



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

Replacement Local Development Plan

2023-2038

Key Issues, Vision and Objectives
Background Paper

December 2024



Contents

1	Introduction.....	1
2	Contextual Changes.....	2
2.1	Legislation, Policy and Guidance Changes.....	2
2.2	Other Plans and Strategies.....	3
3	Developing the Key Issues, Vision and Objectives for the RLDP.....	6
3.1	Key Issues.....	6
3.2	Current LDP Key Issues.....	6
3.3	Issues identified in other plans.....	8
3.4	National and local trends and changes.....	8
3.5	New Key Issues for the RLDP.....	8
4	Vision.....	11
4.1	Developing the Vision.....	11
4.2	Other Relevant Plan Visions.....	11
4.3	A New Vision for the RLDP.....	12
4.4	The RLDP Vision.....	13
5	Objectives.....	15
5.1	Development of the RLDP Objectives.....	15
5.2	The RLDP Objectives.....	15
6	Next Steps.....	17

Appendices

Appendix A: Development of the RLDP Key Issues.....	18
Appendix B: Development of RLDP Vision Outcomes and Objectives.....	31
Appendix C: Matrix of RLDP Objectives against the Well-being Goals.....	37

1.Introduction

1.0.1 Neath Port Talbot Council is preparing a Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) to cover the whole County Borough. When formally adopted, the RLDP will set out planning policies and proposals to guide development within the County Borough and will replace the present LDP which was adopted in 2016.

1.0.2 As part of the plan review process, all elements of the existing plan need to be revisited in the light of changes to the social, economic, environmental or cultural baseline data and information and to ensure that changes in national and local policy and legislation are followed. The extent to which the plan's policies and allocations have been effective also needs to be evaluated. This will inform changes, amendments and additions to ensure that the plan remains as effective as possible.

1.0.3 This Paper addresses the question of identifying the Key Issues, Vision and Objectives for the RLDP and took as its starting point the extensive consultation work undertaken by the council as part of the 'Let's Talk' campaign during 2020 and 2021 to inform the council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This has subsequently been continued with a further open-ended consultation ('Let's Keep Talking') during 2023 (see below). The issues and priorities identified can be taken forward in the RLDP and can inform the approaches to be taken over the new plan's 15 year timescale (2023 - 2038).

1.0.4 Earlier versions of this paper have been circulated to stakeholders for discussion and input and a stakeholder and informal public consultation was undertaken in May / June 2024. It has also been assessed as part of the Integrated Sustainability Assessment (ISA) which is required to be undertaken for the RLDP. The document has evolved and changed as a result of these processes, but remains a draft 'live' document that is likely to be amended further throughout the plan preparation process.

1.0.5 The paper firstly addresses contextual changes in the legislation, policy and guidance that regulates the plan preparation process, then looks at the Key Issues for the plan as influenced by the Let's Talk and Let's Keep Talking campaigns before going on to formulate a vision and objectives to steer the plan's overall approach.

2 Contextual Changes

2.1 Legislation, Policy and Guidance Changes

2.1.1 Since the adoption of the current LDP there have been a number of significant changes to the approach to LDP preparation and the requirements of legislation, policy and guidance. The main relevant changes are outlined below.

The Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

2.1.2 The Well-being of Future Generations Act provides an expanded definition of *Sustainable Development* and places a duty on public bodies to ensure that this is carried out.

2.1.3 Sustainable Development is defined as *the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals*. The sustainable development principle is that public bodies *must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*. The Well-being Goals are:

- A prosperous Wales;
- A resilient Wales;
- A healthier Wales;
- A more equal Wales;
- A Wales of cohesive communities;
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language; and
- A globally responsible Wales.

2.1.4 In order to demonstrate that appropriate consideration has been given to the Well-being goals and sustainable development principle in the decision making process, public bodies are required to have regard to the 'five ways of working' contained in the Well-being Act. These require consideration of:

- Involvement;
- Collaboration;
- Integration;
- Prevention; and
- Long term factors.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016

2.1.5 The Environment Act introduced the concept of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including the National Natural Resources Policy, and the requirement for the production of a State of Natural Resources Report by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), together with the production of Area Statements to provide a local evidence base.

The Planning (Wales) Act 2015

2.1.6 The new Planning (Wales) Act introduced an additional regional tier of governance to be provided by Corporate Joint Committees, with the requirement that regional **Strategic Development Plans** (SDPs) should be prepared. Neath Port Talbot is within the South West Wales region. Work on the South West Wales SDP has not yet commenced.

Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12)

2.1.7 Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out policy for land-use planning in Wales. The RLDP will need to follow the policy requirements set out in PPW, and it is intended that the new plan will broadly follow PPW's structure, under four main headings:

- Strategic and Spatial Choices;
- Active and Social Places;
- Productive and Enterprising Places;
- Distinctive and Natural Places.

2.1.8 PPW indicates that LDPs should set out a *vision* for how places are expected to change in land-use terms to accommodate development needs over the plan period. It also sets out Key Principles requiring all development plans to aim to *Achieve the Right Development in the Right Place*:

1. Growing our economy in a sustainable manner;
2. Making the best use of resources;
3. Facilitating accessible and healthy environments;
4. Creating and sustaining communities; and
5. Maximising environmental protection and limiting environmental impact

2.1.9 *Planning Policy Wales* is available on the Welsh Government website: www.gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Future Wales The National Plan 2040

2.1.10 *Future Wales* is the national development framework for all of Wales, setting the direction for development for the country up to 2040. It incorporates a strategy for addressing key national priorities through the planning system and includes national policies and requirements. The RLDP will need to be in conformity with *Future Wales*.

2.1.11 *Future Wales The National Plan 2040* is available on the Welsh Government website: www.gov.wales/future-wales-national-plan-2040

2.2 Other Plans and Strategies

South West Wales Area Statement

2.2.1 The Area Statements were prepared as a collaborative response (co-ordinated by NRW) to Welsh Government's Natural Resources Policy, setting out key challenges and opportunities for the sustainable management of Wales' natural resources.

2.2.2 The South West Wales (SWW) Area Statement outlines the key challenges facing the area, what can be done to meet those challenges, and how we can better manage our natural resources for the benefit of future generations.

2.2.3 The SWW Area Statement covers four main themes:

- Reducing health inequalities;
- Ensuring sustainable land management;
- Reversing the decline of, and enhancing, biodiversity; and
- Mitigating and adapting to a changing climate (cross cutting theme)

2 Contextual Changes

2.2.4 Information for the area is given about broad habitats; protected areas; national forest inventory; data on compliance with Water Framework Directive requirements; common land; and the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation.

2.2.5 The SWW Area Statement is available on NRW's website: <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/area-statements/?lang=en>

Recover, Reset, Renew: The Neath Port Talbot Corporate Plan 2022 - 2027

2.2.6 The NPT Corporate Plan sets out the Council's priorities for the next five years, including recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and how the authority will reset and renew to face future challenges.

2.2.7 The Corporate Plan followed on from the *Let's Talk* campaign, an extensive open-ended public engagement exercise undertaken during 2020 and 2021, and was further informed by written responses and questionnaire responses about the draft plan (See NPT Council Cabinet Reports and appendices:

- <https://democracy.npt.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=158&MId=10330> and
- <https://democracy.npt.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=158&MId=10376>

2.2.8 The Corporate Plan (2022) sets out key issues and trends to be addressed and includes a *vision* which comprises four key objectives:

- All children get the best start in life;
- All communities are thriving and sustainable;
- Our local environment, heritage and culture can be enjoyed by future generations;
- Local people are skilled and can access high quality, green jobs.

2.2.9 *Recover, Reset, Renew* is available on the Neath Port Talbot website: www.npt.gov.uk/7751

2.2.10 The *Let's Talk* campaign was followed up during 2023 by *Let's Keep Talking*, which included 19 public events plus information and questionnaires available in venues across NPT and online. The findings are summarised in Appendix E and have been taken into account in the identification and development of the Key Issues, Vision and objectives for the RLDP.

Neath Port Talbot Well-being Plan 2023 - 2028

2.2.11 The Well-being Plan is prepared by NPT Public Services Board, and was published following public consultation in May 2023. The Plan sets out local well-being objectives; steps to be taken to achieve the objectives; timescales and responsibilities and details about how the steps will be achieved in accordance with the sustainable development principle.

2.2.12 The local well-being objectives mirror the Council's corporate plan objectives:

- To ensure all children get the best start in life;
- To ensure all our communities are thriving and sustainable;
- To ensure our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations;
- To ensure there are more secure, green and well paid jobs and that skills across the area are improved.

2.2.13 The NPT Well-being Plan is available on the Public Services Board website: www.npt.gov.uk/psb

3 Developing the Key Issues, Vision and Objectives for the RLDP

3. Developing the Key Issues, Vision and Objectives for the RLDP

3.0.1 Taking into account the range of issues and topics that will need to be addressed by the RLDP, it was considered appropriate to arrange the topic groupings and divisions (and consequently the overall structure of the plan itself) to follow that of Planning Policy Wales (with specific topic areas grouped under the broad headings of Strategic and Spatial Choices; Active and Social Places; Productive and Enterprising Places and Distinctive and Natural Places). This structure has been amended where necessary, in particular to include three overarching topics (Climate Emergency; Nature Emergency and Health and Well-being) on the grounds that these matters will need to be addressed by all aspects of the new plan.

3.0.2 As indicated above, the NPT Corporate Plan (Renew, Reset, Recover) and the NPT Well-being Plan share their key vision/objectives and have been the subject of extensive stakeholder and public involvement and consultation, including the *Let's Talk* initiative, undertaken during 2020 and 2021. This has now been followed up by *Let's Keep Talking* in 2023. The issues, objectives and vision from these two earlier plans and the public engagement have therefore been taken as a starting point to derive draft Key Issues, Vision / Outcomes, and Objectives for the RLDP.

3.0.3 Other information including findings from the monitoring of the existing LDP and surveys and information collected by the council and other bodies have then informed the process of developing these elements.

3.0.4 The following sections outline this process and set out the underlying basis on which to develop the strategy, policies and proposals for the RLDP.

3.1 Key Issues

3.1.1 The first stage of the process involves identifying the Key Issues, challenges or drivers that will need to be addressed by the RLDP. As outlined above, this involves comparing, assessing/amending and synthesising the issues identified in existing NPT plans and strategies, together with the other matters listed below:

1. The Key Issues from the first NPT LDP provide a starting point for the review;
2. Changes in legislation, policy and guidance;
3. The issues and findings of the LDP Annual Monitoring Reports and Review Report;
4. New evidence and information from surveys and studies undertaken by the council and other bodies and changes in local and national economic or social circumstances;
5. The issues and themes that emerged from the *Let's Talk* and *Let's Keep Talking* initiatives and are being taken forward by both the Corporate Plan (Renew, Reset, Recover) and the NPT Well-being Plan;
6. The issues identified by work undertaken in the preparation of the replacement Corporate Plan and the Well-being Plan.

3.1.2 These are further considered below, with full detail and commentary contained in the Key Issues table (Table 1) in Appendix A, including commentary notes outlining the process undertaken to formulate the new draft RLDP Key Issue for each topic.

3.2 Current LDP Key Issues

3.2.1 The current NPT LDP (adopted in 2016) identified the following 18 Key Issues to be addressed by the plan:

LDP (2016) Key Issues

KI 1 The causes and consequences of climate change will need to be addressed, including the increased risk of flooding.

KI 2 Residents in Neath Port Talbot experience some of the worst health in Wales.

KI 3 Economic growth in Neath Port Talbot has stagnated over the last 10 years.

KI 4 There are low levels of market demand in the valley areas.

KI 5 There is a need for additional homes to:

- i. accommodate the population needed to meet the projected number of jobs; and
- ii. address the reduction in average household size.

KI 6 There is a need for additional affordable housing throughout the County Borough.

KI 7 There is a need for additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches.

KI 8 There is a shortfall in the provision of open space in some communities.

KI 9 Sufficient land needs to be provided over the LDP period to meet the requirements of businesses.

KI 10 There are concerns over the vitality and viability of the town, district and local centres.

KI 11 There is a need to balance the impact of development on the countryside, landscape and coast, in particular the exploitation of mineral and renewable energy resources.

KI 12 The continuing loss of habitats and species needs to be addressed.

KI 13 Some areas of the County Borough experience issues with air quality.

KI 14 There are significant areas of brownfield (previously developed) land requiring remediation and regeneration.

KI 15 There is a need to identify appropriate sites for new in-building waste treatment facilities to meet both local and regional future needs.

KI 16 There is a need for improvements to the highway network to facilitate new development, deliver key regeneration proposals and improve accessibility.

KI 17 There is a need to address dereliction and loss of character in settlements and urban centres.

KI 18 The erosion of the Welsh language is a concern in many of the valley communities.

3.2.2 These issues cover all aspects and topics that were included in the plan and provide a useful starting point for the development of new key issues for the Replacement LDP. KI 15 is no longer relevant as a result of changes in higher level policy, while other Key Issues require amendments due to changes in requirements or circumstances. In other cases, there are new matters that now need to be considered. These points are addressed in Table 1 (Appendix A).

3 Developing the Key Issues, Vision and Objectives for the RLDP

3.3 Issues identified in other plans

3.3.1 The NPT Corporate Plan (Renew, Reset, Recover) identifies four key objectives and 21 Key issues, while the Well-being Assessment (which informed the Well-being Plan) identified 29 Key Themes (taking into account views expressed from the *Let's Talk* initiative and available data and evidence).

3.3.2 These have all been taken into account as summarised in Appendix A, to inform the development of new Key Issues for the RLDP.

3.4 National and local trends and changes

Port Talbot Steelworks

3.4.1 Tata Steel announced in early 2024 that the two blast furnaces at Port Talbot Steelworks are to be closed, with the first furnace and coke ovens expected to cease operation by the middle of the year. A replacement electric arc furnace is to be constructed as part of the restructuring of the business, which will reduce the Port Talbot Site's direct emissions by 50m tonnes over a decade and represents a significant investment in the decarbonisation of the industry in the UK.

3.4.2 However, it also means that some 2,500 jobs across the UK are at risk, with 1,929 of those in Port Talbot, which employs 3,859 people. More recently, the coke ovens have been closed down earlier than anticipated due to concerns about operational stability, affecting some 200 workers at the site.

3.4.3 The proposed restructuring within the steel industry will have significant implications nationally and locally, and in particular for Port Talbot and will need to be fully addressed in the RLDP.

Celtic Freeport

3.4.4 The bid to establish a freeport in south west Wales (covering the ports of Milford Haven and Port Talbot), bringing taxation and regulatory benefits for new industries, is progressing with the aim of supporting a cleaner future based on the hydrogen economy, sustainable fuels, carbon capture, cleaner steel and low-carbon logistics. This has the potential to support a range of new investments in Port Talbot, in particular centred around floating offshore wind the associated port infrastructure and to transform the economic base of the area.

3.4.5 The significant ongoing changes in respect of the steel industry and Freeport proposals have led to the provision of a targeted new draft Key Issue (NKI 9) and corresponding new Vision element and plan objective for the RLDP (see below).

3.5 New Key Issues for the RLDP

3.5.1 The above considerations have fed into the identification of 14 new Key Issues for the RLDP to supersede those of the original LDP. These have been identified as a result of surveys and data collection and the monitoring of the implementation and outcomes of the existing LDP's strategies, policies and proposals including the findings of the Annual Monitoring Report and Review Report. It has also taken into account the work undertaken on the other local assessments and plans and the information available at this early stage. The new Key Issues have been categorised into the topic areas derived from the structure used for Planning Policy Wales.

RLDP Key Issues

Overarching Issues

NKI 1 Climate Emergency: Action to tackle the causes of increasing climate instability and to address its current and future impacts has now become urgent.

NKI 2 Nature Emergency: Addressing the local and global decline in biodiversity has become urgent. All public authorities are required to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems to ensure a net biodiversity benefit from all new development.

NKI 3 Health and Well-being: NPT has an ageing population and one of the least healthy diets and lowest levels of physical activity in Wales resulting in increasing rates of obesity and ill health.

Strategic and Spatial Choices

NKI 4 Strategic Placemaking: The majority of NPT's population, economic and cultural activity, significant infrastructure and facilities are located in the coastal belt, resulting in geographical inequalities in well-being to the detriment of inland and valleys areas.

NKI 5 Placemaking in Action: There has been a perceived loss of natural, cultural and built heritage and character, including use of the Welsh language, across NPT's communities, natural environment, townscapes and landscapes coupled with a loss of role and purpose for many valley communities.

Active and Social Places

NKI 6 Moving: Transport links, especially for Active Travel and Public Transport are poor in many areas (particularly the valleys), causing disadvantage and having detrimental impacts on spatial inequalities, carbon footprints and health and well-being across the county borough.

NKI 7 Living: The need for additional homes of all types, including affordable housing and provision for Gypsies and Travellers, must be addressed.

NKI 8 Activities: In order to be sustainable, all communities need ready access to goods, services, jobs and local recreation and community facilities.

Productive and Enterprising Places

NKI 9 Economic Recovery: Major structural economic changes are in progress that are likely to have a transformative effect on the national and regional economies and locally on industry and employment uses within NPT (including proposed Freeport opportunities and steelworks transition). These changes will need to be fully addressed and potential benefits maximised.

NKI 10 Economic Infrastructure: The benefits of sustainable economic development and growth need to be spread across the county borough through the provision of appropriate modern economic infrastructure, including digital services and enhanced visitor attractions.

NKI 11 Energy: In order to meet ambitious climate change targets, NPT will need to harness its significant green energy resources and maximise decarbonisation in all sectors.

NKI 12 Material Resources and the Circular Economy: NPT's mineral resources and minerals infrastructure should be conserved and safeguarded while enabling an appropriate and proportionate contribution to mineral supply and ensuring adverse impacts are minimised, together with provision of appropriate waste treatment, recycling and disposal facilities.

Distinctive and Natural Places

NKI 13 Special Characteristics of Places: NPT's rich historic and natural environments, Green Infrastructure, soils, townscapes, landscapes and coastal areas need to be conserved, protected and enhanced to be enjoyed by future generations.

NKI 14 Environmental Qualities of Places: Flood risk, coastal and fluvial erosion, water resources and water quality are likely to become more significant concerns in future years and will need to be addressed alongside all types of pollution including air quality issues.

4.1 Developing the Vision

4.1.1 A *Vision* for the RLDP also needs to be established setting out our aspirations for the county borough and expectations for how change and development should be accommodated over the plan period. The plan vision should be influenced by and be aligned with other similar visions set out in other relevant plans and strategies.

4.2 Other Relevant Plan Visions

4.2.1 The Vision for the current adopted LDP (2016) is reproduced below for information and context:

The LDP Vision

The natural beauty and environmental importance of Neath Port Talbot's waterfront and coastal corridor area will be protected and conserved while previously developed, underused and unsightly former industrial and commercial areas are redeveloped, transforming the function and appearance of the whole coastal belt.

Key sites at central Port Talbot, Baglan Bay, Coed Darcy and the Swansea University Science and Innovation Campus, coupled with the area's good and improving transport and communication links will help deliver a competitive, knowledge-based economy. New and expanded settlements will provide sustainable housing and employment to meet the needs of local communities and the wider area.

The County Borough's rural areas and valley communities will be supported and revitalised through encouragement of new and expanded economic activity through provision for sustainable small scale employment, including tourism initiatives capitalising on existing successes such as the strategic tourism destinations at Margam Park and the Afan Valley.

Benefits from natural resources will be maximised and the cultural, historic and natural heritage will be supported and enhanced. Economic growth and community cohesion will be promoted by concentrating development in key areas to provide benefits to a wider hinterland.

4.2.2 This vision provides a starting point for consideration of the vision for the RLDP, but pre-dates significant national and local changes (including Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic and political changes) as well as the legislation, policy and guidance changes outlined in Section 2.1 above.

4.2.3 *Future Wales: The National Plan 2040* expresses its vision for the whole of Wales as a series of eleven over-arching outcomes:

Future Wales (2040) Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. ...and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
2. ... in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services
3. ... in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
4. ... in places with a thriving Welsh Language
5. ... and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth
6. ... in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted
7. ... in places where travel is sustainable
8. ... in places with world-class digital infrastructure
9. ... in places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution
10. ... in places with biodiverse, resilient and connected ecosystems
11. ... in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient

4.2.4 Similarly, the NPT Corporate Plan (2022) identifies four Well-being objectives, which have also been adopted by the NPT Well-being Plan (2023):

NPT Well-being Objectives

- All children get the best start in life;
- All communities are thriving and sustainable;
- Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations;
- Local people are skilled and access high quality, green jobs.

4.3 A New Vision for the RLDP

4.3.1 The Vision for the RLDP will need to align with the visions from the other plans set out above, and it is proposed to follow a similar approach of identifying desired *outcomes* to focus and clarify what the new plan is setting out to achieve.

4.3.2 As explained in Section 3 above, the new draft Key Issues for the RLDP have been derived from key issues and themes from the other relevant plans (including associated public involvement), data from plan monitoring and surveys and other available relevant information. The next step is to take all of the new Key Issues and identify the desired *outcome(s)* for each one, in conformity/alignment with the outcomes/visions of the other plans. This approach is intended to focus the plan vision on all the various topic areas to clarify what the plan is trying to achieve. This process is outlined in Table 2 in Appendix B.

4.3.3 This has resulted in the identification of 14 RLDP *Outcomes*. These are listed below as elements of the RLDP Vision to set out a numbered series of aspirations and expectations for the new plan across all topic areas.

4.4 The RLDP Vision

RLDP Vision

By 2038 Neath Port Talbot will be a place where:

1. ***The climate emergency is being positively addressed:*** NPT will be on track to meet its agreed climate change targets and will be adapting appropriately to a changing climate.
2. ***The nature emergency is being positively addressed:*** NPT will be delivering on-going net benefit for biodiversity, geodiversity and soils and will be promoting the resilience of ecosystems as a result of development proposals over the plan period.
3. ***Public health and well-being is improving:*** Significant public health and well-being and environmental benefits for all including facilities for older people will be being delivered through new built developments.
4. ***Key valleys settlements have a more sustainable long-term future and the economic potential of the coastal belt is maximised while conserving and enhancing terrestrial and marine environments:*** NPT's position and role as a key economic driver within the Swansea Bay City Region will see significant new green technological developments and economic opportunities emerging associated with Swansea University Bay Campus, Baglan Bay and Harbourside employment areas. The benefits of this will be more equitably distributed through development of key / local settlements in each of NPT's valleys, valleys hubs in the Pontardawe and Glynneath areas, and an increasing emphasis on visitor attractions including heritage sites, outdoor adventure based attractions in the Neath and Afan valleys and traditional seaside attractions at Aberafan Beach.
5. ***The important natural, cultural and built heritage, including the Welsh language, across all NPT's communities is supported, enhanced and enriched through the application of placemaking principles:*** The distinctiveness and character of the three main towns of Neath, Port Talbot and Pontardawe, their individual histories, cultures and natural assets will be conserved, sustainably managed and enhanced. The distinctive and separate characters of each of NPT's five valleys will be conserved and enhanced through support and enhancement of their key settlements and distinctive environments.
6. ***Travel and transport is more sustainable, convenient, accessible and efficient:*** Improvements with an emphasis on Active Travel and public transport especially in the valleys areas will be improving accessibility for all communities.
7. ***The need for homes of all types across the county borough is being addressed.*** Measures to enable and encourage new homes in sustainable locations will be addressing housing needs.
8. ***All communities have ready access to goods, services, jobs and community facilities.*** Measures to enable and encourage the provision of services, employment and facilities in sustainable locations will be addressing community requirements.

9. ***The benefits of major national and local structural economic change are maximised:*** Ongoing structural economic changes affecting major local industries and employment are fully embraced and the potential benefits for health, well-being, employment, and the local environment are maximised for residents of NPT.
10. ***All areas of NPT are served by up-to-date physical and digital economic infrastructure:*** Improvements to economic infrastructure will be helping all communities to benefit from modern economic infrastructure appropriate for their economic, social, environmental and cultural needs and aspirations, while enhanced visitor attractions particularly in the Neath and Afan Valley areas will encourage growth in the tourism sector.
11. ***An important contribution to the energy needs of Wales is made:*** Measures taken to address energy demand and efficiency will be taking effect while appropriate benefit will be coming from NPT's renewable and low carbon energy generation potential, addressing carbon reduction targets and improving building efficiency.
12. ***Mineral resources, reserves and infrastructure are conserved and safeguarded and appropriate waste treatment and disposal facilities provided to meet needs.*** Measures to safeguard mineral resources and infrastructure, protect mineral reserves and enable their use when required together with the appropriate treatment, recycling and disposal of waste will be addressing all appropriate requirements.
13. ***Natural and historic assets and environments, biodiversity, Green Infrastructure, landscapes and coastal areas are conserved, protected and enhanced.*** Appropriate measures will be conserving and enhancing the unique historic environment of NPT surviving from all periods from prehistoric hill forts to the key roles played in global industrialisation by the coal and metal industries, set in the spectacular natural setting of valleys and coast.
14. ***Flood risk, coastal and fluvial change and pollution issues are appropriately addressed and adverse impacts minimised.*** Appropriate measures will be leading to a reduced risk from environmental change with reducing pollution levels.

4.4.1 This constitutes an initial Vision to provide a basis for discussion and involvement and to inform development of the RLDP strategy and proposals. Comments or suggestions for additions or amendments are welcomed, and it is anticipated that the Vision may be subject to change as the RLDP preparation process evolves.

5.1 Development of the RLDP Objectives

5.1.1 The RLDP Objectives are intended to set out what the plan is aiming to achieve in respect of each of the topics, in order to meet the outcomes contained in the vision. The objectives are therefore aligned to both the key issues and the outcomes, and are listed under the same topic headings.

5.1.2 For each topic, the current relevant LDP objective(s) has been taken as the starting point. The corresponding RLDP Vision element (outcome) was then considered as a 'target' to which RLDP policies and proposals should be addressed and against which they can be assessed. The current LDP Objectives (LDP1 Objectives) and corresponding draft RLDP Objectives are set out in Table 2 (Appendix B). This has resulted in 14 draft RLDP objectives as set out below.

5.1.3 The RLDP Objectives have also been cross checked against the Well-being Goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act (see Section 2.1), and these findings are set out in Appendix C.

5.2 The RLDP Objectives

The RLDP Objectives

NO1. Minimise the causes and adapt to the current and predicted impacts of climate change through:

- Minimising greenhouse gas emissions;
- Requiring appropriate location and design of development; and
- The protection and enhancement of all environmental assets required for climate adaptation and resilience.

NO2: Achieve a net biodiversity benefit and enhanced ecosystems resilience from new developments across the county borough.

NO3: Ensure all new developments provide a healthy local environment that encourages more active and healthier lifestyles for all age groups.

NO4: Realise the full benefits of green economic growth across the county borough to provide fully sustainable communities in all localities while conserving Neath Port Talbot's environment.

NO5: Support, enhance and enrich the distinctiveness of NPT's communities, including use of the Welsh language, through positive placemaking actions at a local level.

NO6: Reduce spatial inequalities in travel and transport across the county borough by improvements to Active Travel and public transport links and services, especially in valleys areas.

NO7: Deliver sufficient good quality new homes of the required types in the most suitable locations to meet the identified need.

5 Objectives

NO8: Encourage and support the retention and provision of a mix of community, retail, employment and recreational facilities in appropriate locations across the county borough.

NO9: Encourage and enable the establishment and growth of new clean green technologies and industries to promote and maintain a leading role for NPT in the national and international renewables and industrial economies.

NO10: Ensure that all areas of NPT are able to benefit from economic growth and from modern economic infrastructure, including visitor attractions, appropriate to meet their economic, social, environmental and cultural needs and aspirations.

NO11: Enable NPT to make an appropriate contribution to renewable and low carbon energy generation while encouraging all appropriate steps to be taken to reduce energy demand and improve efficiency across all sectors.

NO12: Conserve and safeguard mineral resources, reserves and infrastructure while making an appropriate and a proportionate contribution to the supply of minerals to meet local, regional and national need while ensuring adverse impacts are minimised and the provision of appropriate waste treatment, recycling and disposal facilities and processes are facilitated.

NO13: Ensure the conservation, protection and enhancement of NPT's natural and historic assets and environments, Green Infrastructure, landscapes, undeveloped coast and coastal areas.

NO14: Ensure that environmental issues and future changes including flood risk, coastal and fluvial change and pollution issues are appropriately avoided, addressed and adverse impacts minimised.

6. Next Steps

This document sets out initial proposals for Key Issues, Vision and Objectives. The Key Issues, Vision and Objectives will form part of the NPT RLDP *Preferred Strategy*.

6.0.1 All duly made comments received as a result of the Preferred Strategy consultation will be taken into account and any resulting changes incorporated into future versions of the document (and RLDP Key Issues, Vision and Objectives) where appropriate.

Appendix A: Development of the RLDP Key Issues

Topic	LDP(2016) Key Issues	NPT Corporate Plan Vision/ Objectives	NPT Corporate Plan Key Issues	Corporate Plan/ Well-being Plan Themes/ Issues	Commentary	Draft RLDP Key Issues
Overarching Issues						
Climate Emergency	<p>KI 1: The causes and consequences of climate change will need to be addressed, including the increased risk of flooding.</p>	<p>All communities are thriving and sustainable; Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations</p>	<p>Green recovery and decarbonisation: ~ Society has more appetite for clean, sustainable growth;</p> <p>- Government has signalled new policy and service responses needed to deliver on this agenda at pace;</p> <p>- Residents have become more engaged with their local environment, heritage and culture</p>	<p>Nature-based recovery: A changing climate will likely impact on the condition and distribution of habitats and species, and degraded habitats contribute to climate change. However, by putting nature into recovery we can also tackle climate change. Resource Use and Decarbonisation: NPT uses 2.5 times per person more resources than the planet can sustain. Further, NPT is a major carbon contributor in Wales and faces a challenge to balance Net Zero goals against the economic benefits brought by its high energy/ emission employers.</p> <p>Climate and Nature Emergency: NPT is a leader in renewable energy with some of the highest installed renewable energy capacity in Wales. Current projects to restore adjacent habitats such as carbon-sequestering peatlands demonstrates ways in which multiple benefits can be derived to tackle both the Climate and Nature emergencies together.</p>	<p>In the light of WG and NPT declarations of a climate emergency, and challenging targets for net zero, the key issue needs to be retained and strengthened.</p>	<p>Action to tackle the causes of increasing climate instability and to address its current and future impacts has now become urgent.</p>
		<p>Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations</p>	<p>Green recovery and decarbonisation: ~ Society has more appetite for clean, sustainable growth;</p> <p>- Government has signalled new policy and service responses needed to deliver on this agenda at pace;</p> <p>- Residents have become more engaged with their local environment, heritage and culture</p>	<p>Nature-based recovery: A changing climate will likely impact on the condition and distribution of habitats and species, and degraded habitats contribute to climate change. However, by putting nature into recovery we can also tackle climate change.</p> <p>Climate and Nature Emergency: NPT is a leader in renewable energy with some of the highest installed renewable energy capacity in Wales. Current projects to restore adjacent habitats such as carbon-sequestering peatlands demonstrates ways in which multiple benefits</p>	<p>There are significant concerns about the decline in biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems. Env (Wales)Act 2016S6 Biodiversity and resilience of</p>	<p>Addressing the local and global decline in biodiversity has now become urgent. All public authorities are required to maintain and enhance</p>
Nature Emergency	<p>KI 12: The continuing loss of habitats and species needs to be addressed.</p>	<p>Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations</p>	<p>Green recovery and decarbonisation: ~ Society has more appetite for clean, sustainable growth;</p> <p>- Government has signalled new policy and service responses needed to deliver on this agenda at pace;</p> <p>- Residents have become more engaged with their local environment, heritage and culture</p>	<p>Nature-based recovery: A changing climate will likely impact on the condition and distribution of habitats and species, and degraded habitats contribute to climate change. However, by putting nature into recovery we can also tackle climate change.</p> <p>Climate and Nature Emergency: NPT is a leader in renewable energy with some of the highest installed renewable energy capacity in Wales. Current projects to restore adjacent habitats such as carbon-sequestering peatlands demonstrates ways in which multiple benefits</p>	<p>There are significant concerns about the decline in biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems. Env (Wales)Act 2016S6 Biodiversity and resilience of</p>	<p>Addressing the local and global decline in biodiversity has now become urgent. All public authorities are required to maintain and enhance</p>

Development of the RLDP Key Issues Appendix A:

				<p>can be derived to tackle both the Climate and Nature emergencies together.</p>	<p>ecosystems duty: The duty requires that public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions. Authorities must ensure a net biodiversity gain from development.</p>	<p>biodiversity¹ and to ensure a net biodiversity benefit from all new development. [1: FN: Environment (Wales) Act 2016 S6]</p>
<p>Health and Well-being</p>	<p>KI 2: Residents in Neath Port Talbot experience some of the worst health in Wales.</p>	<p>All communities are thriving and sustainable</p>	<p>Poverty, deprivation and inequalities: - Structural inequalities were evident across the population prior to the pandemic. These structural issues have been accentuated as a result of the pandemic; - The demand for greater spending on health and social care may squeeze spending on other services – many of which are highly valued by the public;</p>	<p>Healthy Places: In comparison to Wales, NPT has one of the least healthy diets and lowest levels of physical activity. Work is needed to reverse the growing trend of obesity and more can be done to make sure the places we live help us to be active and eat well. Mental Well-being: Residents of NPT reported comparatively positive mental well-being in the National Survey for Wales. However, we need to be prepared for an increase in low mental well-being and mental health conditions as the true impacts of the pandemic surface.</p>	<p>Further information may emerge as part of the RLDP preparation and engagement processes, but the Healthy Places theme/KI should be taken forward for the RLDP.</p>	<p>NPT has one of the least healthy diets and lowest levels of physical activity in Wales resulting in increasing rates of obesity and ill health.</p>

Appendix A: Development of the RLDP Key Issues

				- Costs of dealing with the consequences of Covid-19 including impact on income generation; - Uncertain public spending outlook including uncertainty over replacement EU funding.				
Strategic and Spatial Choices								
Strategic Placemaking								
Spatial Strategy		[All objectives will feed in]	[All Kis will feed in]	[All themes will feed in]				
Infrastructure	KI 16: There is a need for improvements to the highway network to facilitate new development, deliver key regeneration proposals and improve accessibility.	All communities are thriving and sustainable		Connected Communities: Whilst the towns of Neath, Port Talbot and Pontardawe are well connected to each other and the rest of Wales, transport links in the valley areas are poor and contribute to the social and economic isolation of people living there.		A key concern for the Corporate plan - issues in valleys areas in particular - but also a more general requirement for adequate infrastructure of all types. The spatial strategy and future form and pattern of settlements will need to address this.		The majority of NPT's population, economic and cultural activity, significant infrastructure and facilities are located in the coastal belt, resulting in geographical inequalities in well-being.
Managing Settlement Form [Green Wedges]		Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations		Green recovery and decarbonisation: Residents have become more engaged with their local environment, heritage and culture. Community: People have reconnected with their local environment, neighbourhoods and outdoor spaces				
Placemaking in Action								
Placemaking and Design	KI 17: There is a need to address dereliction and loss of character in settlements and urban centres.	All communities are thriving and sustainable		Community: People have reconnected with their local environment, neighbourhoods and outdoor spaces				There has been a perceived loss of natural, cultural and built heritage and character
						New KI needs to incorporate all placemaking topics including design, Welsh language,		

Development of the RLDP Key Issues Appendix A:

Welsh Language	Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations		Welsh Language: We need to provide more opportunity to use the Welsh language in NPT to increase residents' confidence.	across NPT's communities, natural environment and landscapes coupled with a loss of role and purpose for many valley communities.
Sustainable Management of Natural Resources	Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations	Green Recovery and decarbonisation: Residents have become more engaged with their local environment, heritage and culture.	Natural Resource Limits: We are using stocks of our natural resources at a rate which is unsustainable and that our ecosystems are under increasing pressure and threat from the impacts of climate change, land use change, invasive nonnative species (INNS), pollution and over-use.	natural resources. General concern about losses and decline need to be addressed.
Placemaking in Rural Areas	All communities are thriving and sustainable		Connected Communities: Whilst the towns of Neath, Port Talbot and Pontardawe are well connected to each other and the rest of Wales, transport links in the valley areas are poor and contribute to the social and economic isolation of people living there.	valley communities.
Active and Social Places				
Moving				
Travel and Transport	All communities are thriving and sustainable		Connected Communities: Whilst the towns of Neath, Port Talbot and Pontardawe are well connected to each other and the rest of Wales, transport links in the valley areas are poor and contribute to the social and economic isolation of people living there.	Transport links, especially for Active Travel and Public Transport are poor in many areas (particularly the valleys), causing disadvantage and inequalities across the county borough.
				Concerns have been expressed about transport/travel linkages, particularly in valleys areas.
Living				

Appendix A: Development of the RLDP Key Issues

Housing and HMOs	<p>KI 5: There is a need for additional homes to:</p> <p><i>i. accommodate the population needed to meet the projected number of jobs; and</i></p> <p><i>ii. address the reduction in average household size.</i></p>	All communities are thriving and sustainable; All children get the best start in life		We need more affordable housing in NPT, with 1,037 new homes required by 2033. Encouragingly, 434 new units were built between 2018 and 2021.	The current need for new homes of all types will be established as part of plan preparation work, but will have to be addressed by the plan's policies and proposals	The need for additional good quality homes of all types, including affordable housing and provision for Gypsies and Travellers, must be addressed
Affordable Housing	<p>KI 6: There is a need for additional affordable housing throughout the County Borough.</p>	All communities are thriving and sustainable; All children get the best start in life		We need more affordable housing in NPT, with 1,037 new homes required by 2033. Encouragingly, 434 new units were built between 2018 and 2021.		
Gypsies and Travellers	<p>KI 7: There is a need for additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches.</p>	All communities are thriving and sustainable; All children get the best start in life				
Activities						
Retail and Commercial	<p>KI 10: There are concerns over the vitality and viability of the town, district and local centres.</p>	All communities are thriving and sustainable	<p>Digitisation: - Covid-19 has accelerated the growth of the digital economy, bringing changes to working patterns and skills requirements;</p> <p>- Adds to inequalities challenges but also brings new strategic risks – eg cyber threat;</p> <p>- Growth in online shopping likely to result in permanent changes to the use of town centres;</p> <p>- The growth in data sciences offers new opportunities but also requires new ethical frameworks.</p>		Concerns about shortfalls in existing provision of facilities reflect the need for communities to have access to adequate facilities of all types.	In order to be sustainable, all communities need ready access to goods, services, jobs and local recreation and community facilities.

Development of the RLDP Key Issues Appendix A:

Community Facilities	All communities are thriving and sustainable; All children get the best start in life;	All communities are thriving and sustainable; All children get the best start in life; Our local environment, heritage and culture can be enjoyed by future generations		<p>Community Spirit: Communities have pulled together during the pandemic and residents have noted the increase in community spirit and support. Communities should be supported to shape their own futures. Children and Young People: Residents of NPT feel it is important for children and young people to have more places to go and things to do.</p>		
Recreational Spaces	<p>KI 8: There is a shortfall in the provision of open space in some communities.</p>	<p>Community: People have reconnected with their local environment; neighbourhoods and outdoor spaces</p>	<p>Healthy Places: In comparison to Wales, NPT has one of the least healthy diets and lowest levels of physical activity. Work is needed to reverse the growing trend of obesity and more can be done to make sure the places we live help us to be active and eat well.</p>			
Productive and Enterprising Places						
Economic Infrastructure						
Electronic Communications	All communities are thriving and sustainable; All children get the best start in life	<p>Digitisation: - Covid-19 has accelerated the growth of the digital economy, bringing changes to working patterns and skills requirements; - Adds to inequalities challenges but also brings new strategic risks – eg cyber threat; - Growth in online shopping likely to result in permanent changes to the use of town centres; - The growth in data sciences offers new opportunities but also requires new ethical frameworks.</p>	<p>Connected Communities: Whilst the towns of Neath, Port Talbot and Pontardawe are well connected to each</p>		New KI needed to emphasise the significant ongoing industrial changes, especially in respect of the steel industry and Freeport proposals. New KI needs to refer to refer to all types of economic infrastructure (to include digital	Major structural economic changes are in progress that are likely to have a transformative effect on the national and regional economies and locally on industry and employment uses within NPT's coastal corridor
Transportation Infrastructure	All communities are thriving and sustainable	<p>KI 16: There is a need for improvements to the highway</p>				

Appendix A: Development of the RLDP Key Issues

<p>Economic Development</p>	<p><i>network to facilitate new development, deliver key regeneration proposals and improve accessibility.</i></p>			<p>other and the rest of Wales. transport links in the valley areas are poor and contribute to the social and economic isolation of people living there.</p>		
	<p>KI 9: Sufficient land needs to be provided over the LDP period to meet the requirements of businesses.</p>	<p>Local people are skilled and can access high quality green jobs.</p>	<p>Future of Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employees likely to want a better work-life balance permanently; • Shift to home working on a significant scale likely to continue with consequential impacts on the amount and type of office accommodation needed. The importance of appropriate digital infrastructure and consequential impacts on our main town centres; • Working practices will need to permanently change to embed the health protection behaviours that will be needed on a long term basis to protect the public health; • Greater competition for labour in a very competitive labour market <p>Digitisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Covid-19 has accelerated the growth of the digital economy, bringing changes to working patterns and skills requirements; - Adds to inequalities challenges but also brings new strategic risks – eg cyber threat; - Growth in online shopping likely to result in permanent changes to the use of town centres; - The growth in data sciences offers new opportunities but also requires new ethical frameworks. 	<p>Green Economy: Decarbonising important economic assets to achieve the Welsh Government's Net Zero target are a significant challenge. However, there are promising opportunities for future growth linked to decarbonisation. Skilled workforce: We need to work together to upskill our workforce to meet the long term demand for jobs in the area. Pandemic recovery: Support is needed around recruitment for growing sectors. The pandemic has given us an opportunity to rethink the way we do things and build back better in a green and just way that addresses both the climate and nature emergencies.</p>	<p>(including proposed Freeport provisions and development at the steelworks). These changes will need to be fully addressed and potential benefits maximised. The benefits of sustainable economic development and growth need to be spread across the county borough through the provision of appropriate modern economic infrastructure, including digital services.</p>	<p>technologies), local skills and green growth, particularly in valleys areas.</p>

Development of the RLDP Key Issues Appendix A:

<p>Economic Development</p> <p>Tourism</p>	<p>K1 3: Economic growth in Neath Port Talbot has stagnated over the last 10 years.</p>	<p>Local people are skilled and can access high quality green jobs.</p>	<p>Green Recovery and decarbonisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Society has more appetite for clean, sustainable growth - Government has signalled new policy and service responses needed to deliver on this agenda at pace. Digitisation: - Covid-19 has accelerated the growth of the digital economy, bringing changes to working patterns and skills requirements; - Adds to inequalities challenges but also brings new strategic risks – eg cyber threat; - Growth in online shopping likely to result in permanent changes to the use of town centres; - The growth in data sciences offers new opportunities but also requires new ethical frameworks. Future of Work: - Employees likely to want a better work-life balance permanently; - Shift to home working on a significant scale likely to continue with consequential impacts on the amount and type of office accommodation needed. The importance of appropriate digital infrastructure and consequential impacts on our main town centres; - Working practices will need to permanently change to embed the health protection behaviours that will be needed on a long term basis to protect the public health; - Greater competition for labour in a very competitive labour market. 	<p>Green Economy: Decarbonising important economic assets to achieve the Welsh Government's Net Zero target are a significant challenge. However, there are promising opportunities for future growth linked to decarbonisation. Skilled workforce: We need to work together to upskill our workforce to meet the long term demand for jobs in the area. Pandemic recovery: Support is needed around recruitment for growing sectors. The pandemic has given us an opportunity to rethink the way we do things and build back better in a green and just way that addresses both the climate and nature emergencies.</p>	
--	--	---	---	---	--

Appendix A: Development of the RLDP Key Issues

The Rural Economy	Kl 4: There are low levels of market demand in the valley areas.	Local people are skilled and can access high quality green jobs.	As Econ Dev above	As Econ Dev above		
Energy						
Energy Demand and Efficiency	<p>Kl 1: The causes and consequences of climate change will need to be addressed, including the increased risk of flooding;</p>		<p>Green Recovery and decarbonisation: Society has more appetite for clean, sustainable growth.</p>	<p>Resource use and decarbonisation: NPT uses 2.5 times per person more resources than the planet can sustain. Further NPT is a major carbon contributor in Wales and faces a challenge to balance Net Zero goals against the economic benefits brought by its high energy/emission employers.</p>		<p>In order to meet ambitious climate change targets, NPT will need to harness its significant green energy resources and to maximise decarbonisation in all sectors.</p>
Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	<p>Kl 1: The causes and consequences of climate change will need to be addressed, including the increased risk of flooding; Kl 11: There is a need to balance the impact of development on the countryside, landscape and coast, in particular the exploitation of mineral and renewable energy resources.</p>		<p>Green Recovery and decarbonisation: Society has more appetite for clean, sustainable growth.</p>	<p>Resource use and decarbonisation: NPT uses 2.5 times per person more resources than the planet can sustain. Further NPT is a major carbon contributor in Wales and faces a challenge to balance Net Zero goals against the economic benefits brought by its high energy/emission employers.</p>	<p>New Kl needs to incorporate references to NPT's green energy resources/opportunities and the importance of decarbonising in order to meet climate change targets.</p>	
Energy Minerals	<p>Kl 11: There is a need to balance the impact of development on the countryside, landscape and coast, in particular the exploitation of mineral and renewable energy resources</p>		<p>Green Recovery and decarbonisation: Society has more appetite for clean, sustainable growth.</p>			
Material Resources and the Circular Economy						

Development of the RLDP Key Issues Appendix A:

Waste	[KI 15: Superseded]					There is a requirement to design out waste and make provision for sustainable waste management facilities together with balancing the requirement to ensure an adequate supply of minerals with the protection of amenity and the environment.	NPT's mineral resources should be conserved while enabling a proportionate contribution to mineral supply and ensuring adverse impacts are minimised, together with provision of appropriate waste treatment and disposal facilities.
Non-Energy Minerals						<p>Natural Resource Limits: We are using stocks of our natural resources at a rate which is unsustainable and that our ecosystems are under increasing pressure and threat from the impacts of climate change, land use change, invasive non-native species (INNS), pollution and over-use.</p>	
Distinctive and Natural Places							
Special Characteristics of Places							
The Historic Environment	KI 17: There is a need to address dereliction and loss of character in settlements and urban centres.	Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations		<p>Community: People have reconnected with their local environment, neighbourhoods and outdoor spaces</p> <p>Community: People have reconnected with their local environment, neighbourhoods and outdoor spaces; Green recovery and decarbonisation: Residents have become more engaged with their local environment, heritage and culture</p>	<p>Proud Heritage: People in NPT are proud of their heritage and traditional Welsh communities. We need to preserve and protect our culture, history and rich natural heritage, whilst keeping inclusivity in mind as our culture becomes more diverse and working to remove historical stigma associated with the area by promoting the area.</p> <p>Ecosystems: Many of our ecosystems are not resilient to unexpected or unforeseen change. This jeopardises the ability of our natural environment to provide a number of vital well-being benefits now and in the future. Nature-based Recovery: A changing climate will likely impact on the condition and distribution of habitats and species, and degraded habitats contribute to climate</p>	Combined new KI needed to cover all special characteristics (Historic Environment, GI, landscape, biodiversity and coast) including biodiversity net benefit requirements.	NPT's rich historic and natural environments, Green Infrastructure, landscapes and coastal areas need to be conserved, protected and enhanced to be enjoyed by future generations.
Green Infrastructure	N/A	Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations					

Appendix A: Development of the RLDP Key Issues

				<p>change. However, by putting nature into recovery we can also tackle climate change. Healthy Places: In comparison to Wales, NPT has one of the least healthy diets and lowest levels of physical activity. Work is needed to reverse the growing trend of obesity and more can be done to make sure the places we live help us to be active and eat well.</p>		
Landscape	<p>KI 11: There is a need to balance the impact of development on the countryside, landscape and coast, in particular the exploitation of mineral and renewable energy resources.</p>	<p>Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations</p>	<p>Green recovery and decarbonisation: Residents have become more engaged with their local environment, heritage and culture</p>	<p>Natural Resource Limits: We are using stocks of our natural resources at a rate which is unsustainable and that our ecosystems are under increasing pressure and threat from the impacts of climate change, land use change, invasive nonnative species (INNS), pollution and over-use. Natural Assets: Residents appreciate and value the natural assets in NPT, but more is required to improve and recover them over the long-term.</p>		
Biodiversity and Ecological Networks	<p>KI 12: The continuing loss of habitats and species needs to be addressed.</p>	<p>Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations</p>	<p>Green recovery and decarbonisation: ~ Society has more appetite for clean, sustainable growth; - Government has signalled new policy and service responses needed to deliver on this agenda at pace; - Residents have become more engaged with their local environment, heritage and culture</p>	<p>Nature-based recovery: A changing climate will likely impact on the condition and distribution of habitats and species, and degraded habitats contribute to climate change. However, by putting nature into recovery we can also tackle climate change. Climate and Nature Emergency: NPT is a leader in renewable energy with some of the highest installed renewable energy capacity in Wales. Current projects to restore adjacent habitats such as carbon-sequestering peatlands demonstrates ways in which multiple benefits can be derived to tackle both the Climate and Nature emergencies together</p>		

Development of the RLDP Key Issues Appendix A:

Coastal Areas	<p>KI 11 : There is a need to balance the impact of development on the countryside, landscape and coast, in particular the exploitation of mineral and renewable energy resources.</p>	<p>Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations</p>	<p>Green recovery and decarbonisation: - Residents have become more engaged with their local environment, heritage and culture</p>	<p>Natural Assets: Residents appreciate and value the natural assets in NPT, but more is required to improve and recover them over the long-term. Flooding and Coastal Change: Flooding and coastal change risks to homes, communities, businesses, infrastructure, and ecosystems are one of the top concerns of climate change in NPT.</p>		
Environmental Qualities of Places						
Water and Flood Risk	<p>KI 1 : The causes and consequences of climate change will need to be addressed, including the increased risk of flooding.</p>	<p>Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations</p>		<p>Flooding and Coastal Change: Flooding and coastal change risks to homes, communities, businesses, infrastructure, and ecosystems are one of the top concerns of climate change in NPT.</p>		
Air Quality and Soundscape	<p>KI 13: Some areas of the County Borough experience issues with air quality.</p>	<p>All communities are thriving and sustainable</p>		<p>Air Quality: remains an area of concern and is a key priority in order to improve the health of current and future generations. Environmental Risk: Those most vulnerable in society are at higher risk environmental risk such as poor air quality and flooding. Climate change is expected to exacerbate these inequalities and there is a risk that responses to climate change can place disproportionate burdens on vulnerable people and communities. Natural Assets: Residents appreciate and value the natural assets in NPT, but more is required to improve and recover them over the long-term. Healthy Places: In comparison to Wales, NPT has one of the least healthy diets and lowest levels of physical activity. Work is needed to reverse the growing trend of obesity and more can be done to make sure the places we live help us to be active and eat well.</p>	<p>All aspects of environmental quality need to be combined in a more general pollution, flooding and de-risking KI</p>	<p>Flood risk and water issues are likely to become more significant concerns in future years and will need to be addressed alongside all types of pollution.</p>

Appendix A: Development of the RLDP Key Issues

Lighting		Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations	<p>Green recovery and decarbonisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents have become more engaged with their local environment, heritage and culture 	<p>Natural Assets: Residents appreciate and value the natural assets in NPT, but more is required to improve and recover them over the long-term.</p>		
De-risking		Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations	<p>Green recovery and decarbonisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents have become more engaged with their local environment, heritage and culture 	<p>Natural Assets: Residents appreciate and value the natural assets in NPT, but more is required to improve and recover them over the long-term.</p>		

Table 2 Development of RLDP Outcomes and Objectives

RLDP (PPW) Topic	Draft RLDP KI	Draft RLDP 2038 Outcome (By 2038 NPT will be a place where...)	LDP1 Objectives	Draft RLDP Objective
Overarching Issues				
Climate Emergency	<p>NKI 1: Action to tackle the causes of increasing climate instability and to address its current and future impacts has now become urgent.</p>	<p>NOC1: The Climate Emergency is being positively addressed: NPT will be on track to meet its agreed climate change targets and will be adapting appropriately to a changing climate.</p>	<p>OB 1: Minimise the causes and consequences of climate change through reduced greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change through consideration of its effects in the design and location of new development.</p>	<p>NO1: Minimise the causes and current and predicted impacts of climate change through: - Minimising greenhouse gas emissions; - Requiring appropriate location and design of development; and - The protection and enhancement of all environmental assets required for climate adaptation.</p>
Nature Emergency	<p>NKI 2: Addressing the local and global decline in biodiversity has now become urgent. All public authorities are required to maintain and enhance biodiversity and to ensure a net biodiversity benefit from all new development.</p>	<p>NOC2: The biodiversity emergency is being positively addressed: NPT will be delivering on-going net benefit for biodiversity as a result of development proposals over the plan period.</p>	<p>OB 15: Conserve Neath Port Talbot's important landscapes, countryside, undeveloped coast, important wildlife, habitats and geodiversity sites, ensuring that developments throughout the County Borough respect all landscapes and minimise adverse impacts.</p>	<p>NO2: Achieve a net biodiversity benefit from all new developments across the county borough.</p>
Health and Well-being	<p>NKI 3: NPT has one of the least healthy diets and lowest levels of physical activity in Wales resulting in increasing rates of obesity and ill health.</p>	<p>NOC3: Public health and well-being is improving: Significant public health and well-being benefits will be being delivered through new built developments.</p>	<p>OB 2: Reduce people's exposure to the determinants of poor health and provide an environment that encourages healthy, active and safer lifestyles.</p>	<p>NO3: Ensure all new developments provide a healthy local environment that encourages more active and healthier lifestyles.</p>
Strategic and Spatial Choices				
Strategic Placemaking				
Spatial Strategy:	<p>NKI 4: The majority of NPT's population, economic and cultural activity, significant infrastructure and</p>	<p>NOC4: Key valleys settlements have a more sustainable long-term future while the economic potential of the coastal belt</p>	<p>OB 5: Realise the diverse potential and opportunities available for sustainable economic development along the coastal corridor to foster economic growth, with Coed Darcy, Swansea University</p>	<p>NO4: Realise the full benefits of green economic growth across the county borough to provide fully</p>

Appendix B: Development of RLDP Vision Outcomes and Objectives

		<p>facilities are located in the coastal belt, resulting in geographical inequalities in well-being.</p>	<p>Science and Innovation Campus, Baglan Bay and Harbourside being the anchors for growth. OB 6: Reinvigorate the valley areas and improve economic prospects, recognising the role of Glynneath and Pontardawe in delivering sustainable growth.</p> <p>OB2: Reduce people's exposure to the determinants of poor health and provide an environment that encourages healthy, active and safer lifestyles. OB3: Deliver sustainable, safe and confident communities and develop vibrant settlements supporting a range and mix of facilities and services. OB4: Maximise accessibility to a range of leisure, recreational, health, social and community facilities in line with the role and function of settlements. OB7: Provide an adequate supply, mix, type and tenure of housing within sustainable settlements to meet the needs of the projected population. OB8: Provide additional affordable housing units throughout the County Borough and ensure new housing developments make a fair and justified contribution towards the provision of affordable housing. OB10: Deliver more equitable open space provision within and around settlements.</p> <p>OB 15: Conserve Neath Port Talbot's important landscapes, countryside, undeveloped coast, important wildlife, habitats and geodiversity sites, ensuring that developments throughout the County Borough respect all landscapes and minimise adverse impacts.</p>	<p>sustainable communities in all localities while conserving Neath Port Talbot's landscapes, countryside and undeveloped coast.</p>
<p>Infrastructure</p>	<p>is maximised: NPT's position and role as a key economic driver within the Swansea Bay City Region will see significant new green technological developments and economic opportunities emerging associated with Swansea University Bay Campus, Baglan Bay and Harbourside employment areas. The benefits of this will be more equitably distributed through development of key / local settlements in each of NPT's valleys, valleys hubs in the Pontardawe and Glynneath areas and an increasing emphasis on visitor attractions including outdoor adventure based attractions in the valleys and traditional seaside attractions at Aberafan Beach.</p>	<p>OB 2: Reduce people's exposure to the determinants of poor health and provide an environment that encourages healthy, active and safer lifestyles. OB 23: Protect and enhance the County Borough's historical heritage, built environment and identity OB 24: Conserve and enhance the County Borough's main arterial gateways.</p>	<p>NO5: Support, enhance and enrich the distinctiveness of NPT's communities through positive placemaking actions at a local level.</p>	
<p>Managing Settlement Form</p>				
Placemaking in Action				
<p>Placemaking and Design</p>	<p>NKI 5: There has been a perceived loss of natural, cultural and built heritage and character across NPT's communities, natural environment and landscapes coupled with a loss</p>	<p>NOCS: The important natural, cultural and built heritage of all NPT's communities is supported, enhanced and enriched: The distinctiveness and character of the</p>	<p>NO5: Support, enhance and enrich the distinctiveness of NPT's communities through positive placemaking actions at a local level.</p>	

Development of RLDP Vision Outcomes and Objectives Appendix B:

Welsh Language		three main towns of Neath, Port Talbot and Pontardawe, their individual histories, cultures and natural assets will be conserved, sustainably managed and enhanced. The distinctive and separate characters of each of NPT's five valleys will be conserved and enhanced through support and enhancement of their key settlements and distinctive environments.	<p>OB 25: Preserve and enhance the area's cultural heritage and identity with a focus on the Welsh language in language sensitive areas.</p> <p>OB 17: Promote the efficient use of land and safeguard the quality and quantity of environmental assets</p> <p>OB 6: Reinvigorate the valley areas and improve economic prospects, recognising the role of Glynneath and Pontardawe in delivering sustainable growth.</p>	
Sustainable Management of Natural Resources	of role and purpose for many valley communities.			
Placemaking in Rural Areas				
Active and Social Places				
Moving				
Travel and Transport	<p>NKI 6: Transport links, especially for Active Travel and Public Transport are poor in many areas (particularly the valleys), causing disadvantage and inequalities across the county borough.</p>	<p>NOC6: Travel and transport is more sustainable, convenient, accessible and efficient: Improvements with an emphasis on Active Travel and public transport especially in the valleys areas will be improving accessibility for all communities.</p>	<p>OB 21: Increase accessibility, promote active travel and encourage a shift to more sustainable modes of transport for people and freight. OB 22: Reduce impacts of traffic growth and congestion and promote the efficient and effective use of the transport network.</p>	<p>NO6: Reduce spatial inequalities in travel and transport across the county borough by improvements to Active Travel and public transport links and services, especially in valleys areas.</p>
Living				
Housing and HMOs			<p>OB 7: Provide an adequate supply, mix, type and tenure of housing within sustainable settlements to meet the needs of the projected population. OB 8: Provide additional affordable housing units throughout the County Borough and ensure new housing developments make a fair and justified contribution towards the provision of affordable housing. OB 9: Deliver additional pitches, to meet the identified need of Neath Port Talbot's Gypsy and Traveller community.</p>	<p>NO7: Deliver sufficient new homes of all types in the best locations to meet the identified need.</p>
Affordable Housing	<p>NKI 7: The need for additional homes of all types, including affordable housing and provision for Gypsies and Travellers, must be addressed.</p>	<p>NOC7: The need for homes of all types across the county borough is being addressed. Measures to enable and encourage new homes in sustainable locations will be addressing housing needs.</p>		
Gypsies and Travellers				
Activities				
Retail and Commercial	<p>NKI 8: In order to be sustainable, all communities need ready access to</p>	<p>NOC8: All communities have ready access to goods, services, jobs and community facilities. Measures to enable</p>	<p>OB 13: Maintain, enhance and develop a hierarchy of retail centres in line with the settlement framework recognising the principal role of Neath, Port Talbot and Pontardawe town centres.</p>	<p>NO8: Encourage and support the provision of a mix of community, retail, employment and recreational</p>
Community Facilities				

Appendix B: Development of RLDP Vision Outcomes and Objectives

Recreational Spaces	goods, services, jobs and local recreation and community facilities.	and encourage the provision of services, employment and facilities in sustainable locations will be addressing community requirements.	OB 4: Maximise accessibility to a range of leisure, recreational, health, social and community facilities in line with the role and function of settlements. OB 10: Deliver more equitable open space provision within and around settlements.	facilities in appropriate locations across the county borough.
	Productive and Enterprising Places			
Economic Infrastructure				
Electronic Communications	NKI 9: Major structural economic changes are in progress that are likely to have a transformative effect on the national and regional economies and locally on industry and employment uses within NPT's coastal corridor (including proposed Freeport provisions and development at the steelworks). These changes will need to be fully addressed and potential benefits maximised.	NOC9: The benefits of major national and local structural economic change are maximised: Ongoing structural economic changes affecting major local industries and employment are fully embraced and the potential benefits for health, well-being, employment, and the local environment are maximised for residents of NPT.	OB5: Realise the diverse potential and opportunities available for sustainable economic development along the coastal corridor to foster economic growth, with Coed Darcy, Swansea University Science and Innovation Campus, Baglan Bay and Harbourside being the anchors for growth. OB6: Reinvigorate the valley areas and improve economic prospects, recognising the role of Glynneath and Pontardawe in delivering sustainable growth. OB11: To promote and protect a diverse portfolio of employment land and employment opportunities to meet the needs of residents and businesses and stimulate economic growth. OB12: Improve and strengthen the economic base of Neath Port Talbot to increase economic activity, reduce the unemployment rate in line with the Welsh average and negate some of the impacts of a reduced working age population. OB14: Provide a holistic approach to tourism development to capitalise on Neath Port Talbot's growing tourism industry, specifically growth in the Neath and Afan Valleys to support the local economy. OB21: Increase accessibility, promote active travel and encourage a shift to more sustainable modes of transport for people and freight. OB22: Reduce impacts of traffic growth and congestion and promote the efficient and effective use of the transport network.	NO9: Encourage and enable the establishment and growth of new clean green technologies and industries to promote and maintain a leading role for NPT in the national and international renewables and industrial economies. NO10: Ensure that all areas of NPT are able to benefit from economic growth and from modern economic infrastructure appropriate to meet their economic, social environmental and cultural needs and aspirations.
Transportation Infrastructure				
Economic Development				
Tourism				
The Rural Economy				
Energy				
Energy Demand and Efficiency	NKI 11: In order to meet ambitious climate change targets, NPT will	NOC11: An important contribution to the energy needs of Wales is made: Measures	OB 18: Safeguard the County Borough's mineral resource and make a proportionate contribution to the supply of mineral reserves	NO11: Enable NPT to make an appropriate contribution to renewable and low carbon energy
Renewable and Low Carbon Energy				

Development of RLDP Vision Outcomes and Objectives Appendix B:

Energy Minerals	need to harness its significant green energy resources and to maximise decarbonisation in all sectors.	taken to address energy demand and efficiency will be taking effect while appropriate benefit will be coming from NPT's renewable and low carbon energy generation potential.	to meet local, regional and national demand whilst ensuring adverse impacts are minimised. OB 19: To make a proportionate contribution towards the energy needs of Wales with a focus on renewable energy.	generation while encouraging all appropriate steps to be taken to reduce energy demand and improve efficiency across all sectors.
Material Resources and the Circular Economy				
Waste	NKI 12: NPT's mineral resources should be conserved while enabling a proportionate contribution to mineral supply and ensuring adverse impacts are minimised, together with provision of appropriate waste treatment and disposal facilities.	NOC12: Mineral reserves are conserved and appropriate waste treatment and disposal facilities provided to meet needs. Measures to protect mineral reserves and enable their use when required together with the appropriate treatment and disposal of waste will be addressing all appropriate requirements.	OB 18: Safeguard the County Borough's mineral resource and make a proportionate contribution to the supply of mineral reserves to meet local, regional and national demand whilst ensuring adverse impacts are minimised. OB 20: To meet the requirement to make adequate and appropriate provision for waste treatment and disposal facilities.	NO12: Conserve mineral resources while making a proportionate contribution to the supply of minerals to meet local, regional and national need while ensuring adverse impacts are minimised and the provision of appropriate waste treatment and disposal facilities and processes are facilitated.
Non-Energy Minerals				
Distinctive and Natural Places				
Special Characteristics of Places				
The Historic Environment		NOC13: Natural and historic assets and environments, biodiversity, Green Infrastructure, landscapes and coastal areas are conserved, protected and enhanced. Appropriate measures will be conserving and enhancing the unique historic environment of NPT surviving from all periods from prehistoric hill forts to the key roles played in global industrialisation by the coal and metal industries, set in the spectacular natural setting of valleys and coast.	OB 15: Conserve Neath Port Talbot's important landscapes, countryside, undeveloped coast, important wildlife, habitats and geodiversity sites, ensuring that developments throughout the County Borough respect all landscapes and minimise adverse impacts. OB 17: Promote the efficient use of land and safeguard the quality and quantity of environmental assets. OB 23: Protect and enhance the County Borough's historical heritage, built environment and identity. OB 24: Conserve and enhance the County Borough's main arterial gateways.	NO13: Ensure the conservation, protection and enhancement of NPT's natural and historic environments, Green Infrastructure, landscapes and coastal areas.
Green Infrastructure				
Landscape				
Biodiversity and Ecological Networks	NKI 13: NPT's rich historic and natural environments, Green Infrastructure, landscapes and coastal areas need to be conserved, protected and enhanced to be enjoyed by future generations.			
Coastal Areas				
Environmental Qualities of Places				

Appendix B: Development of RLDP Vision Outcomes and Objectives

Water and Flood Risk			<p>NKI 14: Flood risk and water issues are likely to become more significant concerns in future years and will need to be addressed alongside all types of pollution.</p>			<p>NOC14: Flood risk, coastal change and pollution issues are appropriately addressed and adverse impacts minimised. Appropriate measures will be leading to a reduced risk from environmental change with reducing pollution levels.</p>			<p>OB 16: Address air quality issues and minimise the adverse impacts from noise generating and polluting activities.</p>			<p>NO14: Ensure that flood risk, coastal change and pollution issues are appropriately addressed and adverse impacts minimised.</p>
Air Quality and Soundscape												
Lighting												
De-risking												

Matrix of RLDP Objectives against the Well-being Goals Appendix C:

Draft RLDP Objectives	Well-being Goals						
	Prosperous Wales	Resilient Wales	Healthier Wales	More equal Wales	Wales of cohesive communities	Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language	Globally Responsible Wales
NO1: Climate Change							
NO2: biodiversity							
NO3: active and healthier lifestyles.							
NO4: Strategic Placemaking							
NO5: Placemaking in Action							
NO6: Moving							
NO7: Living							
NO8: Activities							
NO9: Economic Recovery							
NO10: Economic infrastructure							
NO11: Energy							
NO12: Material Resources							
NO13: Special Characteristics							
NO14: Environmental Qualities							