

**BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL
DEVELOPMENT PLAN EXAMINATION**

SESSION 1: DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY/ VISION

**THE COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES' RESPONSE TO THE
INSPECTOR'S QUESTIONS (REF NO:10)**

1.(i) Does the Plan provide an appropriate spatial strategy for Blaenau Gwent?

Please see the response to point 3 of CCW's review of the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between CCW and Blaenau Gwent Council, which for ease of reference is copied here:

'Paragraph 4.5.1 of *Planning Policy Wales* outlines the WG's priorities for urban areas, through integrated approaches, one of which is to secure environmentally-sound and socially inclusive regeneration in those areas that require it, so that they become more desirable places in which to live and work.

In line with this WG priority the protection and enhancement of the environment should be an integral part of the delivery of regeneration areas, as well as the wider county area. Aims for the natural environment should therefore be clearly stated in the spatial strategy of the Plan. Although para 5.2 states that the LDP

(ii) In broad terms, would the scale, type and distribution of allocated lands in the Plan contribute to the sustainable future development of the borough?

In broad terms CCW considers the scale, type and distribution of the allocated lands in the Plan will contribute to the sustainable future development of the borough.

Although we initially had concerns about the following allocations and sites,

EMP1.5 Rassau Platform B,

EMP1.8 Crown Business Park Platform,

T6.1 Dualling of the Heads of the Valleys road (Tre

5. Is the proposed geographic distribution of new development proposed appropriate? What are the consequences of the proposed focus of new development in and around Ebbw Vale on the south of the county borough?

No comment.