

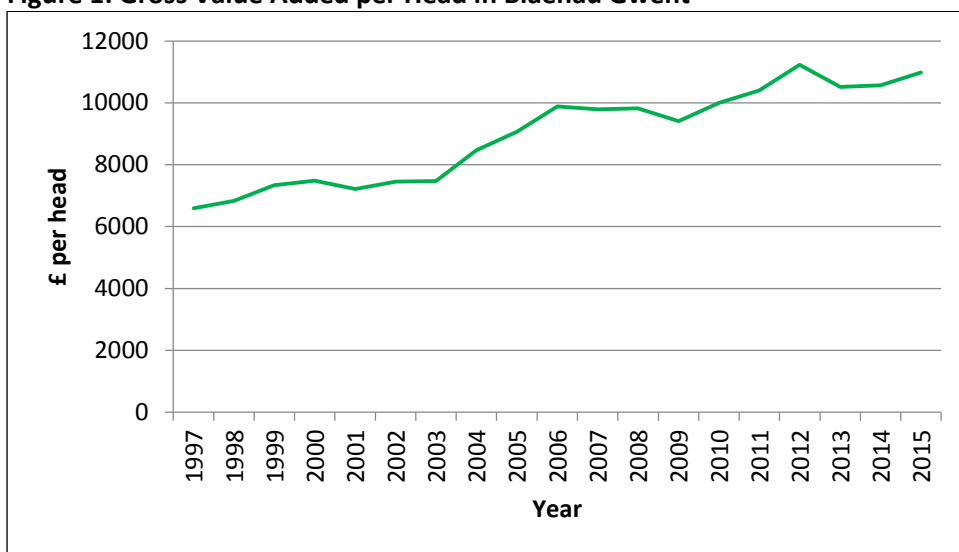
## 1.0 A Prosperous Wales

### Population - Employment & Economy

#### *GVA per head*

There has been no change in position for Blaenau Gwent in terms of GVA per head. In 2003 and 2015 Blaenau Gwent had the lowest GVA per head of all local authorities in Wales. In 2015, the GVA per head in Blaenau Gwent was £10,980 per head, which is less than the GVA per head in 2012. In 2012, the GVA per head was £11,230, the highest since 1997. This could be attributed to the development of the former steelworks site in Ebbw Vale at this time.

**Figure 1: Gross Value Added per Head in Blaenau Gwent**



Source: ONS – Gross Value Added per head (income approach by Local Authority)

#### *Enterprise Births and Deaths*

**Figure 2: Enterprise Births and Deaths in Blaenau Gwent**

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Births	95	140	125	190	170	190	180
Deaths	150	115	135	110	150	130	145
+/-	-55	+25	-10	+80	+20	+60	+35

Source: Office for National Statistics

Business births have been above business deaths in Blaenau Gwent since 2013, however since 2014 business deaths have increased.

#### *Working Age Population*

Blaenau Gwent has a higher percentage of its population at working age (16-64) than Wales as a whole, although the difference is marginal at 1.3%.

**Figure 3: Working Age Population (aged 16-64) (2017)**

	Blaenau Gwent (Numbers)	Blaenau Gwent %	Wales %
All people – working age	43,700	62.8	61.5
Males – working age	21,700	63.3	62.2
Females – working age	22,000	62.3	60.9

Source: ONS Population Estimates – local authority based by five year age band  
% is a proportion of total population

### *Economic Activity*

**Figure 4: Economically Active (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)**

	Economically active (1)	In employment (1)	Employees (1)	Self employed (1)	Model based unemployed (2)
<b>Blaenau Gwent</b>	<b>71.7%</b>	<b>67.1%</b>	<b>58.1%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
Caerphilly	75.2%	70.2%	63.1%	6.3%	5.8%
Torfaen	79.0%	75.6%	67.5%	7.5%	4.9%
Monmouthshire	81.0%	78.0%	62.4%	14.7%	3.5%
Newport	78.0%	74.2%	67.6%	6.1%	5.4%
Wales	76.5%	72.7%	62.5%	9.7%	4.9%

Source: Nomis

(1) % are for those of working age (16-64)

(2) % is proportion of economically active

Blaenau Gwent has the lowest percentage of working age population economically active than all of the surrounding authorities and compared to Wales as a whole. Blaenau Gwent also has the largest percentage of the working age population who are economically inactive and not wanting a job than all surrounding authorities and Wales as a whole.

**Figure 5: Economic Inactivity (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)**

	Economically Inactive	Wanting a job	Not wanting a job
<b>Blaenau Gwent</b>	<b>28.3%</b>	<b>22.1%</b>	<b>77.9%</b>
Caerphilly	24.8%	28.9%	71.1%
Torfaen	21%	25.7%	74.3%
Monmouthshire	19%	24.5%	75.5%
Newport	22.0%	35.35%	64.7%
Wales	23.5%	24.3%	75.7%

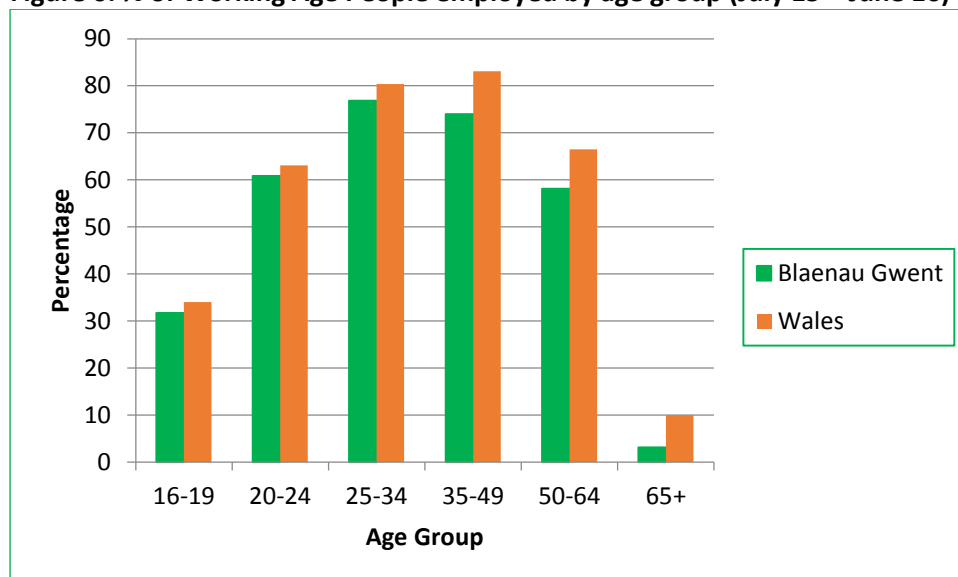
Source: Nomis

% is a proportion of those economically inactive

Figure 6 below shows the employment rate by age group in Blaenau Gwent compared to Wales. In Blaenau Gwent the employment rate ranges for working age from 31.7% in the 16-19 age group to 76.8% in the 25-35 age group. The lower employment rates for 16-19 and 20-24 year olds can be explained in part by the number of students while the lowest rates for 65 and over are due to retirement.

The general profile is similar at an all Wales level. However, the employment rate for Wales is higher than Blaenau Gwent for each age group, and also continues to rise to an older age group than in Blaenau Gwent, peaking at 83.1% for 35-49 year olds.

**Figure 6: % of Working Age People employed by age group (July 15 – June 16)**



Source: Office for National Statistics

**Figure 7: Unemployment Rate by Age Group and Local Authority (March 2018)**

Local Authority	Age Group							
	16+ (%)	16-64 (%)	16-19 (%)	20-24 (%)	25-34 (%)	35-49 (%)	50-64 (%)	65+ (%)
Blaenau Gwent	6.1	6.4	28.3	16.5	5.2	2.8	4.9	!
(Wales)	<b>4.9</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.4</b>

Source: Annual Population Survey ONS

The unemployment rate in Blaenau Gwent ranges between 28.3% for 16-19 year olds and 4.9% for 50-64 year olds. For Wales this is 22.4% and 3.0% respectively. Other than for 25-34 year olds the unemployment rate is higher in Blaenau Gwent for all other age groups.

There is a difference in unemployment rate in the 20-24 year age group, 16.5% in Blaenau Gwent compared to 9.5% in Wales. There is also a difference between the unemployment rate in the 16-19 age group, 28.3% in Blaenau Gwent compared to 22.4% in Wales. This is an improved picture from 2015-16 where the Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment identified that there was a significant difference in the unemployment rate in the 20-24 year age group, 22.8% in Blaenau Gwent compared to 9.7% in Wales.

### *Benefit Dependence*

**Figure 8: Working age key benefit claimants (November 2016)**

	Blaenau Gwent	Caerphilly	Torfaen	Monmouthshire	Newport	Wales
Total	<b>20.35%</b>	17.4%	16.5%	10.0%	15.7%	14.4%
Job seekers	<b>2.3%</b>	1.8%	1.1%	0.8%	2.0%	1.4%

Incapacity benefits	<b>12.0%</b>	10%	9.8%	5.9%	8.5%	8.4%
Lone parents	<b>1.6%</b>	1.3%	1.3%	0.6%	1.5%	1.2%
Carers	<b>2.9%</b>	2.8%	2.5%	1.5%	2.3%	2.2%
Other on income related benefits	<b>0.3%</b>	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Disabled	<b>1.1%</b>	1.1%	1.2%	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%
Bereaved	<b>0.2%</b>	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%

Source: Nomis

% is a proportion of resident population

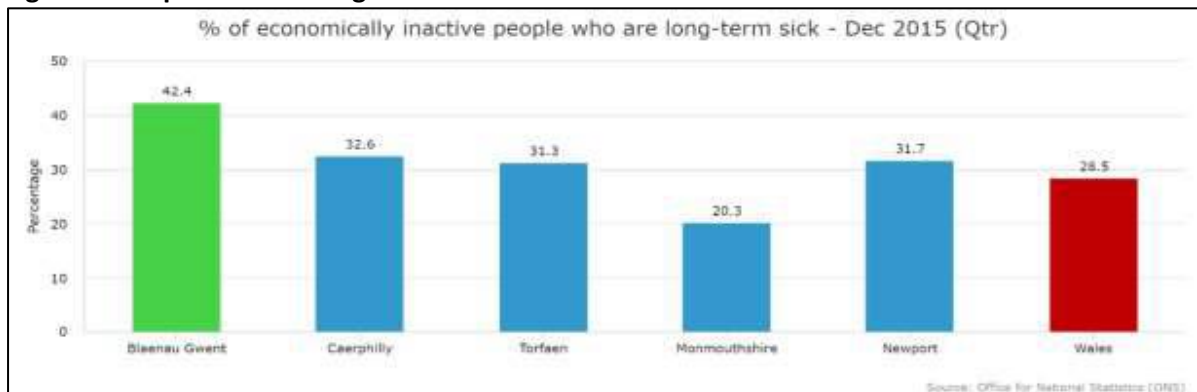
When compared to other surrounding authorities, in 2016, Blaenau Gwent has the largest percentage (20.35%) of its working age population claiming key benefits, in fact over 1/5 of the working age population.

The percentage of working age people claiming Job Seekers' Allowance in Blaenau Gwent was 2.3% in November 2016 which has significantly decreased since 2009 when the percentage was above 7% (Source: Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment). The percentage for Wales has also decreased. The gap between Wales and Blaenau Gwent has narrowed with a 1.1% difference in 2016 rather than a 3.2% difference in 2009.

### Long term Sickness

Figure 9 below shows that 42.4% of those who are economically inactive in December 2015 were long term sick. This compares to 28.5% for Wales for the same period.

**Figure 9: People who are long term sick**

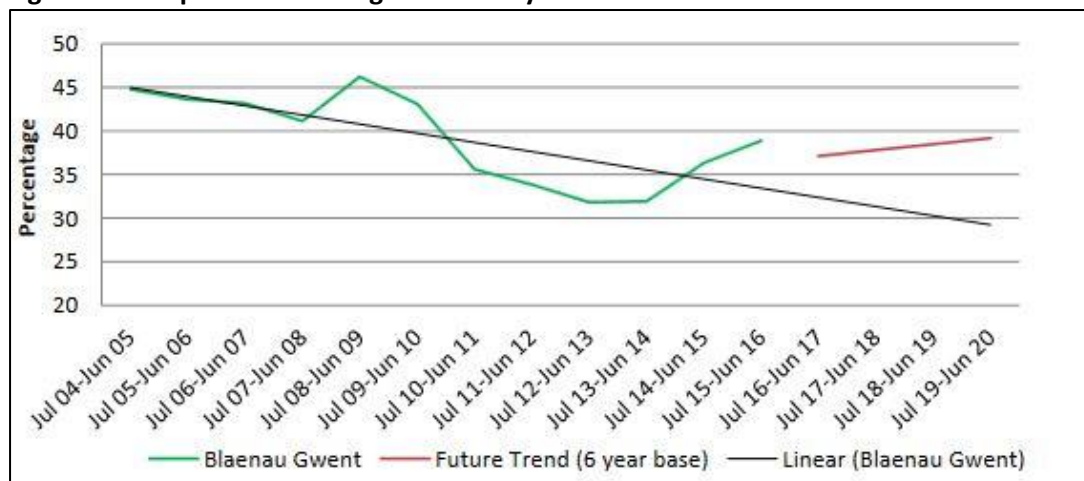


Source: Office for National Statistics

Figure 10 below shows that the 5 year fall in long term sickness in Blaenau Gwent during 2008 to 2014, from 46.2% to 31.9% was followed by a 2 year increase, rising to 38.9% in 2016. Although an increase was also seen at a Wales level over the same period, Blaenau Gwent still has 10.4% more long term sickness of its economically inactive population than the Wales level in 2016.

In terms of long term sick overall a downward trend has been seen over the last 12 years. Therefore, a future projection of this shows a general decrease in the rate of long term sickness over the next 4 years. However, where the future projection is based on the latest 6 years, the next 4 years shows a general increase in the rate of long term sickness.

**Figure 10: People who are long term sick by time**



Source: Office for National Statistics

### Employment by Sector

**Figure 11: % Employment by Standard Occupation Classification (April 2017-March 2018)**

	Blaenau Gwent Numbers	Blaenau Gwent (%)	Wales (%)
Soc 2010 Major Group 1-3	10,200	33.9%	40.6%
1. Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	3,100	10.3%	9.3%
2. Professional Occupations	3,900	12.7%	18.0%
3. Associate Professional & Technical	3,200	10.5%	13.1%
Soc 2010 Major Group 4-5	5,700	19.1%	22.4%
4. Administrative & Secretarial	2,500	8.1%	10.5%
5. Skilled Trades Occupations	3,300	10.8%	11.8%
Soc 2010 Major Group 6-7	6,000	19.8%	18.2%
6. Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occs	4,100	13.6%	9.8%
7. Sales and Customer Service Occs	1,800	6.1%	8.3%
Soc 2010 Major Group 8-9	8,200	27.2%	18.9%
8. Process Plant & Machine Operatives	4,600	15.1%	7.4%
9. Elementary Occupations	3,600	11.8%	11.3%

Source: Nomis

% is a proportion of all persons in employment

Blaenau Gwent has a lower percentage (33.9%) of its working population in the standard occupation classifications 1 to 3, i.e. managers, professional occupations and associate professional and technical, than Wales (40.6%). In contrast, Blaenau Gwent has the highest percentage (27.2%) of its working age population in the standard occupation classification group 8-9 (process plant and machine operatives and elementary occupations) compared to Wales as a whole at 18.9%.

## Employee Jobs in Blaenau Gwent

**Figure 12: Employee Jobs (2016)**

	Blaenau Gwent (Employee Jobs)	Blaenau Gwent %	Wales %
Total Employee Jobs	18,000		
Full time	12,000	66.7	65.2
Part time	6,000	33.3	34.8
<b>Employee Jobs by Industry</b>			
B : Mining and quarrying	50	0.3	0.2
C : Manufacturing	4,000	22.2	11.4
D : Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0	0	0.6
E : Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	350	1.9	0.9
F : Construction	900	5.0	5.5
G : Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	3,000	16.7	15.1
H : Transportation and storage	400	2.2	2.9
I : Accommodation and food service activities	1,250	6.9	8.9
J : Information and communication	75	0.4	2.3
K : Financial and insurance activities	200	1.1	2.3
L : Real estate activities	400	2.2	1.6
M : Professional, scientific and technical activities	350	1.9	4.2
N : Administrative and support service activities	700	3.9	6.6
O : Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	1,000	5.6	8.6
P : Education	1,750	9.7	10.1
Q : Human health and social work activities	3,000	16.7	16.1
R : Arts, entertainment and recreation	500	2.8	2.5
S : Other service activities	250	1.4	1.5

Source: Nomis

In comparison to Wales, Blaenau Gwent has a marginally lower proportion of employee jobs accounted for by part-time employment. The largest employment sector in Blaenau Gwent is manufacturing (C) accounting for 22.2% of all employment whereas in Wales it is 11.4%. This is followed by Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (G) and human health and social work activities (Q) both with 16.7% compared to 15.1% and 16.1% for Wales respectively. This may be the reason for the lower income rates. The lack of opportunities may lead to out migration and commuting elsewhere to work, particularly for those residents educated to degree level or higher.

### *Self Employed*

The percentage of working age people self-employed in June 2016 was 6.1% (2,800) in Blaenau Gwent. This compares to 9.3% for Wales for the same period. Over the period June 2013 to June 2016 the percentage of self-employed increased by 2.3% of working age. This compares to an increase of 0.4% in Wales (Source: Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment).

## Earnings by Residence

**Figure 13: Gross Weekly Pay for Full-Time Workers**

Year	Blaenau Gwent (£'s)	Caerphilly (£'s)	Monmouthshire (£'s)	Newport (£'s)	Torfaen (£'s)	Wales (£'s)
2009	<b>361.00</b>	414.0	512.8	443.7	430.0	444.90
2013	<b>404.50</b>	468.2	579.5	469.6	446.4	476.90
2014	<b>395.90</b>	473.1	582.1	469.6	468.9	480.00
2015	<b>403.50</b>	478.7	610.5	463.2	485.6	487.60
2016	<b>433.90</b>	484.7	619.4	471.2	491.0	498.30
2017	<b>491.30</b>	488.8	619.6	486.0	519.3	505.90
<b>Difference (£'s) between 2009 and 2017</b>	<b>+130.3</b>	<b>+74.8</b>	<b>+106.8</b>	<b>+42.3</b>	<b>+89.3</b>	<b>+61</b>

Source: Nomis

In 2017, the average gross weekly pay for full-time workers living in Blaenau Gwent was £491.30 compared to £361.00 in 2009 and £505.90 in Wales for 2017. Although the average gross weekly pay is less in Blaenau Gwent when compared to Wales in 2017, it is higher than Newport and Caerphilly.

The difference in the average gross weekly pay between 2009 and 2017 shows that when comparing Blaenau Gwent to the surrounding authorities and Wales, Blaenau Gwent has seen the greatest increase in gross average weekly pay since 2009 although it remains below the Welsh average.

**Figure 14: Hourly-Pay Excluding Overtime**

Year	Blaenau Gwent (£'s)	Caerphilly (£'s)	Monmouthshire (£'s)	Newport (£'s)	Torfaen (£'s)	Wales (£'s)
2013	<b>10.13</b>	11.45	14.89	11.87	11.26	12.00
2014	<b>10.09</b>	12.04	14.90	11.35	11.53	12.01
2015	<b>10.55</b>	12.35	16.46	11.79	12.20	12.30
2016	<b>11.09</b>	12.29	16.36	12.06	12.36	12.66
2017	<b>12.00</b>	12.69	16.34	12.13	13.12	12.75
<b>Difference (£'s) between 2013 and 2017</b>	<b>+1.87</b>	<b>+1.24</b>	<b>+1.45</b>	<b>+0.26</b>	<b>+1.86</b>	<b>+0.75</b>

Source: Nomis

In 2017, the hourly pay excluding overtime in Blaenau Gwent was £12.00 which is the lowest of all surrounding authorities and Wales. However there is a significant difference between the hourly pay in 2013 to 2017 in Blaenau Gwent, an increase of £1.87. In fact

when compared to surrounding authorities and Wales, Blaenau Gwent has witnessed the biggest increase.

### Commuting

**Figure 15: Summary Commuting Statistics 2017**

Area of residence	% residents working in Wales	% residents working in area of residence	Commuting		
			Out of authority (thousands)	Into the authority (thousands)	Net inflow
<b>Blaenau Gwent</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>-10</b>
Torfaen	94	54	20.1	13.9	-6.2
Monmouthshire	82	58	18.6	17.1	-1.5
Newport	87	66	24.1	35.3	-11.2
Wales	96	69	94.3	41.9	52.4

Source: Stats Wales

89% of Blaenau Gwent residents work in Wales which is below the Welsh average of 96% although higher than Monmouthshire and Newport. In contrast to the surrounding authorities and Wales as a whole, Blaenau Gwent has the lowest percentage of residents (49%) working in Blaenau Gwent itself.

### Digital Connectivity

Digital connectivity has become increasingly important over the current LDP period. Ofcom suggest that there are differences throughout the UK where in 2017 the fixed broadband average download speed (Mbit/s) was 33.4 in Wales compared to 47.8 in England, where 51% of connections were made on 30Mbit/s or higher compared to 43% in Wales. Equally, Wales had a higher proportion of connections with an average of 10Mbit/s or less (25%) than England (20%).

**Figure 16: Digital Connectivity**

Area	Superfast UK (>24 Mbps) (1)	Superfast EU (>30 Mbps) (1)	Ultrafast (>100 Mbps) (1)	Mean Upload Speed (Mbps)	Mean Download Speed (Mbps)
<b>Blaenau Gwent</b>	<b>98.68%</b>	<b>98.04%</b>	<b>1.39%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>
Torfaen	96.83%	96.7%	30.35%	5.3	24.5
Monmouthshire	87.6%	86.95%	6.17%	5.3	22.7
Newport	97.56%	97.44%	68.62%	6.8	33.7
Wales	94.7%	94.30%	33.76%	5.8	26.2
England	95.87%	95.57%	57.23%	6.9	31.4

Source: ThinkBroadband

(1) Coverage percentages include both residential and business premises and is based around postcode level data.

Blaenau Gwent performs well in terms of superfast speeds but very poorly in terms of ultrafast and mean download speeds.

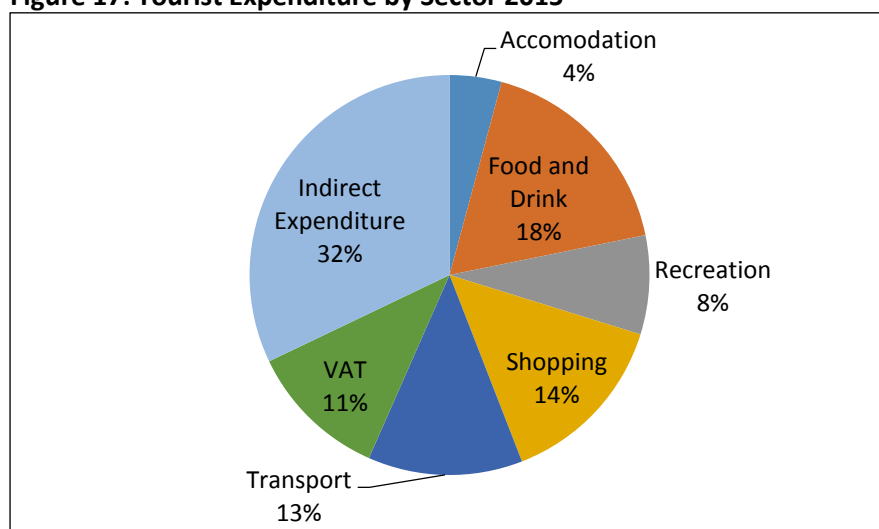


## Tourism

### Tourism Expenditure

The Local Authority continually monitors the volume and value of tourism and uses the Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor (STEAM) to achieve this. The 2015 reports shows that Blaenau Gwent received 675,530 visitors who spent a total of 864,250 days in the area. These visits brought £43.2 million into the local economy and supported the full time equivalent of 582 jobs. Since the last Destination Management Plan the area has seen a growth of 7.2% visitors. These visitors have contributed an extra 10.7% into the local economy with an 8.8% increase in those directly employed in tourism.

**Figure 17: Tourist Expenditure by Sector 2015**



Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council STEAM Report

### Tourist Accommodation

**Figure 18: Bedstock – Serviced Accommodation**

Serviced Accommodation	2015		Change on 2004	
	Est.	Beds	Est.	Beds
Serviced Accommodation Total	17	287	+2	+109
+50 room hotels	0	0	0	0
11-50 room hotels	2	141	+1	+110
<10 room hotels/others	15	146	+1	-1

Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council STEAM Report

**Figure 19: Bedstock – Non Serviced Accommodation**

Non Serviced Accommodation	2015		Change on 2004	
	Est.	Beds	Est.	Beds
Non Serviced Accommodation Total	3	188	-1	+20
Self catering	2	8	-1	-28
Static caravans/chalets	0	0	0	
Touring caravans/camping	1	180	0	+48

Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council STEAM Report

In total, the bedstock for Blaenau Gwent is 475 bedspaces. Over half (60%) are serviced bedspaces, 1.7% are self-catered with the remaining 38% being caravan and camping bedspaces. The number of bed spaces has increased in serviced and non-serviced accommodation since 2004. The most significant increase being in serviced accommodation of 11-50 room hotels which reflects the opening of a national chain hotel in Ebbw Vale and its recent extension. The number of beds from touring caravans and camping has also grown this is a reflection of the annual Festivals.

### *Tourist Information Centre*

Blaenau Gwent has one tourist information centre at Parc Bryn Bach, Tredegar.

## **Retail**

### *Retail Hierarchy*

The Retail Hierarchy for Blaenau Gwent is defined by the Local Development Plan as follows:

#### **Principal Town**

- Ebbw Vale

#### **District Town Centres**

- Abertillery,
- Brynmawr
- Tredegar

#### **Local Town Centres**

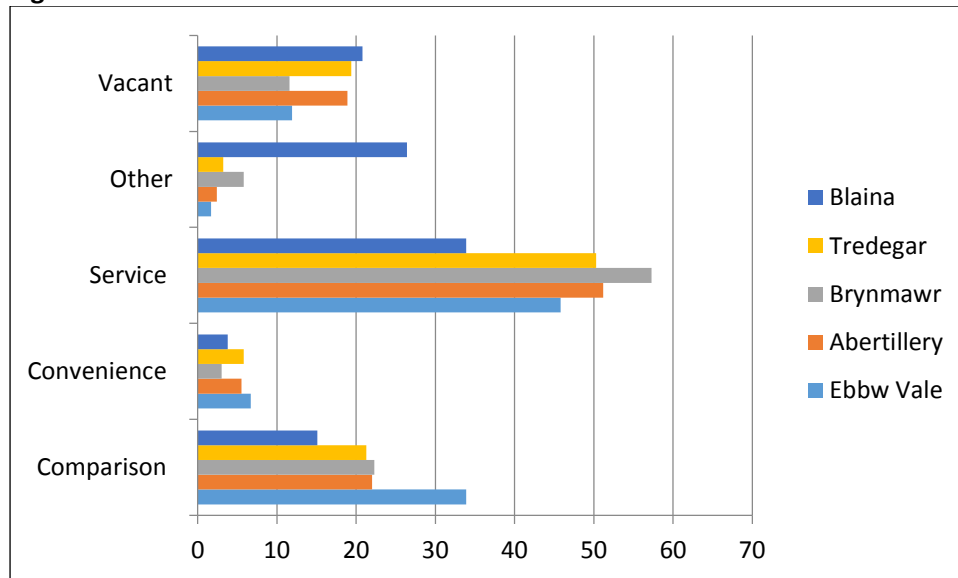
- Blaina

Since the adoption of the LDP, work has been undertaken to identify neighbourhood centres as follows:

- Marine Street, Cwm, Ebbw Vale
- Park Place, Waunlwyd, Ebbw Vale
- Church Street, Ebbw Vale
- Hilltop Shopping Centre, Tredegar Road, Ebbw Vale
- Beaufort Rise, Ebbw Vale
- Cambridge Gardens, Ebbw Vale
- Queensway, Garnlydan, Ebbw Vale
- Attlee Way, Tredegar
- Park Place, Tredegar
- Alexandra Road, Six Bells
- Commercial Road, Llanhilleth

Retail uses in town centres

Figure 20: Retail Uses in Town Centres



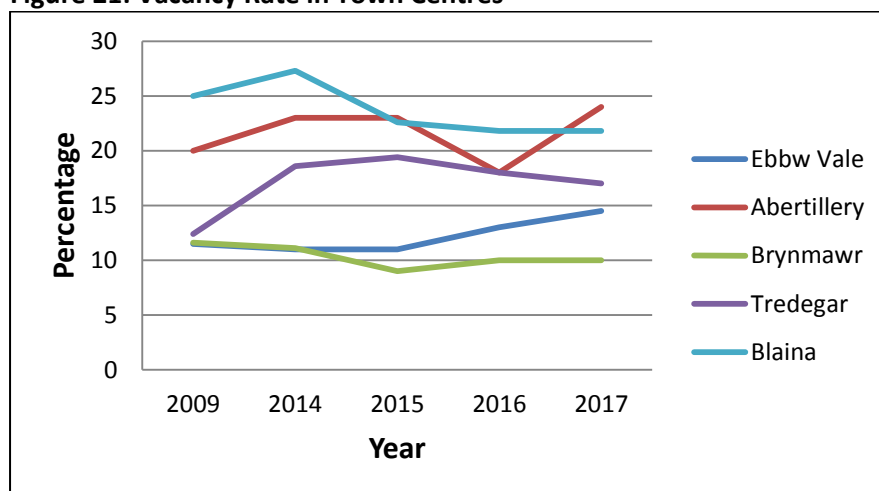
Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Annual Town Centre Surveys 2017

The 2017 Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council annual town centre surveys recorded a range of uses within the town centres and reflects a wider trend of a decrease in the proportion of convenience outlets and an increase in the proportion of service outlets.

Vacancy Rates

The overall vacancy rate for the town centres is 16.4% (2017). The Welsh national average town centre vacancy rate is 13% (January 2018). The overall Blaenau Gwent vacancy rate is higher than the town centre Welsh average.

Figure 21: Vacancy Rate in Town Centres



Source: Blaenau Gwent Annual Town Centre Survey Information

The current vacancy rate for Ebbw Vale is 11.9% (2017) which compares favourably to the Welsh average of 13% (January 2018). Ebbw Vale Town Centre has performed reasonably

since 2009 with some increases and decreases over the period. The vacancy rate is 0.4% higher than that in 2009.

The current vacancy rate (2017) for Abertillery is 18% which is 5% higher than the Welsh average in 2018. The vacancy rate is 1.2% less than in 2009, which is an improvement.

The current vacancy rate for Brynmawr town centre is the lowest for all the town centres and it has performed well in terms of its vacancy rates between 2009 and 2017. In 2017, however the vacancy rate at 11.7% was the highest recorded since 2009.

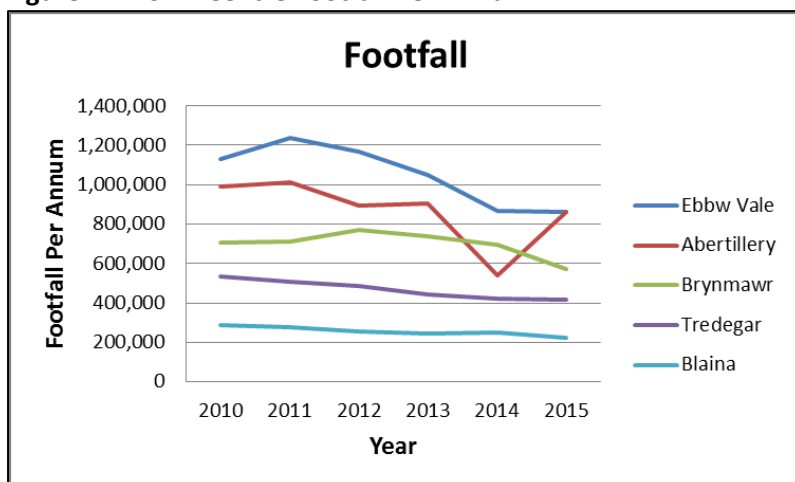
Tredegar town centre has not performed well between 2009 and 2017, experiencing an overall increase in the vacancy rate (+6.6%). The current vacancy rate of 19% remains well above the Welsh average in 2018.

Blaina’s vacancy rate has reduced by 4.2% between 2009 and 2017 with a current figure of 20.8%. Whilst this indicates that the Town Centre’s performance has improved, it should be recognised that the vacancy rate remains the highest of all town centres within the County Borough and continues to be significantly above the Welsh average in 2018.

*Footfall*

The Council also monitors annual footfall data per annum for each town centre. The figure below highlights the changes over a five year period between 2010 and 2015. Here it can be seen that all town centres have generally experienced a gradual decline in footfall over this period, indicating that the town centres are less vibrant and attractive to shoppers. It should be noted that Abertillery’s anomalous reduction in footfall during 2014 was the result of reduced levels of access caused by physical improvement works to the Town Centre.

**Figure 22: Town Centre Footfall Per Annum**



Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

## Education

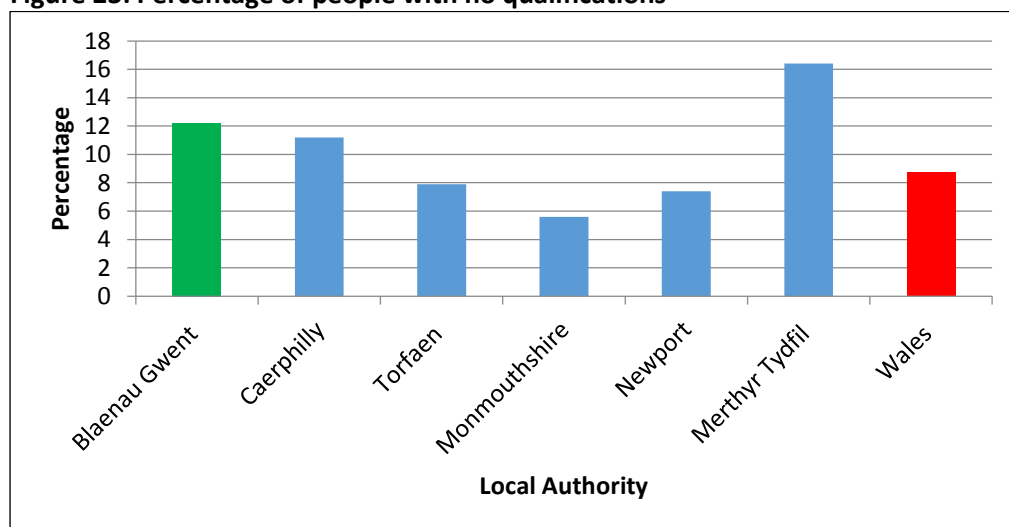
There are 22 primary schools in Blaenau Gwent, spread throughout the County Borough. There are 6 in and surrounding Ebbw Vale, 5 in Tredegar, 3 in Nantyglo and Blaina, 2 in Brynmawr and 2 in Llanhilleth. The Abertillery Learning Community provides 3-16 learning for primary and secondary age pupils based on 5 campus sites; 4 of which are primary and 1 is a secondary school. In addition to the 1 secondary school in Abertillery, there are a further 3, 1 in Ebbw Vale, 1 in Tredegar and 1 in Brynmawr. There is also a special educational needs school in Ebbw Vale.

Blaenau Gwent has one higher educational establishment within its boundary that is home to all a-level education in Blaenau Gwent and vocational courses for a broad range of industries – The Learning Zone, The Works, Ebbw Vale.

### Qualifications

Figure 23 shows that across the Gwent region there was variation in the percentage of working age population with no qualifications. In 2017, the percentage for Blaenau Gwent, at 12.2%, was more than double that of Monmouthshire. The value for Wales was 8.7%.

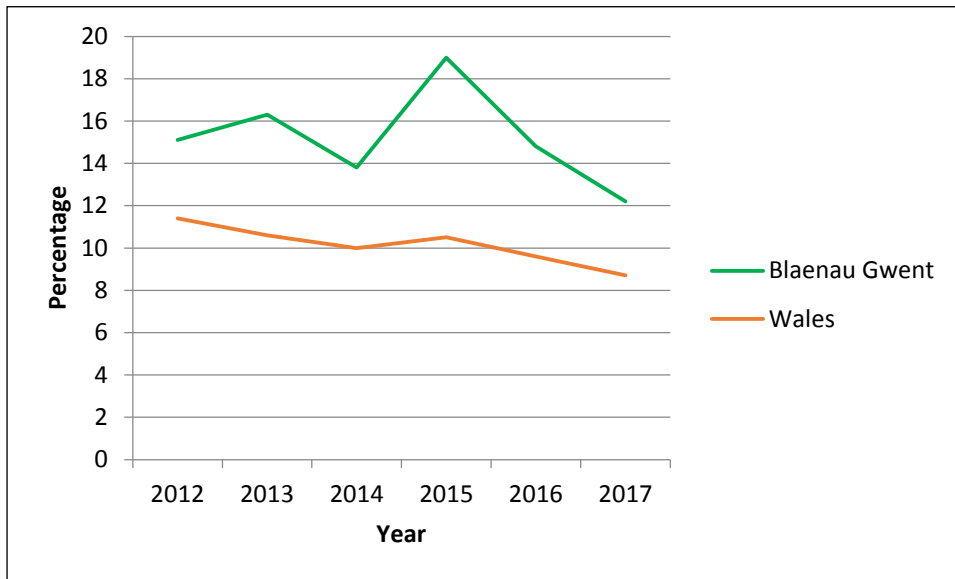
**Figure 23: Percentage of people with no qualifications**



Source: Nomis

Figure 24 shows the percentage of the working age people with no qualifications over the period 2012 to 2017. Between 2014 and 2015 Blaenau Gwent saw an increase of 6.2% points in the percentage of the working age population with no qualifications. However in 2017 the percentage decreased to 12.2%.

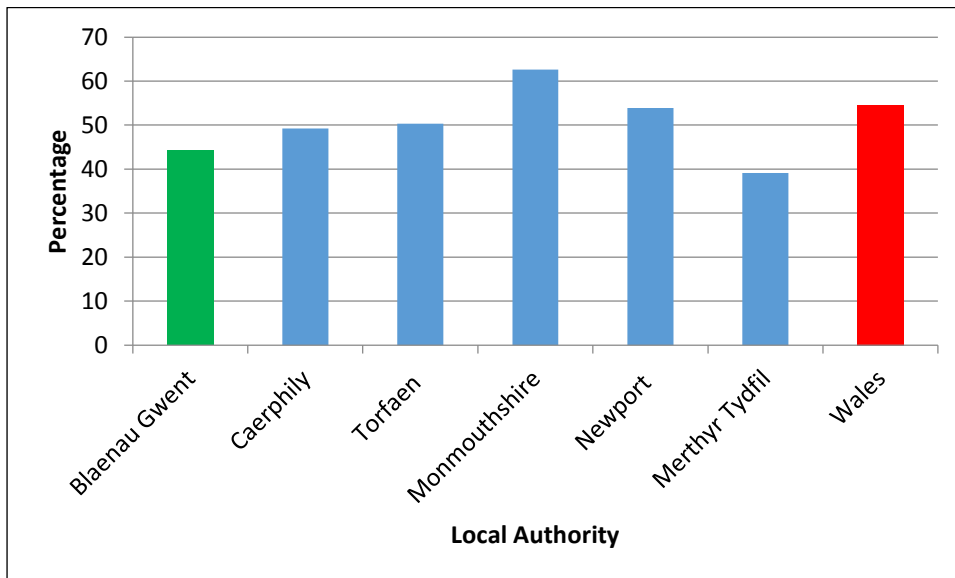
**Figure 24: Percentage of the working age people with no qualifications over the period 2012 to 2017**



Source: Nomis

Figure 25 shows that in 2017 the percentage of working age people in the Gwent region who are qualified to NQF level 3 or above ranged from 44.2% in Blaenau Gwent to 62.6% in Monmouthshire. This compares with 54.6% for Wales.

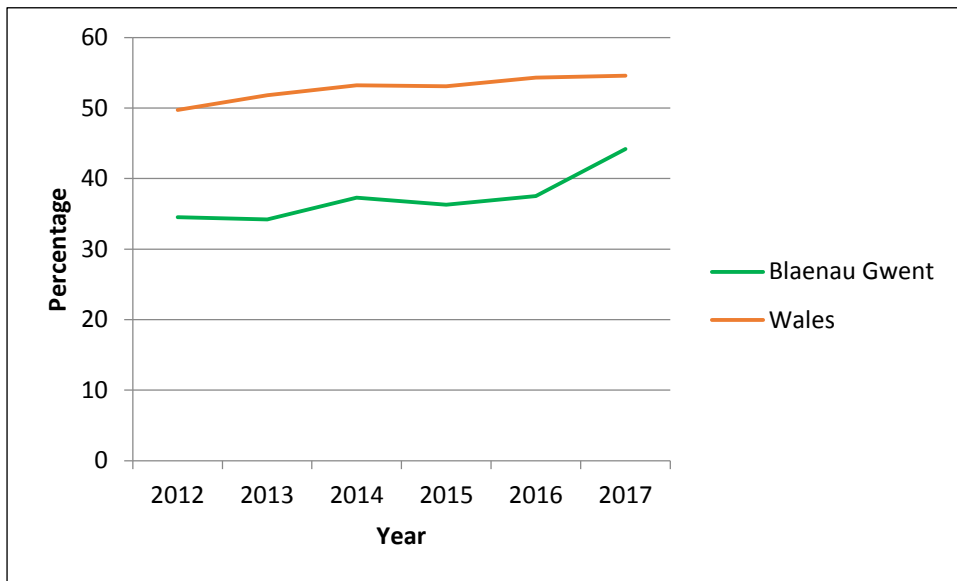
**Figure 25: Percentage of working age people in the Gwent region who are qualified to NQF level 3 or above**



Source: Nomis

Figure 26 below shows the percentage of working age people qualified to NQF level 3 or above over the period 2012 to 2017. Blaenau Gwent saw an increase of 9.7% over the period. For Wales the increase was 4.9%. Whilst the gap between Blaenau Gwent and Wales has narrowed, Blaenau Gwent remains behind Wales.

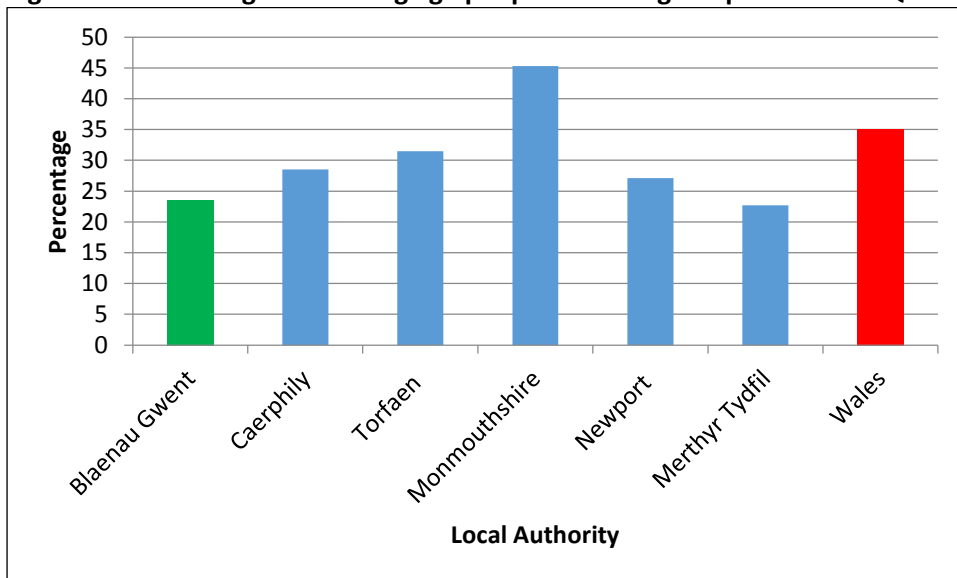
**Figure 26: Percentage of working age people qualified to NQF level 3 or above over the period 2012 to 2017**



Source: Nomis

Figure 27 shows that, in terms of higher level qualifications, in 2017 the percentage of working age people in the region qualified to NQF level 4 or above ranged from 23.6% in Blaenau Gwent to 45.3% in Monmouthshire. The figure for Wales was 35.1%.

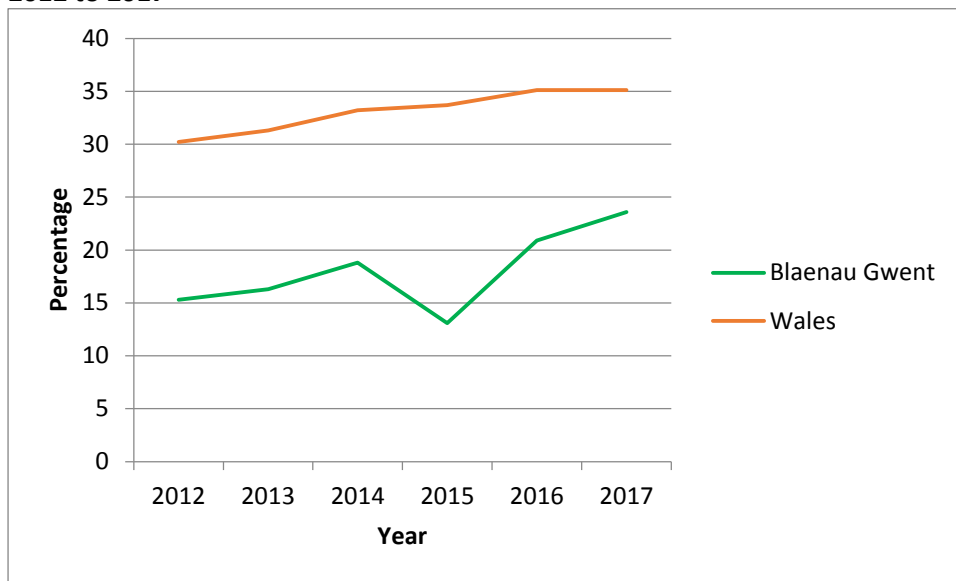
**Figure 27: Percentage of working age people in the region qualified to NQF level 4 or above**



Source: Nomis

Figure 28 shows the percentage of working age people qualified to NQF level 4 or above over the period 2012 to 2017. In Blaenau Gwent there was an increase of 8.3% over the period. This compared with an increase of 4.9% for Wales over the same period. Whilst the gap between Blaenau Gwent and Wales has narrowed, Blaenau Gwent remains behind Wales and therefore the percentage of working age people achieving higher qualifications remains an issue.

**Figure 28: Percentage of working age people qualified to NQF level 4 or above over the period 2012 to 2017**



Source: Nomis



## 2.0 A Resilient Wales

### Air

The UK's National Air Quality Strategy sets air quality objectives for seven key pollutants which local authorities are legally required to have regard to. These include: Benzene; 1, 3-Butadiene; Carbon Monoxide; Lead; Nitrogen Dioxide; Particulate Matter (PM10) (gravimetric); and Sulphur Dioxide. Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 requires local authorities to produce annual air quality reports as part of this National Strategy and these reports have been produced for Blaenau Gwent since 2004.

The reports look at local air monitoring data and sources of air pollution within the area to assess the likelihood of any of the National Air Quality Objectives being exceeded. Typical significant sources of air pollution include road traffic and industrial facilities. Within Blaenau Gwent a network of passive Nitrogen Dioxide monitoring diffusion tubes are utilised to provide an indicator of local air quality. Since the establishment of this network no exceedances of the air quality objective for Nitrogen Dioxide have been detected and the levels of Nitrogen Dioxide typically recorded are less than 50% of the national air quality standard, indicating that the air quality in Blaenau Gwent is good.

Assessments of the sources of atmospheric emissions within the area indicate that none of the standards set out for the other pollutants in the National Air Quality Strategy are currently likely to be exceeded.

### Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna

#### *Statutory Environmental Designations*

There is a wide range of habitats in Blaenau Gwent. The more significant habitats include:

#### **Specials Area of Conservation:**

- None within the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Local Planning Authority boundary
- There are two Special Areas of Conservation adjacent to the boundary which are: Usk Bat Site and Cwm Clydach Woodlands.

#### **Sites of Special Scientific Interest**

- Cwm Merddog Woodlands
- Brynmawr sections
- Mynydd Llangynidr

#### **Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)**

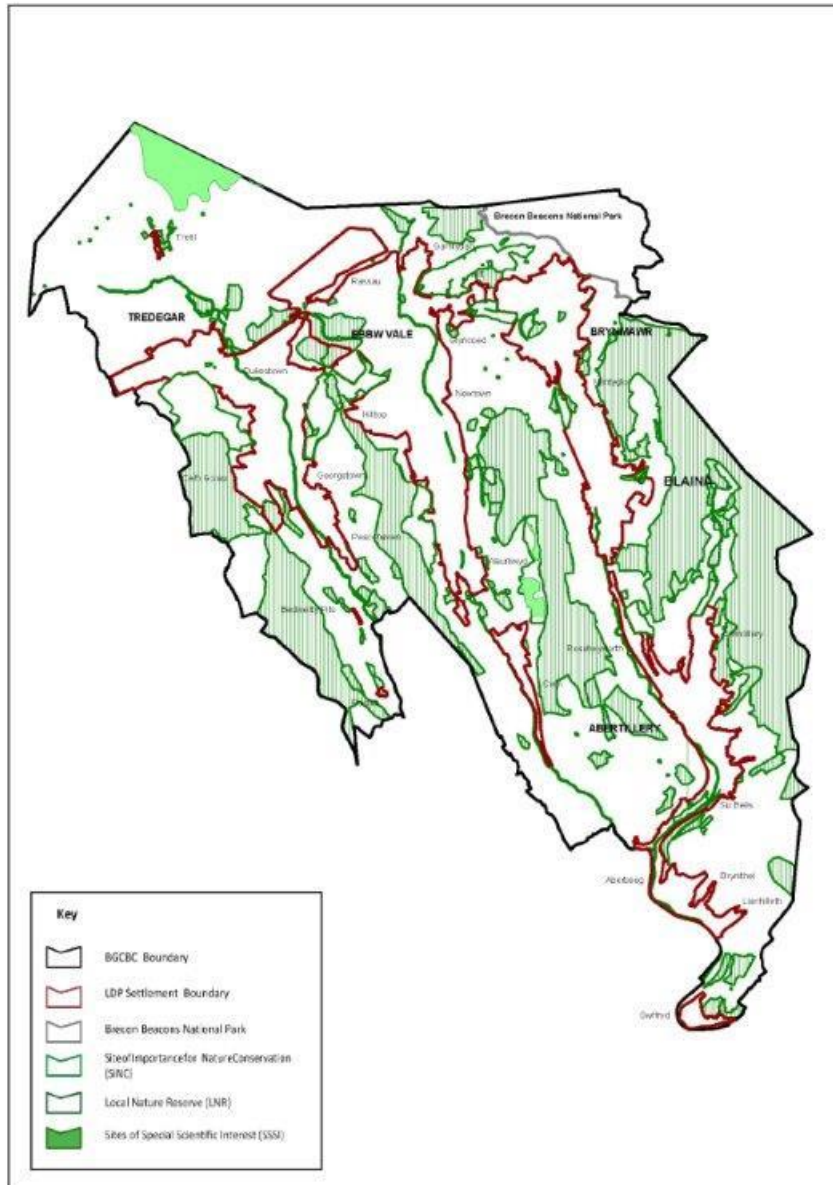
- The LDP identifies that there are 6 Local Nature Reserves. There have been a further 5 designated since 2012, bringing the total number of LNRs to 11.

#### **Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)**

- The LDP identifies 137 SINC. In 2015, a further 11 were designated, bringing the total number of SINC to 148.

Figure 29 below shows the statutory environmental designations including Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Nature Reserves and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.

**Figure 29: Statutory Environmental Designations**



Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

### *Protected and Rare Species*

The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c.) Regulations 1994 sets out the European protected species. A number of schedule 2 species are located within Blaenau Gwent including: horseshoe bats (lesser and greater horseshoe), other bats, great crested newts and otters.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 sets out the UK protected species. The UK protected species that are found within Blaenau Gwent include: bats, brown hare, dormouse, otter,

water vole, common frog, common toad, great crested newt, palmate newt, smooth newt, adder, common lizard, grass snake, slow worm, butterflies, marsh fritillary, pearl bordered fritillary, moths and double line lichens.

### *UK Biodiversity Action Plan and UK Post 2010 Biodiversity Framework Habitats*

A number of UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitats are also found in Blaenau Gwent including: wet woodland; Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland; Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland; Upland Oak Woods; Lowland Meadow; Lowland Calcareous Grassland; Lowland Dry Acid Grassland; Purple Moor-grass and Rush pastures; Upland Heath; Lowland Heath; Blanket Bog; Lowland Raised Bog; Upland Flushes, Fens and Swamp; Mesotrophic Lakes; Ponds; hedgerows; inland rock outcrop and scree; and open mosaics on previously developed land and rivers and streams.

### *Blaenau Gwent Local Biodiversity Action Plan*

The 2015 Blaenau Gwent Local Biodiversity Action Plan contains Habitat Action Plans for 26 priority habitats which have been identified within Blaenau Gwent. Six Species Action Plans have been prepared for individual species such as otter or groups of species such as bats. These species require more specific actions that cannot be undertaken under a Habitat Action Plan. Each Specific Action Plan gives specific descriptions of the species along with specific actions for conservation. SAPs have been prepared for:

- Bats
- Birds
- Otters
- Pollinating insects
- Reptiles and amphibians
- Invasive species

Generic Action Plans have been prepared for common themes are integral to all Habitats and Species Action Plans. These include:

- Local Biodiversity Action Plan process
- Education and raising awareness of biodiversity

### *Invasive Plants*

The issue of invasive plants is an on-going problem within Blaenau Gwent, there is a duty in terms of development not to spread and more invasive species. The two major concerns are with Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed. The Council has had a very successful project to eradicate Japanese Knotweed along river corridors.

### *Biodiversity Loss*

The five drivers of biodiversity loss are: climate change, habitat loss and change, pollution, invasive non-native species and exploitation. The primary cause of species extinction globally is habitat loss.

**There is a data gap in relation to biodiversity loss in Blaenau Gwent.**

#### *Habitat Fragmentation*

Habitat fragmentation involves the breaking up of large areas of habitat into small, unconnected islands. These habitat fragments are often too small to support viable populations of many plant and animal species, leaving them vulnerable to extinction. As a result species that have taken tens or hundreds of thousands of years to evolve naturally can be lost very quickly and cannot be recreated.

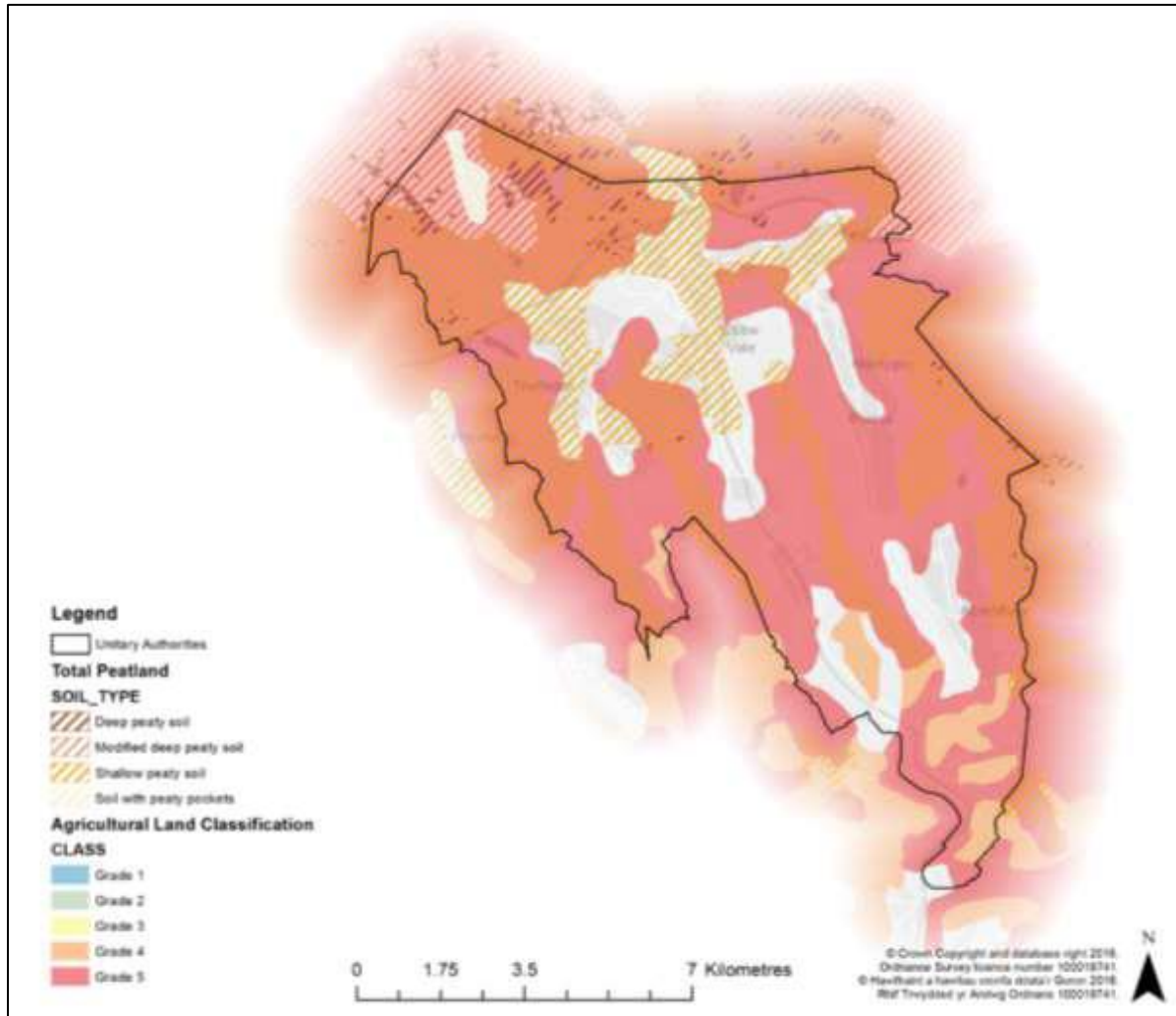
**There is a data gap in relation to habitat fragmentation in Blaenau Gwent.**

### **Soil**

#### *Peatland*

Figure 30 shows that almost all of the peat resource of Blaenau Gwent occurs in the uplands and north of the A465, with small pockets between the Rhymney & Sirhowy Valleys. Small areas of peatland are in the Mynydd Llangynidr SSSI. Development is likely to have resulted in loss of peat in the past, and a significant area of peat will be affected if the Circuit of Wales proposal goes ahead.

Figure 30: Peatland and Agricultural Land in Blaenau Gwent



Source: NRW, 2016

Wet peat soils are unlikely to have been recognised or valued in the area, leading to inappropriate management for at least some of the sites. The occurrence of peat within large unenclosed upland blocks hampers focussed management.

Restoring peat can bring benefits to people, the environment and contribute to climate change resilience, by storing and regulating the flow of water, improving water quality, and storing carbon.

Semi natural peatland vegetation in good condition delivers the widest range of ecosystem services. Restoring all areas of peatland in Wales with semi natural vegetation is a Welsh Government priority.

Deep peat soils (peat soils over 50cm deep) occur throughout Wales and are one of our critical natural assets. Peat supports the largest amount of soil carbon per unit area of any soils and when in good condition in mires (wetlands) play a very important role in climate change by locking up carbon from the atmosphere.

The characteristic habitats, plant and animal species associated with peatlands are a key feature of Wales’s biodiversity and all public bodies have a duty to enhance and maintain them. Peatlands in good condition help sustain rivers and streams during dry periods; help retain or slow-down runoff and in doing so form part of our range of natural flood risk management assets. Peatlands contribute to the character and landscape quality of Wales, providing wild, but accessible places for people and nature.

### *Agricultural Land*

Figure 30 above identifies that the majority of agricultural land within Blaenau Gwent is grade 5 with areas to the southern end of the borough being grade 4. Grade 4 and 5 are described as poor quality agricultural land and very poor quality agricultural land. The borough does not have any grade 1, 2 or 3a land, which are the top three grades referred to as ‘Best and Most Versatile’ land and enjoy significant protection from development.

### *Contaminated Land*

In order to assist in discharging duties associated with contaminated land, Blaenau Gwent Council produced a contaminated land strategy in 2002 where it identified 1607 potentially contaminated sites, of which:

- 51 were considered to be high risk (previous or current use include gas works, landfill sites, petrol stations and military land);
- 880 were considered to be medium risk; and
- 676 were considered to be low risk.

It has not been possible to identify the actual number of sites that have been remediated since the date of the strategy. However, a number of sites with a history of contaminative usage which have been remediated include: The Works, Ebbw Vale; the former British Coal Workshops, Tredegar; and the Dunlop Semtex site at Brynmawr.

Through the LDP annual monitoring process and monitoring of planning applications it has been possible to monitor the number and area of contaminated land sites which have been remediated through development. The following figure sets out this information since 2012:

**Figure 31: No. and area of contaminated land sites to be remediated through development**

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of contaminated land sites to be remediated through development</b>	<b>Area of contaminated land to be remediated through development (hectares)</b>
2012-2014	5	2.93
2014-2015	0	0
2015-2016	1	1.85
2016-2017	0	0
2017-2018	3	3.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8.45</b>

Source: Blaenau Gwent Annual Monitoring Report 2017-18

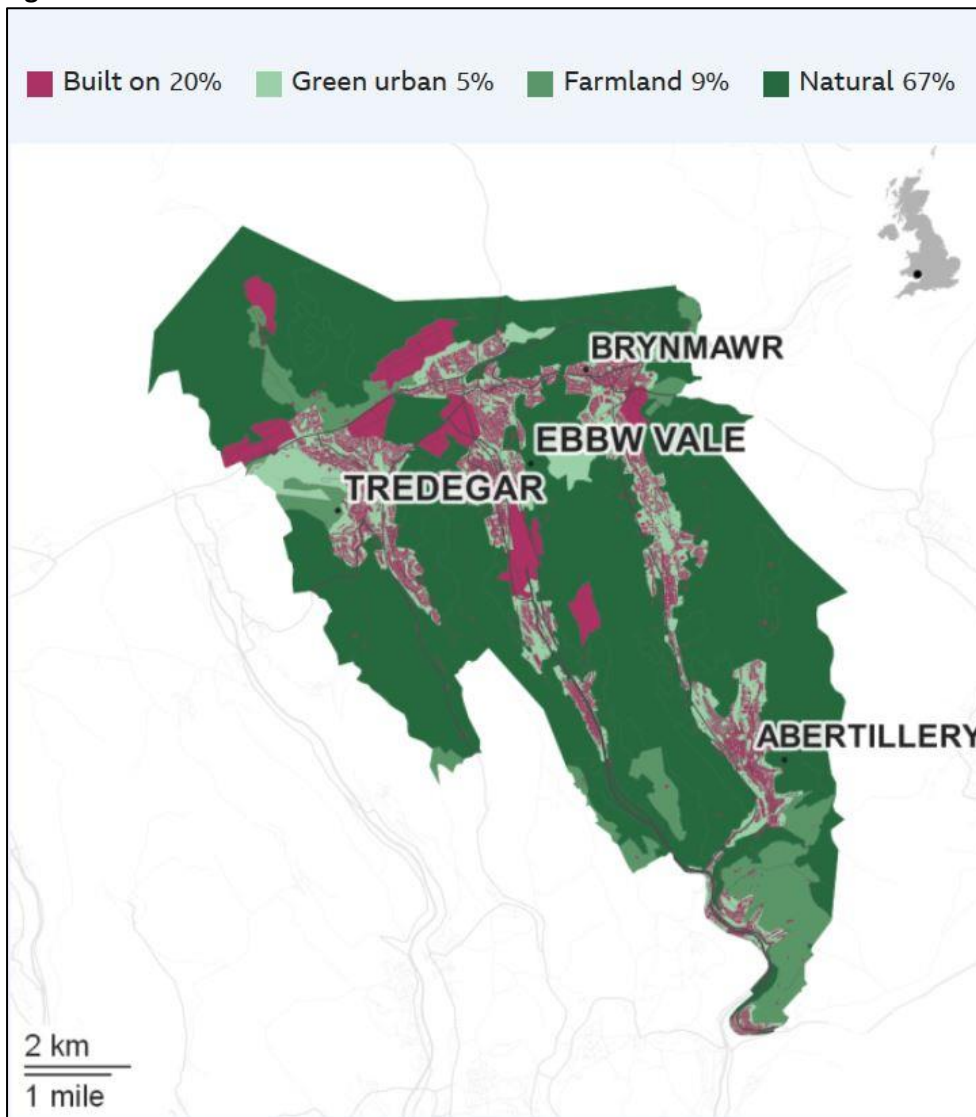
*Use of brownfield sites – previously developed land*

**Figure 32: How much of the area is built on?**

	Blaenau Gwent	Wales	UK
Built on	20%	4.2%	6%
Green Urban	5%	1.4%	3%
Farmland	9%	59.3%	57%
Natural	67%	35.1%	35%

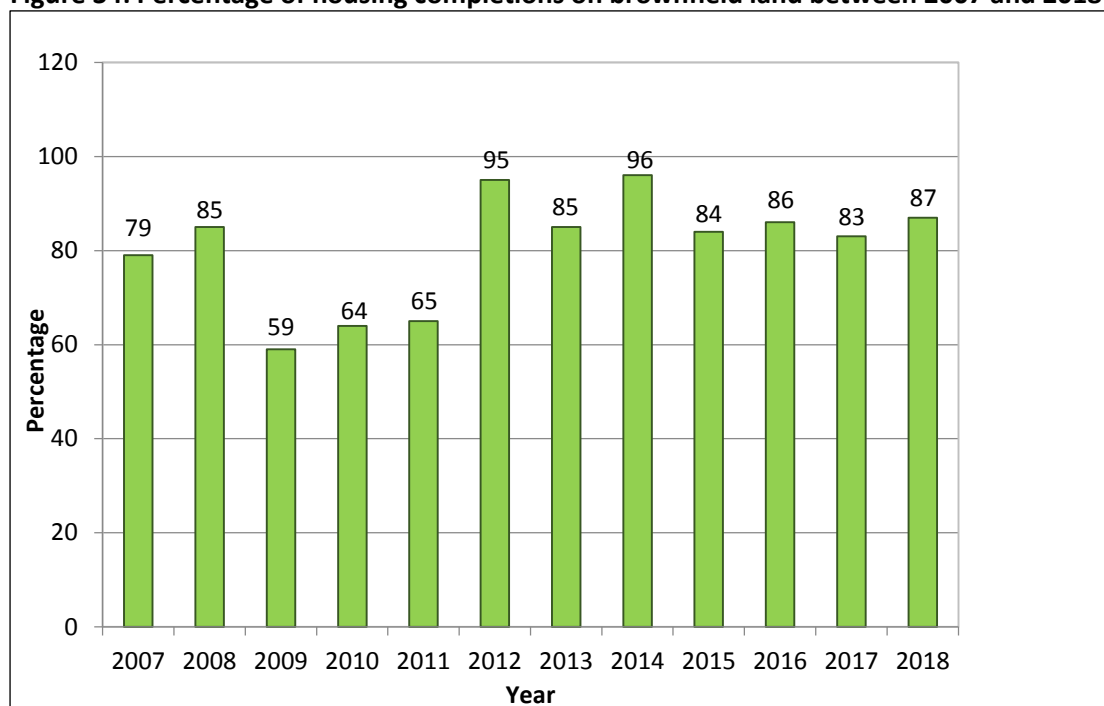
Source: Corine Land Cover Inventory

**Figure 33: How much of the area is built on?**



Source: Corine Land Cover Inventory (insert BBC link)

**Figure 34: Percentage of housing completions on brownfield land between 2007 and 2018**



Source: Blaenau Gwent Housing Land Availability Surveys

The figures for the percentages of housing completions on brownfield land have been determined using the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Housing Land Availability Surveys which are conducted on an annual basis. The average percentage of housing completions on brownfield land over the past 12 years is approximately 81%.

The LDP contains a target of 80% of new development to be on brownfield land which is monitored annually through the LDP Annual Monitoring Report.

**Figure 35: New Development on Brownfield land**

Year	Size (Ha) on brownfield	Size (Ha) of Total Development permitted	% on brownfield land
2006-2013	136.341	177.461	76.8%
2013-2014	5.42	241.42	2.2%
2014-2015	22.41	26.52	84%
2015-2016	14.38	19.32	74%
2016-2017	13.3	14.36	93%
2017-2018	15.69	18.33	86%

Source: Blaenau Gwent Annual Monitoring Report 2017-18

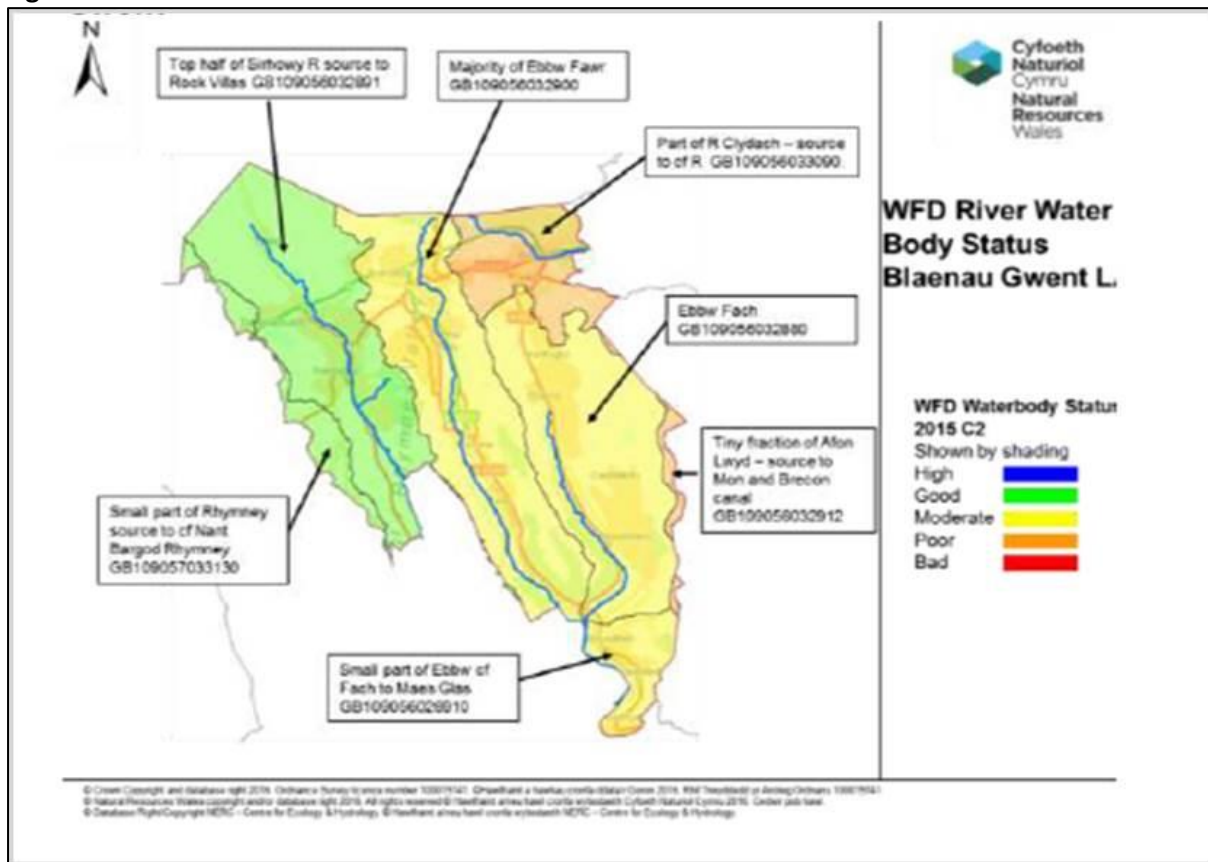
## Water Quality

Our water bodies are assigned a status of health which is represented in the Figure below. Waterbodies that are classified as 'Bad', 'Poor' or 'Moderate' are failing the EU Water Framework Directive standards and these waterbodies will need to improve to at least 'Good' ecological status by 2027.



In Blaenau Gwent there are waterbodies classed as good. However most are 'moderate' or 'poor'. None are 'bad'.

**Figure 36: Water Framework Directive Status of Rivers in Blaenau Gwent**



Source: Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment

Where rivers are failing for fish this is primarily down to three causes: physical modification to the waterbody; the quality of the aquatic water habitat; and water quality. Figure 37 shows the failing elements of watercourse in Blaenau Gwent.

**Figure 37: WFD Classification with failing elements of watercourses in Blaenau Gwent**

Watercourse as shown in Figure 36	WFD Classification	Failing Element
River Sirhowy	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not applicable</li> </ul>
River Ebbw Fawr	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish (salmon)</li> <li>• Phosphate</li> </ul>
River Clydach	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish (eel &amp; bullhead)</li> <li>• Phosphate</li> </ul>
River Ebbw Fach	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish (salmon)</li> <li>• Invertebrates</li> </ul>
River Afon Lwyd	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish (salmon &amp; bullhead)</li> <li>• Manganese</li> </ul>
River Ebbw	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation Measures Assessment</li> <li>• Tributyltin</li> </ul>

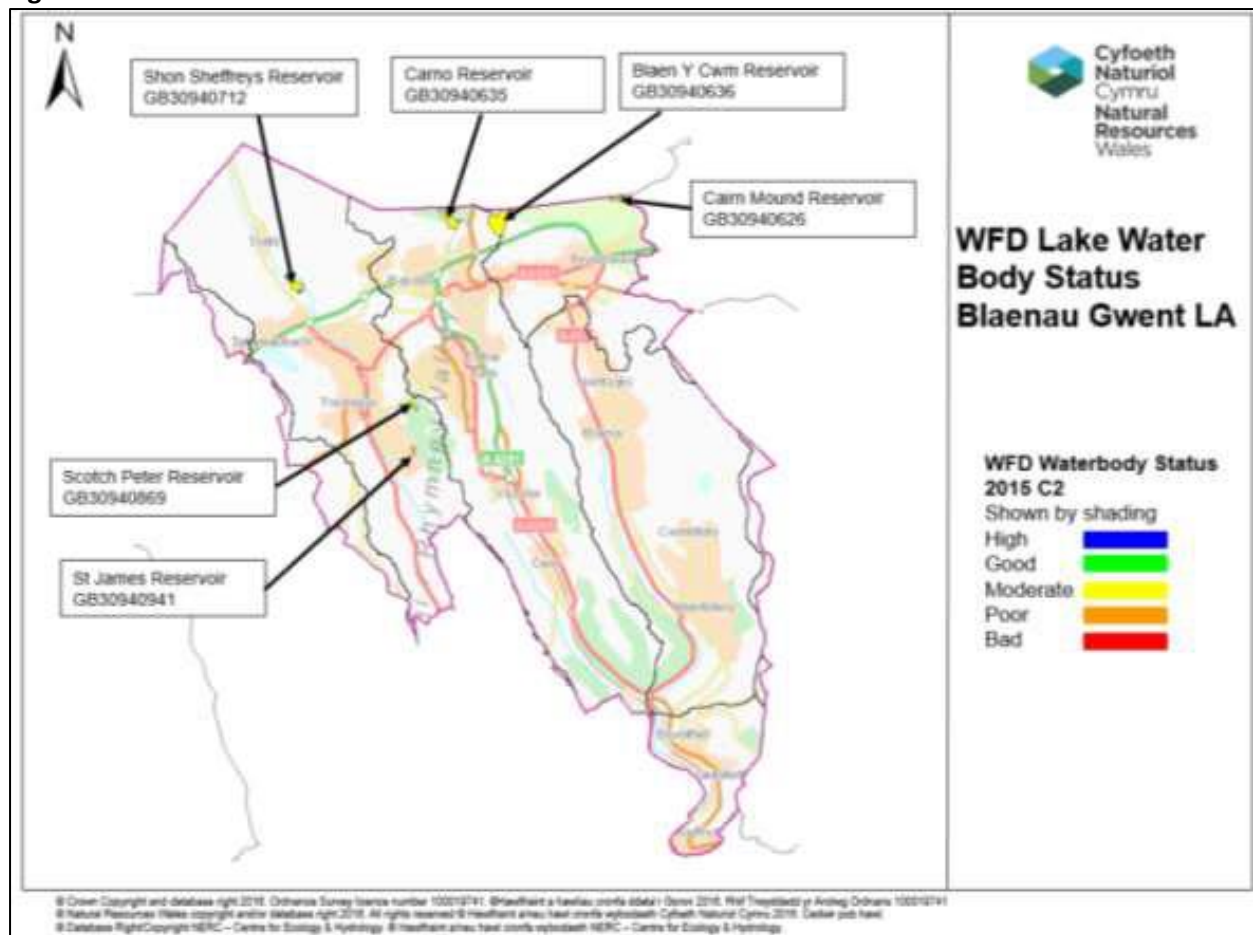
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water resources</li> </ul>
River Rhymney	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not applicable</li> </ul>

Source: Natural Resources Wales, 2016

Physical modifications such as manmade weirs are present due to industrialisation and urbanisation. They present barriers that prevent fish from migrating upstream to their spawning grounds. The pressure on fish and the wider ecology is increased by degraded habitat such as poor quality spawning grounds. Phosphorus from sewerage discharges and misconnections of pipes from residential and industrial estates also impacts on fish.

The phosphorous issue on the River Clydach is being addressed by Dwr Cymru / Welsh Water with the upgrading of the waste water treatment works at Brynmawr. On the River Afon Lwyd the manganese is found because of historical mines discharging into rivers. The source of the tributyltin in the River Ebbw is unknown. Whilst the water resources issue is the Newport Dock feeder abstraction at Bassleg Weir, further downstream.

**Figure 38: WFD status of lakes in Blaenau Gwent**



Source: Natural Resource Wales, 2016

Figure 39 shows that the six reservoirs in Blaenau Gwent are classed as moderate, and are primarily failing because they are artificial/heavily modified waterbodies.

**Figure 39: WFD Classification with failing elements of waterbodies in Blaenau Gwent**

Waterbody as shown in Figure 38	WFD Classification	Failing Element
Shon Sheffreys Reservoir	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation Measure Assessment</li> <li>• Phosphorus</li> <li>• Macrophytes</li> </ul>
Carno Reservoir	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation Measure Assessment</li> <li>• Phosphorus</li> </ul>
Blaen y Cwm Reservoir	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation Measure Assessment</li> <li>• Phosphorus</li> </ul>
Cain Mound Reservoir	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation Measure Assessment</li> <li>• Expert Judgement – At risk from Acidification, Phosphorous &amp; Hydro morphology</li> </ul>
St James Reservoir	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation Measure Assessment</li> <li>• Expert Judgement – At risk from Acidification, Phosphorous &amp; Hydro morphology</li> </ul>
Scotch Peter Reservoir	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation Measure Assessment</li> </ul>

Source: Natural Resources Wales (NRW) 2016

The lakes listed are all reservoirs and are important for water supply in Blaenau Gwent. They are primarily failing because they are artificial/heavily modified waterbodies.

### *Water Supply*

Water is supplied to the Blaenau Gwent area by Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water (DCWW). They supply water via a large scale, multi-source, integrated network that is typical of many other water company areas. This Water Resources Zone (WRZ) is known as the South East Wales Conjunctive Use System (SEWCUS).

In total, there are over 40 resources that are used to supply the SEWCUS WRZ (Figure 98) which include a mixture of river abstractions from the larger rivers in the east of the WRZ and relatively small upland reservoir sources with small catchment areas.

## **Material Assets –Minerals and Waste**

### **Minerals**

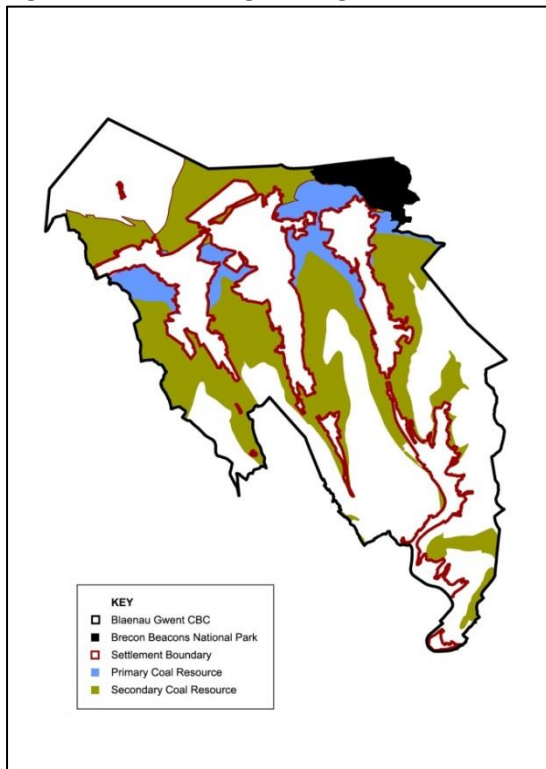
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council lies on the north eastern edge of the South Wales coalfield. The Coal Measures underlie the majority of the County Borough as shown in the figure below. The area has a legacy of deep coal mining and open cast coal mining.

The coal bearing rocks are overlain in the south of the County Borough by Pennant Sandstone, predominantly the Hughes and Grovesend Beds. The properties of the Pennant Sandstone in Blaenau Gwent make it suitable for use as High Specification Aggregate (HSA)

as well as general aggregate and building stone. HSA is used where a high degree of skid resistance is required like motorways and airport runways. The availability of such materials is limited to relatively few locations in England and Wales and is therefore a nationally important resource.

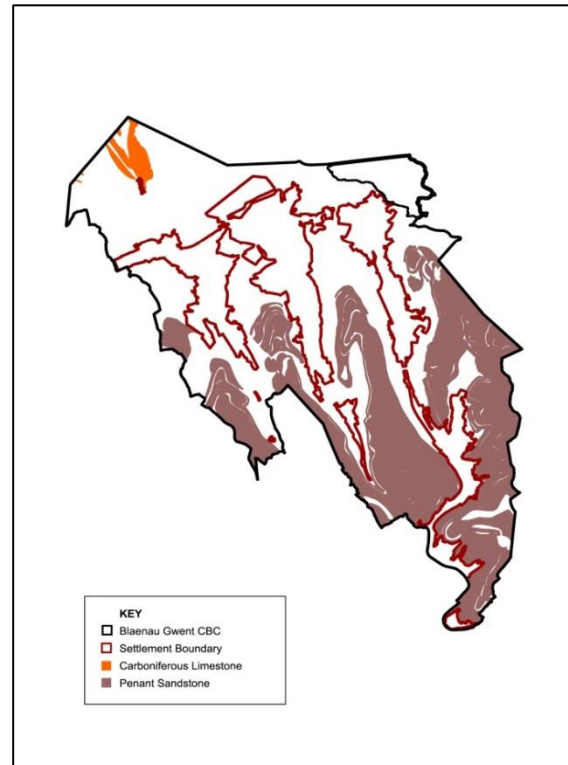
There is an outcrop of Carboniferous Limestone on the edge of the coalfield in the north of the County Borough. The Limestone is versatile being used not only in construction but also for cement production.

**Figure 40: Coal Safeguarding Areas**



Source: Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan (2012)

**Figure 41: Aggregate Safeguarding Areas**



Source: Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan (2012)

The existing Local Development Plan seeks to secure that there is an adequate supply of minerals through Policy SP12. To ensure this is achieved the land bank and the extent of required capacity is monitored. The following are results from the Annual Monitoring Report 2017-18:

**Figure 42: Number of years land bank of permitted aggregate reserves**

Year	No. of years land bank of permitted reserves
2013	11.8
2014	10
2016	7

Source: Blaenau Gwent Annual Monitoring Report 2017-18

The latest Regional Technical Statement (RTS) for South Wales identifies that Blaenau Gwent need 4.25 million tonnes from 2011 to 2036 and had 3 million tonnes consented at the base date. This equates to 71% of the total capacity required. As no further consents have been granted this remains the same.

## Waste

Over the past decade, Wales has transformed the way it deals with waste by increasing its recycling rate from 13% (2002/03) to 56.2% (2014/15).

Towards Zero Waste is the overarching strategy document for Wales and was published in 2010. TZW sets out at a high level strategy for how we are to manage waste in Wales to produce benefits not only for the environment, but also for our economy and social wellbeing. The strategy outlines the actions we must take if we are to realise the ambition of becoming a high recycling nation by 2025 and a zero waste nation by 2050.

TZW sets targets for municipal waste collected by area. The recycling targets became law from April 2012 under the Waste (Wales) Measure 2010. The first statutory target was to reuse, recycle or compost 52% of municipal waste collected by local authorities in 2012-13. The next target is 64% in 2019/20. Targets are outlined in Figure 43.

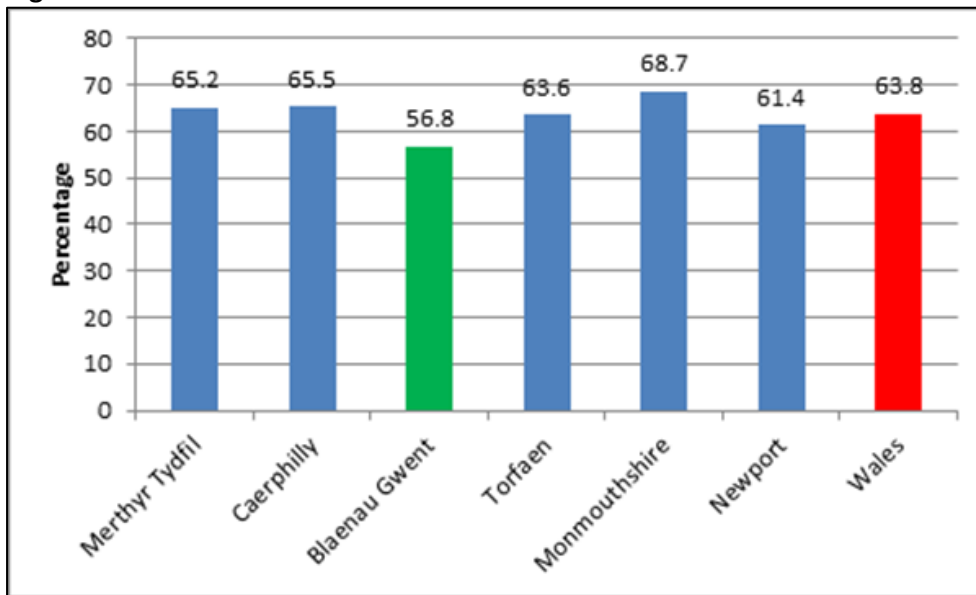
**Figure 43: Targets for municipal waste collected by area**

Target for:	2015/16	2019/20	2024/25	2050
Minimum levels of preparing for reuse and recycling/ composting (or anaerobic digestion)	58%	64%	70%	Zero Waste Nation
Minimum proportion of preparing for reuse/recycling/composting that must come from source separation (kerbside, bring and/or CA site) for municipal waste	80%	80%	80%	

Source: Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment

Figure 44 shows the percentage of municipal waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting across the Gwent region in 2016-17. This ranged from 56.8% of municipal waste in Blaenau Gwent to 68.7% of municipal waste in Monmouthshire. This compares to 63.8% for Wales.

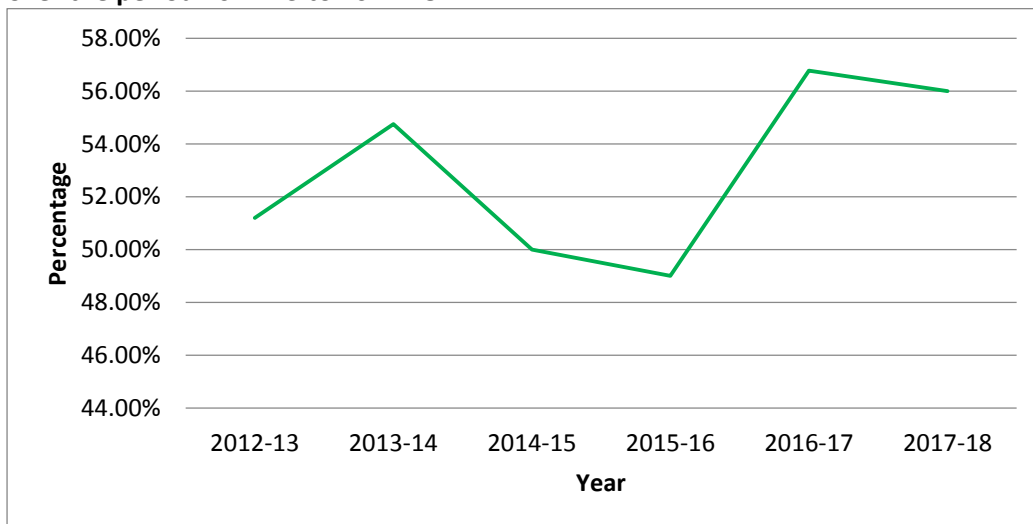
**Figure 44: Percentage of municipal waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting across the Gwent region in 2016-17**



Source: StatsWales

Figure 45 below shows the change in the percentage of municipal waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting over the period 2012-13 to 2017-18. In 2015-16, there was a marked decrease in the percentage this was due to the introduction of a new recycling service. Overall, the percentage has increased by 4.8% over the period in Blaenau Gwent.

**Figure 45: The change in the percentage of municipal waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting over the period 2012-13 to 2017-18**



Source: StatsWales

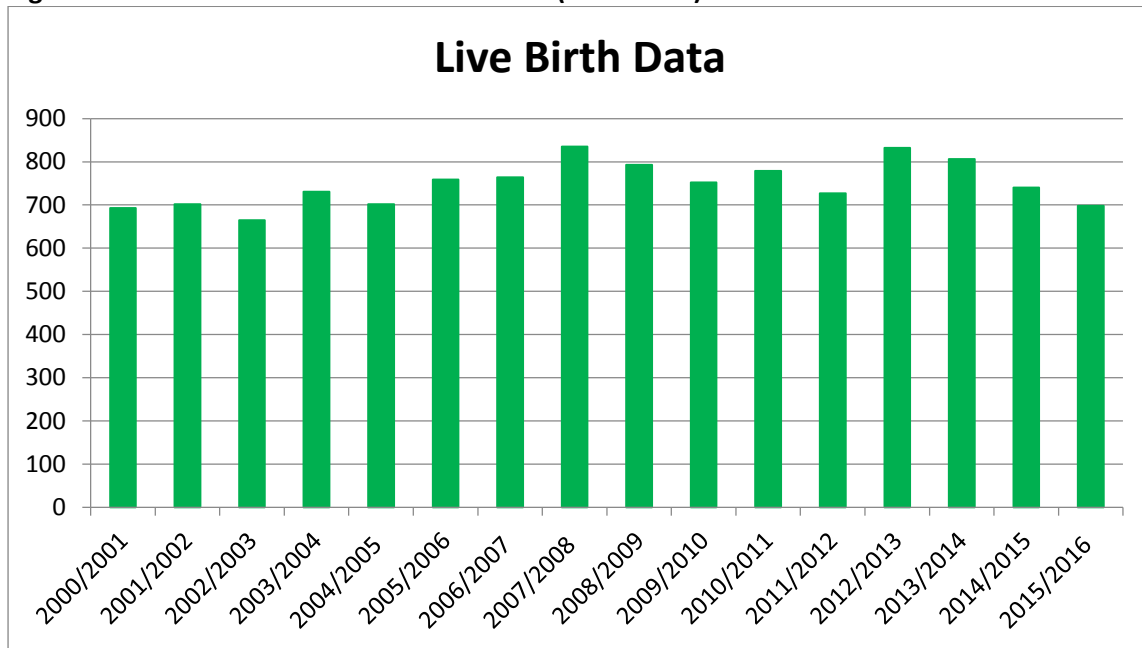
### 3.0 A Healthier Wales

#### Human Health

##### *Birth and death rates*

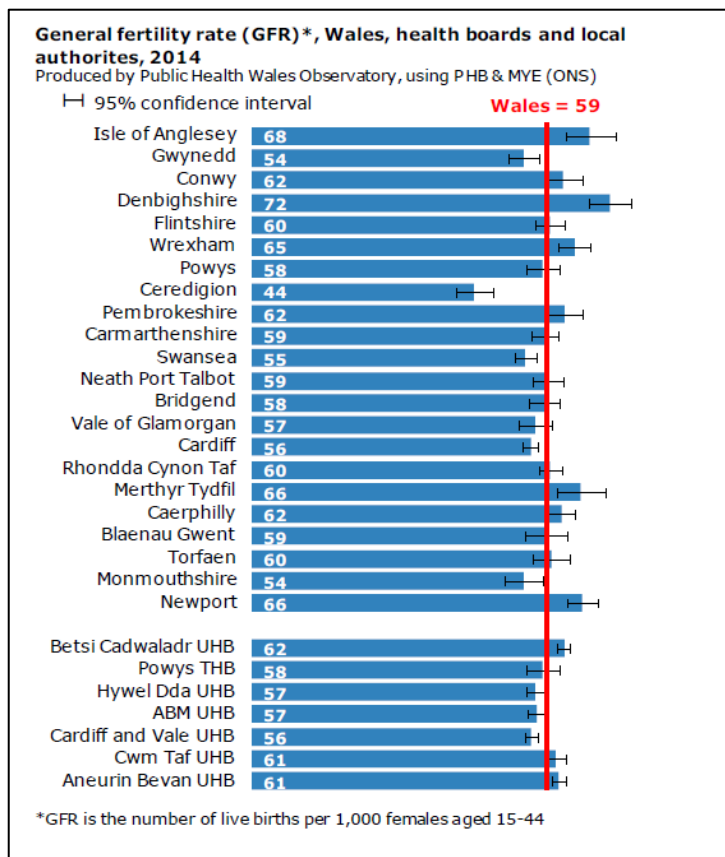
Figure 48 shows the General Fertility Rate (GFR) that is the total number of live births per 1,000 women of reproductive age (aged 15-59) in a population year was 59 for Blaenau Gwent in 2014 which was the same as the Welsh average. However birth data in Figure 47 shows that births fluctuated between 698 and 835 over the last 15 years. The data does not identify any overall trend.

**Figure 47: Live Birth Data for Blaenau Gwent (2000-2016)**



Source: Stats Wales

**Figure 48: General Fertility Rate**



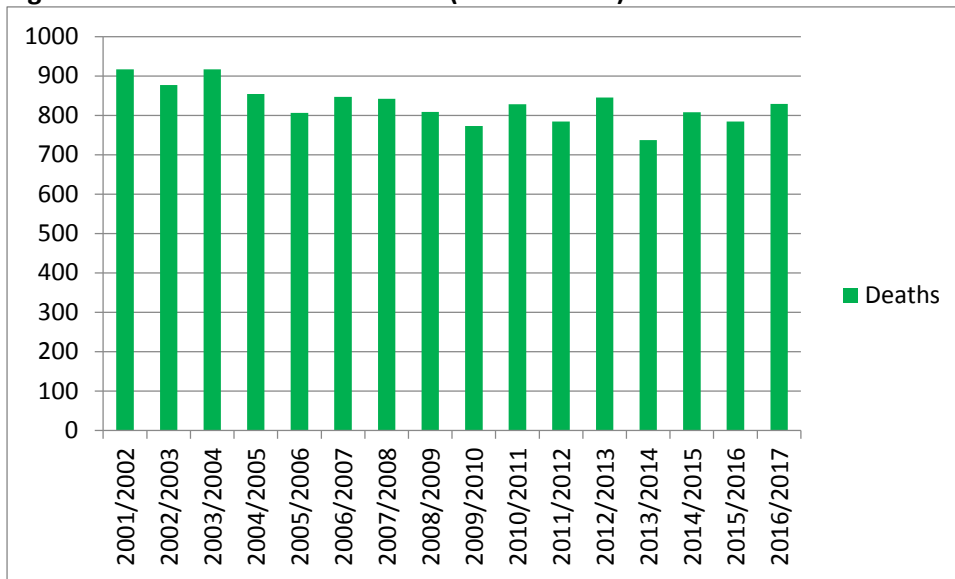
Source: Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment

Figure 48 shows that the General Fertility Rate in Blaenau Gwent is in line with the Welsh average.

Death Rates fluctuate but are on a general downward trend from just over 900 a year in 2001-2002 to between 700 and 800 since 2013 to 2014. However, in terms of the Standard Mortality rate Blaenau Gwent at a rate of 115 to 118 has higher than the expected number (the norm) of 100. The latest available figures show that it has stabilised at a rate of 116 between 2006 and 2019.

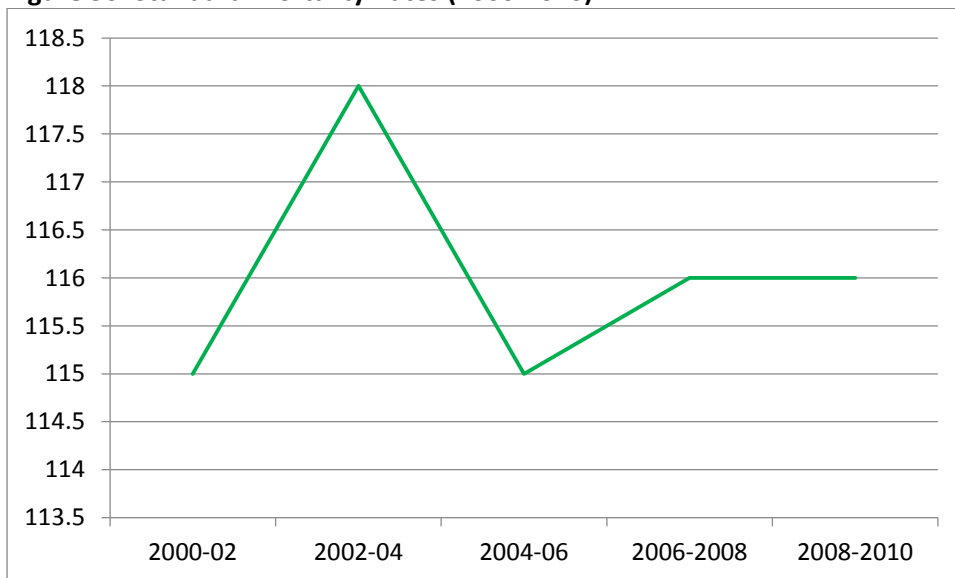


**Figure 49: Deaths in Blaenau Gwent (2001 to 2017)**



Source: Stats Wales

**Figure 50: Standard Mortality Rates (2000-2010)**

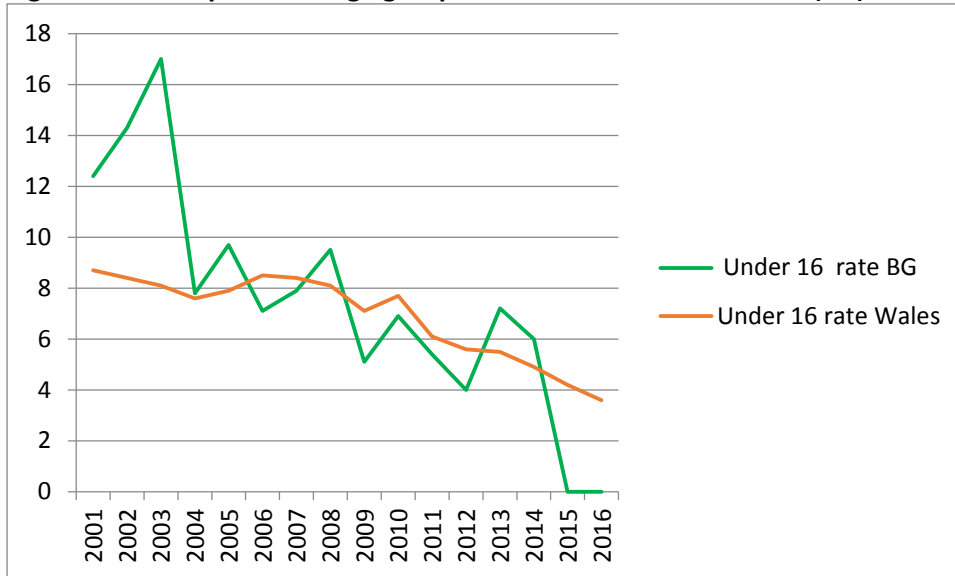


Source: Stats Wales

### *Teenage Conceptions*

Figure 51 highlights the teenage conception rate in those aged under 16 in Blaenau Gwent and Wales. The data indicates that although the Blaenau Gwent figures were much higher than the Welsh average in 2001-03 the figures have now decreased and are generally in line with the Welsh average. It should be noted that there were no figures available for Blaenau Gwent in 2015 and 2016. The overall trend is a decrease.

**Figure 51: Conceptions for age group under 16 for Blaenau Gwent (BG) and Wales (2001-2016)**

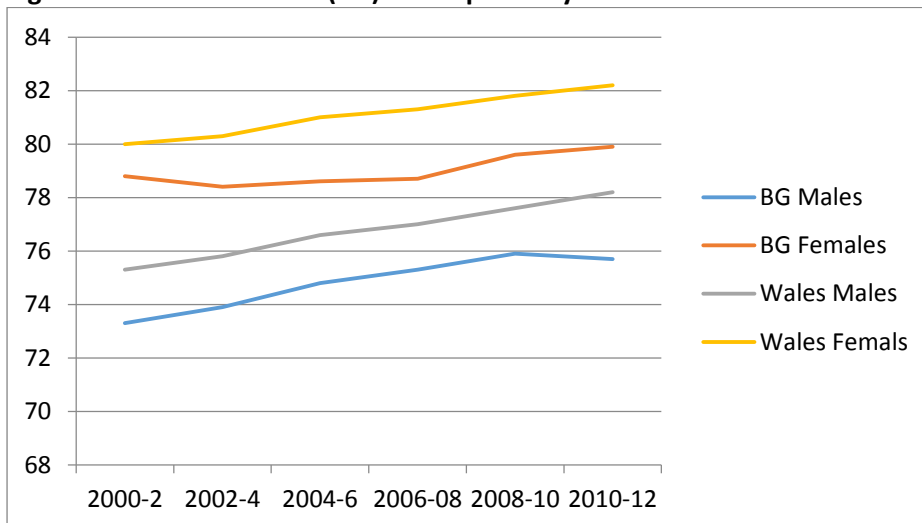


Source: Stats Wales

### Life Expectancy

Life expectancy in Blaenau Gwent in 2010-12 was 75.7 for males and 79.9 for females compared to the average for Wales of 78.2 and 80.1 respectively. The average life expectancy for both males and females in Blaenau Gwent is generally increasing. However life expectancy in Blaenau Gwent remains well below the Wales average and in terms of females the difference has increased over the period from 1.2 to 2.3 years. Life expectancy for males tracked the overall trend until the period 2010-12 when Blaenau Gwent failed to keep up with the overall trend of improvement. For Males the difference of 2 years in 2000-2002 has grown to 2.5 in 2010-2012.

**Figure 52: Blaenau Gwent (BG) Life Expectancy**



Source: Stats Wales

Figure 53 presents data relating to the WIMD 2014 for health. Patterns in health deprivation in Wales have remained largely unchanged since the 2011 WIMD. High deprivation levels

were recorded in South Wales valleys and large cities, coastal areas of North Wales and border towns. The local authority with the highest proportion of LSOAs in the most deprived 10% in Wales for health domain was Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenau Gwent came in at the 5<sup>th</sup> highest. Three local authorities (The Isle of Anglesey, Ceredigion and Monmouthshire) were recorded as having had no LSOAs in the most deprived 10%.

Blaenau Gwent had the highest proportion of LSOAs in the most deprived 50% in Wales (95.7%). The next highest was Merthyr Tydfil, with 86.1% of its LSOAs in the most deprived half of Wales. Isle of Anglesey, Ceredigion and Monmouthshire had no LSOAs in the most deprived 10%. Only 15.2% of the LSOAs in Ceredigion were in the most deprived 50% in Wales.

**Figure 53: WIMD 2014 Health domain deprived LSOAs, by local authority**

Local Authority	Number of LSOAs in local authority	% LSOAs in most deprived 10% ranks 1-191	% LSOAs in most deprived 20% ranks 1-382	% LSOAs in most deprived 30% ranks 1-573	% LSOAs in most deprived 50% ranks 1-955
Isle of Anglesey	44	0.0	4.5	15.9	29.5
Gwynedd	73	2.7	4.1	5.5	19.2
Conwy	71	1.4	7.0	15.5	31.0
Denbighshire	58	10.3	15.5	22.4	37.9
Flintshire	92	2.2	8.7	17.4	34.8
Wrexham	85	4.7	16.5	27.1	50.6
Powys	79	1.3	5.1	8.9	19.0
Ceredigion	46	0.0	0.0	4.3	15.2
Pembrokeshire	71	4.2	7.0	12.7	31.0
Carmarthenshire	112	4.5	11.6	29.5	55.4
Swansea	148	14.2	20.9	29.7	54.7
Neath Port Talbot	91	17.6	36.3	50.5	72.5
Bridgend	88	12.5	29.5	45.5	61.4
Rhondda Cynon Taf	154	21.4	43.5	56.5	77.3
Merthyr Tydfil	36	30.6	47.2	58.3	86.1
Caerphilly	110	20.0	32.7	45.5	74.5
<b>Blaenau Gwent</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>61.7</b>	<b>95.7</b>
Torfaen	60	6.7	21.7	33.3	61.7
Monmouthshire	56	0.0	0.0	1.8	17.9
Newport	95	8.4	22.1	33.7	52.6
Cardiff	214	14.5	22.0	29.9	44.4
<b>Wales</b>	<b>1909</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>50.0</b>

Source: WIMD

## Percentage of good/bad health

**Figure 54: Self-Assessment of General Health**

General Health	Blaenau Gwent (%)	Wales (%)
'Very Good Health'	41.9	46.6
'Good Health'	30.6	31.2
'Fair Health'	16.7	14.6
'Bad Health'	8.2	5.8
'Very bad health'	2.5	1.8

Source: Census 2011

In 2011 77.8% of people in Wales reported their general health as either 'Very good' or 'Good'. This is 3.6% lower than that of England (81.4%). The gap between local authorities reporting the highest (Cardiff: 81.4%) and lowest (Blaenau Gwent: 72.5%) percentages of 'Very good' and 'Good' general health was 8.9%. The concentration of low percentages of 'Good' general health recorded in 2011 corresponds with the former coal mining and heavy industrial centres of the Welsh valleys in 2011 suggesting that these former industries have had long term health implications. Cardiff, Gwynedd and Flintshire were identified as having the best levels of general health (ONS).

## Lifestyles

The National Survey for Wales 2017/18 records data on lifestyle and behavioural choices for adults. Indicators such as the prevalence of smoking and obesity in Blaenau Gwent are compared with those for Aneurin Bevan Health Board and Wales as a whole in Figure 55 below. Blaenau Gwent has a higher proportion of smokers and e-cigarette users (31%) than Wales (26%) and the Aneurin Bevan Health Board (27%). In terms of alcohol, Blaenau Gwent has a lower percentage (16%) of those who consume more than 14 units of alcohol on a weekly basis than Wales as a whole (19%) and the Aneurin Bevan Health Board (18%). In terms of obesity levels, Blaenau Gwent has a higher percentage (33%) when compared to Aneurin Bevan Health Board (26%) and Wales (22%) which could be linked to the low percentage of people eating 5 portions of fruit and vegetables (18%) and the higher percentage of people doing less than 30 minutes of activity (39%).

**Figure 55: Health Related Lifestyle of Adults 2017-18**

	Blaenau Gwent (%)	Aneurin Bevan Health Board (%)	Wales (%)
Smoker	22	19	19
E-cigarette user	9	8	7
Weekly Alcohol Consumption > 14 units	16	18	19
Ate 5 Portions of Fruit & Vegetables	18	21	24
Active < 30 minutes a week	39	33	33
Overweight or Obese	68	65	60

Obese	33	26	22
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Source: National Survey for Wales 2017-18

### *Health Infrastructure*

Blaenau Gwent is one of the five County Boroughs that fall within the Aneurin Bevan Health Board. Within the health board there are two general district hospitals: Nevill Hall located in Abergavenny and The Royal Gwent Hospital in Newport. There are two local general hospitals, these are: Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan which is located in Ebbw Vale and Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr, Ystrad Mynach. These are supported by a network of community and mental health hospitals and day care premises. There are 12 GP Practices and 10 dental practices in Blaenau Gwent.

### **Access to Services**

#### *Number and distribution of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in bottom 10% of most deprived in terms of access to services*

Latest figures for the LSOAs in Wales include average travel times for using public transport to access services. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014 access to services domain results have demonstrated that there is a widespread deprivation across Wales and also particularly within rural areas in terms of access. Furthermore there are some deprived pockets near large urban areas.

Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Cardiff and Torfaen have no LSOAs in the most deprived 10%. The local authorities with the highest proportion of LSOAs in the most deprived 10% were Powys (46.8%) and Ceredigion (43.5%).

### **Community Facilities & Recreation**

Leisure centres are distributed throughout the Borough, one in each of the valley areas, offering swimming, sports courts and pitches: Abertillery; Ebbw Vale; and Tredegar. These centres are all operated by Aneurin Leisure Trust.

The Council owns and manages a number of parks and open spaces:

<p><b>Sirhowy Valley:</b> Bedwellty Park Tredegar Recreation Ground</p> <p><b>Ebbw Fawr Valley:</b> Beaufort Welfare Eugene Cross Park, Pantyfforest Park Hilltop Stadium Cwm Welfare Hall</p>	<p><b>Lower Ebbw Fach Valley:</b> Jim Owens Recreation Ground, Cwmtillery Woodland Park, Cwmtillery Park, Abertillery Abertillery Park Cwmnantygroes, Six Bells Park, Windsor Road, Six Bells Brynithel Recreation Ground, Swffryd Llanhilleth Park</p>
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<b>Upper Ebbw Fach Valley:</b> Brynmawr Welfare Brynmawr Recreation Ground Banna Park, Nantyglo Central Park, Blaina Pilgrims Park, Blaina Duffryn Park, Blaina	
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*Deficiency / surplus of provision against the standards*

The appropriate amount of recreational open space is assessed against the standard of 2.4 hectares per 1,000 population, which is the standard endorsed by Fields in Trust. The existing LDP included an annual monitoring target of working towards the FIT standard of 2.4 hectares from a current standard of 1.11 ha in 2009. The following figure shows that the provision of recreational open space per 1,000 population (FIT standard) has decreased from 1.11 ha in 2009 to 0.99 ha.

**Figure 46: Hectares of Recreational Open Space per 1000 Population (FIT Standard)**

Year	FIT Standard (ha)
2012	1.11
2014	1.05
2015	1.02
2016	1.02
2017	0.99
2018	0.99

Source: Blaenau Gwent Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2018

*Access to natural greenspace*

The evidence base for the first LDP included an Exogenesis Study (2007) which identified that 65% of the population in Blaenau Gwent live within 400m of their nearest green space. The Plan aimed to increase this to 80% through creating new open space, enhancing access to existing natural green space, managing existing green space for biodiversity, and removing barriers that prevent current access to natural green space. A number of projects of this nature has been undertaken and completed which is set out in detail in the Blaenau Gwent Annual Monitoring Reports.

Work is underway to update this work and will form part of the evidence base of the replacement plan.

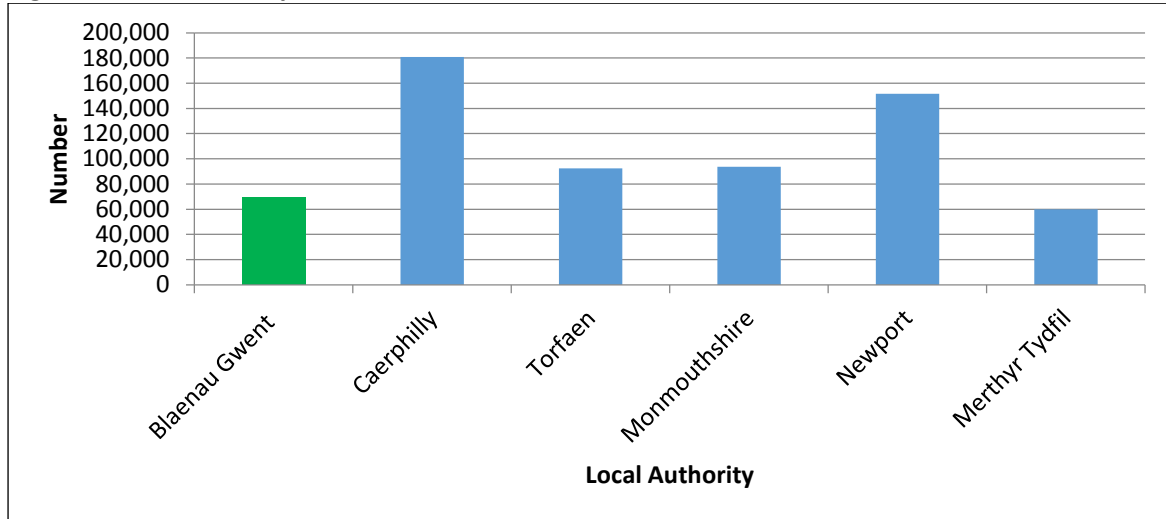
**There is a data gap in terms of efficiency and quality of these open spaces.**

## 4. A More Equal Wales

### Population

In 2017, the population of Blaenau Gwent was 69,600. Figure 56 shows the mid year estimate of the number of people usually resident across the Gwent local authorities in 2017. As can be seen Merthyr Tydfil is the smallest local authority followed by Blaenau Gwent.

**Figure 56: Resident Population 2017**



Source: Office for National Statistics

### Population Change

Historically, the overall population in Blaenau Gwent has fallen since it peaked in 1921. The 1921 Census showed a population over 125,000 people lived in the Blaenau Gwent Area, significantly above the current population. More recently the rate of decline has been more stable, falling by just 3.4% or 2,437 people in the 20 year period between the 1991 Census (72,251) and Census 2011 (69,814). The rate of decline in the ten year period between 2001 and 2011 was the lowest rate of decline in population over a ten year period since 1921.

**Figure 57: Population Change**

Year	Population	Population Loss %
1921	127,611	20
1931	106,030	17
1941	99,992	5.69
1951	94,342	5.65
1961	87,796	6.94
1971	81,712	6.93
1981	75,241	7.38
1991	72,918	3.09
2001	70,058	3.92
2011	69,814	0.35

Source: Census

**Figure 58: Resident Population by Ward in 2001 and 2011**

Ward			
	2001	2011	% Change
Abertillery	4,490	4,416	-1.65
Badminton	3,155	3,110	-1.43
Beaufort	3,876	3,866	-0.26
Blaina	4,830	4,808	-0.46
Brynmawr	5,599	5,530	-1.23
Cwm	4,350	4,295	-1.26
Cwmtillery	4,749	4,703	-0.97
Ebbw Vale North	4,745	4,561	-3.88
Ebbw Vale South	4,199	4,274	+1.79
Georgetown	3,491	3,410	-2.32
Llanhilleth	4,776	4,797	+0.44
Nantyglo	4,293	4,635	+7.97
Rassau	3,297	3,234	-1.91
Sirhowy	5,520	5,630	+1.99
Six Bells	2,648	2,482	-6.27
Tredegar Central & West	6,046	6,063	+0.28
	72,065	69,814	

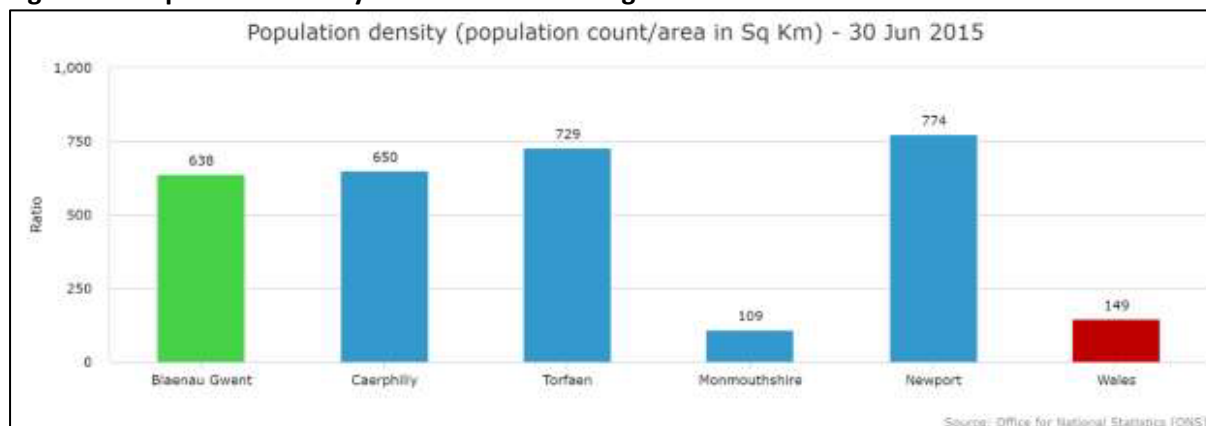
Source: Census

The above table shows the population change between 2001 and 2011. There has been a decrease in most of the wards (5 out of the 16). The highest growth was experienced in the Nantyglo ward (due to a large housing development) and the highest loss in the Six Bells ward.

### *Population Density*

Figure 59 below shows the population density across the Gwent region in 2015. The population density in Blaenau Gwent was 638 people per square kilometre, compared with 149 per square kilometre for Wales. Blaenau Gwent’s population density is similar to neighbouring areas, all of which are significantly above the Welsh average.

**Figure 59: Population Density across the Gwent Region in 2015**

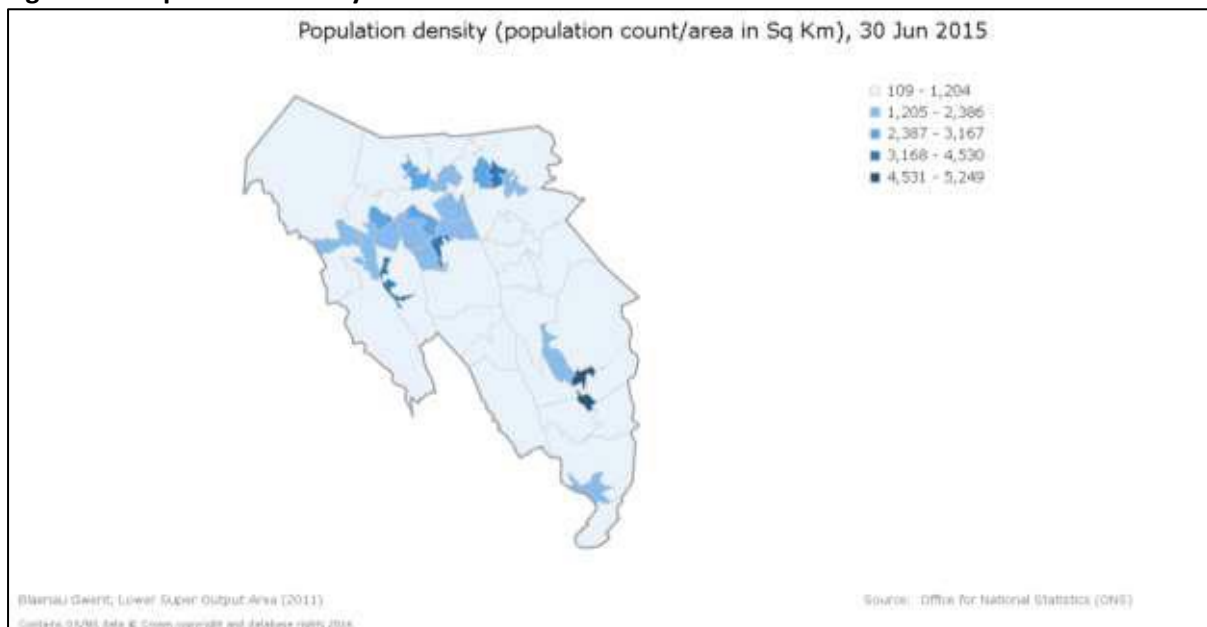


Source: Office for National Statistics



Figure 60 shows the population density of each of the 47 lower super output areas (LSOA) in Blaenau Gwent. The darker areas of the map represent those areas with a higher population density. Further analysis shows some area's population density levels to be similar to those in city areas.

**Figure 60: Population Density of the LSOAs**



Source: Office for National Statistics

### *Population by Gender*

As is the case across Wales and the UK, the 2015 mid-year estimates show that there are slightly more females (51%) than males (49%) in Blaenau Gwent. There is also little difference from the Welsh average when considering gender split across each of the key age bands, varying by no more than 2%.

### *Population by Age*

Blaenau Gwent, like the majority of places in the UK, has an overall population which is ageing. Generally, this is because less people are being born than before, and those people that are alive are living longer. The information below shows key trends in population by three distinct age groups (0-15, 16-64, and 65 and over):

- 17.5% of the population of Blaenau Gwent were aged 0-15 years in 2015, a slightly lower proportion than the 17.9% seen for Wales.
- The proportion of the people aged 0-15 is decreasing (2011, 17.9%).
- 63.1% of the population were aged 16-64 years in Blaenau Gwent in 2015, which was the highest proportion of all the local authority areas in the Gwent region and above the Wales rate which was 61.9%
- The proportion of people aged 16-64 is decreasing (2011, 64.2%)
- 19.5% of the population were aged 65 years or over in the (Blaenau Gwent) Gwent region on 30 June 2015. This compares with 20.2% for Wales.

- The proportion of people aged 65 and over is increasing although is below the Welsh average (2011, 17.9%).

**Figure 61: Components of Population Change (2001-2016)**

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	2002	2005	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Natural Change	-262	-203	-198	-110	-21	-123	26	-8	34	-47	-18	-8	60	-48	-57
Net internal Migration	-359	-109	132	-17	252	-5	-67	-162	-206	-120	19	-103	-214	-96	66
Net external migration	-5	-14	-21	-35	66	76	46	26	-45	18	-15	46	45	59	70

Source: Components of population change, by local authority and component Stats Wales

### *Natural Change*

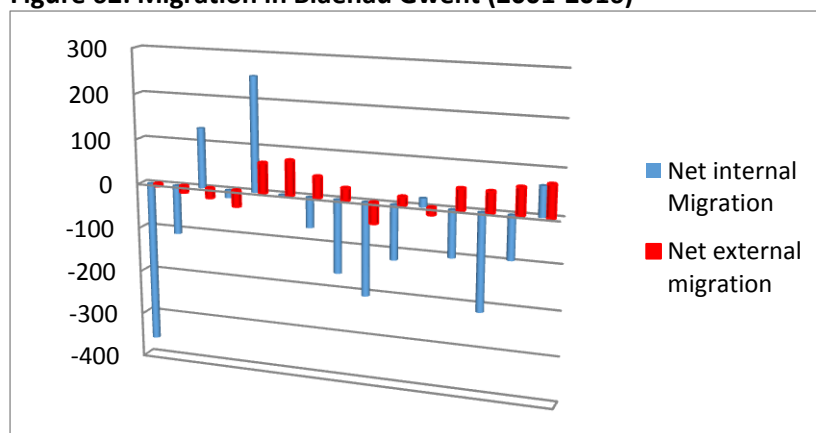
Natural change is the difference between births and deaths. In the period 2001-2007 deaths far exceeded births and as a result there were net losses in the hundreds. Since 2007 there has been a marked improvement with figures being positive for three years and with losses not exceeding 57 in others. This has been due to a general increase in births and a decline in deaths.

### *Migration*

Net internal migration has fluctuated from a high loss of 359 in 2001-2002 to a gain of 252 in 2006-2007 then a loss – peaking in 2009-2010 followed by a general recovery. Internal migration figures have generally been between one and two thousand.

Net external migration has played a lesser role with losses increasing from -5 in 2001 to -35 in 2005. This has been followed by a period of gains with the exception of 2011-2012. The figures are generally in the tens and hundreds rather than thousands.

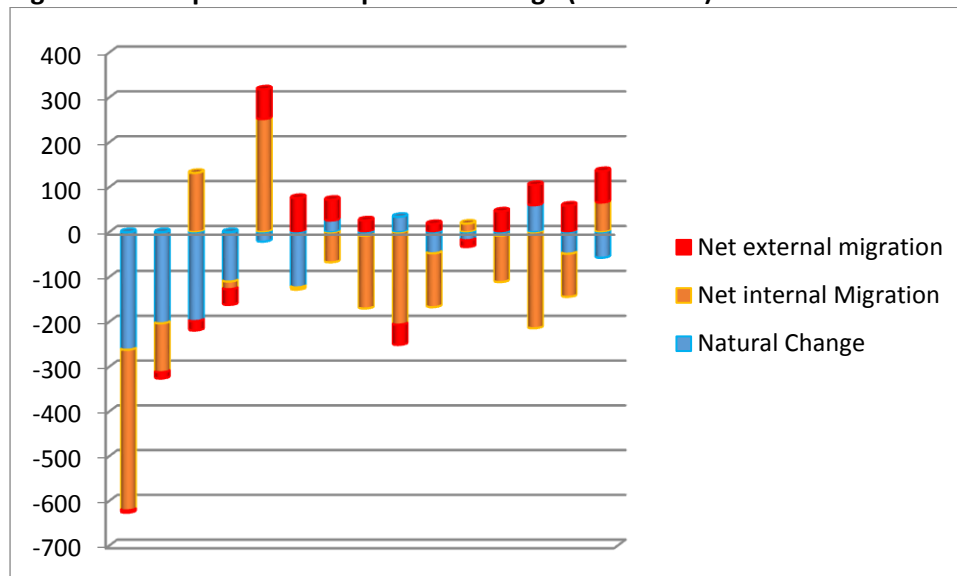
**Figure 62: Migration in Blaenau Gwent (2001-2016)**



Source: Stats Wales

Figure 63 below identifies that from 2001 to 2007 natural change played a significant part in population loss. However, the biggest contributor to change is net internal migration with losses of 100-300 on a number of occasions. The overall trend has changed from large net losses (over 600 a year) to increases of 100 a year. The population of Blaenau Gwent appears to be stabilising.

**Figure 63: Components of Population Change (2001-2016)**



Source: StatsWales

### *Disability*

Statistics from the Annual Population Survey (June 2016) shows that Blaenau Gwent continues to have significantly above average levels of disability with a total of 31.6% of working age people being defined as disabled (economically active core or work limiting disabled) compared to 22.8% for Wales.

These comparatively high levels of disability in Blaenau Gwent leads to a high proportion of people claiming disability related benefits, with 12.0% of working aged people in Blaenau Gwent claiming EAS or Incapacity Benefit, compared to 8.4% across Wales (May 2016).

### *Religion and Belief*

The 2011 Census showed that half of the people in Blaenau Gwent stated their religion to be a Christian (50%), below the Welsh average of 59%. This has shown a notable decrease since the 2001 Census, with respective levels of 64% and 71%. Just over 1% of people in Blaenau Gwent stated that they were of another religion such as Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish and Sikh. Just over 41% of the Blaenau Gwent population stated they have no religion, above the Welsh average of 37%. This is a notable increase compared to 2001, with respective levels of 25% and 19%. A further 8% of people in Blaenau Gwent did not state their religion.

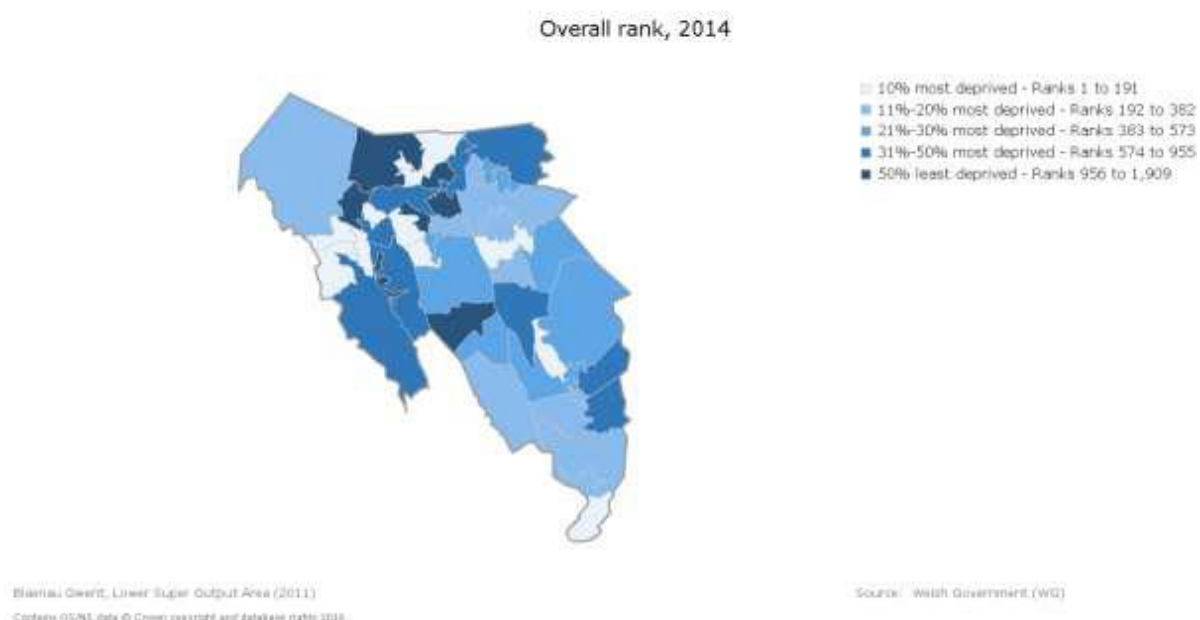
## 5.0 A Wales of Cohesive Communities

### Multiple Deprivation

Figure 64 below shows the rank of the 2014 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) which captures the extent of deprivation relating to a number of factors and focuses on the proportion of residents in each lower super output area (LSOA) and their level of deprivation.

The overall index provides a single figure that represents the combination of the eight domains of deprivation within the WIMD. The eight domains are: income; employment; health; education; skills and training; geographical access to services; housing; physical environment; and community safety. The darker areas of the map represent those areas with a higher percentage of the population in deprivation.

**Figure 64: Blaenau Gwent Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014**



Source: Welsh Government

Blaenau Gwent is the area in Wales with the highest percentage of LSOAs in the most deprived 10% (23.4%). When considering the individual domains for the area, Blaenau Gwent had the highest percentage of LSOAs in the most deprived 10% in Wales, for income (19.1%), education (27.7%), and community safety (23.4%).

### Housing

There are 32,367 dwellings in Blaenau Gwent. 4.8% (Census 2011) are vacant, which is above the Welsh average of 4%, but this has decreased since 2001, where it stood at 6% (Census 2001).

**Figure 65: Household Tenure 2011**

Household Tenure	Blaenau Gwent	Wales
<b>Owner occupied households</b>	<b>62.1%</b>	<b>67.7%</b>
Own outright	32.9%	35.4%
Owns with mortgage or loan	29.1%	32.0%
Shared ownership	0.1%	0.3%
<b>Rented Households</b>	<b>36.8%</b>	<b>30.6%</b>
Social Rented	24.0%	16.5%
Private Rented	12.8%	14.1%

Source: Census 2011

At the time of the 2011 census, 62.1% of households in Blaenau Gwent were living in owner occupied accommodation which is largely unchanged since 2001 and is less than Wales. The percentage of rented households in Blaenau Gwent is higher than that of Wales. The marked difference is the higher percentage of social rented households in Blaenau Gwent than Wales, 24.0% and 16.5% respectively. Blaenau Gwent transferred its stock of council accommodation to Tai Calon in 2010. The number of people renting from a private landlord has risen significantly from 6.1% in 2001 to 12.8% in 2011.

A large percentage of dwellings are terraced properties (average 52%) though there is considerable variation across the area – for example, 74% in Abertillery compared with 21.5% in Rassau.

**Figure 66: Household Type**

Household Type	Blaenau Gwent	Wales
Detached house / bungalow	11.0%	27.7%
Semi-detached house / bungalow	26.7%	31.0%
Terraced house (including end terrace)	52.2%	27.8%
Purpose built flats/tenement	8.0%	9.6%
Converted/shared house	0.9%	2.4%
Flat in commercial building	1.2%	1.0%
Caravans/mobile home etc	0.1%	0.4%

Source: Census 2011

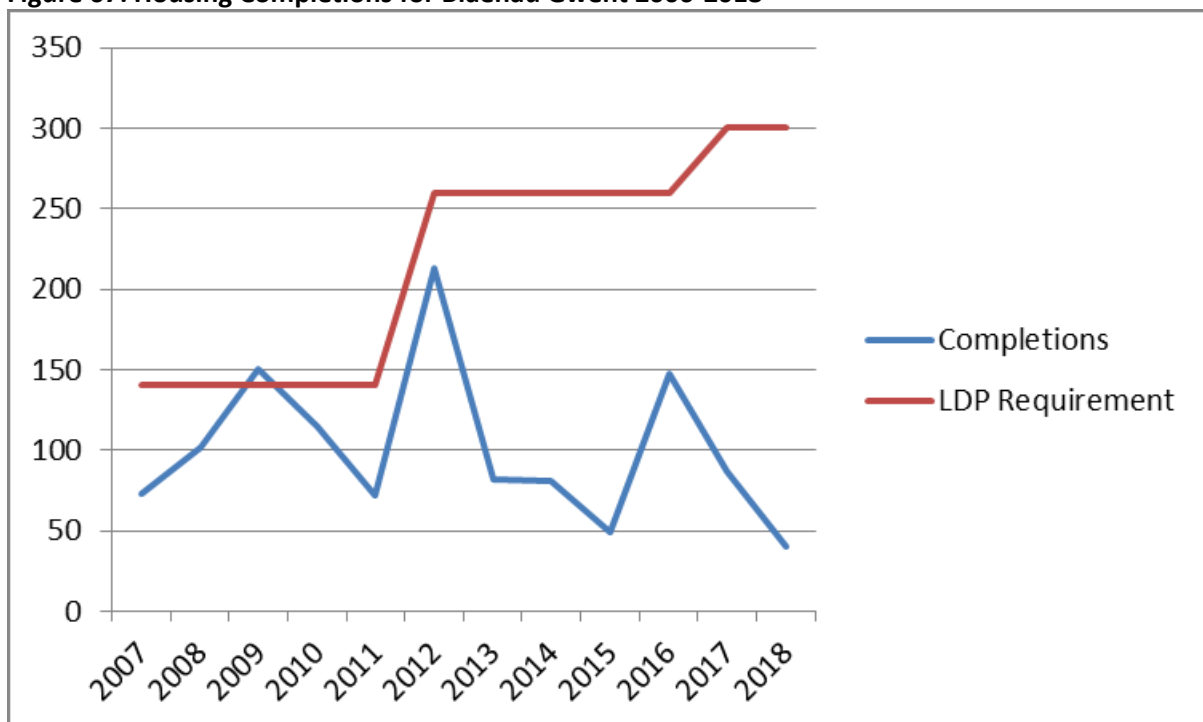
The average household size has remained at 2.3 as shown in the 2001 and 2011 Census. This is also true of the average number of rooms per household which was 5.14 (2001) and 5.2 (2011). The average household size is similar to that of the Welsh average. However, the average number of rooms is slightly less than the Welsh average.

In 2017, 83.3% of housing in Blaenau Gwent is within council tax bands A and B, which is an increase of 0.96% since 2000. 0.206% of housing in Blaenau Gwent is within council tax bands G & H. This suggests that the overall size and quality of housing stock in the County Borough is relatively modest, particularly in the regional context.

### Housing Completions

House building completions in Blaenau Gwent have been erratic since 2006 due in part to a greater reliance on completions from the social sector where schemes tend to be completed at one point. 2018 saw the lowest completion figure so far. Overall completions have been much lower than expected due to a distinct shortage of national builders operating in Blaenau Gwent. At present there is only one national builder operating in Blaenau Gwent and that is Davies Homes, at Bedwellty Gardens in Tredegar. The contribution from small sites to completions increased to 18 in 2018 but this is still the third lowest figure recorded. Overall completions were below the 140 per annum expected by the LDP for the period between 2006-2011, fell well below the 260 expected between 2011 and 2016; and are well below the 300 expected between 2017-2021 (see Figure 67 below).

**Figure 67: Housing Completions for Blaenau Gwent 2006-2018**

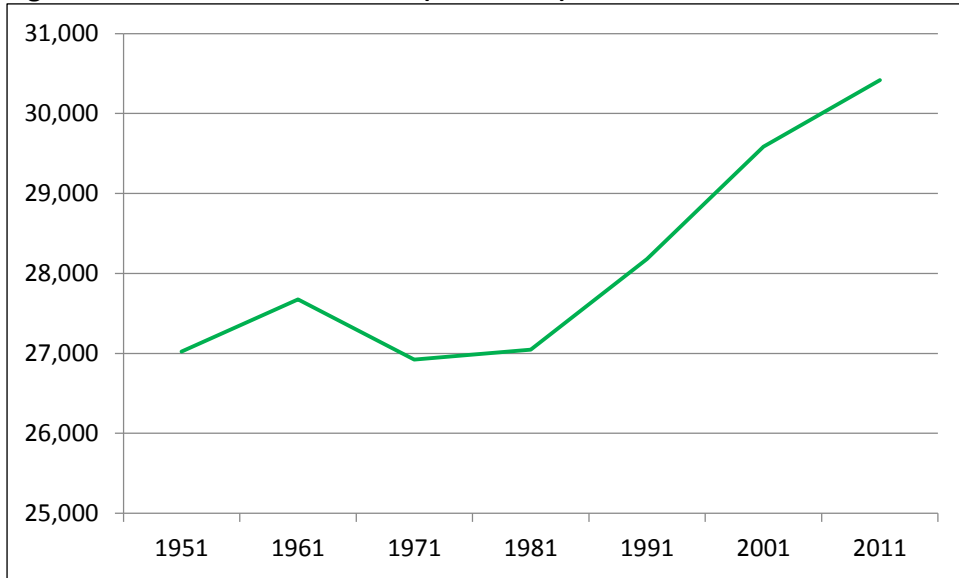


Source: Blaenau Gwent Annual Monitoring Report (2017-18)

### Number of Households

Since 1981 the number of households has increased from 27,000 to over 30,000 though population levels have fallen from over 75,000 to under 70,000 (see Figure 57). This can be explained by a decrease in the average household size.

**Figure 68: Number of Households (1951-2011)**



Source: "A Vision of Britain through time"

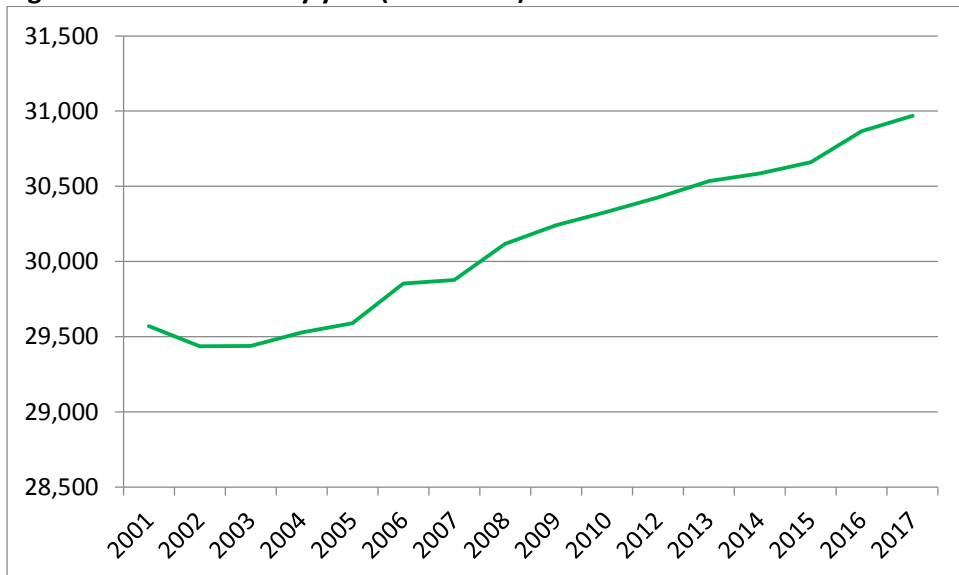
More recently the number of households has increased steadily since 2007 with increases of over 200 per annum in 2008 and 2016.

**Figure 69: Households by year**

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	12	13	14	15	16	17
Change	-133	3	88	62	264	24	240	123	91	95	109	50	75	207	102	

Source: StatsWales

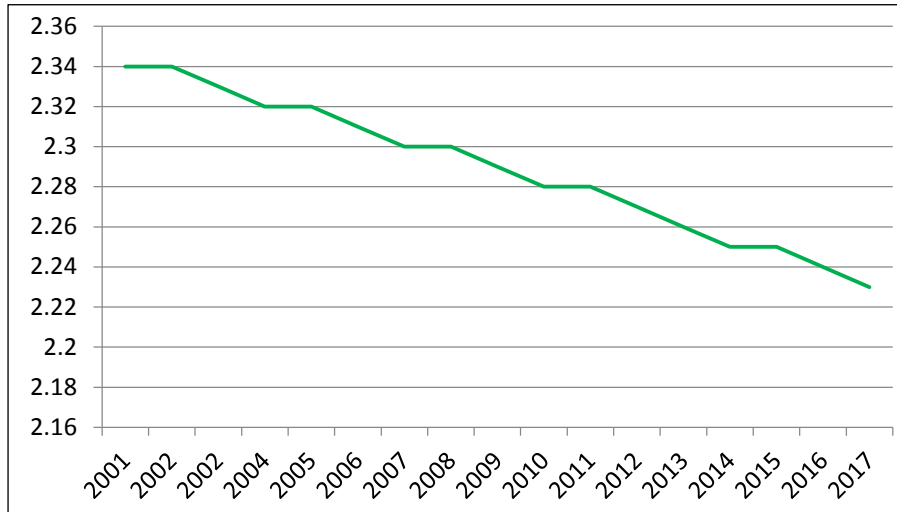
**Figure 70: Households by year (2001-2017)**



Source Stats Wales

Figure 71 below shows how the household size has decreased between 2001 and 2017. This downward trend is expected to level though current Welsh Government projections predicts that this downward trend will continue to fall at this rate and will reach 2.138 by 2033.

**Figure 71: Average household size 2001-2017**

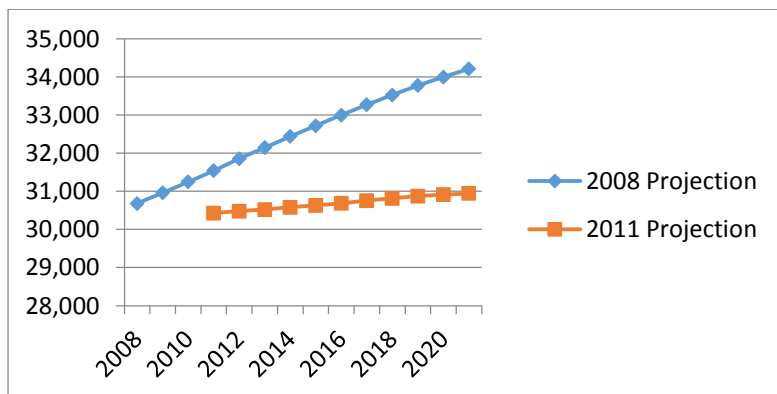


Source: StatsWales

The Welsh Government’s 2008 based projections anticipate an additional 84,000 households being formed across South East Wales by 2021, this represents a 14% growth over the household level at 2011. In Blaenau Gwent the projections indicate an additional 2,668 households over the same period, a growth of 8%.

Welsh Governments 2014 based projections suggest a totally different story with the 2008 projected figure not being met. Instead they identify that there will only be a 1% level of growth achieved between 2011 and 2021 and that by 2031, there will be only a 0.5% growth in households. The reality lies somewhere between these two projections.

**Figure 72: Welsh Government Household Projections**



Source: StatsWales

*Housing Land Availability*

**Figure 73: Housing Land Availability**

2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
8.9	7.9	7.6	7.6	3.3	2.57	2.01	1.35	1.28

Source: Blaenau Gwent Housing Land Availability Study



There is a requirement under TAN 1, Joint Housing Land Availability Studies, that Local Authorities maintain a 5 year land supply. The Figure above shows that since the adoption of the Plan Blaenau Gwent has failed to have a 5-year supply of land.

### Condition of Housing Stock

The 2011 Census did not collect data in relation to the quality of housing stock (fit for habitation). In terms of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard, Figure 74 below sets out the number of Registered Social Landlord (RSL) properties that are WHQS compliant.

**Figure 74: Condition of Registered Social Landlord Properties**

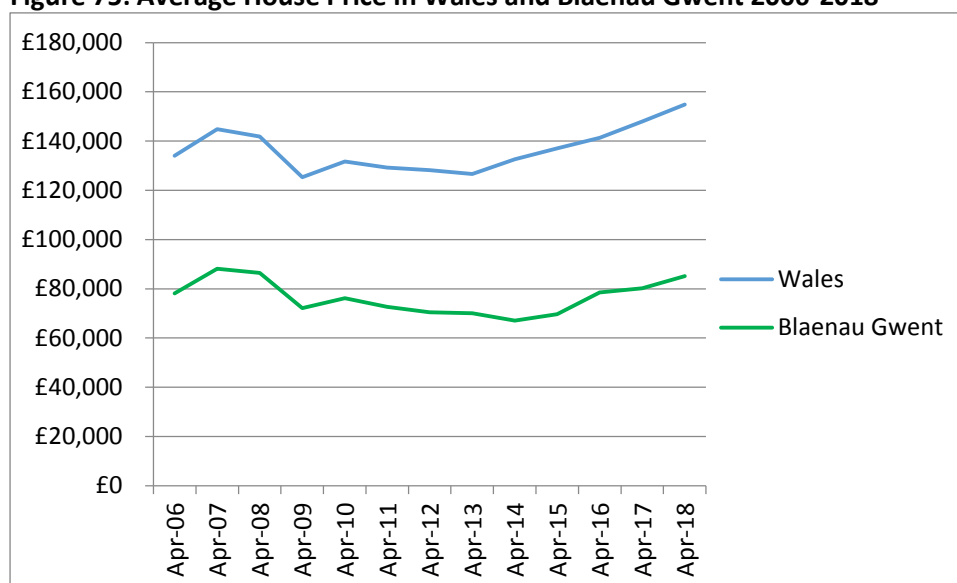
Registered Social Landlord	Number of Properties	% WHQS Compliant
United Welsh	980	99.7%
Melin	364	100%
Linc Cymru	585	100%
Tai Calon	6,099	100%

Source: Blaenau Gwent Annual Monitoring Report 2017-18

### Affordability

According to the Land Registry, in April 2018 the average house price in Wales was £154,835 whereas the average house price in Blaenau Gwent was £85,128. As can be seen from Figure 75, house prices in Blaenau Gwent are well below the Wales average. Blaenau Gwent house prices have failed to rise in line with Wales and so the gap between Blaenau Gwent and Wales increased to its widest yet (£69,707). This disparity in house price is partly a reflection of the lack of new homes being built as new houses normally command higher prices.

**Figure 75: Average House Price in Wales and Blaenau Gwent 2006-2018**



Source: Blaenau Gwent Annual Monitoring Report 2017-18

Figure 76 illustrates the average price of different types of property in the surrounding regions. The average property prices relate to June 2017, whilst the percentage sales figures relate to the period January 2017 to December 2017. Monmouthshire has the second highest average house price and in 2017, the largest proportion of property sales were accounted for by detached houses.

**Figure 76: Average property prices**

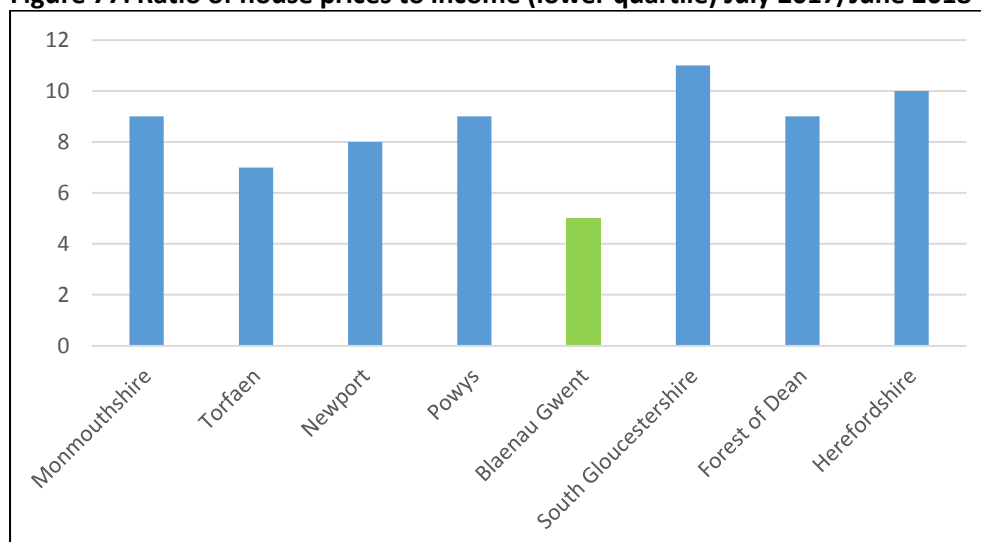
	Detached	Semi-detached	Terraced	Flat/Maisonette	Overall
Monmouthshire Av £	358,216	201,180	190,425	149,378	273,523
% Sales	47.9	24.4	20.4	7.3	
Torfaen Av £	242,158	143,417	107,514	76,239	155,146
% Sales	28.5	25.9	42	3.6	
Newport Av £	291,609	169,661	131,717	101,357	179,125
% Sales	24	28	33.9	14.1	
Powys Av £	259,871	161,618	133,722	125,596	206,076
% Sales	53.1	23	21.6	2.4	
Blaenau Gwent Av £	190,482	115,333	74,561	58,913	99,273
% Sales	14.1	19.2	64.7	2.1	

Source: Hometrack

### *Affordability*

Figure 77 below shows the affordability of housing in Blaenau Gwent compared to surrounding authorities in both Wales and England. That is the property price as a multiple of the annual income of the resident population. Blaenau Gwent is the most affordable of the areas.

**Figure 77: Ratio of house prices to income (lower quartile) July 2017/June 2018**



Source: Hometrack

## Energy efficiency

Blaenau Gwent ranks second in Wales for households that have central heating (99.2% up from 97% in 2001).

In 2014, 535 megawatt hours of domestic gas and electricity were consumed in Blaenau Gwent. This figure has decreased by 17 since 2013. Blaenau Gwent households have consistently used less energy than the Wales average since records began in 2010, though it is important to think about whether this is linked to fuel poverty.

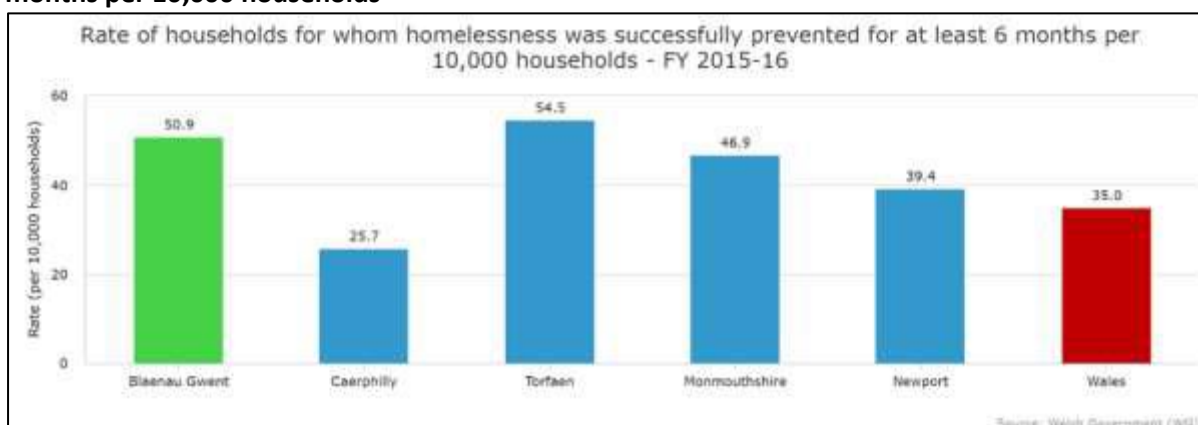
## Gypsy and traveller accommodation

There are currently 20 Local Authority authorised gypsy and traveller pitches with a further 4 on a private gypsy and traveller site. Local Authorities have a duty to undertake gypsy and traveller accommodation assessments under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. The latest assessment for Blaenau Gwent (2015) identified the need for a further 12 pitches up to 2021.

## Homelessness

Blaenau Gwent has above the Wales average for the number of homeless people decided to be eligible and in priority rate (4.77 compared to 3.89). It is also the highest in Wales for the number of households assessed as threatened with homelessness within 56 days (86.7 per 10,000 households, compared with the Wales average of 53.7). However, in 2015/16, the rate of households for whom homelessness was successfully prevented (for at least 6 months per 10,000 households) was 51%. This is high compared to other local authorities in the region, where the lowest was 26%. The Wales average for the same period is 35%.

**Figure 78: Rate of households for whom homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months per 10,000 households**



Source: Welsh Government

## Crime

The Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment covers crime in Blaenau Gwent (2016) and identifies that total crime in Blaenau Gwent has increased by 6% over the calendar year

period of 2016. The 4,895 offences account for 12.5% of all crime in Gwent and translate to a crime rate of 70.96 crimes per 1000 population which remains above Gwent's average (68.33).

Blaenau-Gwent saw a significant reduction in antisocial behaviour (ASB) incidents during 2016 i.e. - 15% or 546 fewer incidents. The 3,181 incidents account for 14% of all ASB incidents in Gwent and translate to a rate of 45.58 per 1000 population which remains above Gwent's average (38.65).

The figure below shows a breakdown of crime by the areas within Blaenau Gwent.

**Figure 79: Crime Levels by Area**

Area	Jan-15 to Dec-15	Jan-16 to Dec-16	Daily Avg (Prev)	Daily Avg (Latest)	Rate per 1,000	Year End Diff	% Chg from Last Year	Pop Est	Proportion
B/Gwent	4613	4895	12.6	13.4	70.140	282	6.1%	69,789	
Abertillery	952	1037	2.6	2.8	63.596	85	8.9%	16,306	21.2%
Brynmawr	1004	1174	2.8	3.2	79.009	107	16.9%	14,859	24.0%
Ebbw Vale	1553	1677	4.3	4.6	71.746	124	8.0%	23,374	34.3%
Tredegar	1104	1007	3.0	2.8	66.033	-97	-8.8%	15,250	20.6%

Source: Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment

With the exception of Tredegar who experienced a 9% reduction, all other areas saw increases, in particular Brynmawr saw a 17% increase. In terms of Crimes per 1000 population, Brynmawr (79) and Ebbw Vale (72) are now the highest areas and impact upon Blaenau Gwent's overall rate of 71. At ward level, the areas that had most impact upon Brynmawr's significant increase were Blaina (+28%) and Nantyglo (+19%). In both areas, there were significant increases in Criminal Damage & Arson, Violence and Acquisitive crime offences.

The table below shows total crime in Blaenau Gwent split by crime type. Priority crimes in terms of volume remain as criminal damage and arson and violent offences.

**Figure 80: Crime by Offence Group**

Area	Jan 15 – Dec 15	Jan 16 – Dec 16	Rate per 1,000	Year End Difference	% Change from last year	Pop Est	Proportion
Criminal damage and arson	1058	1097	15.719	39	3.7%	69,789	22.4%
Violence without injury	628	845	12.108	217	34.6%	69,789	17.3%
Violence with injury	524	550	7.881	26	5.0%	69,789	11.2%
All other theft	525	517	7.408	-8	-1.5%	69,789	10.6%
Vehicle crime	454	464	6.649	10	2.2%	69,789	9.5%
Burglary – non dwelling	316	342	4.900	26	8.2%	69,789	7.0%
Shoplifting	287	270	3.869	-17	-5.9%	69,789	5.5%

Public order offences	206	230	3.296	24	<b>11.7%</b>	69,789	4.7%
Burglary – dwelling	193	196	6.444	3	<b>1.6%</b>	30,416	4.0%
Drug offences	168	100	1.433	-68	<b>-40.5%</b>	69,789	2.0%
Misc crimes against society	95	100	1.433	5	<b>5.3%</b>	69,789	2.0%
Other sexual offences	68	81	1.161	13	<b>19.1%</b>	69,789	1.7%
Rape	35	24	0.344	-11	<b>-31.4%</b>	69,789	0.5%
Possession of weapons	12	24	0.344	12	<b>100.0%</b>	69,789	0.5%
Bicycle theft	17	20	0.287	3	<b>17.6%</b>	69,789	0.4%
Theft from the person	17	14	0.201	-3	<b>-17.6%</b>	69,789	0.3%
Robbery	10	11	0.158	1	<b>10.0%</b>	69,789	0.2%
Homicide	0	0	0.000	0	<b>0.0%</b>	69,789	0.0%

Source: Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment

Crimes that have seen a notable increase over the year are violence without injury (+217 crimes, +35%) and other sexual offences (+13 crimes, +19%). Other notable increases, albeit small numbers were in possession of weapons having doubled (from 12 to 24), and bicycle theft (from 17 to 20).

## Accessibility

### Road

Figure 81: Road Length by Road Class 2017/18 (KM)

Location	Motorway	Trunk	County	B & C road	Minor surfaced
Blaenau Gwent	0	9.6	45.2	66.6	389.7
Monmouthshire	21.5	101.8	58.7	610.1	839
Newport	25.2	8.8	51.3	189.1	414.8
Torfaen	0	14	26.3	101.6	314
Powys	0	430.6	238.2	2,706.1	2,126.8
Wales	133	1,576.3	2,762.9	12,854.3	17,085

Source: StatsWales

The area's principal road system provides A-road access to the motorway network (the M4, M5 and M50) and combined with the A470 and A465 Heads of the Valley roads, connects the area with the South East, South West, Midlands and London. Online improvements between the peripheral distributor road and the A465; and the dualling of the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road Tredegar to Brynmawr have been complete. Construction is currently underway for section 2 of the Heads of the Valleys dualling improvements to A465 Gilwern to Brynmawr.

## Volume of Traffic

**Figure 82: Volume of Traffic (Million Vehicle Kilometres)**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	+/- %
Blaenau Gwent	392	397	395	396	400	425	435	411	+4.8
Newport	1,747	1,787	1,762	1,767	1,861	1,904	1,941	1,949	+11.6
Torfaen	604	603	593	581	609	618	634	615	+1.8
Powys	1,462	1,453	1,432	1,459	1,506	1,540	1,596	1,609	+10
S E Wales	12,595	12,663	12,642	12,663	13,145	13,388	13,667	13,451	+6.8
Wales	26,977	26,931	26,762	26,999	27,894	28,396	29,170	29,084	+7.7

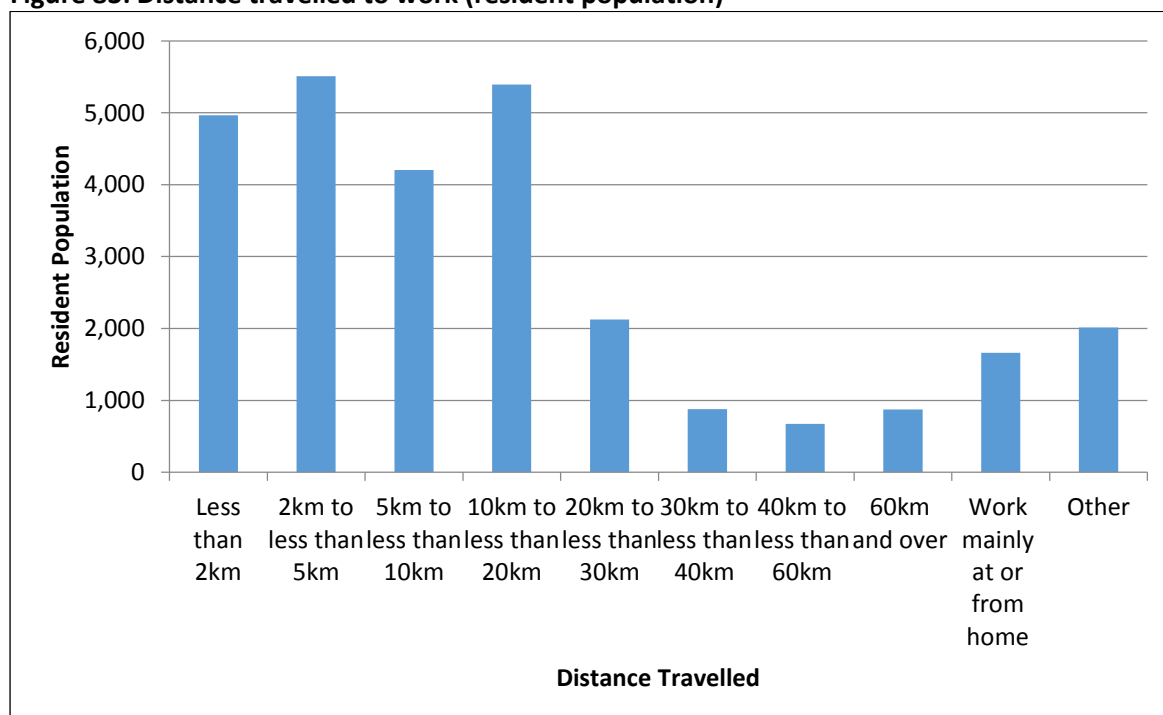
Source: Department of Transport (Welsh Transport Statistics 2011)

The net volume of traffic since 2010 has increased throughout Wales, where the largest increase in the period was seen in Newport. In 2017, the South East Wales area accounted for 46% of the volume of traffic in Wales. There has been an increase in traffic volume of 4.8% since 2010 in Blaenau Gwent which could reflect the road improvements to the area.

## Travel to Work

In terms of travel distances to work, the majority of the population travel less than 10 km commuting distance. This is typical of Wales as a whole.

**Figure 83: Distance travelled to work (resident population)**

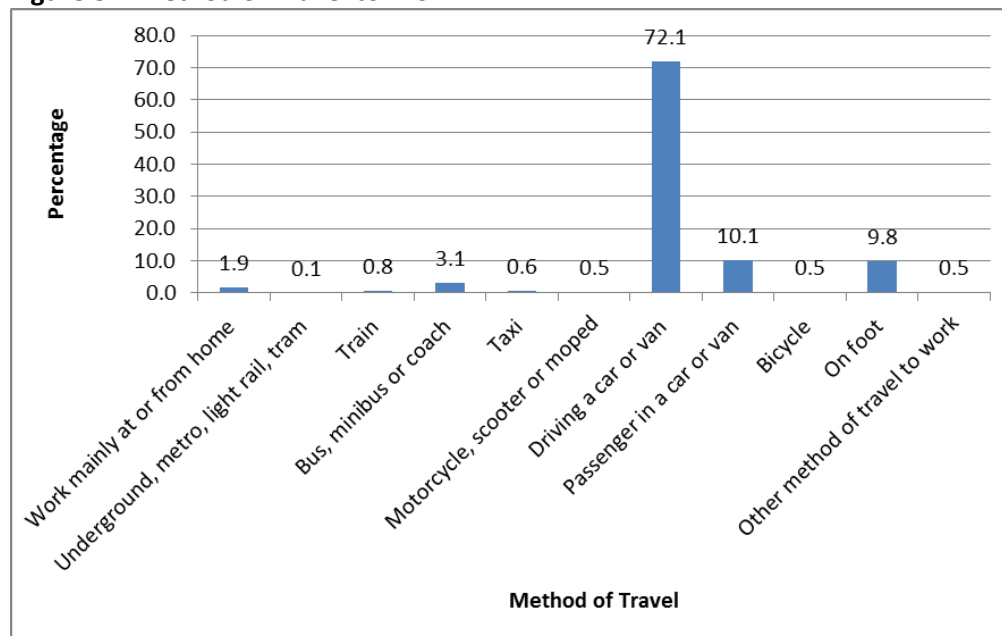


Source: Census 2011

## Mode of Travel

72.1% of the County Borough's population (Census 2011) relies on the private car for their work journey, with only 9.8% of the population walking and 0.5% cycling to work.

**Figure 84: Method of Travel to Work**



Source: Census 2011

In terms of car ownership there has been an increase in the total number of vehicles owned by households in Blaenau Gwent since 2001. In particular there are now more households owning 2 cars or vans than in 2001, an increase of 4.6%. The number of households without a car remains higher than Wales but has fallen from 35.1% in 2001 to 28.9% in 2011.

## Bus

The following list identifies the main bus services that currently operate within Blaenau Gwent:

Service	Route and Timings	Operator
X4	Cardiff-Merthyr-Tredegar-Ebbw Vale-Brynmawr-Abergavenny-Herford (2 hourly to Hereford every 30mins at busy times and hourly throughout the rest of the day to Abergavenny)	Stagecoach
X15	Brynmawr-Abertillery-Newport (every 30 mins at busy times and hourly service for the rest of the day)	Stagecoach
E2	Ebbw Vale-Hilltop (circular every 30mins)	Stagecoach
E3	Brynmawr-Abertillery-Ebbw Vale-Garnlydan (hourly service)	Stagecoach
E4	Ebbw Vale-Garnlydan (every 30 mins)	Stagecoach
E11	Tredegar Peacehaven-Ebbw Vale (hourly service)	Harris Coaches
E12	Tredegar-Dukestown (hourly)	Harris Coaches
E14	Tredegar-Gwent Way (hourly service)	Harris

		Coaches
4	Tredegar – Cefn Golau-Rhymney – Pontlottyn and Ystrad Ysbyty Fawr (hourly service)	Harris & Stagecoach
20	Tredegar – Waundeg-Rhymney Station (30 mins at busy times otherwise hourly service)	Harris Coaches
52	Abertillery-Newbridge-Blackwood (every hourly service)	Stagecoach
56	Tredegar-Blackwood-Newport (30 mins at busy times otherwise hourly)	Stagecoach
3/S	Abergavenny-Gilwern-Brynmawr (4 services a day)	Stagecoach
1	Abertillery-Cwmtillery-Brynithel-Hillcrest-Abertillery (hourly service)	Henleys Bus Service
3	Abertillery-Arael View (every 30 mins)	Henleys Bus Service
X1	Brynmawr-Abertillery-Pontypool-Cwmbran (hourly)	Phil Anslow
31	Brynmawr to Forgeside (hourly)	Phil Anslow

During weekdays and on Saturdays, the current frequency of bus services between hubs varies between 2 and 4 per hour which is considered a limited service. Sunday service also remains limited. A further issue identified in the Well-being plan engagement related to the lack of bus routes to the main employment areas in Blaenau Gwent.

### *Rail*

The Ebbw Vale Parkway railway opened in February 2008 and provides an hourly service to Cardiff from Ebbw Vale. Intermediate stations are Ebbw Vale Parkway, Llanhilleth, Newbridge, Crosskeys, Risca, Pontymister, Rogerstone and Pye Corner. A dedicated feeder bus service links the Abertillery town centre from Llanhilleth. Actual passenger numbers greatly exceed forecasts. In 2002, passenger journeys were forecast at 22,000 per month. Whereas by 2008, 44,000 journeys had been made on the service each month; also exceeding the monthly target of 33,000 set for 2012. Plans are underway to increase the service to two trains per hour.

In May 2015, the Ebbw Vale town station extension opened in May 2015 and provided an extension from the existing terminus at Ebbw Vale Parkway to the new station at the Ebbw Vale town. Ebbw Vale town railway station serves the town centre of Ebbw Vale.

These stations offer good interchange opportunities with local bus services. The X4 and E3 bus routes connect the railway stations in Ebbw Vale with the settlements of Tredegar, Brynmawr, Nantyglo and Blaina and Abertillery.

### *Airport*

The nearest airports to Blaenau Gwent are Cardiff International, Bristol and Birmingham. Locals are largely reliant on private transport or taxi services to access the airports. However



access to the Cardiff airport can be achieved via public transport through the rail link from Ebbw Vale to Cardiff Central and the Cardiff airbus.

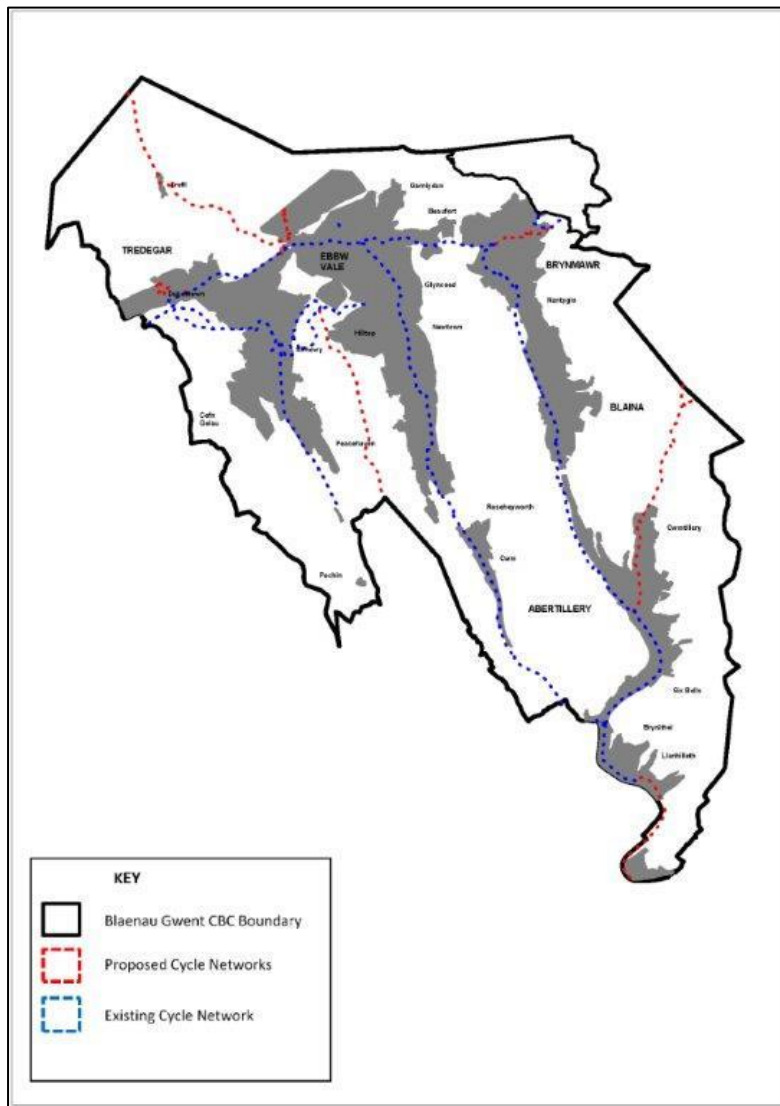
### *Public Rights of Way*

The total length of public rights of way network in Blaenau Gwent is 301,392 metres. In 2017-18, 80.9% of this network is available to the general public to use, which equates to 243,805 metres. Some of the areas of the public rights of way have been temporarily closed due to the heads of the valleys road construction works.

### *Cycle Routes*

Figure 85 below shows the existing cycle networks within Blaenau Gwent and those that are proposed. The Blaenau Gwent Annual Monitoring Report (2017-18) identifies that the percentage of the population within 1km of the cycle network is 96%.

**Figure 85: Existing and Proposed Cycle Networks**



Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

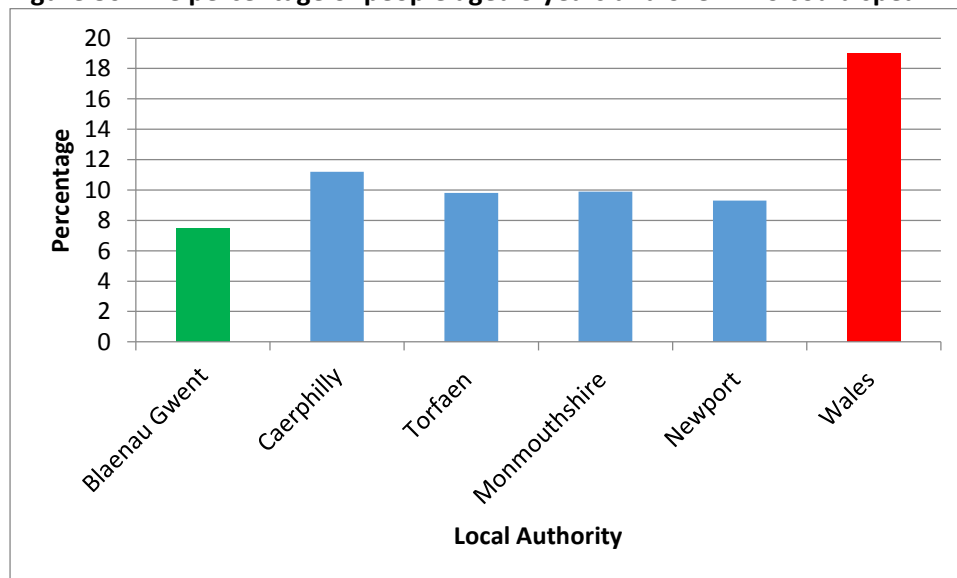
## 6.0 A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language

### Cultural Heritage

#### Welsh Language

Figure 86 below shows the percentage of people aged 3 years and over who could speak Welsh. In 2011, the percentage of people aged 3 years and over who could speak Welsh in the Gwent region was 9.9%, compared to 19.0% for Wales. Blaenau Gwent had the lowest percentage of its population aged 3 years and over who could speak Welsh at 7.8% across the Gwent region. This means that only 5,000 people in the area can speak Welsh.

**Figure 86: The percentage of people aged 3 years and over who could speak Welsh**



Source: Census 2011

As well as having low levels of Welsh speakers, information suggests that those that do consider themselves to be able to speak Welsh still do not use the language on a regular basis. The Annual Population Survey shows that in Blaenau Gwent only 2% of people aged 16 years or over speak Welsh daily, compared to 10% for Wales overall.

In Blaenau Gwent there was a small percentage increase of people aged 3 years and over who could speak Welsh between the 2001 Census and the 2011 Census 1.7%. This pattern was witnessed across Wales overall. However, the people who can speak Welsh have risen significantly since 1991 when just 2.2% of the population or around 1,500 of people were Welsh speaking.

The rise in the number of people who speak Welsh between 1991 and 2011 can be directly correlated to the change in national education policy in Wales where teaching of Welsh language to key stage 4 was made compulsory in all English medium schooling in Wales from 1999. As a consequence it is not surprising that children and young people account for the highest number of Welsh speakers in Blaenau Gwent, a pattern which is mirrored across Wales.

The Census 2011 shows that although there are higher levels of Welsh language ability in those aged 0-15 (31% are able to speak Welsh), only 5% of people aged 16-64 are able to speak Welsh and 1% of people aged 65 and over are able to speak Welsh.

Consideration of Welsh Language Speakers by neighbourhood areas show that Blaenau Gwent does not have any distinctive pockets of Welsh language speakers, with levels being generally consistent across the area.

When considering by small geographical areas (MSOAs), the highest number of Welsh language speakers was Nantyglo and Blaina (8.6%) and the area with the lowest number of Welsh language speakers was central Ebbw Vale (7%).

There is one Welsh medium primary school in Blaenau Gwent, namely: Ysgol Bro Helyg, Blaina. There are no Welsh secondary schools. The closest Welsh secondary school is Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw which is located in the adjoining authority of Torfaen.

### **Ethnic Diversity**

The 2011 Census statistics showed Blaenau Gwent's Black and Ethnic Minority population to be just under 1,900. This equates to 2.6% of the total population and well below the Welsh average of 6.7%. In 2001, the percentage of people in Blaenau Gwent from minority ethnic groups was 1.8%, approximately 1,300 people which shows a notable increase from 2001 to 2011. Even so, Blaenau Gwent still has one of the lowest levels of people from minority ethnic groups in England and Wales.

### **Historic Environment**

Many of Blaenau Gwent's important buildings, archaeological remains and open spaces are protected in order to preserve their special character.

#### *Conservation Areas*

Blaenau Gwent has one conservation area located in Tredegar. The boundary of the conservation area in Bedwellty House and Park has been extended to include the southern end of Tredegar town centre including The Circle and Castle Street.

#### *Historic Parks and Gardens*

Cadw, in association with the International Council on Monuments and Sites and the former Countryside Council for Wales, has prepared a Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. The register has been prepared in two parts. The first part covering historic parks and gardens lists Bedwellty Park, Tredegar. The designation is given to parks and gardens for their historic interest, contents and features, condition, and historical associations. They are graded on a similar grading system to listed buildings and Bedwellty Park is evaluated as Grade II.

## Historic Landscape

In Wales, the most important and best surviving historic landscapes have been identified on the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. The register identifies two types of historic landscape:

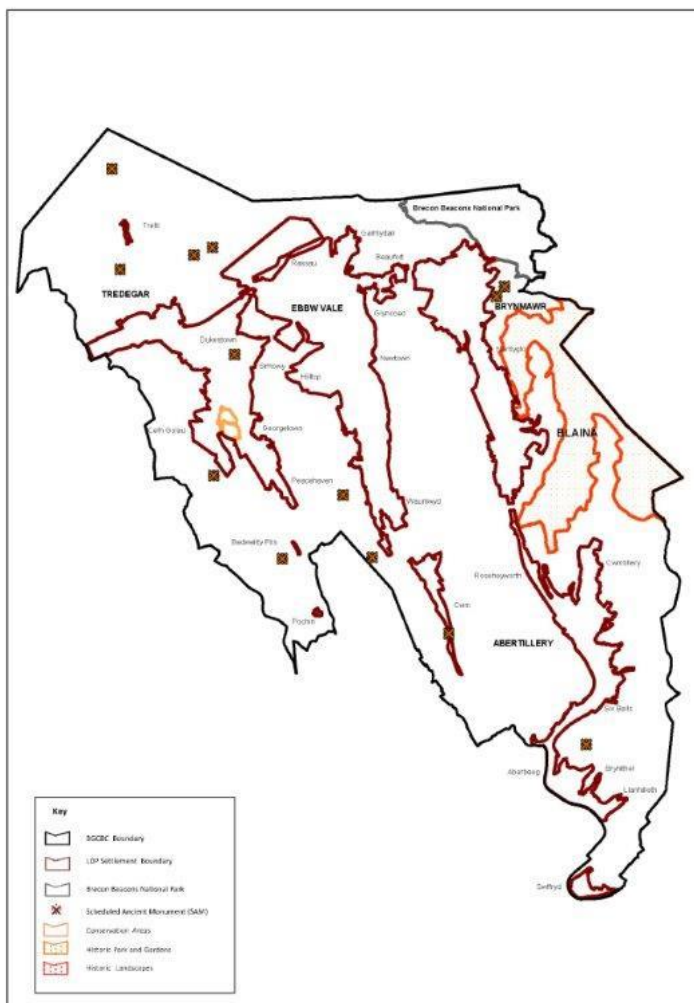
- Outstanding historic landscape areas; and
- Special historic landscape areas.

Part 2.1 of the Register of landscapes of outstanding historic interest in Wales lists Blaenavon and Coity Mountain, part of which falls within the Blaenau Gwent planning administrative area.

## Scheduled Ancient Monuments

There are 13 archaeology sites statutorily protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments under the Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 within the Blaenau Gwent administrative area.

**Figure 87: Location and Designation of Sites, Areas and Buildings of Historic or Conservation Importance**



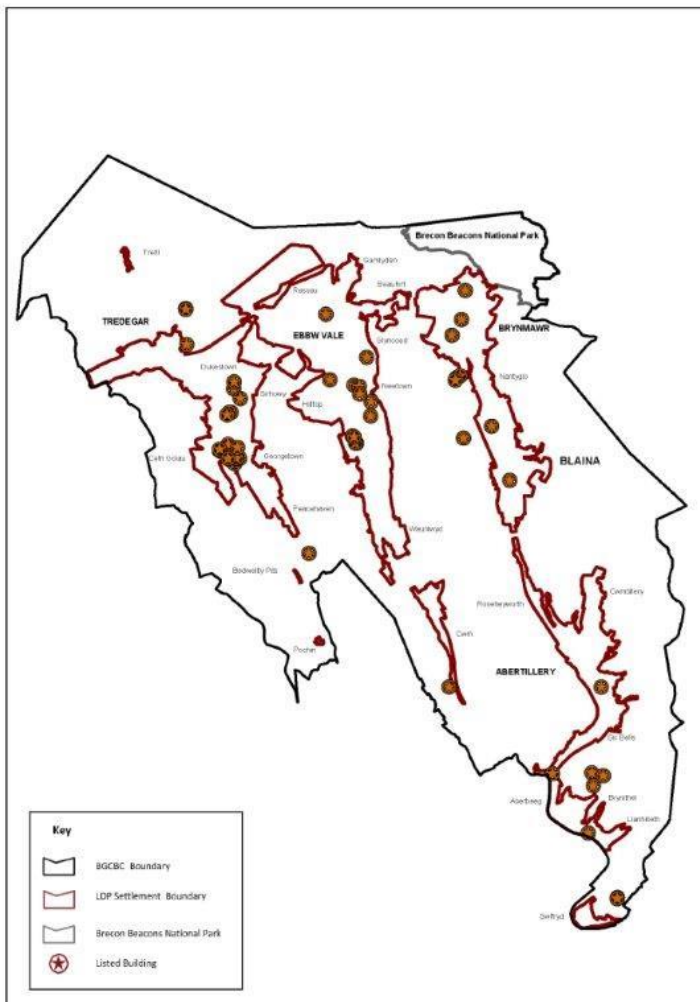
Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

## Listed Buildings

Under the provisions of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, the Secretary of State for Wales is required to produce a list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest for the guidance of local planning authorities. This responsibility is undertaken by Cadw. Buildings and structures are classified in grades (I, II\* and II) to indicate their relative importance. All listed buildings and structures are awarded the same level of protection regardless of their grading.

There are 53 Listed Buildings in Blaenau Gwent all of which are Grade II or Grade II\*. In terms of the listed buildings at risk, the number has decreased from 10 to 9, as the Ebbw Vale Education Centre is no longer at risk.

**Figure 88: Location of Listed Buildings within Blaenau Gwent**



Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council



require special protection for their own sake as part of the County's landscape resource. The areas identified are:

- St Illtyd Plateau and Ebbw Eastern Sides
- Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James
- Cwm Tyleri and Cwm Celyn
- Mynydd Carn y Cefn and Cefn yr Arail
- Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney Hill and Sirhowy Sides
- Cefn Manmoel
- Trefil and Garnlydan Surrounds
- Beaufort Common

These SLAs within Blaenau Gwent cover a total area of approximately 7,614 hectares, accounting for approximately 70% of the total local planning area within Blaenau Gwent area.

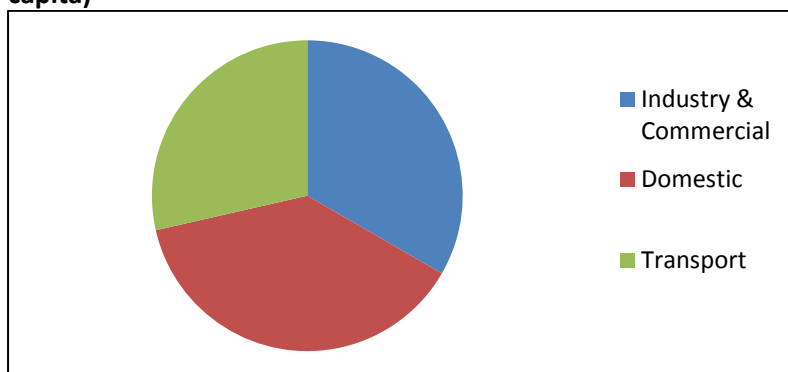
## 7.0 A Globally Responsible Wales

### Climatic Factors

#### Greenhouse Gas Emissions

##### *Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> in Blaenau Gwent*

**Figure 90: Carbon Dioxide Emissions per Capita, by sector in Blaenau Gwent, 2011 (tonnes per capita)**



Source: 2005-2015 UK Local and Regional CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Dataset (Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC))

The figure above shows that most carbon emissions in Blaenau Gwent were produced by domestic properties (38%) with transport accounting for approximately 28% and industry and commercial for approximately 33%.

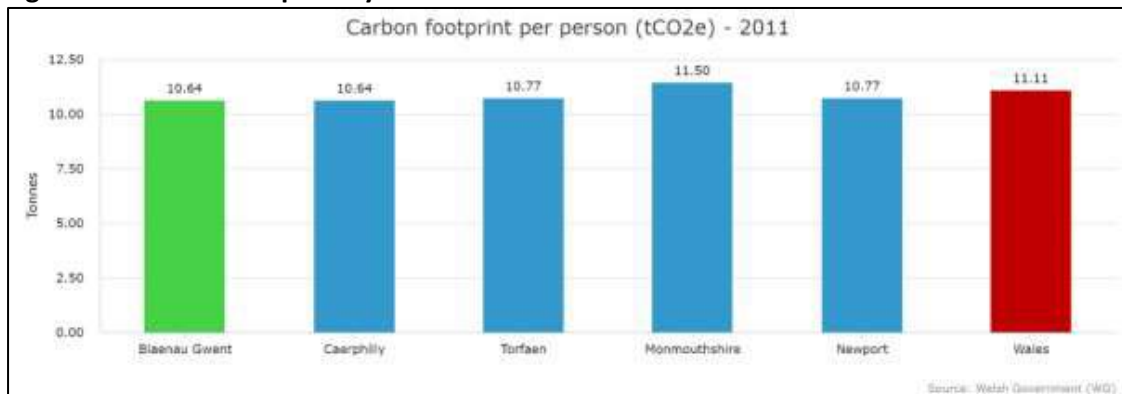
##### *Carbon and Ecological Footprint*

Local authorities with the lowest carbon footprint tend to be those with the lowest overall environmental burden per capita i.e. the valleys and more densely populated areas in South Wales (Source: 2015 Ecological and Carbon Footprints of Wales – Update to 2010, Stockholm Environment Institute and GHD).

Figure 91 shows the carbon footprint per person across the Gwent region for 2011, measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per person. This ranged from 10.64 tonnes per person in Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent to 11.50 tonnes per person in Monmouthshire. This compared with 11.10 tonnes per person for Wales



**Figure 91: Carbon Footprint by Area**

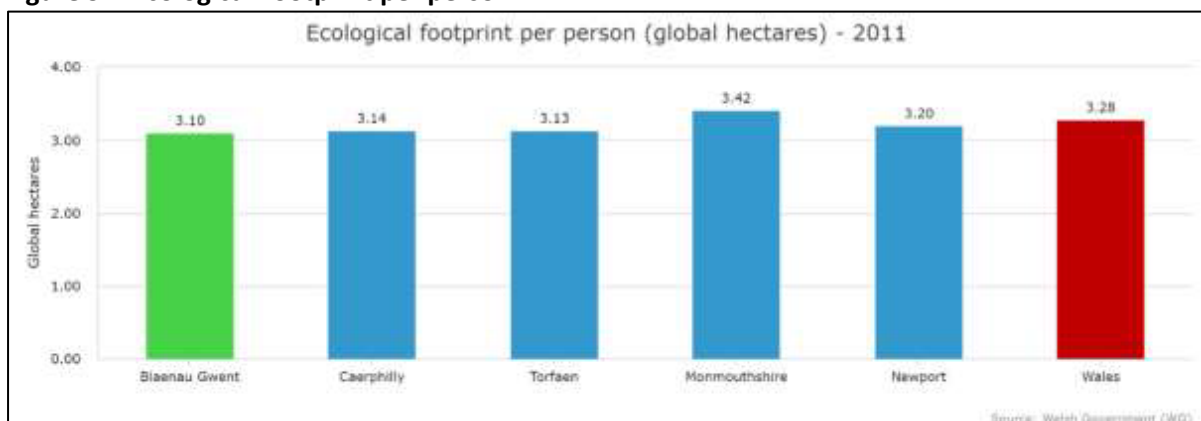


Source: Welsh Government

The ecological footprint is an indicator of the total environmental burden that society places on the planet. It represents the area of land needed to provide raw materials, energy and food, as well as absorb pollution and waste created. It is measured in global hectares. The ecological footprint for a particular population is defined as “the total area of productive land and water ecosystems required to produce the resources that the population consumes and assimilate the wastes that production produces, wherever on Earth that land and water may be located”. The consumption of food, housing, transport, consumer items, private services and public services together accounts for 85% of the ecological footprint.

Figure 92 shows the ecological footprint per person across the Gwent region for 2011. This ranged from 3.10 global hectares per person in Blaenau Gwent to 3.42 global hectares per person in Monmouthshire. This compares with 3.30 global hectares per person for Wales.

**Figure 92: Ecological Footprint per person**



Source: Welsh Government

The data shows that Blaenau Gwent is starting from a good position as it has the lowest carbon and ecological footprint of the area’s that have had comparable data shown and is also below the whole of Wales average. It could also be interpreted that Blaenau Gwent is one of the most deprived and given that the fact that the data shows that there may be a higher number of people in fuel and monetary poverty that cannot afford a standard of living that the other areas, and Wales in general, can. It also shows that Monmouthshire being considered quite an affluent area has the highest carbon an ecological footprint which

reinforces the notion that Blaenau Gwent's low score in both areas could be linked to poverty.

### *Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Production*

Figure 93 below shows that 15.208 MW of renewable energy developments have been installed in the form of wind turbines and photovoltaic solar panels.

**Figure 93: Capacity of renewable energy developments installed**

Name of scheme	Technology	Capacity (Mw)	Capacity (GWh)	Status	Source
Photovoltaic (Household)	Solar	1.7	1.47	Grant Supported	Ofgem
Photovoltaic (Commercial)	Solar	0.157	0.135	Grant supported	Ofgem
Photovoltaic (Industrial)	Solar	0.15	0.129	Grant Supported	Ofgem
Hafod y Dafol Farm, Cwm	Solar	10.0	8.75	Operational	BGCBC
Unit 15 Rassau Industrial Estate	Wind Onshore	0.75	1.77	Operational	BGCBC
The Grouse Farm	Wind Onshore	0.001	0.00236	Operational	BGCBC
Unit 29 Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate	Wind Onshore	0.5	1.18	Operational	BGCBC
Penrhiwgwaith Farm, Hollybush	Wind Onshore	0.5	1.18	Operational	BGCBC
Blaentillery Farm, Cwmtillery	Wind Onshore	0.45	1.064	Operational	BGCBC
Coed y Gilfach, Six Bells	Wind Onshore	0.5	1.18	Operational	BGCBC
Eurocaps Ltd Crown Business Park	Wind Onshore	0.5	1.18	Operational	BGCBC
<b>Total</b>		<b>15.208</b>	<b>18.040</b>	-	-

Source: Council planning records and Ofgem (August 2018)

Since 2013, 2.79 MW of low carbon energy developments have been installed at the Works Energy Centre in the form of combined heat and power and biomass boiler.

**Figure 94: Capacity of low carbon energy developments installed per annum**

Scheme	Location	Capacity
<b>2013-2014</b>		
Combined heat and power	The Works Energy Centre	0.39 MW
<b>2014-2015</b>		
Biomass Boiler	The Works Energy Centre	2.4 MW

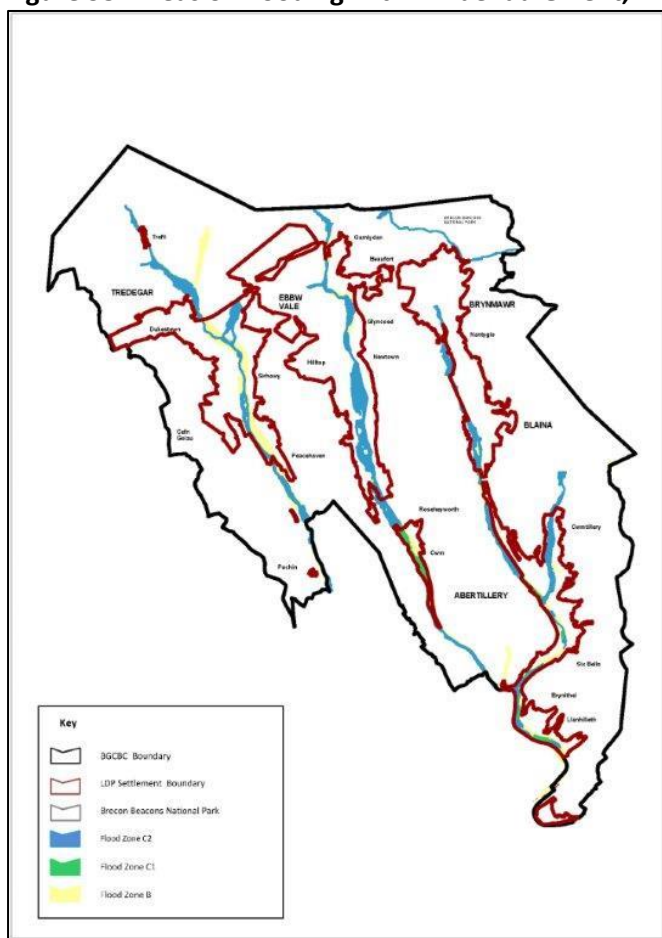
<b>2015-2016</b>	
No low carbon energy developments installed	
<b>2016-2017</b>	
No low carbon energy developments installed	
<b>2017-2018</b>	
No low carbon energy developments installed	
<b>Total (2013-2017)</b>	<b>2.79 MW</b>

Source: Blaenau Gwent Annual Monitoring Report 2017-18

## Flood Risk

Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15 published by the Welsh Government categorises areas of the floodplain within Wales. Figure 95 below identifies the areas of floodplain within Blaenau Gwent. Zone B relates to areas that have flooded in the past, evidenced by sedimentary deposits. The flood zone B areas are predominantly in Cwm, Ebbw Vale and Tredegar where there historic river courses and waterways. Zone C1 identifies areas of the floodplain that are developed and served by significant infrastructure including flood defences. These are located in Cwm, Aberbeeg and Llanhilleth. Zone C2 identifies areas of the floodplain without significant flood defence infrastructure. TAN 15 states that only less vulnerable development should be considered within these areas. These areas tend to follow the existing rivers and watercourses in each of the valleys.

**Figure 95: Areas of Flooding within Blaenau Gwent, with and without flood defences**



Source: NRW Development Advice Maps

### *Surface Water Flooding*

A need to identify areas at risk from surface water flooding was introduced in response to the Flood Risk Regulations (2009). The first stage was to prepare a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment in order to establish the level of flood risk within each Lead Local Flood Risk Authority (LLFA). The process looked specifically at flooding from surface water, ground water and ordinary water courses and the interface with flooding from main rivers.

In order to have consistency of approach DEFRA and WG identified a number of key risk indicators and their thresholds to establish significant risk and to determine the existence of indicative Flood Risk Areas.

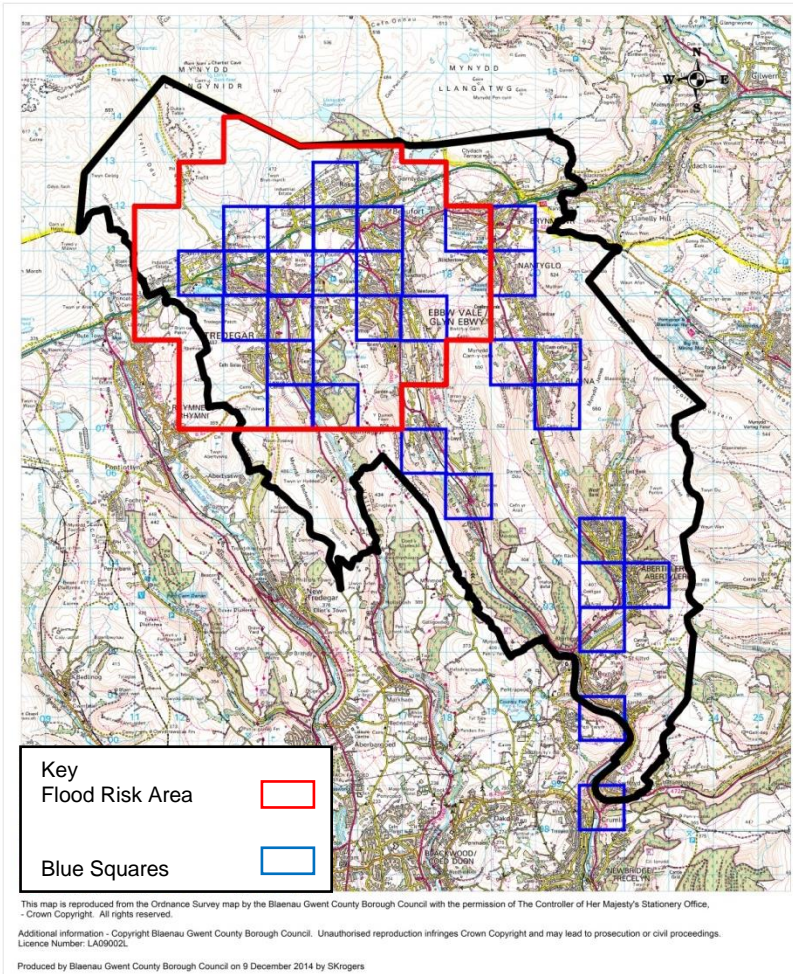
The methodology was based on using the flood maps produced by NRW to identify 1 km squares where flood risk exceeds a defined threshold. These squares are known as areas above Flood Risk Threshold (Blue Squares). The key flood risk indicators and their thresholds for a 1 km square were set as follows:-

1. A minimum of 200 people
2. A minimum of 20 businesses
3. 2 or more critical services

NRW identified 29 blue squares within BGCBC.

A cluster of blue squares is an indication that an area of concentrated flood risk has been identified. Where there are four or more touching blue squares within a 3km x 3km square the whole 3km x 3km square was considered as an area which could form part of an indicative Flood Risk Area.

**Figure 96: BGCBC – Ebbw Vale Flood Risk Area and Blue Squares**



The key flood risk indicator for establishing an indicative Flood Risk Area was set as – numbers of people at risk of being affected by flooding exceeding 5,000.

Based on the methodology defined above, NRW defined an indicative Flood Risk Area within BGCBC of 40.38 Km<sup>2</sup> based on the 17 blue squares in the Ebbw Vale / Tredegar area.

The review carried out by BGCBC on past and future flooding did not justify any amendments to the Indicative Flood Risk Area identified by NRW.

The key Flood Risk Indicators for BGCBC were calculated by NRW as follows:

**Figure 97: Risk Counts for Blaenau Gwent Flood Risk Area (based on new Flood Hazard Maps)**

COUNTS FOR FLOOD RISK AREA				
	Total in defined area	Risk Counts		
		HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
<b>Risk to people</b>				
Number of people in area:	40,089	682	696	2,825
Number of Services:	57	4	1	6

<b>Risk to economic activity</b>				
Number of non-residential properties:	<b>2,785</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>351</b>
Number of Airports (n)	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Length of Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	<b>68</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
Length of railway (km):	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Area of Agricultural Land – Grades 1, 2 and 3 within the area (ha)	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Risk to Natural and Historic Environment</b>				
Number of EU Bathing Waters within 50m:	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Number of Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) Installations within 50m:	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Area of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) within area (ha):	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Area of Special Protection Areas within area (SPA) (ha)	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Area of Ramsar Sites within area (ha):	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Areas of World Heritage Sites within area (ha):	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Area of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within area (ha):	<b>4,069</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Areas of designated Parks and Gardens within area (ha):	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
Area of Scheduled Ancient Monuments within area (ha):	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Number of Listed Buildings within area :	<b>36</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
Number of Licensed Abstractions (LA) within area:	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

Source: Blaenau Gwent Flood Risk Management Plan

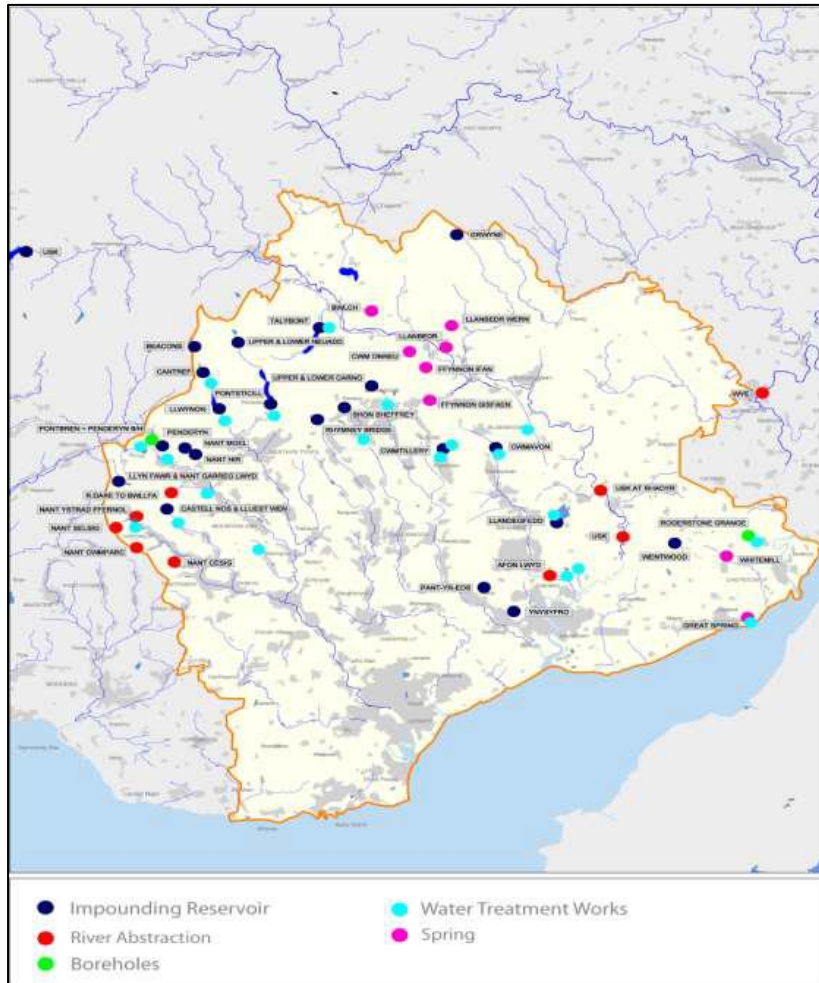
There are 40,089 people and 57 services in Blaenau Gwent Flood Risk Area. Of these, 682 people and 4 services are considered to be at high risk with a 1 in 30 (3%) or greater chance of flooding in any given year. A further 696 are in medium risk with a 1 in 100 (1%) chance of flooding in any given year. A further 2,825 people are considered to be at low risk with a 1 in 1000 (0.1%) chance of flooding in any given year.

Out of the 2,785 non-residential properties in the Flood Risk Area, 119 have a high risk with a 1 in 30 (3%) chance of flooding in any given year. A further 84 have a 1 in 100 (1%) chance of flooding in any given year, with 351 considered to have a low risk with a 1 in 1000 (0.1%) chance of flooding occurring each year. Seven kms of the primary/trunk road network are also at risk of flooding.

There are 5 environmental permitting installations within the Flood Risk Area 4 of which are considered to be at high risk with a 1 in 30 (3%) chance of occurring each year. Two of the 36 Listed Buildings in the Blaenau Gwent Flood Risk Area are at a 1 in 30 (3%) or greater chance of flooding each year; with a further 2 of these considered to be at medium risk 1 in 100 and a further 5 a low risk 1 in 1000 of flooding.

As a result of having an area of significant flooding Blaenau Gwent was required to prepare a Flood Risk Management Plan. The Flood Risk Management Plan sets out measures and objectives to manage flood risk from 2015 to 2021 and beyond. In light of Climate Change without intervention flood risk is likely to increase in the longer term.

**Figure 98: Water Resources in the South East Wales Conjunctive Use System**



Source: Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment

Blaenau Gwent’s water supply is primarily from the three small reservoirs - Shon Sheffery and Upper & Lower Carno. As the SEWCUS WRZ is an integrated network, supplies from abstractions from the Rivers Wye and Usk can be transferred to relieve the demand on the smaller upland impounding reservoirs in Blaenau Gwent whose storage declines relatively quickly in dry weather. This preserves the storage in the smaller sources and allows them to supply their immediate demand areas through an extended drought.

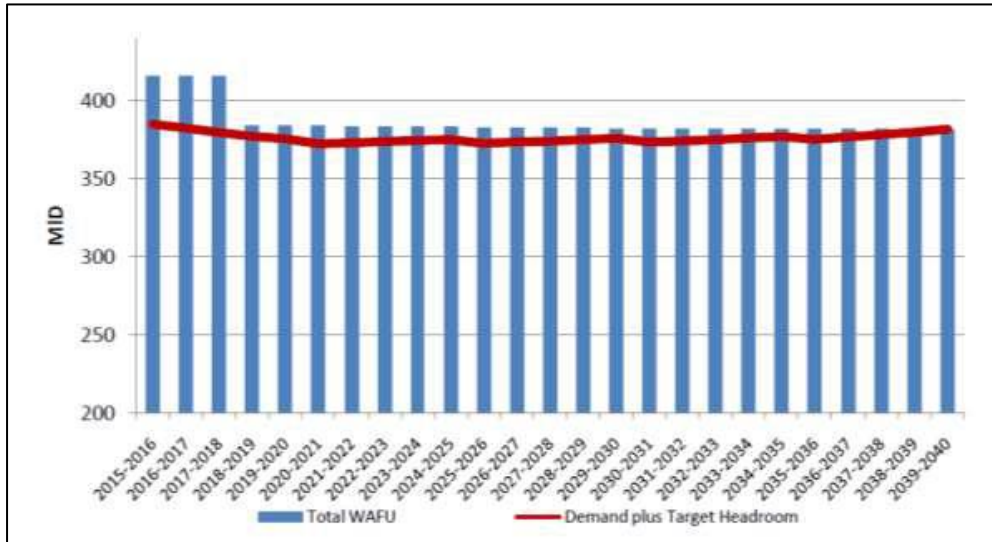
Making water available to Blaenau Gwent, to overcome any deficit, the water is abstracted and pumped from the River Usk/Wye. This uses a lot of energy and is not wholly sustainable over the long-term. As a result this issue needs to be addressed.

To safeguard supply, water companies in England & Wales have a statutory duty (as set out in in Section 37A-37D of the Water Industry Act 1991) to produce a water resources management plan (WRMP) every five years. The plan must set out how a water company intends to maintain the balance between supply and demand for water over a 25 year period, while protecting the environment.

A WRMP is complemented by a water company drought plan, which sets out the short-term operational steps they will take as a drought progresses to enhance available supplies, manage customer demand and minimise environmental impacts.

The WRMP’s annual average planning scenario remains in surplus throughout the current planning period until 2039 as shown in Figure 99 below.

**Figure 99: SEWCUS Annual Average Supply Demand Balance Position 2015-2040**



*N.B. There is a reduction in Total Water Available for Use (WAFU) in 2018 due to changes to abstraction licences brought about by the Habitats Directive.*

**Source:** Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, 2014

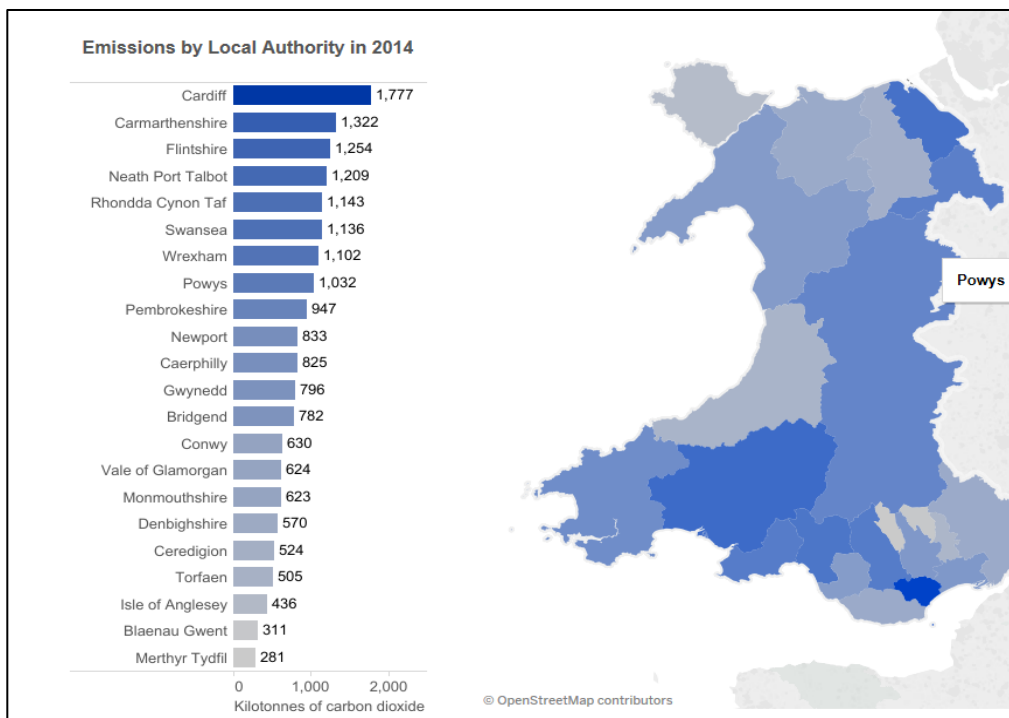
### *Climatic Factors*

Both natural and human factors affect global climate. Natural causes can include interactions between the ocean and the atmosphere, changes in the Earth orbit and volcanic eruptions. Humans influence global climate by releasing greenhouse gases (for example carbon dioxide and methane) into the atmosphere. These gases absorb energy that is radiated from the Earth's surface, warming the atmosphere and increasing temperatures globally. The intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded in 2007 that most of the observed increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century is very likely to be due to the observed increase in man made greenhouse gas concentrations. Average annual temperatures have increased by 1.71°C in the UK since 1659. Summers have become hotter and drier whilst winters are milder and wetter. Climate change can be reduced by mitigation; by reducing the net emissions of greenhouse gases, notably CO<sub>2</sub>. However, some impacts can be tackled through adaptation.



## Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>

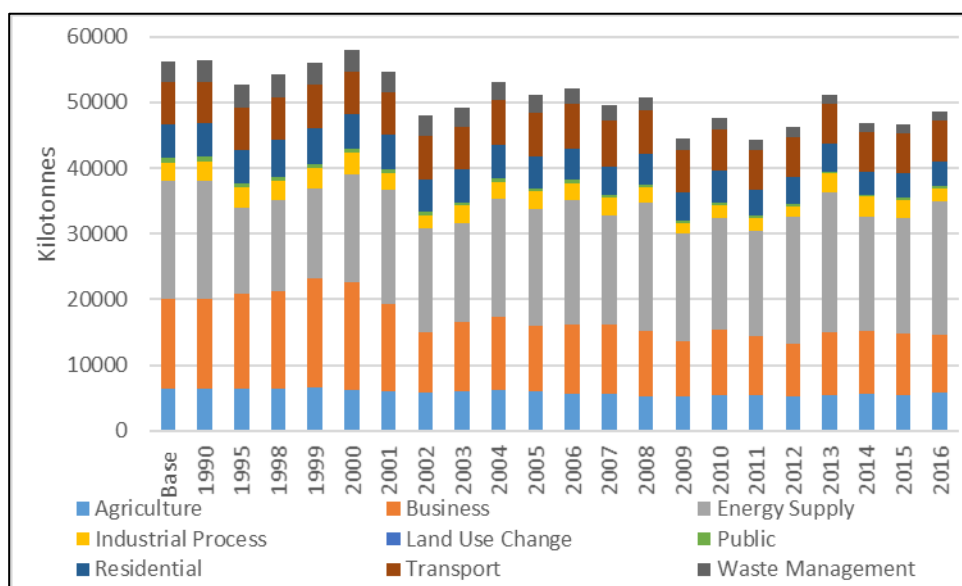
**Figure 100: Total Welsh CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 2014**



Source: Welsh Government Statistics and Research

The Figure above shows how carbon dioxide emissions vary across Wales, as expected, the most emissions in 2014 were recorded in Cardiff, and in more built up areas in general. Blaenau Gwent has the second lowest emissions in Wales.

**Figure 101: Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> in Wales**



Source: Stats Wales

Figure 101 indicates that emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> vary on a year by year basis although the sources are generally consistent. Total GHG emissions from Wales have reduced between by 12% between 1990 to 2013, whilst carbon dioxide emissions have fallen by 14% between the base year and 2016. These emission reductions are a result of a decline in manufacturing emissions (e.g. in iron and steel, bulk chemical production) in the Business and Industrial Process sectors, efficiencies in energy generation and business sector heating, the use of natural gas to replace some coal and other fuels as well as abatement in some chemical industries. Residential sector emissions and Transport emissions have not reduced markedly since the Base Year due to increasing population and increasing demand for heating and transportation despite improvements in energy efficiency of vehicles and housing. No local or regional comparator data is however available and is therefore considered to be a data gap.

### *Energy*

There is no data relating specifically to emissions from energy within Blaenau Gwent. However Figure 102 below outlines the main Greenhouse Gas emissions in 2016 for Wales. Emissions in 2016 are 47,787 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e with 43% of emissions in 2016 from Energy Supply, 19% from Business, 13% from Transport, 12% from Agriculture, and 8% for Residential Sources.

**Figure 102: Emissions Summary for Wales, 2016 (kt CO<sub>2</sub>e)**

Sector Name	Emission	Percentage of total GWP Weighted Emissions
Agriculture	5,728.64	12.0
Business	8,896.24	18.6
Energy Supply	20,288.47	42.5
Industrial Process	2,009.74	4.2
Land Use Change	-773.08	-1.6
Public	337.60	0.7
Residential	3,730.04	7.8
Transport	6,312.05	13.2
Waste Management	1,257.93	2.6
Total	47,787.63	100.0

Source: AEA Greenhouse Gas Inventories for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: 1990-2016