MCC recognises that we are in a climate and nature emergency and has committed to strive to limit the increase in global temperatures to 1.5°C.
How can the RLDP influence these Issues?
M(i) Concerns about climate change require that efforts are made to reduce the reliance on the private car and the consequent impact of carbon dioxide emissions. The RLDP provides for appropriate development that promotes a safe, efficient, accessible and sustainable transport system providing opportunities for walking and cycling and encourages active travel in order to support carbon reduction. The RLDP provides a mix of employment and housing allocations with the aim of reducing the need to travel, acknowledging however that the reasons why people live where they do is complex.
M(ii) A renewable energy assessment has been completed. The RLDP provides a positive policy framework to support renewable energy schemes.
M(iii) The RLDP considers ways to support carbon reduction through a variety of measures including the use of renewable energy, the design and location of new development, the requirement for all new homes to be net zero carbon, encouraging balanced job and population growth to reduce out-commuting, the provision of broadband connectivity to reduce the need to travel, the provision of ultra-low emission vehicle charging infrastructure to reduce emissions and improve air quality, and the provision of quality Green and Blue Infrastructure. Proposals will be considered against our commitment to strive to limit the increase in global temperatures to 1.5°C.

3. RLDP Vision (2018 – 2033)

3.1. The Vision outlines how the County is planned to develop, change or be conserved up to 2033, and provides the framework for the Plan’s strategy and policies. The Vision set out in the adopted LDP 2011-2021 has been reviewed and updated to take account of the issues, challenges and opportunities facing the County, key elements of the Gwent PSB³ Well-being Plan (August 2023) and MCC’s Taking Monmouthshire Forward – Community and Corporate Plan 2022-2028⁴ (April 2023)

By 2033 Monmouthshire will be home to well-connected, exemplar affordable housing-led, net zero carbon places that provide employment and support demographically balanced sustainable and resilient communities for all, where:

- **People are living in inclusive, equal, safe, cohesive, prosperous and vibrant communities. Both urban and rural areas are well-connected with better access to local services and facilities, open space and employment opportunities.**
- **Communities and businesses are part of an economically thriving, ambitious and well-connected County.**
- **The best of the County’s built heritage, countryside, biodiversity, landscape and environmental assets have been protected and enhanced to retain its distinctive character.**
- **People enjoy healthier, more sustainable lifestyles with improved access to public transport and active travel opportunities and have a minimised impact on the global environment, supporting our ambitions for a zero carbon county.**

³ The Gwent PSB has been formed by the former five PSBs of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Newport, Monmouthshire and Torfaen, along with the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and Natural Resources Wales.

⁴ The Community and Corporate Plan 2022-2028 sets out the Council’s core purpose, principles, and priorities. It was adopted by Council on 20th April 2023.

4. RLDP Objectives (2018-2033): Delivering the Vision

- 4.1. In order to address the key issues and challenges and deliver the Vision, 17 Objectives have been developed for the RLDP. These build upon the Adopted LDP objectives, taking account of a range of policy drivers that have emerged in recent years, including the Well Being of Future Generations Act 2015, the Gwent PSB Well-being Plan and the Council's Community and Corporate Plan. The Gwent PSB steps replace the objectives previously set out in the Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Plan. The RLDP Objectives have been kept under review and updated as necessary as part of the continued development of the RLDP evidence base.
- 4.2. The Plan's objectives are sufficiently aspirational yet also achievable within a spatial planning context. They respond to and deliver upon the Plan's key issues of delivering essential affordable homes at pace and scale, responding to the climate and nature emergency by delivering net zero carbon new homes in exemplar places, and ensuring our communities are socially and economically sustainable by attracting and retaining younger people to rebalance our ageing demographic. Importantly, the objectives provide the basis for a sound plan in terms of their fit, appropriateness and deliverability⁵.
- 4.3. As with the RLDP issues, the objectives have been grouped in alignment with the seven well-being goals as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and are aligned with the RLDP issues, the main policy themes identified in Planning Policy Wales (PPW12), the Gwent PSB Well-being Plan steps and the Council's Community and Corporate Plan, as set out in Table 1. The objectives are not listed in priority order.

⁵ Development Plans Manual, Edition 3, 2020 (Welsh Government)

Table 1: RLDP Objectives

RLDP Objective Number	Headline	RLDP Objective	RLDP Issues addressed	Main PPW12 theme	Gwent PSB Well-being Plan Steps	Community & Corporate Plan Objectives
A Prosperous Wales (Well-being Goal 1)						
Objective 1	Economic Growth/ Employment	To support a thriving, well-connected, diverse economy, which provides a range of good quality employment opportunities to enable and encourage indigenous business growth and attract inward investment and competitive innovative businesses, including through the provision of start-ups and grow on spaces.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 24	Productive and enterprising places	Take action to reduce the cost-of-living crisis in the longer term.	A Thriving and Ambitious Place.
Objective 2	Town and Local Centres	To sustain and enhance the centres of Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow, Magor Monmouth and Usk as vibrant and attractive centres serving the needs of their population and those of their surrounding hinterlands, and supporting adaptation to meet the needs of the evolving role of the high street.	8	Active and social places	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	A Thriving and Ambitious Place.

RLDP Objective Number	Headline	RLDP Objective	RLDP Issues addressed	Main PPW12 theme	Gwent PSB Well-being Plan Steps	Community & Corporate Plan Objectives
					resilient, connected, thriving and safe.	
A Resilient Wales (Well-being Goal 2)						
Objective 3	Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Landscape	To protect, enhance and manage the resilience of Monmouthshire’s natural environment, biodiversity and ecosystems and the connectivity between them, while at the same time maximising benefits for the economy, tourism, health and well-being. This includes the Wye Valley National Landscape (AONB), the County’s other high quality and distinctive landscapes, protected sites, protected species and other biodiversity interests.	11, 12, 35	Distinctive and natural places	Take action to reduce our carbon emissions, help Gwent adapt to climate change, and protect and restore our natural environment.	A Green Place to Live.
Objective 4	Flood risk	To ensure that new development takes account of the risk of flooding, both existing and in the future, including the need to avoid inappropriate development in areas that are at risk from flooding or that may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere and the need to design development, including	12, 13	Distinctive and natural places	Take action to reduce our carbon emissions, help Gwent adapt to climate change, and protect and restore our natural environment.	A Green Place to Live.

RLDP Objective Number	Headline	RLDP Objective	RLDP Issues addressed	Main PPW12 theme	Gwent PSB Well-being Plan Steps	Community & Corporate Plan Objectives
		the use of natural flood management measures to appropriately manage flood risk and surface water run-off.				
Objective 5	Minerals and Waste	To meet the County's regional and local obligations to manage and dispose of its waste and to safeguard and exploit its mineral resource in a sustainable fashion.	14, 15	Productive and enterprising places	Take action to reduce our carbon emissions, help Gwent adapt to climate change, and protect and restore our natural environment.	A Green Place to Live.
Objective 6	Land	To promote the efficient use of land, including the need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maximise opportunities for development on previously developed land, whilst recognising that brownfield opportunities are limited in Monmouthshire. • protect the best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land whilst at the same time recognising that this will not always be possible given high proportion of BMV land in the County 	16, 17	Strategic and spatial choices	Take action to reduce our carbon emissions, help Gwent adapt to climate change, and protect and restore our natural environment.	A Green Place to Live.

RLDP Objective Number	Headline	RLDP Objective	RLDP Issues addressed	Main PPW12 theme	Gwent PSB Well-being Plan Steps	Community & Corporate Plan Objectives
		and the limited opportunities for brownfield development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> support the adaptation and re-use of existing sustainably located buildings. 				
Objective 7	Natural resources	To ensure the efficient use of natural resources including providing increased opportunities for water efficiency, energy efficiency, renewable energy, recycling and waste reduction.	14, 15, 31, 37	Productive and enterprising places	Take action to reduce our carbon emissions, help Gwent adapt to climate change, and protect and restore our natural environment.	A Green Place to Live. A Safe Place to Live.
A Healthier Wales (Well-being Goal 3)						
Objective 8	Health and Well-being	To improve access for all to recreation, sport, leisure activities, open space and the countryside and to enable healthier lifestyles. To support the Health Board to improve health infrastructure to meet community needs.	18, 20, 21, 33, 35	Active and social places	Take action to address inequities, particularly in relation to health, through the framework of the Marmot Principles.	A Fair Place to Live. A Safe Place to Live. A Connected Place Where People Care.
A More Equal Wales (Well-being Goal 4)						

RLDP Objective Number	Headline	RLDP Objective	RLDP Issues addressed	Main PPW12 theme	Gwent PSB Well-being Plan Steps	Community & Corporate Plan Objectives
Objective 9	Demography	To increase opportunities for the younger population to both live and work within Monmouthshire, creating a more balanced demography and socially and economically sustainable communities.	2, 3, 4, 5, 24	Active and social places	Enable and support people, neighbourhoods, and communities to be resilient, connected, thriving and safe.	A Fair Place to Live. A Thriving and Ambitious Place. A Safe Place to Live.
A Wales of Cohesive Communities (Well-being Goal 5)						
Objective 10	Housing	To provide urgently needed affordable housing within exemplar, mixed, sustainable and well-connected places both for existing and future residents.	23, 25, 26, 27, 28	Active and social places	Provide and enable the supply of good quality, affordable, appropriate homes.	A Fair Place to Live. A Safe Place to Live.
Objective 11	Placemaking	To create exemplar sustainable places through design, layout and mix of uses that enhance the character and identity of Monmouthshire's settlements and landscape; create attractive, safe and accessible places to live, work and visit; and	1, 11, 12, 18, 20, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35	Strategic and spatial choices	Enable and support people, neighbourhoods, and communities to be resilient, connected, thriving and safe.	A Green Place to Live. A Thriving and Ambitious Place.

RLDP Objective Number	Headline	RLDP Objective	RLDP Issues addressed	Main PPW12 theme	Gwent PSB Well-being Plan Steps	Community & Corporate Plan Objectives
		promote people's prosperity, health, happiness and well-being.				A Safe Place to Live.
Objective 12	Communities	To ensure Monmouthshire is a connected place where people feel part of a community, are valued and have good access to education, employment, shops, housing, public transport, active travel, healthcare, community and cultural facilities.	1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 18, 20, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 33, 35	Strategic and spatial choices	Enable and support people, neighbourhoods, and communities to be resilient, connected, thriving and safe.	A Fair Place to Live. A Green Place. A Thriving and Ambitious Place. A Safe Place to Live. A Connected Place Where People Care. A Learning Place.
Objective 13	Rural Communities	To sustain existing rural communities as far as possible by providing affordable homes and development opportunities of an appropriate scale and location in rural areas	6, 7, 20, 22, 26, 29, 30, 34	Productive and enterprising places	Provide and enable the supply of good quality, affordable, appropriate homes.	A Fair Place to Live. A Safe Place.

RLDP Objective Number	Headline	RLDP Objective	RLDP Issues addressed	Main PPW12 theme	Gwent PSB Well-being Plan Steps	Community & Corporate Plan Objectives
		in order to assist in building sustainable rural communities and strengthening the rural economy.				
Objective 14	Infrastructure	To ensure that appropriate physical and digital infrastructure (including community and recreational facilities, education, sewerage, water, transport, health care and broadband etc.) is in place or can be provided to accommodate new development.	12, 19, 20, 31	Productive and enterprising places	Enable and support people, neighbourhoods, and communities to be resilient, connected, thriving and safe.	A Green Place to Live. A Thriving and Ambitious Place. A Connected Place Where People Care. A Learning Place.
Objective 15	Accessibility	To seek to reduce the need to travel by promoting a mix of land use allocations and improved internet connectivity, and where travel is required, to provide opportunities for active travel and integrated sustainable transport above use of the private car.	10, 30, 36	Active and social places	Enable and support people, neighbourhoods, and communities to be resilient, connected, thriving and safe.	A Green Place to Live. A Thriving and Ambitious Place.

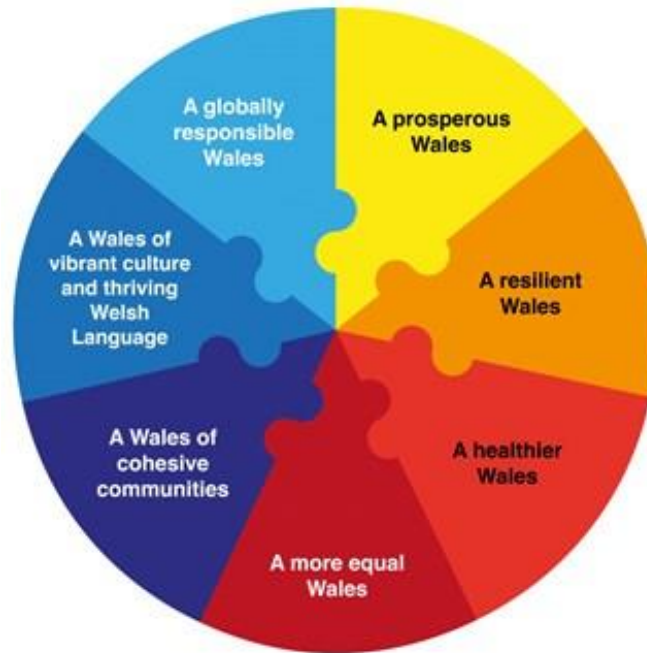
RLDP Objective Number	Headline	RLDP Objective	RLDP Issues addressed	Main PPW12 theme	Gwent PSB Well-being Plan Steps	Community & Corporate Plan Objectives
A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language (Well-being Goal 6)						
Objective 16	Culture, Heritage and Welsh Language	To protect and enhance the built environment, culture and heritage of Monmouthshire for the future while maximising benefits for the economy, tourism and social well-being, including supporting and safeguarding the Welsh Language.	9, 32, 33, 34, 35	Distinctive and natural places	Enable and support people, neighbourhoods, and communities to be resilient, connected, thriving and safe.	A Fair Place. A Thriving and Ambitious Place. A Connected Place Where People Care. A Learning Place.
A Globally Responsible Wales (Well-being Goal 7)						
Objective 17	Climate and Nature Emergency	To strive to limit the increase in global temperatures to 1.5°C, supporting carbon reduction through a variety of adaptation measures including facilitating resilient ecosystems and nature recovery, the use of renewable energy, net zero homes, the design and location of new development, encouraging balanced job and population growth to reduce out-commuting, the	10, 12, 36, 37, 38	Distinctive and natural places	Take action to reduce our carbon emissions, help Gwent adapt to climate change, and protect and restore our natural environment.	A Green Place to Live. A Thriving and Ambitious Place. A Safe Place to Live.

RLDP Objective Number	Headline	RLDP Objective	RLDP Issues addressed	Main PPW12 theme	Gwent PSB Well-being Plan Steps	Community & Corporate Plan Objectives
		provision of broadband connectivity to reduce the need to travel, the provision of ultra-low emission vehicle charging infrastructure to reduce emissions and improve air quality, and the provision of quality green infrastructure.				

Table 4.2 – Matrix of RLDP Objectives against the Well-being Goals

		Prosperous Wales	Resilient Wales	Healthier Wales	More equal Wales	Wales of cohesive communities	Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language	Globally responsible Wales
1	Economic Growth/Employment							
2	Retail centres							
3	Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Landscape							
4	Flood risk							
5	Minerals and Waste							
6	Land							
7	Natural resources							
8	Health and Well-being							
9	Demography							
10	Housing							
11	Placemaking							
12	Communities							
13	Rural Communities							
14	Infrastructure							
15	Accessibility							
16	Culture, Heritage and Welsh Language							
17	Climate Change							

Appendix 1 – Seven well-being goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015



Goal	Description of the goal
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
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).
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.
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).
A Wales of cohesive communities	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
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.
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.

Source: Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015