

Merthyr Tydfil Second Replacement Local Development Plan 2026-2041

Delivery Agreement

August 2026

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This document is available in Welsh/Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

Delivery Agreement

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 *The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004 (Section 62) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations, 2005* require Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to prepare a Local Development Plan (LDP) for their administrative area, setting out the Council's land-use Strategy for future development.
- 1.2 Accordingly, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC) produced and subsequently adopted the *Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Replacement Local Development Plan (2016-2031)* on the 29th of January 2020. The Plan sets out the local planning policy framework, which reflects the Council's priorities for the development and use of land within the County Borough, over a fifteen-year period. The LDP provides the foundation for consistent decision making, ensuring effectual management of land and other resources.
- 1.3 Section 69 of the *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004* requires all Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to undertake a review of their adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) and report the findings to the Welsh Government via a Review Report. Beyond four years, the Plan's Evidence Base is considered dated, consequently Regulation 41 of the *Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015*, mandates a review. The Manual is clear that up-to-date evidence is key to ensuring *effective and consistent planning decisions, supporting the objectives of a plan-led system*. (Welsh Government, 2020, p198).
- 1.4 Since adoption, the LDP has been monitored by way of five Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs), which assess the efficacy of the Plan's Strategy, policies and allocations. The AMRs have formed the basis of the LDP review, with findings presented in the Review Report, which was endorsed by Full Council on the 04th of March 2026. The Review Report considers the contextual changes (modifications made to legislation, policy and guidance within the national, regional and local frameworks) to understand the degree of change that has occurred since the Plan's adoption. Furthermore, it provides an analysis of the type of revision required, concluding that a full review is the most appropriate approach.
- 1.5 Whilst the Delivery Agreement is the first step of preparing a Second Replacement LDP; the adopted *Merthyr Tydfil Replacement Local Development Plan (2016-2031)* will remain the extant local policy framework for the determination of planning applications and appeals. Use of the adopted plan will continue until the second replacement LDP is formally adopted by the Council.

Purpose of the Delivery Agreement

- 1.6 *The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended)* specifies the form and content of the LDP, alongside the associated procedures for plan preparation, inclusive of the production of a Delivery Agreement (Regulation 9). The Delivery Agreement has been prepared having regard to the Regulations, as well as the *Development Plans Manual (edition 3)*, March 2020.
- 1.7 The preparation of a Delivery Agreement is a statutory requirement, which must first be approved by the Council and subsequently, the Welsh Government. The Delivery Agreement is a commitment to prepare a Local Development Plan, in addition to being a statement to illustrate the timings of stakeholder and community engagement, over the plan period (2026-2041). The Delivery Agreement is comprised of two principal elements:
- The Community Involvement Scheme – An explanation of how the Council intends to engage with statutory and non-statutory stakeholders, members of the public and key partners.
 - The Timetable – An indication of the timeframe for preparing and adopting the LDP, inclusive of the key stages of the LDP process.

Preparation of a Delivery Agreement

- 1.8 The Delivery Agreement (DA) has been prepared and shared with statutory consultees during May and June 2026, prior to being presented to Full Council for approval and being submitted to the Welsh Government for agreement.

Preparation of a Second Replacement Local Development Plan

- 1.9 In accordance with the *Development Plans Manual (ed. 3)*, the Council will prepare the *Second Replacement Local Development Plan* with the aim of achieving several key outcomes. The Plan will:
1. *Support sustainable development and quality places based around the National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes, aligned with national policy (set out in PPW) integrated with an SA/SEA/HRA, including Welsh language and the requirements of the WBFGA 2015.*
 2. *Be based on and underpinned by early, effective and meaningful community involvement in order to understand and consider a wide range of views, with the aim of building a broad consensus on the spatial strategy, policies and proposals.*
 3. *Be based on a robust understanding of the role and function of an area(s) including the functional linkages to areas beyond administrative boundaries.*

4. *Be distinctive by having plans setting out clearly how their area will develop and change, giving certainty for communities, developers and business.*
5. *Be resilient to climate change (using the latest UK Climate Projections, flood risk and vulnerability assessment data) and support the transition to a low carbon society in line with the latest carbon reduction targets and budgets as set out in the Environment (Wales) Act (Part 2). The principles of Placemaking, the Sustainable Transport Hierarchy and the Energy Hierarchy as set out in PPW must be adhered to.*
6. *Ensure the sustainable management of natural resources in accordance with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and other relevant legislation.*
7. *Deliver what is intended through deliverable and viable plans, taking into account necessary infrastructure requirements, financial viability and other market factors.*
8. *Be proactive and responsive with plans, kept up-to-date and flexible to accommodate change*

(Welsh Government, p15-16, 2020).

- 1.10 The preparation of the Second Replacement LDP will have regard to a range of policy, guidance, legislation and other initiatives at UK (assimilated law (retained EU law)), national, regional and local level. LDP preparation will also be guided by the objectives contained within the *Cwm Taf Morgannwg Well-being Plan (2023-2028)*. The Well-being Plan's overarching theme is "A More Equal Cwm Taf Morgannwg", recognising that access to opportunities is disproportionate across Cwm Taf Morgannwg. Two principal objectives have been developed to tackle this, namely creating 'healthy local neighbourhoods' and 'sustainable resilient local communities.' Where they relate to land-use planning, the LDP will reflect the aims of the cultural, social, environmental and economic objectives identified in the *Cwm Taf Morgannwg Well-being Plan (2023-2028)*.

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (inclusive of Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment)

- 1.11 The *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 S. 39 (2)* and *SEA Regulations 5(2) and 5(4)* mandate a statutory requirement to produce a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), to provide the rationale for spatial and policy choices. Whilst the scope of the SEA is limited to the environmental effects of the Plan, the SA has a broader remit covering social, economic and cultural well-being effects (in addition to environmental).
- 1.12 The *Development Plan Manual (ed. 3)* is clear that Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) should consider an integrated approach to Plan preparation, whereby key considerations inclusive of the *Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015*, the *Equalities Act 2010*, Health Impact Assessments (HIAs), the Environment Act (Section 6) and the Welsh language are combined to form an

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA). The ISA provides a transparent and holistic approach to assessing the sustainability implications of the LDP's growth Strategy, Aims and Objectives, policies and proposals.

1.13 The ISA is a fully integrated, iterative process running concurrently alongside LDP plan-making, with the various stages of ISA (incorporating SEA) reflected in the timetable. The *Development Plans Manual (ed. 3)* sets out the five main stages of the process:

- Stage A – Scoping: This stage involves setting the context, establishing a baseline and deciding on scope and objectives of the ISA framework.
- Stage B – Appraisal of Alternatives: This stage is concerned with developing and refining options and assessing effects. This will occur alongside the Preferred Strategy.
- Stage C – Assessment of the Deposit Plan and preparation of the ISA Report: This will include an appraisal of the findings to accompany the Deposit Plan for public consultation.
- Stage D – Examination and Adoption: This stage will account for any changes at Examination (Matters Arising), alongside the production of a post-adoption statement.
- Stage E – Monitoring: This stage will involve monitoring the significant sustainability effects of implementing the LDP.

(Welsh Government, p69, 2020).

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

1.14 Undertaking a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is a legal requirement under Part 6 of the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017*. In accordance with the *Development Plans Manual (ed. 3)*, the HRA will not be incorporated into the SA, as it utilises different precautionary methods. The HRA assesses the policies and proposals of the LDP to ascertain whether they will have any significant impact, alone or in combination, with other plans or projects upon sites within the National Site Network (NSN).

1.15 Further to the *Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019*, the European Union's Natura 2000 ecological network no longer includes Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within the United Kingdom. In its place, a National Site Network (NSN) has been created, which includes SACs and SPAs.

1.16 The HRA will be undertaken alongside the ISA and plan-making process, with Natural Resources Wales consulted throughout. The main stages of the HRA include:

- Stage 1 – Screening for Likely Significant Effects: This stage involves a ‘screening’ exercise to consider the likely significant effects on qualifying features of a site within the National Site Network (NSN).
- Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment and the Integrity Test: This stage involves the Appropriate Assessment (AA) to ascertain whether the Plan will adversely affect the conservation objectives of a sites qualifying features. Whereby the Integrity Test takes account of the conclusions of the AA to determine whether the Plan will have an adverse effect on the integrity of NSN sites.
- Stage 3 – Alternative Solutions: This stage identifies where the assessment has been unable to rule out adverse effects. This will need to be addressed by either changing the plan or incorporating mitigation measures.
- Stage 4 – Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) and Compensatory Measures: Where IROPI exists, the Plan should only be adopted if the proposal or policy therein has no feasible alternative and necessary compensatory measures have been secured.

Evidence Base Assessments

1.17 The production of a Second Replacement LDP will necessitate an update/review of the Evidence Base, which informed the adopted Plan. All contextual changes to legislation, guidance and policy identified in the five Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs), produced post LDP adoption, will need to be reflected within the Evidence Base documents. The following studies are likely to be required, as part of the revision process:

- Population and Housing Projections
- Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA)
- Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)
- Sustainable Settlement Hierarchy
- Settlement Boundary Review
- Employment Land Review (ELR)
- Retail, Leisure and Tourism Study
- Green Infrastructure Assessment
- Open Space Assessment
- Renewable Energy Assessment
- Landscape Assessment
- Transport Assessment
- Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment

This list above is not definitive, and additional evidence may be deemed necessary, as the LDP revision progresses.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales), 2015

1.18 The *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act* (WBFGA) received Royal Assent in 2015 and requires public bodies to consider the long-term impacts of their decisions, whilst working more effectively with communities to address issues such as health and climate change. Sustainable Development is a core principle of the Act, which alongside the SEA requirement, highlights the demonstrable links between the LDP and the WBFGA. The Sustainable Development Principle introduced by the Act 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 (Future Generations Commissioner for Wales).

1.19 Furthermore, the Act introduces seven well-being goals to ensure that all public bodies are working towards the same objectives. Public bodies must work to achieve all seven goals, which provide the opportunity for an innovative approach that reflects the way in which people live, and what they can expect from public services. The well-being goals are presented below:

- A Prosperous Wales.
- A Resilient Wales.
- A More Equal Wales.
- A Healthier Wales.
- A Wales of Cohesive Communities.
- A Wales of Vibrant Culture and thriving Welsh Language.
- A Globally Responsible Wales.

1.20 The Act also introduces the Five Ways of Working, which provide context and act as a catalyst for the positive delivery of the land-use planning system in Wales. The Five Ways of Working are identified as:

- Long Term – Balancing short-term needs against the long-term.
- Integration – Consider how well-being objectives impact upon the well-being goals.
- Involvement – The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals.

- Collaboration – Working in conjunction with other people/bodies to achieve the well-being goals.
- Prevention – Acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse to allow public bodies to meet their objectives.

(Future Generations Commissioner for Wales)

Tests of Soundness

- 1.21 In accordance with the *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004* in Wales, Planning and Environmental Decisions Wales (PEDW) will examine the LDP, on behalf of the Welsh Government, to ensure that the Plan is 'sound'. The Inspector will assess whether the Plan has been prepared in accordance with the legal and regulatory procedural requirements and complies with the Community Involvement Scheme. Moreover, the Inspector must determine whether the LDP complies with the three tests of soundness, set out in legislation. These are:
- Test 1: Does the plan fit? – Is it consistent with other plans/policies?
 - Test 2: Is the plan appropriate? – Is the Plan based on sound evidence and is it appropriate for the local area?
 - Test 3: Will the plan deliver? – Is the Plan likely to be effective?
- 1.22 The conclusions drawn by the Inspector will be presented in the Inspector's Report, which is binding upon the Council. Unless the Welsh Government has cause to intervene, the Council must accept the changes stipulated by the Inspector and adopt the LDP in the specified timeframe.

2.0 Community Involvement Scheme

- 2.1 The Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) describes the method and timescales for active community and stakeholder involvement in the preparation of the Second Replacement LDP. Whilst the Council is ultimately responsible for the content of the LDP, it will nonetheless be shaped by stakeholders and interested parties, in line with the *Development Plans Manual* (ed. 3). The Manual is clear that involving the correct individuals from the outset ensures greater success, consensus and strengthens community involvement. Furthermore, working in collaboration with the community and stakeholders will help to ensure alignment with well-being goals and five ways of working, presented in the *Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales), 2015* (WBFGA).
- 2.2 The *Development Plans Manual* (ed. 3) stipulates that when preparing a Community Involvement Scheme, Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) should:
- *Create the conditions for early involvement and feedback at a stage when people can shape and influence the plan, based on the 5 ways of working, as set out in the WBFGA 2015.*
 - *Encourage the commitment from all participants to an open and honest debate on realistic development alternatives in search of broad consensus.*
 - *Recognise the need to adopt approaches/techniques for involving all elements of the community (age groups, local community action groups, hard to reach groups and protected characteristic groups) including business, which seeks to involve those not normally involved.*
 - *A one size fits all approach will not be appropriate.*

(Welsh Government, p24, 2020)

Lessons Learned from the Previous LDP

- 2.3 The production of the adopted LDP was guided by a variety of engagement opportunities, allowing interested parties to inform the plan-making process. These included opportunities for in-person discussions with officers, as well as clear, written information. Such methods of consultation were deemed to be successful in engaging a wide range of stakeholders, organisations and members of the public. The Council will seek to replicate and enhance these techniques in the production of the Second Replacement LDP.
- 2.4 The Community Involvement Scheme that accompanied the adopted LDP is now outdated, as indicated by references to defunct strategies. Additionally, the CIS does not accurately reflect the name of the Community Council in operation within the County Borough. Consequently, the CIS requires a review to account for the variety of changes that have occurred since the LDPs adoption. It is anticipated that the revision of the CIS could also improve the efficacy of the consultation and engagement process, inclusive of engagement techniques.

- 2.5 Whilst the previous Plan took account of the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015*, the legislation has been more firmly implemented within planning policy since 2020, with the introduction of *Planning Policy Wales (ed. 12)*, the *Development Plans Manual (ed. 3)*, 2020 and the national development framework, *Future Wales 2020-2040*. Furthermore, in 2023 the *Cwm Taf Morgannwg Well-being Plan 2023-2028* was published, which unlike the first iteration (*Cwm Taf Well-being Plan, 2018-2023*) also included the administrative area of Bridgend. The Second Replacement LDP will firmly imbed these principles into the engagement and plan-making processes to ensure conformity, collaboration and involvement.
- 2.6 The Council recognises that the voices of young people are instrumental in shaping the future of the County Borough. As such, the Council will seek to secure greater engagement with this demographic, commensurate with the manner in which they access information. A large part of this will likely involve the use of social media. Social media was not employed for engagement purposes during the production of the adopted LDP; however, it has grown exponentially in prominence over the last decade, with the popularity of certain applications still increasing. Whilst the Council has a presence on several platforms, it will nonetheless investigate all options for engagement in this manner.
- 2.7 The Council utilises Microsoft Teams to undertake its daily functions. Video conferencing software came to prominence at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and has remained an effective and efficient way to communicate and conduct business. Consequently, the use of this technology will continue to be implemented for stakeholder and community engagement, where appropriate.
- 2.8 During the preparation of the adopted LDP, the Council website was utilised to promote engagement throughout the various stages of plan-making. The Second Replacement LDP will continue to use the Council website to engage with communities however it is recognised that the website requires rationalisation for ease of use, for the customer. This work is currently ongoing as part of a wider corporate review of the website.

Principles of Engagement

- 2.9 Public engagement is the hallmark of the Community Involvement Scheme and aligns with the well-being goals and the five ways of working. Collaboration and Involvement are two of the five ways of working, which involve partnership and cooperation to achieve shared objectives and ensuring a diverse range of individuals are involved in the decision-making process.
- 2.10 Engagement also underpins the *Cwm Taf Morgannwg Well-being Plan (2023-2028)* whereby to achieve the objective of 'healthy local neighbourhoods', it expressly states that public bodies will *work with communities to build a sense of belonging* (Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board, p4, 2023). Community Involvement is further supported through the *Merthyr Tydfil Corporate Well-being*

Being Plan (2023-2028) – Acting Today for a Better Tomorrow. The Plan was compiled in collaboration with the community, with engagement being the cornerstone in devising the four local well-being objectives.

- 2.11 The Cwm Taf Regional Partnership Board (RPB), of which Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is a member, produced an *Area Plan (2023-2028)* which aims to improve the well-being of the population of Cwm Taf Morgannwg and highlights how health and social care are delivered. The *Cwm Taf Morgannwg Well-being Plan* provides the evidence base for the RPB's *Area Plan*, which endorses the overarching theme of 'A More Equal Cwm Taf Morgannwg'. In turn, this drives every aspect of the public service board's (PSB) work. The *Area Plan* commits to the National Principles for Public Participation, which shapes the way that the community is engaged.
- 2.12 The National Principles are utilised for engaging with members of the public, as well as service users. They aim to ensure quality, openness and consistency and guide the way engagement is undertaken. The principles, which have also been endorsed by the Welsh Government, are set out below:
- i. Engagement is effectively designed to make a difference.
 - ii. Encourage and enable everyone affected to be involved, if they so choose.
 - iii. Engagement is planned and delivered in a timely and appropriate way.
 - iv. Work with relevant partner organisations.
 - v. The information provided will be jargon free, appropriate and understandable.
 - vi. Make it easier for people to take part.
 - vii. Enable people to take part effectively.
 - viii. Engagement is given the right resources and support to be effective.
 - ix. People are told of the impact of their contribution.
 - x. Learn and share lessons to improve the process of engagement.

(Wales Council for Voluntary Action)

- 2.13 Furthermore, engagement will also be carried out in accordance with the Council's *Consultation and Engagement Framework (2022-2026)*, which affirms the Council's commitment to community engagement and the nurturing of those symbiotic relationships. The framework endorses the National Principles for Public Participation, in addition to reflecting the principles of engagement set forth in The Consultation Institute Charter.

Involvement and Consultation

- 2.14 The legal requirements for community involvement and public participation for the LDP process are provided by the *Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended 2015)*. The Council must comply with the Regulations, as well as the WBFGA and the five ways of working. The Council intends to meet these requirements by working collaboratively with a range of stakeholders in the preparation of the Plan. This will involve liaising with specific and general consultation bodies, other interested parties and members of the public. Details pertaining to Specific and General consultees are provided at Appendix B.
- 2.15 The following individuals, groups and organisations will be involved in the production of the Local Development Plan:

The Council

- 2.16 Local Planning Authority (LPA): Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is the responsible authority for exercising its statutory function to prepare a Local Development Plan (LDP). The LDP will cover all land within the jurisdiction of the LPA, except for that which falls within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.
- 2.17 Council Executive: The Leader of the Council heads the largest political group and is the most senior Member of the Council. The Leader is responsible for leading on the decision-making process, as well as setting budgets and directing strategic policy. The Leader chairs the Cabinet, which is comprised of Senior Councillors who manage portfolios under various service divisions. Additionally, the Senior Councillors contribute to overall strategic management and policy development. The political group with the next highest number of seats is referred to as the 'majority opposition party'.
- 2.18 Councillors (Members): Councillors are democratically elected representatives of their communities, voted for by the residents of Merthyr Tydfil. Councillors undertake decisions based on the best interests of the County Borough, as a whole. These pertain to various matters, inclusive of the LDP, whereby Members will make the final decisions on key stages of the plan making process. Moreover, Senior Councillors will support and take an active role in the LDP Steering Group, contributing to the Vision, Aims and Objectives that inform the LDP Strategy. Councillors' actions are guided by the advice of the Standards Committee and the Members Code of Conduct.
- 2.19 Local Government Officers: Officers are employed by the Council to provide information and advice to Councillors, allowing them to make informed decisions and subsequently, to cooperatively implement them. The actions and conduct of employees are guided by the Local Government Employees Code of Conduct. Furthermore, professional officers who are members of The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) are also governed by the Institute's Code of Conduct.

Community Councils

- 2.20 Merthyr Tydfil has one Community Council operating within its administrative area, namely Bedlinog and Trelewis Community Council. The Community Council is comprised of democratically elected representatives of the communities, to deal specifically with community matters. The Community Council will be an important forum for engagement on the LDP, reflecting community opinions, which will be given due consideration in the decision-making process. The actions of the Community Council is also guided by the Members Code of Conduct.

Public Services Board

- 2.21 The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board (CTMPSB) brings together individuals from key local partners, with the objective of working collectively to improve the social, environmental, economic and cultural well-being of residents. The CTMPSB was established as a direct result of the implementation of the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015* and includes the administrative areas of Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 2.22 The CTMPSB has been identified as a key stakeholder group to assist in the facilitation of the LDP. Whilst it is acknowledged that the LDP cannot address every issue identified by the Cwm-Taf Well-being Plan, it can nevertheless contribute to the relevant aspects of the plan, which underpin its objectives. The CTMPSB will be consulted on all participatory stages of plan-making, inclusive of the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (including SEA).

Specific and General Consultation Bodies

- 2.23 Appendix B provides a list of Specific and General Consultees, alongside UK Government departments and Other Consultees. The Council is obligated to consult with any UK Government department where there is potential for the Plan to impact upon their area of expertise. The Statutory, Specific Consultees include the Welsh Government and other organisations with functions that apply specifically to the County Borough's administrative area, such as utility companies. All consultation bodies will be formally consulted throughout the various stages of the plan-making process, with due regard given to any feedback received.

Hard to Reach Groups

- 2.24 Hard to Reach groups are from communities that are traditionally under-represented in the planning process. Consequently, their views will be sought by the Council, making a valuable contribution the development of the County Borough and allowing for identified needs to be met.

2.25 During scheduled consultation periods, the Council will remain open and flexible in order to facilitate engagement with these groups, who include:

- Individuals or groups with disabilities.
- Individuals or groups with additional learning needs.
- The elderly.
- Young people.
- Gypsies and Traveller communities.
- Ethnic minority groups.
- Homeless individuals.
- Ex-offenders.

2.26 It is appreciated that not all groups may want to liaise directly with the Council. In such instances the Council will work with associated groups, individuals or trusted intermediaries to ensure complete representation.

Landowners, Developers, Agents and Businesses

2.27 To achieve the Vision, aims and objectives of any LDP, it is paramount to have sufficient land and investment to deliver identified regeneration opportunities and allocations. Consequently, the Council will liaise with landowners, developers, agents and businesses during the early stages of plan preparation. This will include working in conjunction with landowners who wish to promote land for development via the LDP, as well as planning agents who frequently utilise the Council's planning services.

2.28 The initial stages of plan making involve running a Candidate Site process, that provides the opportunity for site promoters to submit development sites to the Council, for consideration as potential allocations for variety of land uses. The Council will produce a methodology and standard submission form for landowners and developers to complete. The form will contain the criteria against which all sites will be assessed.

2.29 In line with the *Development Plans Manual (ed. 3)*, it will be necessary for site promoters to demonstrate:

- The site is in a sustainable location and free from constraints.
- The site is deliverable.
- The site is financially viable.

Welsh Language

- 2.30 The Welsh Language Standards are a legally binding requirement under the *Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, 2011*. The Standards were introduced in 2015 and came into force for public bodies in 2016. They ensure that public bodies deliver services in Welsh, treating Welsh no less favourably than English. The Standards place a requirement upon public bodies to allow the public to more easily access services via the medium of Welsh, as well as enforcing penalties for non-compliance. Collectively, the Standards are defined across multiple regulations, creating a consistent and improved experience for Welsh speakers.
- 2.31 The Council is committed to improving access to services through the medium of Welsh, as illustrated by the Council's *published Welsh Language Strategy 2022-2027*. The Strategy aims to support the use of the Welsh Language and increase the number of speakers to 10% (from 8.9%) over the five years.
- 2.32 The *Second Replacement Local Development Plan* will support the use of the Welsh Language during the plan-making process by:
- Welcoming bilingual correspondence.
 - Publishing all letters, emails, forms and publications bilingually.
 - Ensuring that all social media communications are posted bilingually.
 - Facilitating meetings bilingually, where prior notification requests for the use of the Welsh language have been received in advance of the meeting.
 - Drafting all documents bilingually.

Community Engagement

- 2.33 The Council will employ various methods of community engagement to ensure that the community is involved in the plan-making process. The methods employed have will be utilised to ensure effective and inclusive participation. Information pertaining to the *Second Replacement Local Development Plan* will be made available and regularly updated on the Council's website (www.merthyr.gov.uk). Furthermore, copies of all pertinent documentation will be made available at the Council's principal office (Civic Centre, Castle Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8AN), in addition to the offices at Unit 5, Triangle Business Park, Pentrebach, CF48 4TQ and Council libraries at Merthyr Town Centre, Dowlais, Trelewis and Aberfan.
- 2.34 The Council's vision *to build a digitally connected Merthyr Tydfil, where Council services are accessible, efficient, and designed around the needs of our residents* is set forth in the *Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC)*

Digital Strategy, 2025-2028 (MTCBC, 2025, p2). The Digital Strategy is a forward-looking blueprint designed to modernise Council services, enhance operational efficiency and deliver seamless digital experiences to residents. The Council recognises that digital media and channels, such as the Council's website and social media platforms, are an effective means of communication that can reach a larger audience than more traditional methods of contact (such as telephone and letters). Nonetheless, all methods of communication will be employed to ensure full, accessible participation.

2.35 One of the themes within the Digital Strategy is 'Digital Transformation', which aims to *revolutionise services through the innovative application of digital technology that is efficient, user-friendly, and tailored to meet the needs of our users* (MTCBC, 2025, p5). The Council's 'Digital First' approach seeks to drive transformation, allowing residents to access services and information online. Digital technology is a key enabler for the transformation of Council services and the manner in which they are provided to customers.

2.36 The importance of employing digital strategies and technologies came to prominence during the COVID-19 pandemic, whereby new technological solutions were utilised, becoming ingrained in daily operations. Therefore, the Council will principally undertake consultation by email/online, via digital communication tools. It is however acknowledged that certain individuals do not wish to communicate in that manner or do not have access to the internet. As such, the Council will ensure that hard copies of forms are available upon request, with hard copy documents at the Civic Centre, Unit 5 (Triangle Business Park) and Council libraries. All consultation material will be as clear and accessible as possible, with officers available to provide advice or clarification, when necessary.

2.37 Council staff will be available during normal business hours and can be contacted via:

Email: development.planning@merthyr.gov.uk

Post: Unit 5, Triangle Business Park, Pentrebach, CF48 4TQ

2.38 The Council will utilise a number of methods of communication to publicise the various stages of the *Second Replacement Local Development Plan* process, to ensure maximum engagement. This will be achieved by:

- Establishing contact, principally via email or where necessary via letter, in English or Welsh.
- Utilising the Council's social media accounts.
- The publication of posters and leaflets.
- Engaging with Elected Members through Steering Groups, forums, workshops, briefings, drop-in sessions and reports to Full Council, at the appropriate times.

- Engaging with the public and other stakeholders via working groups, surveys, meetings and drop-in sessions.
- Utilising web-based technology to extend the reach and possibilities of engagement with all interested parties.

2.39 There will be ample opportunity for stakeholders and other interested parties to get involved and access information regarding the *Second Replacement Local Development Plan*. It is however acknowledged that engagement has limitations when ensuring equity and fairness. For this reason, the Council will not attend meetings organised by individuals or interested organisations but will nonetheless remain available during office hours to provide advice and assistance, where required.

Expectations of Consultees

2.40 To ensure that all comments and representations on the *Second Replacement LDP* are duly considered, they must be submitted in a timely way, during the specified timeframes and in the manner prescribed. The Delivery Agreement contains the timetable detailing the relevant stages of plan preparation and provides guidance regarding public involvement. It is imperative that stakeholders and interested parties get involved at the prescribed times to ensure that they express their viewpoint and shape the development of the Plan.

2.41 Any changes to contact details throughout the plan-making process should be relayed to the Planning Policy Section, as soon as possible. Individuals cannot be consulted if the most recent details have not been passed along. Furthermore, should site promoters decide to change agents during the process, the site promoter should notify the Council in writing of any changes, inclusive of the new contact details. In the interests of data security, the Council will only liaise with the persons named explicitly on the Candidate Site form. Moreover, should land ownership details change during the process, it is imperative that the Planning Policy Section are made aware of the change to ensure that sites remain viable for consideration as potential allocations.

Consensus Building

2.42 Consensus will be built through a variety of engagement techniques and consultation methods, as referenced in the Community Involvement Scheme. To build consensus, it is vital that stakeholders and other interested parties are kept informed and engage throughout the plan-making process, particularly at the outset. Consensus is by no means guaranteed, as many individuals and organisations hold different viewpoints. Therefore, all contributions will be treated fairly and equally, with a clearly defined audit trail of the decision-making process for transparency purposes.

Handling Data and Representations

2.43 The Council will deal with duly made Representations, submitted within the stipulated timeframes, in the following manner:

- Representations will be logged and assigned a Representation Number.
- A receipt of acknowledgement will be sent to the Representor.
- Details of the Representation and Representor will be recorded.
- Valid Representations will be considered with appropriate responses formulated.
- The Council's responses for Representations will be compiled and published in accordance with the Regulations.

2.44 Should the Council receive a petition during the prescribed phase of public consultation, it will be acknowledged and recorded as a valid Representation. It should however be noted that each petition will need to be accompanied by a solitary nominee, who will deal directly with the Council on behalf of all signatories. This individual will be the sole point of contact however this does not preclude any signatory from submitted separate formal Representations on other aspects of the Plan.

Late Representations

2.45 The Second Replacement LDP is a statutory process with an associated timetable, which includes periods of consultation. For Representation to be considered as duly made, they must be submitted to the Council within a stipulated timeframe. Any Representation received after the prescribed period of consultation has ended will be invalid and will not be logged, acknowledged or considered.

2.46 In exceptional circumstances, where evidence has been provided of a genuine attempt to submit a Representation within the prescribed timeframe, the Council may choose to accept a Representation as duly made. It should be noted that decisions regarding the acceptance of late Representations is at the discretion of the Council and must be accompanied by sufficient evidence. Extenuating circumstances are expected to be an anomaly and therefore Representors should ensure that all Representations are received in a timely manner, during the stipulated consultation period. Late Representations have the potential to cause unnecessary delays, which would not be acceptable, in light of the fixed timetable for plan preparation.

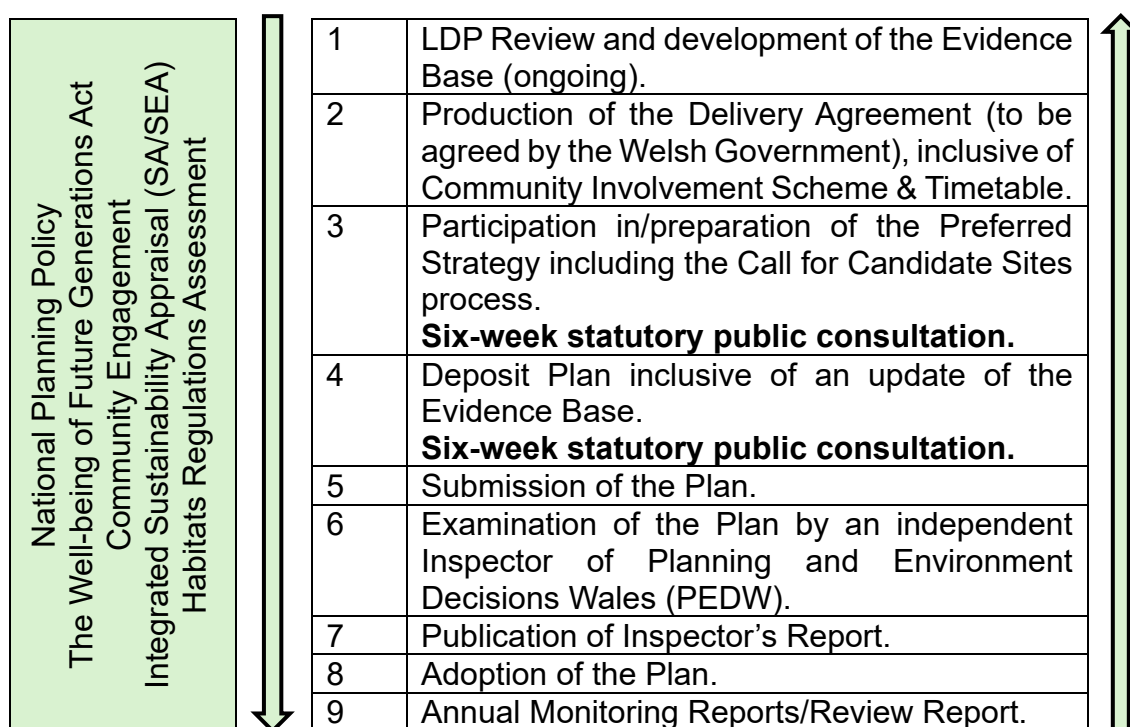
Data Protection

- 2.47 Personal data supplied to the Planning Policy Section will be processed in accordance with the Council's Data Protection and Privacy Standards Policy (available here: <https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/council/data-protection-and-freedom-of-information/>).
- 2.48 Interested parties who wish to be kept informed during the LDP process must provide written, expressed consent to allow the Planning Policy Section to use their data for this precise purpose. Should any individual wish to withdraw consent, this should be submitted in writing to allow for the removal of that person from the consultation list. All data will be held in compliance with *The Data (Use and Access) Act, 2025*. Further information is available under the Council's Data Protection section of the Council's website, using the link above.

LDP Process and Engagement Methods

- 2.49 The diagram below provides a brief outline of the process to be followed during the production of the *Second Replacement Local Development Plan*. Appendix A sets out a detailed timetable for engaging with the community and the variety of methods to be employed at the various stages of plan preparation. The list is not exhaustive and other methods of engagement may be utilised to involve stakeholders and other interested parties. Nonetheless, the Council will keep the LDP pages of the website updated regularly, ensuring that consultees are aware of any consultations or events.

The LDP Process



(Welsh Government, p19, 2020)

3.0 The Timetable

3.1 The Timetable is fundamental to plan preparation, ensuring that the LDP is produced in a coherent and structured manner. It details the key stages inclusive of public consultation periods, in addition to the dates for the publication of the ISA and AMR. The Timetable set out below is considered realistic, given the three and a half years of plan preparation permitted by the *Development Plans Manual* (ed. 3), not inclusive of an additional three months' slippage, if necessary.

3.2 The table below presents the main stages of plan preparation, including the definitive and indicative stages, which are defined as:

- **Definitive:** The definitive stages include all elements of plan preparation, up to including the Deposit stage. These stages are within the direct control of the Council and reflect a realistic assessment of what can be achieved, whilst simultaneously following the timeframes indicated by the *Development Plans Manual* (ed. 3). The Council will manage and monitor the preparation of the Second Replacement LDP to ensure that every effort is made to adhere to the timescales.
- **Indicative:** The indicative stages of plan preparation include those elements occurring after the statutory Deposit stage, up to the adoption of the Plan. The Council does not possess direct control over these stages of the process, as they are reliant on external factors and organisations. For example, these stages are contingent on the number of Representations received by the Council, as well as the capacity of Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) to conduct the Examination in public.

Key Stages of the Preparation of the Second Replacement LDP

Key Stage	Timescale	
Delivery Agreement	May 2026	August 2026
	Welsh Government to respond within four weeks.	
Preparation of the Pre-Deposit Stage	September 2026	October 2027
Preferred Strategy Consultation (Six-week consultation)	November 2027	December 2027
Preparation of the Draft Deposit LDP	January 2028	October 2028
Consultation on the Deposit LDP (Six-week consultation)	November 2028	December 2028
Submission to the Welsh Government	May 2029	
Independent Examination	June 2029	September 2029
Adoption of the Second Replacement LDP	March 2030	

- 3.3 The Timetable above indicates that plan preparations will take period of 3.7 years from commencement to adoption. This is one month over the timeframe stipulated within the *Development Plans Manual (ed. 3)* however this is deemed acceptable in view of present resources, as indicated below. Further details regarding the timescales for plan preparation can be found at Appendix A.

Management of LDP Preparation and Resources

- 3.4 Overall responsibility for the delivery of the *Second Replacement Local Development Plan* lies with the Director of Neighbourhood Services, whilst the Principal Planning Officer (Policy) will oversee the daily project management of LDP preparation and delivery, under the direction of the Planning Services Manager. The staff resources available within the Planning Policy Team, who will be responsible for producing the plan, are set out in the table below. Support from specialist Council officers will be sought to assist in the production of specific studies and assessments, where appropriate. It is anticipated that such areas will include GIS, Ecology, Highways, Drainage, Landscape and Heritage and Conservation.

Staff Resources	
Officer	Percentage of time dedicated to LDP preparation
Planning Services Manager	35%
Principal Planning Officer (Policy)	100%
Planning Officer	100%
Ecologist	50%
GIS Officer	50%

- 3.5 Resources are considered sufficient to undertake the Second Replacement LDP, with an experienced team of officers dedicated to LDP preparation. The Council does however recognise that specific, specialist services (consultants) will be required in devising a robust Evidence Base, which will support the formulation of the LDP. Additionally, officers across the authority will be involved throughout the various stages of Plan production to offer invaluable expertise.
- 3.6 Financial resources have been committed, and the Council will look to reduce costs further through the commissioning of joint evidence, where possible. An approximate budget of £270,000 will be required to progress the Plan through to the Adoption stage, within the timescales prescribed. The figure indicated will cover expenditure for the commissioning of tailored topic-based studies and assessments, in addition costs associated with Plan production and the Examination stage.

Risk Assessment

- 3.7 The Council considers the Timetable set out above to be realistic and achievable. Inevitably, there are risk factors involved in the preparation of the LDP, particularly in those aspects that remain outside the jurisdiction of the Council. The *Development Plans Manual* prudently provides a three-month period of 'slippage', prior to a formal revision of the Delivery Agreement being required. Despite the potential for unforeseen risk factors that could possibly witness the Plan deviate from the stipulated timescales, it is nonetheless deemed to be reasonable and deliverable. Further details pertaining to risk and associated contingency arrangements can be found at Appendix D.

Supplementary Planning Guidance

- 3.8 Whilst the Second Replacement LDP will contain robust policies and proposals to underpin local decision making and determine planning applications, the production of supporting Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) may be necessary to avoid excessive detail within the Plan. SPG therefore, may be required to provide additional clarification on specific policies, with regard to their interpretation or application, in particular circumstances. The preparation of SPG is a non-statutory function and SPG do not have the weight or status of LDP policies. Furthermore, SPG do not form part of the LDP itself but remain a part of the local policy framework. SPG are derived from the Plan, as well as being a material consideration in planning application and appeal decisions. They are afforded additional weight if they are consistent with the LDP and have been the subject of public consultation and subsequently approved by the Council.
- 3.9 The *Local Development Plan 2006-2021* was supported by six Supplementary Planning Guidance notes pertaining to affordable housing, planning obligations, shopfront design, sustainable development, nature and development and householder design. These SPG were considered appropriate and consistent with the adopted LDP (2016-2031) and remain in place to date. The SPGs will be reviewed alongside the plan making process to ascertain whether they should be updated or indeed whether it would be prudent to withdraw them and prepare replacements. The approach that should be followed will become apparent, as the Second Replacement LDP reaches Deposit stage.
- 3.10 Should the Council choose to introduce new SPG, consultation with relevant stakeholders will be undertaken. Any SPG prepared during the plan making process will be formally adopted following receipt and publication of the Inspector's Report. SPG may not be approved by the Council before this time.

Monitoring and Review

- 3.11 The *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004* mandates that Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) keep matters affecting the planning and development of their administrative areas under review. The Council will monitor and review the progress of the LDP against the requirements of the Delivery Agreement. This

will ensure adherence with the timetable and that public engagement, as set forth in the Community Involvement Scheme, is observed.

3.12 Necessary amendments to the Delivery Agreement, prior to the statutory Deposit stage, will require agreement from the Welsh Government. Reasons for potential amendment include:

- Significant changes to the Community Involvement Scheme.
- Significant changes to UK or Welsh legislation or policy that would directly impact upon the preparation of the LDP.
- Significant delays at a key stage of the plan making process, exceeding the three-month 'slippage' permitted.
- Significant changes to the resources available to produce the Plan.
- Other changes in circumstance that materially affect the delivery of the LDP, in accordance with the Delivery Agreement.

3.13 The Timetable will be updated and submitted to the Welsh Government for agreement following the statutory six-week public consultation on the Deposit Draft LDP. The revised Timetable will provide certainty, replacing the indicative stages with definitive timescales.

3.14 In accordance with Regulation 37, an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) will be produced and submitted to the Welsh Government, following the adoption of the LDP. The AMR is the principal means of establishing the efficacy of the Plan's policies and proposals. This is achieved by monitoring the LDP's performance against specific Indicators. Furthermore, the AMR will indicate the degree to which the Strategy has been implemented and whether any changes are required, resulting from the introduction of new policy, guidance or legislation.

Appendix A – Local Development Plan Timetable for Revision, May 2026 – March 2030

	2026								2027									
	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Delivery Agreement (DA)																		
Targeted consultation on the DA																		
Report DA to Full Council																		
Submit DA to the Welsh Government																		
DA agreed by the Welsh Government																		
Update Evidence Base																		
Review/update Evidence Base for Plan																		
Review/update ISA (inc. SEA) baseline and appraisal framework																		
Pre-Deposit Participation																		
Call for Candidate Sites and development Candidate Sites Register																		
Consultation on the draft Scoping Report																		
Identification and assessment of Strategic Options																		
Preparation of the Preferred Strategy, ISA (inc. SEA) and HRA																		
Report Preferred Strategy to Full Council																		

	2027		2028												2029				
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May
Pre-Deposit Public Consultation																			
Consultation on the Preferred Strategy, Vision, Strategic Options and Key Policies																			
Consultation on initial ISA (sustainability report)																			
Assess outcomes of consultation and prepare initial Consultation Report																			
Preparation of Deposit Plan, alongside ISA (inc. SEA) and HRA																			
Deposit Plan Report to Full Council																			
Statutory Deposit of Proposals																			
Consultation on Deposit Plan, ISA (inc. SEA) and HRA documents																			
Assess the outcomes of the consultation and prepare Consultation Report																			
Submission																			
Submission of the LDP and associated key documents to the Welsh Government																			

	2029							2030		
	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Examination										
Undertake a pre-hearing meeting with the independent Inspector										
Hearing Sessions										
Inspector's Report										
Preparation of the Inspector's Report										
Publication of the Inspector's Report										
Adoption										
Adoption of the Second Replacement Local Development Plan										

Appendix B – External Consultees

SPECIFIC CONSULTATION BODIES (LDP REGULATION 2) INC. UK GOVERNMENT DEPTS:

The Council will consult the following specific consultation bodies at all stages in the preparation of the LDP:

Specific Consultation Bodies
Bedlinog and Trelewis Community Council
Cadw
Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Home Office
Ministry of Defence
Natural Resources Wales
Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Western & Wales – Property)
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales
Secretary of State for Transport
Welsh Government (inc. Planning Division)

Sewage and Water Undertakers
Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water

Gas and Electricity Licensees
Gas
National Grid/Transco
Wales & West Utilities Limited
British Gas
E.ON UK
EDF Energy
Scottish Power
SSE
Electricity
Western Power Distribution (South Wales & West)
Ecotricity
SSE

Telecommunication and Internet Service Providers
EE
British Telecom
O2
Three
Vodafone
Virgin Media

Sky
Talk Talk
Plusnet

South-East Wales Local Planning Authorities and the Cardiff Capital Region Corporate Joint Committee (South-East Wales)
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority (adjoining)
Bridgend County Borough Council
Caerphilly County Borough Council (adjoining)
City of Cardiff Council
Monmouthshire County Borough Council
Newport City Council
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (adjoining)
Torfaen County Borough Council
Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council
Cardiff Capital Region Corporate Joint Committee

Other Adjoining Local Planning Authorities and Community Councils
Powys County Council (adjoining)
Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council
Llangynidr Community Council
Rhymney Community Council
Darran Valley Community Council
Nelson Community Council

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION BODIES (SEA):

The following will also be specifically consulted in relation to the **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process**.

- Natural Resources Wales
- Cadw

GENERAL CONSULTATION BODIES:

The following list of general consultation bodies will be consulted at the relevant stages outlined in the preparation of the Second Replacement LDP. This list is not exhaustive and other organisations and bodies who wish to be involved can be added to the consultation list, when requested:

Bodies whose voluntary activities provide benefit to any part of the Local Authority's administrative area.
3Gs Development Trust Merthyr Tydfil
Aberfan and Merthyr Vale Community Co-op (Halo Leisure)

Aberfan and Merthyr Vale Youth and Community Project
Aberfan Canoe Club
Aberfan and Merthyr Vale Old Age Welfare
Adult Community Learning Merthyr Tydfil
Adult Learning Wales
Age Connects Morgannwg
Bernardos Merthyr Tydfil
Care and Repair Cymru
Carers Trust
Cefn Coed Community Centre
Children in Wales (Youth Wales/Ifanc Cymru)
Children, Young People and Families Forum, Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil
Citizens Advice Bureau Merthyr Tydfil
Dowlais Community Centre
Dowlais OAP Association
Dowlais Residents Group
Dyfodol
Friends of Taff Bargoed Park
Gellideg Foundation Group
Groundwork Merthyr and RCT
Hafal Merthyr
Invest Local Ynysowen
Kevin Ryan Court Tenants and Residents Group
Menter Iaith Merthyr Tydfil
Mentrau Iaith Cymru
Merthyr Cynon Foodbank
Merthyr Tydfil and District Naturalists Society
Merthyr Tydfil Angling Association
Merthyr Tydfil Borough Wide Youth Forum
Merthyr Tydfil Fifty Plus Forum
Merthyr Tydfil Football Club
Merthyr Tydfil Unpaid Carers Partnership
Merthyr Tydfil: The Contact Zone Child Contact Centre
Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association Community Development Team
Merthyr Valley Ramblers
MVH Youth
New Gurnos Resident's Board
Quakers Yard Community Association
Ramblers Cymru
Safer Merthyr Tydfil
South-East Wales Rivers Trust
Stepping4ward
Taff Bargoed Angling Association
Taff Bargoed Development Trust
The Bevan Foundation
The British Horse Society
Treharris Community Trust (TACT)
Treharris Park Regeneration and Upkeep Community Group

Treharris Together Club (Over 60s)
Trelewis OAP Welfare Committee
Troedyrhiw Early Days Support (TEDS)
Twyn Community Hub
Tydfil Training Consortium
Vaynor Community Forum
Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil (VAMT)
Walk Wheel Cycle Trust (Formerly Sustrans)
Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales
Wildlife Trusts Wales
Youth Cymru

Bodies which represent the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in the Local Authority's administrative area

BAWSO (domestic abuse support for BME and migrant women)
Bridges (Gypsy and Traveller Community in Merthyr Tydfil)
Diverse Cymru (Equality)
Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team Wales (EYST)
Equality and Human Rights Commission
Friends, Families, Travellers
Gypsies and Travellers Wales
Gypsies and Travellers Wales Showmen's Guild of Great Britain (Wales and Northern Ireland)
Race Council Cymru
Race Equality First (discrimination)
Stonewall Cymru
The Community Law Partnership
Travelling Ahead: Wales Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Advice and Advocacy Service

Bodies which represent the interests of different religious groups in the Local Authority's administrative area

All Saints Church
Baptist Union of Wales
Calfaria Baptist Welsh Chapel, Heolgerrig
Catholic Church of England and Wales
Christ Church (Cyfarthfa)
Christchurch (Pant)
Christians Against Poverty
Church in Wales (Anglican)
Churches Together in Wales
Dowlais Elim Family Church
Dowlais Wesley Methodist Church
Evangelical Movement of Wales
Hebron Evangelical Church
High Street Baptist Church
Hope and Market Square United Church

Jerusalem Baptist Church
Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses Merthyr Tydfil
Merthyr Elim Pentecostal Church
Park Baptist Church
Salvation Army
South Wales Baptist Association
St David's Church
St Margaret's Spiritualist Church
St Mary and the Holy Innocents Church
St Tydfil Well Church
SS Peters & Paul Church
The Almond Tree Christian Fellowship
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
The Roman Catholic Parish of Merthyr Tydfil
Wales Synod Cymru
Welsh Jewish Cultural Centre

Bodies that represent the interests of disabled persons
Action Deafness Cymru
Action on Hearing Loss (RNID)
Advocacy Matters Wales
Alzheimer's Society (Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf)
AP Cymru
Asthma and Lung Cymru
Autism Spectrum Connections Cymru
British Deaf Association Wales
Cancer Aid Merthyr Tydfil
Contact Cymru
Cwm Taf Morgannwg Together for Mental Health Partnership Board
Disability Arts Cymru
Disability Rights UK
Disability Sport Wales
Disability Wales
Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee
Drive Wales
Learning Disability Wales
Mencap Cymru
Merthyr and The Valleys MIND
Merthyr Tydfil Institute for the Blind (MTIB)
Mirus
MS Society Wales
National Autistic Society Cymru (Merthyr Tydfil Branch)
Neurodivergence Wales
Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) Cymru
SCOPE Cymru
Sense Cymru
Sight Cymru

SNAP Cymru (Special Needs Advisory Project)
The County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil Access Group Shopmobility
The Disability Law Service
Visually Impaired Merthyr (VIM)
Wales Council for the Blind

Bodies that represent the interests of Welsh culture in the Local Authority's administrative area
Amgueddfa Cymru - Museum of Wales
Arts Council of Wales
Awen Cultural Trust
Books Council of Wales – Cyngor Llyfrau Cymru
Cyfarthfa Castle Museum and Art Gallery
Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg (Welsh Language Society)
Dic Penderyn Society
Institute of Welsh Affairs
Literature Wales
Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru - National Library of Wales
Merched y Wawr
Merthyr Tydfil Heritage Trust
Merthyr Tydfil Historical Society
Merthyr Tudful (Canolfan Soar)
Mudiad Meithrin
National Dance Company of Wales
National Youth Arts Wales
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales
Stagecoach Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare
The National Centre for Learning Welsh
Theatr Cymru
Theatre's Trust
Urdd Gobaith Cymru
Wales International – Cymru a'r Byd
Welsh Cultural Activities Trust
Welsh National Opera

Bodies that represent the interests of persons carrying on business in the Local Authority's administrative area
Big Heart of Merthyr Tydfil Business Improvement District (BID)
British Aggregates Association
Business in the Community Wales
Business in Focus
CLA Country Land and Business Association
Community Enterprise Wales
Community Housing Cymru
Farmers Union of Wales (FUW)
FSB Wales (Federation of Small Business)

Home Builders Federation
Merthyr Tydfil Enterprise Centre
Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre Partnership
Mineral Products Association
Mobile Operators Association
National Farmers Union Cymru
Orbit Business Centre
Quarry Products Association (Wales)
Rail Freight Group (RFG)
Road Haulage Association
South Wales Chamber of Commerce
St. Tydfil's Shopping Centre
Treharris Town Centre Partnership
Visit Merthyr

OTHER CONSULTEES:

The following individuals, agencies and organisations will be consulted in accordance with the DA.

Other Consultees
Action for Children Wales
Age Cymru
AJ Planning and Development
Alder King
Anderton Planning and Conservation
Asbri Planning
Assembly Members
Atriarc Planning
Avison Young, Cardiff
Barratt Homes
Bellway Homes
Boyer Planning
Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (CPRW)
Canal and Rivers Trust
Carney Sweeney
Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Chwarae Teg
Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO)
Coed Cymru
Crown Estates Commissioners
Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board
Cylch- Wales Community Recycling Network
Davies Homes
Development Trust Association Wales
Elan Homes
Elite Ecology

Environmental Services Agency (Waste)
Friends of the Earth Cymru
General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC)
Geraint John Planning
Hanson Aggregates South Wales Ltd.
Health and Safety Executive – Wales and South-West
Herbert R Thomas
Highlight Planning
Llamau (Merthyr Women's Services)
Llanmoor Homes
Local Planning Agents
Lovell Homes
Mango Planning
Maxiom Homes
Member of Parliament for Merthyr Tydfil
Members of the Senedd
Merthyr Tydfil Biodiversity Partnership
Mineral Products Association
Mining Remediation Authority
NLP Planning
One Voice Wales
Open Space Society
Pegasus Planning
Persimmon Homes
Plande
Planning Aid Wales
Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW)
Planware Ltd.
Post Office Property Holdings
Prince's Trust Cymru
Rathbone Cymru (Youth Sector)
Redrow Homes
RSPB Cymru
Savills
SEWBREC (South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre)
Shelter Cymru
Simply Planning
Stantec
Taylor Wimpey
Tetra Tech
The College Merthyr Tydfil
The National Allotment Society, Wales
The Urbanists
Tros Gynnal Plant (Children & Young People)
Turley
Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA)
Wales Environment Link
W.D.L Homes

Welsh Environmental Services Association
Welsh Language Commissioner
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
Women's Aid Wales

Emergency Services

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
South Wales Police – Secured by Design Officer
Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust

Housing Associations

Hafod Housing Association
Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association
Merthyr Valleys Homes
Trivallis
Wales and West Housing Association

Professional Bodies/Quangos

British Geological Survey
CBI Wales
Chamber of Trade
Design Commission for Wales
District Valuer Services
Fields in Trust Cymru
Heneb – The Trust for Welsh Archaeology
HSE Hazardous Installations Directorate
Landscape Institute Wales
Public Health Wales
RICS Wales
Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Cymru
Sports Council for Wales
The Civic Trust for Wales
The National Trust
Visit Wales
Welsh Government (Economy, Treasury and Constitution Group – Property Infrastructure)
Welsh Local Government Association

Transport Operators/Interest Groups

1 st Call Travel Executive Coaches
Brent Thomas Coaches Ltd. (Merthyr Tydfil)
Edwards Coaches
Gibbons Coaches, Bedlinog
Globe Coaches

New Adventure Travel
Rail Future Cymru
Sixty Sixty Coaches Ltd.
Stagecoach
Transport Focus
Transport For Wales
Traveline Cymru

Appendix C – Potential Engagement Methods & Decisions at Key Plan Preparation Stages

The table below provides the potential methods of involving all stakeholders, consultees and interested parties (listed in Appendix B), which are to be employed for the key stages of the LDP plan-making process. The list is not exhaustive and will likely need to be amended to involve relevant members of the community at each stage. The methods to be employed are likely to depend on the topic area, the stage of plan preparation, the preferences of the consultees and the resources available to the Council.

Delivery Agreement – May to August 2026						
Details of Involvement	Method	Consultees	Outcomes	MTCBC Decision	Reporting Mechanism	Legislation
Targeted consultation on the draft DA. Focus of involvement: Appropriateness of timetable and Community Involvement Scheme.	Direct correspondence (via email and Council website).	Necessary Specific Consultation Bodies and Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW).	- Ensure that the Timetable is realistic. - Manage identified risk. - Seek agreement on key issues. - Identification of those who do not normally participate.	MTCBC Key Decision – Adoption of the Delivery Agreement.	Full Council – July 2026	The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan Regulations) (Wales) Regulations 2005. Regulations 5-10. Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015. Regulation 2 (3).
Pre-Deposit Participation and Call for Candidate Sites – September 2026 to February 2027						
Details of Involvement	Method	Consultees	Outcomes	MTCBC Decision	Reporting Mechanism	Legislation
Involvement on the preparation of a draft Integrated Sustainability Appraisal, including Scoping Report centred around the LDP Vision, Objectives and Key	Stakeholder involvement sessions/Group meetings, including: LDP Steering Groups.	All.	- Raise awareness of the LDP process. - Involve hard to reach groups.	Key Issues, Vision and Objectives. Methodology for Integrated	Details of involvement added to the Consultation Report.	The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan Regulations) (Wales) Regulations 2005. Regulations 14.

Issues for the Second Replacement LDP. Focus on LDP involvement: • Identification of key issues and associated sources of information. • Identification of environmental baseline. • Identification of relevant plans, policies and programmes that the LDP must be in conformity with. • Methodology for ISA framework, informing the LDP. • Identification of LDP Vision, Objective and Strategic Options. • Call for Candidate Sites and preparation of Candidate Sites Register.	• Area/Topic-based working Groups. • Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board. Awareness raising via: • Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Engagement Hub. • Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council website. • Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council social media accounts. Direct correspondence. Meetings and workshops.		• Seek agreement on key issues, Vision, Objectives and Options. Draft ISA Scoping Report. List of Candidate Sites.	Sustainability Appraisal. Candidate Site Assessment Methodology.		Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulation 2004. Regulation 12 (5). The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015. Regulations 14 (2-5).
Preferred Strategy Preparation – September 2026 to September 2027						
Details of Involvement	Method	Consultees	Outcomes	MTCBC Decision	Reporting Mechanism	Legislation
Targeted involvement when preparing strategic evidence (including sites)	Direct correspondence.	All.	A Preferred Strategy and Options Appraisal.	MTCBC key decision – choice of Strategy for LDP, inclusive of	Full Council – October 2027	The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan Regulations)

and refining and appraising plan options. Options appraisals to include: • Initial Sustainability Appraisal, including Environmental Assessment. • Equalities Impact Assessment. • Welsh Language Impact Assessment. • Health Impact Assessment. In addition to: • Habitats Regulations Assessment.	Meetings and workshops.			reasons for discounting the alternatives.		(Wales) Regulations 2005. Regulations 14, 15 & 16. The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015. Regulations 16A. Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 S62 (as amended by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 s11). Well-being of Future Generations Act, 2015, Part 5. The Conservations of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Regulation 61. Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulation 2004. Regulation 12 (2) and (3). The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations
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						2011. Regulation 5 and 6. Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. Section 29.
Statutory Pre-Deposit Consultation (Preferred Strategy) – November 2027 to December 2027						
Details of Involvement	Method	Consultees	Outcomes	MTCBC Decision	Reporting Mechanism	Legislation
Six-week public consultation on the Preferred Strategy for the <i>Second Replacement Local Development Plan</i> . Opportunity for all to provide comment on the LDP's Preferred Strategy. Opportunity for all to provide comment on the Council's LDP Options Appraisal.	Direct correspondence. Awareness raising via: • Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Engagement Hub. • MTCBC website. • MTCBC social media accounts. • Public Exhibitions • Posters. Documents will be available at the following locations: • MTCBC Civic Centre and Unit 5 Offices.	All.	Gathering of evidenced options and observations on the Preferred Strategy and its options appraisal.	N/A.	Details of involvement added to the Consultation Report. Observations made during the pre-Deposit Consultation Report.	The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan Regulations) (Wales) Regulations 2005. Regulation 15. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004. Regulation 13.

	• MTCBC website. • MTCBC Libraries (Dowlais, Merthyr, Trelewis and Aberfan).					
Deposit Preparation – March 2028 to October 2028						
Details of Involvement	Method	Consultees	Outcomes	MTCBC Decision	Reporting Mechanism	Legislation
Targeted involvement during preparation of the <i>Deposit Second Replacement Local Development Plan</i>. Preparation and finalisation of detailed evidence. Consider and address Representations, comments and opinions at the Pre-Deposit stage. Preparation of Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment) comprising: • Draft Environmental Report. • Policy Options Appraisal.	Group meetings including: • LDP Steering Group. • Area/topic-based working groups. • Cwm Taf Public Services Board. Direct correspondence. Meetings.	All, as required.	The <i>Deposit Second Replacement Local Development Plan</i> .	MTCBC key decision – agree a response to Representations, comments and observations made at Preferred Strategy stage, the content of the <i>Second Replacement Local Development Plan</i> and the reasons for discounting alternative policy options.	Full Council – October 2028. Details of targeted consultation and agree Council response to Representations, comments and observations made during the pre-Deposit consultation; add to Consultation Report.	The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan Regulations) (Wales) Regulations 2005. Regulations 11, 12 & 13. Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 S61 and S62 (as amended by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 s11). Well-being of Future Generations Act, 2015, Part 5. The Conservations of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Regulation 61. Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes

• Equalities Impact Assessment. • Health Impact Assessment. • Welsh Language Impact Assessment. Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening and Assessment (as necessary).						(Wales) Regulation 2004. Regulation 12 (2) and (3). The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011. Regulation 5 and 6. Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. Section 29.
Statutory Deposit Consultation – November 2028 to December 2028						
Details of Involvement	Method	Consultees	Outcomes	MTCBC Decision	Reporting Mechanism	Legislation
Six-week public consultation. Opportunity for all to provide comment on the Deposit Second Replacement LDP. Opportunity for all to provide comment on the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal.	Direct correspondence. Awareness raising via: • Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Engagement Hub. • MTCBC website. • MTCBC social media accounts. • Public Exhibitions • Posters.	All.	Gathering of evidence, Representation and opinions on the <i>Deposit Second Replacement Local Development Plan</i> and its appraisal documents.	N/A.	Details of involvement added to the Consultation Report.	The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan Regulations) (Wales) Regulations 2005. Regulations 17 & 18. Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulation 2004. Regulation 13.

	Documents will be available at the following locations: • MTCBC Civic Centre and Unit 5 Offices. • MTCBC website. • MTCBC Libraries (Dowlais, Merthyr, Trelewis and Aberfan).					
Preparing for Examination and Submission of the Second Replacement Local Development Plan to the Welsh Government – January 2029 to July 2029						
Details of Involvement	Method	Consultees	Outcomes	MTCBC Decision	Reporting Mechanism	Legislation
Potential six-week consultation on Focussed Changes.	Documents will be available at the following locations: • MTCBC Civic Centre and Unit 5 Offices. • MTCBC website. • MTCBC Libraries (Dowlais, Merthyr, Trelewis and Aberfan). Awareness raising via: • Cwm Taf Morgannwg	All.	Gathering of evidenced Representations and opinions on Focussed Changes, if required.	MTCBC – key decision. Agree response to Representations and opinions made at Deposit stage. If any are required, agree resulting Focussed Changes for consultation.	Full Council – c. May 2029. Observations made during the Deposit consultation added to the Consultation Report. Details of agreed response to observations made during the Deposit consultation added to the	The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan Regulations) (Wales) Regulations 2005. Regulations 19-22. Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulation 2004. Regulation 8.

	Community Engagement Hub. • MTCBC website. • MTCBC social media accounts.				Consultation Report. Submission of Plan and key documents – June 2029.	
Examination/Receipt of Inspector's Report – June 2029 to January 2030.						
Details of Involvement	Method	Consultees	Outcomes	MTCBC Decision	Reporting Mechanism	Legislation
Seek common ground with objectors to focus hearing sessions. Prepare for, attend and contribute to Examination Hearings. Proofread the initial Inspectors Report.	Direct correspondence and meetings. Documents available at the following locations: • MTCBC Civic Centre and Unit 5 Offices. • MTCBC website. • MTCBC Libraries (Dowlais, Merthyr, Trelewis and Aberfan).	Those making Representations /submitting opinions.	To help focus Examination hearings.	Agree common ground.	Statement of Common Ground.	The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan Regulations) (Wales) Regulations 2005. Regulation 23.
Publication of Inspector's Report – February 2030.						
Details of Involvement	Method	Consultees	Outcomes	MTCBC Decision	Reporting Mechanism	Legislation
N/A, for Information.	Documents available at the following locations:	All.	Report with recommendations identifying required changes to the LDP	N/A.	N/A.	The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan Regulations)

	- MTCBC Civic Centre and Unit 5 Offices. - MTCBC website. MTCBC Libraries (Dowlais, Merthyr, Trelewis and Aberfan).		(including to the proposals map) together with reasons for the change.			(Wales) Regulations 2005. Regulation 24.
Adoption – March 2030.						
Details of Involvement	Method	Consultees	Outcomes	MTCBC Decision	Reporting Mechanism	Legislation
N/A, for Information.	Documents available at the following locations: - MTCBC Civic Centre and Unit 5 Offices. - MTCBC website. MTCBC Libraries (Dowlais, Merthyr, Trelewis and Aberfan).	All.	An adopted planning policy framework for development proposals in the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Administrative Area.	MTCBC key decision – receipt of the Inspector's Report and Adoption. Publish post adoption statement.	Full Council – February/March 2030.	The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan Regulations) (Wales) Regulations 2005. Regulation 25. The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015. Regulations 25A. Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulation 2004. Regulation 16.

Annual Monitoring Report – October 2030.						
Details of Involvement	Method	Consultees	Outcomes	MTCBC Decision	Reporting Mechanism	Legislation
N/A, for Information.	Documents available at the following locations: • MTCBC Civic Centre and Unit 5 Offices. • MTCBC website. MTCBC Libraries (Dowlais, Merthyr, Trelewis and Aberfan).	All.	To monitor and review the Plan.	Ascertain whether the Annual Monitoring Review indicates that a review of the Plan is necessary.	Annual Monitoring Report presented to MTCBC Scrutiny Committee for information annually.	The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan Regulations) (Wales) Regulations 2005. Regulation 37. Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulation 2004. Regulation 17.

Appendix D – Risk Assessment

The proposed timetable for plan preparation is deemed to be realistic and achievable, having due regard to resources and the scope and nature of work that the Council anticipates will be involved. The Council will make every effort to avoid deviations from the timetable, as proposed. Nonetheless, there are several potential risks have been identified. The risks are presented below, together with the Council's proposed approach to managing these factors. The timetable, alongside the anticipated work programme and available resources, will be kept under constant review. This will allow the Council to monitor the potential for slippage, as well as other possible impacts, resulting from the risks identified or alternative causes.

Risk	Potential Impact	Mitigation
A loss of staff resources due to factors including financial efficiency savings, ill health, alternative employment or other issues.	Insufficient staff and resources to manage the significant workload generated, in accordance with the Timetable.	Requisitioning of alternative resources, inclusive of exploring secondment opportunities from other Local Planning Authorities.
Additional/unexpected requirements arising, resulting from new legislation or national guidance.	Further work to be undertaken, with a significant possibility of causing programme slippage.	Monitor potential/proposed changes to guidance and legislation, allowing for a swift action in advance of them taking effect.
Timetable proves too ambitious, due to greater than anticipated workload (for example: a significant number of responses required to all Representations received).	Potential for programme slippage.	Ensure that the Timetable is realistic and contains a degree of flexibility. Consider additional resources.
Delays due to local elections, meeting cycles or the Council's decision-making structure.	Potential for programme slippage.	Ensure a realistic Timetable, prepared in anticipation of matters that have the potential to delay proceedings.
Insufficient information to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment of all proposals.	Potential for programme slippage.	Identify expectations of consultees in the Delivery Agreement.
Delays caused by translating documentation into Welsh.	Potential for programme slippage.	Attempt to allow sufficient lead-in time for translation or consider additional resources, if possible.
Significant objection from Statutory Consultation Bodies.	LDP cannot be submitted for Examination without significant, additional work.	Ensure that consultee opinion is sought and engage as early as possible to try and build consensus and common ground.

Risk	Potential Impact	Mitigation
A lack of consensus between parties, including at a political level.	Additional work would be required, leading to the potential for programme slippage.	Focus on potentially contentious issues and attempt to build consensus by involving all political groups.
The Examination stage takes longer than anticipated.	Further resources may be required, along with potential for programme slippage.	Ensure that all issues are kept under review and attempt to build consensus with stakeholders/other consultees. Furthermore, it needs to be ensured that the Plan is founded on robust evidence inclusive of the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal and well-audited stakeholder and community engagement.
The LDP fails the 'Tests of Soundness'.	The LDP will not be adopted without significant, additional work.	Ensure that the LDP has a robust Evidence Base, inclusive of all mandatory documentation and that engagement undertaken with stakeholders and the community is well-audited.
Legal challenge.	Additional workload; potential for LDP to be quashed.	Ensure compliance with all procedures, regulations and legislation.

Appendix E – Population Profile of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

The following information presents a statistical overview of the profile of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough:

Introduction

The key sources of statistics and data relating to the composition of the population of Merthyr Tydfil, are:

- The Office for National Statistics
(<https://www.ons.gov.uk>)
- Nomis – Official Census and Labour Market Statistics
(<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea?compare=W0600024,W92000004,W92000004>)
- Stats Wales
(<https://stats.gov.wales/en-GB>)
- Data Cymru
(<https://www.data.cymru/dashboards/viewofpoverty>)
- Data Unit Wales
(<https://www.dataunitwales.gov.uk/explore-the-data>)
- Cardiff Capital Region Skills Partnership
(<https://dataunitwales.gov.uk/sewso>)
- Our Cwm Taf
(<https://www.dataunitwales.gov.uk/cwmtaf>)

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is the smallest Local Authority in Wales, covering 111.4 square kilometres, approximately 0.5% of the landmass of Wales which totals 20,780 square kilometres. Circa one fifth of the County Borough lies within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP), falling under the jurisdiction of BBNP Local Planning Authority. Merthyr Tydfil also shares a boundary with two other neighbouring Local Authority Areas, namely Caerphilly County Borough Council and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

Life Expectancy

In Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, a male child under one can expect to live to 73.5 years of age, whilst a female child under one can expect to live to 78.4 years of age (2022-2024). This is down from 77.3 years for males under one and 80.5 years

for females under one a decade earlier (2012-2014). Furthermore, the all-Wales life expectancy for a male child under one is 78.3 years, compared with a UK average of 79.2 years. Whilst the all-Wales life expectancy for a female child is 81.8 years, compared with a UK average of 83.0 years.

Source:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandlifeexpectancies/datasets/lifeexpectancyforlocalareasoftheuk> [accessed online: 19.03.2026].

Population: Mid-year Population Estimates

The estimated population data is produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), which takes into account the number of births, deaths and migration figures between the previous census and the middle of the current year.

The population of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, as of the 2026 mid-year estimate is 59,258 individuals (up from 58,792 in 2021), accounting for 1.85% of the total Welsh population. The age profile of the local population is presented in the table below.

Local Authority					Aged 0-15	Aged 16-64	Aged 65+	All Ages
Merthyr Tydfil (2022) (W06000024)					11,092	36,318	11,562	58,972
Merthyr Tydfil	Merthyr Tydfil U002				6,945	22,148	8,153	38,926
	Merthyr Tydfil U002	Merthyr Tydfil 004			1,277	4,340	1,328	6,945
		Merthyr Tydfil 004	Cyfarthfa 2	W01001292	463	1,146	239	1,848
			Cyfarthfa 3	W01001293	311	1,009	387	1,707
			Park 3	W01001307	253	1,000	351	1,604
			Town 1	W01001315	250	1,185	351	1,786
		Merthyr Tydfil 005			4,046	13,818	4,284	22,148
		Merthyr Tydfil 005	Plymouth (Merthyr Tydfil) 3	W01001314	369	1,270	415	2,054
			Town 3	W01001317	328	1,055	372	1,755
			Town 4	W01001318	229	913	326	1,468
			Town 5	W01001959	314	975	239	1,528
			Town 6	W01001960	252	925	276	1,453
		Merthyr Tydfil 006			1,439	5,072	1,642	8,153
		Merthyr Tydfil 006	Bedlinog 1	W01001289	220	822	304	1,346
			Merthyr Vale 1	W01001302	356	1,048	215	1,619
			Plymouth (Merthyr Tydfil) 1	W01001312	213	791	404	1,408

Local Authority					Aged 0-15	Aged 16-64	Aged 65+	All Ages
Merthyr Tydfil	Merthyr Tydfil U002	Merthyr Tydfil 006	Plymouth (Merthyr Tydfil) 2	W01001313	208	920	296	1,424
			Merthyr Vale 4	W01001961	442	1,491	423	2,356
		Merthyr Tydfil 007			1,567	5,234	1,824	8,625
		Merthyr Tydfil 007	Bedlinog 2	W01001290	516	1,447	456	2,419
			Treharris 1	W01001319	209	963	383	1,555
			Treharris 2	W01001320	209	867	315	1,391
			Treharris 3	W01001321	358	1,017	287	1,662
			Treharris 4	W01001322	275	940	383	1,598
		Merthyr Tydfil U003			9,341	8,285	9,365	26,991
	Merthyr Tydfil U003	Merthyr Tydfil 002			1,735	5,872	1,734	9,341
		Merthyr Tydfil 002	Dowlais 1	W01001295	265	949	275	1,489
			Dowlais 2	W01001296	283	910	368	1,561
			Dowlais 3	W01001297	308	1,285	283	1,876
			Dowlais 4	W01001298	321	1,091	319	1,731
			Pendarren 3	W01001310	274	930	348	1,552
			Pendarren 4	W01001311	284	707	141	1,132

Local Authority					Aged 0-15	Aged 16-64	Aged 65+	All Ages
Merthyr Tydfil	Merthyr Tydfil U003	Merthyr Tydfil 003			1,405	4,943	1,937	8,285
		Merthyr Tydfil 003	Cyfarthfa 1	W01001291	425	1,254	422	2,101
			Cyfarthfa 4	W01001294	270	1,022	450	1,742
			Park 1	W01001305	223	718	256	1,197
			Park 2	W01001306	217	870	310	1,397
			Vaynor 2	W01001324	270	1,079	499	1,848
		Merthyr Tydfil 008			2,177	5,719	1,469	9,365
		Merthyr Tydfil 008	Gurnos 1	W01001299	454	1,002	237	1,693
			Gurnos 2	W01001300	440	1,033	304	1,777
			Gurnos 3	W01001301	444	1,262	243	1,949
			Penydarren 1	W01001308	306	780	149	1,235
			Penydarren 2	W01001309	291	760	219	1,270
			Vaynor 1	W01001898	242	882	317	1,441

Source:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/lowersuperoutputareamidyearpopulationestimates> [accessed online: 19.03.2026].

Population Density

The population density of an area provides a measure of the number of individuals living within that locale. It is calculated by taking the area's population figure and dividing it by the sum of the geographical area, in square kilometres. The ONS notes that population density is higher in urban areas and conversely, lower in rural areas.

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough is the ninth most densely populated Local Authority of the twenty-two in Wales, with 529.37 people per square kilometre of land. (The ONS indicates a 2021 population of 58,972 people, which is divided by 111.4 square kilometres of land within the County Borough). By comparison, Wales has an overall population density of 150 people per square kilometre, with Cardiff experiencing the highest population density of 2,572 residents per square kilometre and Powys the lowest at twenty-six residents per square kilometre. Therefore, Merthyr Tydfil has over three times the population density of the Welsh average.

Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/w06000024/>
[accessed online 20.03.2026]

Merthyr Tydfil's Residents Country of Birth

The latest census indicates that 87.3% of the local population were born in Wales, decreasing from 88.5% in 2011. Furthermore, the next most represented country of birth, comprising 6.6% of Merthyr's local population was England. Poland has the highest non-country of birth amongst Merthyr Tydfil's population with India in second place. The full breakdown of local population by country of birth is presented in the table below.

Merthyr Tydfil Residents' Country of Birth		
	Merthyr Tydfil	Wales
Percentage of people born in Wales	87.3	70.9
Percentage of people born in the UK (outside of Wales)	7.1	22.2
Percentage of people born in other EU countries (Excluding Croatia, Romania and Lithuania)	3.3	2.6
Percentage of people born outside EU countries	2.3	4.3

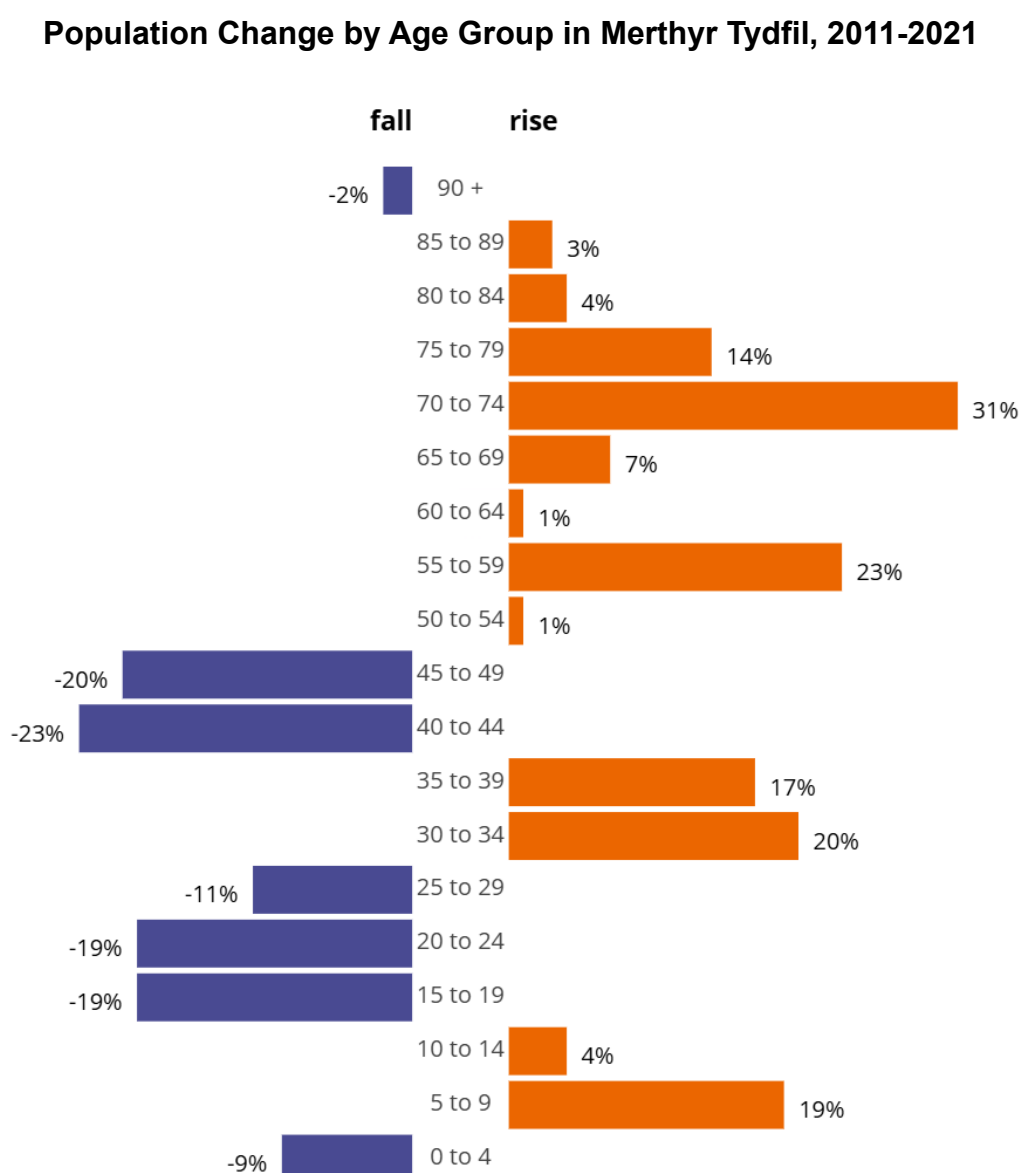
Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/w06000024/>
[accessed online: 20.03.2026]

Source: [Demography and migration in Wales \(Census 2021\) \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)
[accessed online: 20.03.2026]

Population Projection Change

The population of Merthyr Tydfil has remained relatively stable between to 2011 and 2021 census, remaining at c. 58,800 people. Despite the stability, there have however been demographic changes within the population.

Overall, there has been a significant increase in persons aged 65 years and over. Additionally, the number of children aged 15 and under has also increased. In contrast however, the number of individuals aged between 16 and 64 years has witnessed a decline. Moreover, in 2011, the working age population (age 16-64) was 64.7% of the total population, which has decreased to 62.1% in the 2021 Census. The chart below shows the percentage change in residents, by age group, between 2011 and 2021:



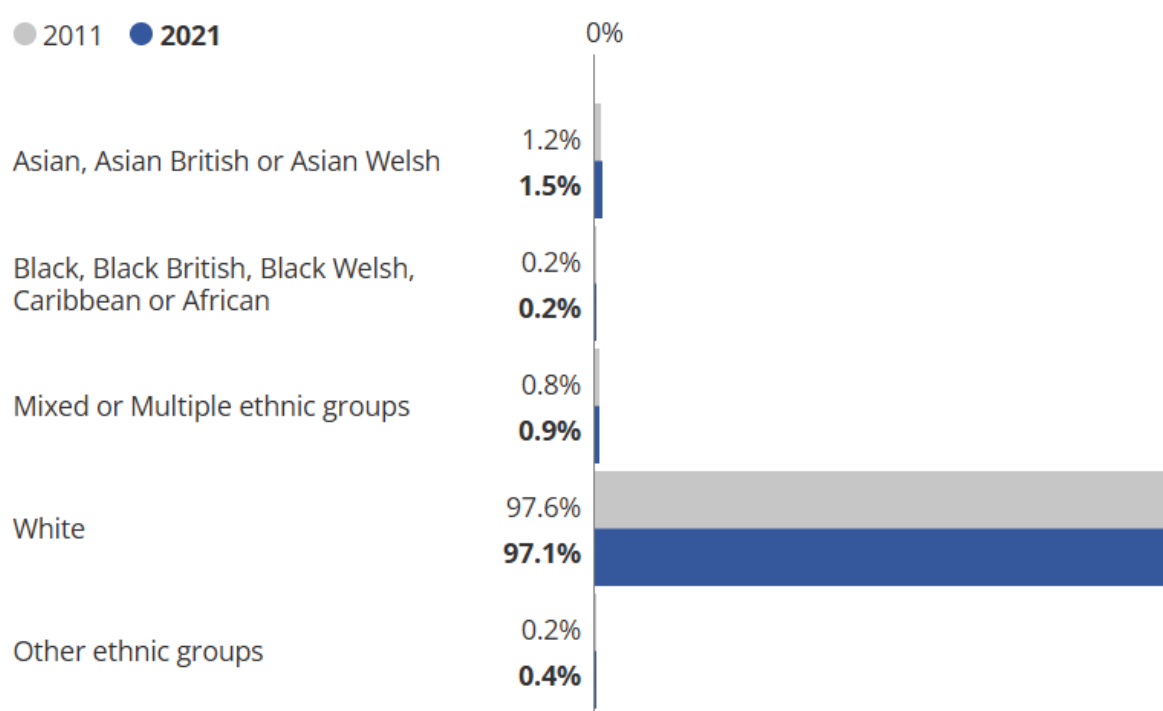
Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/w06000024/>
[accessed online 20.03.2026]

Ethnicity

Public sector organisations have a statutory duty to promote race equality, as part of the *Equalities Act, 2010*.

The 2021 Census indicates that 97.1% of the local population identifies their ethnic group as “white”, whilst 0.9% of the population identifies as having “mixed or multiple” ethnicities. The largest non-white group identify as “Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh” and comprise 1.5% of the Merthyr Tydfil’s population. The full breakdown of ethnicity is provided in the chart below.

Percentage of Merthyr Tydfil Residents by Ethnic Group, 2011-2021

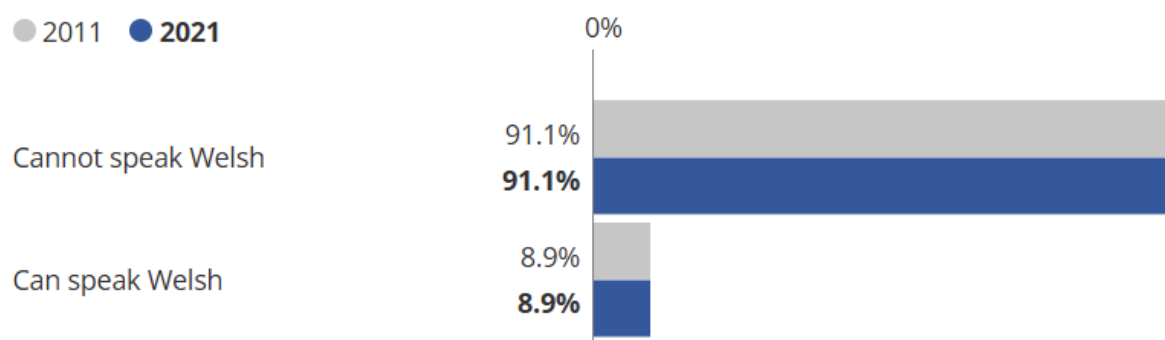


Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/w06000024/> [accessed online: 20.03.2026].

Welsh Language

The 2021 Census indicates that 8.9% of the population of Merthyr Tydfil speak Welsh with 8.1% using Welsh daily. This figure has remained stable since the 2011 Census. By comparison, 19.5% of the population of Wales speak Welsh, which is down 0.5% since the 2011 Census. 13.3% of the primary school population of the County Borough are also being educated through the medium of Welsh. The graph below shows the Welsh language abilities for the residents of Merthyr Tydfil aged three and over.

Ability to Speak Welsh – Merthyr Tydfil

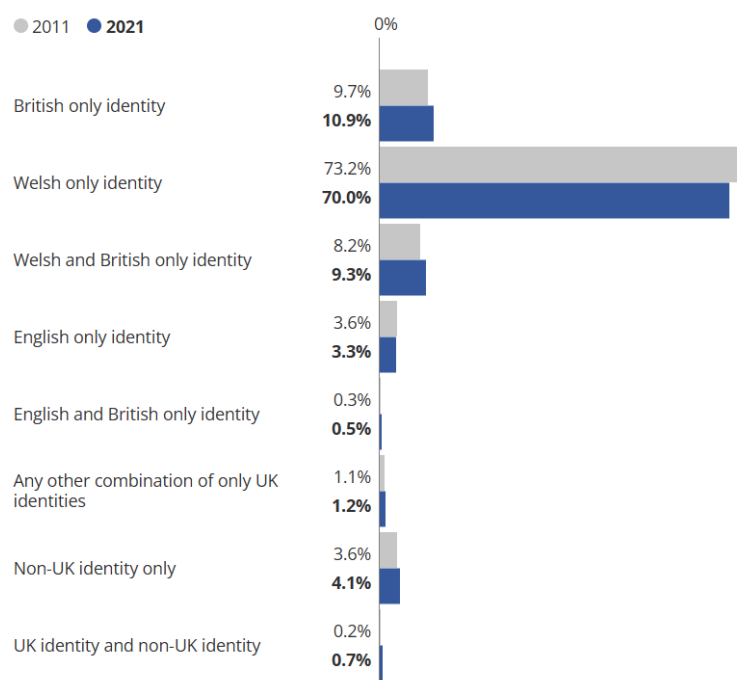


Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/w06000024/> [accessed online: 20.03.2026].

Identity

Merthyr Tydfil has the highest percentage of people who identify as “Welsh only” in all of Wales at 70%, with Rhondda Cynon Taf a close second at 69.8%. The ONS note that “British” was moved to the top option, which may have influenced how individuals describe their national identity. The chart below shows national identity for Merthyr Tydfil.

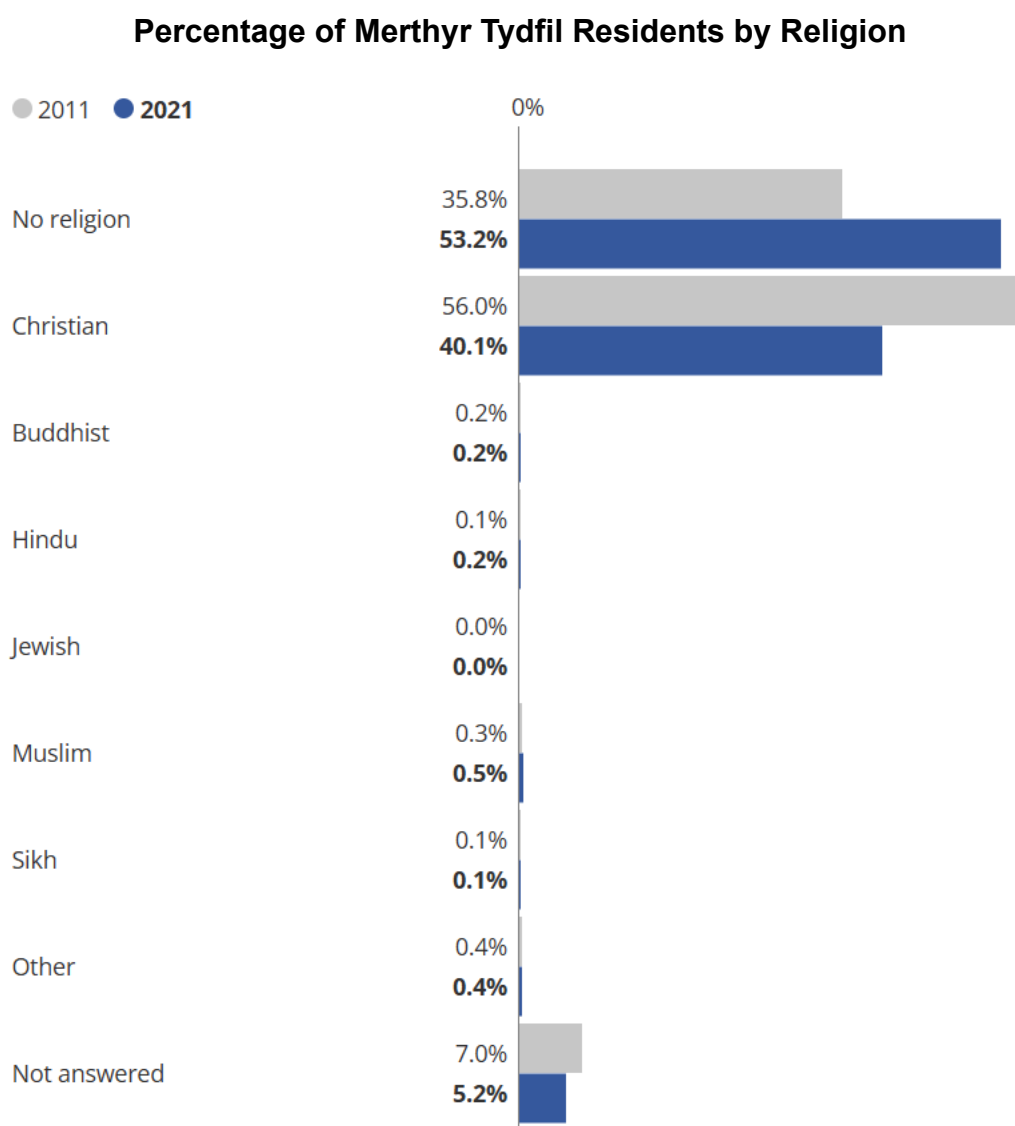
Percentage of Merthyr Tydfil Residents by National Identity



Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/w06000024/> [accessed online: 20.03.2026].

Religion

2021 was the first instance whereby “no religion” overtook “Christianity”, making it the most common response for the County Borough. 53.2% of the residents of Merthyr Tydfil reported having no religion, up from 35.8% in 2011. This is a trend that has been witnessed nationally, with the percentage of people in Wales identifying as having no religion increasing to 46.5%, up from 32.1% in 2011. Within Merthyr Tydfil, the number of people describing themselves as “Christian” reduced from 56.0% in 2011 to 40.1% in 2021. The graph below shows the full breakdown of religions within Merthyr Tydfil however the ONS caution that religious affiliation is voluntary, and caution is required when comparing figures between different areas and Censuses.

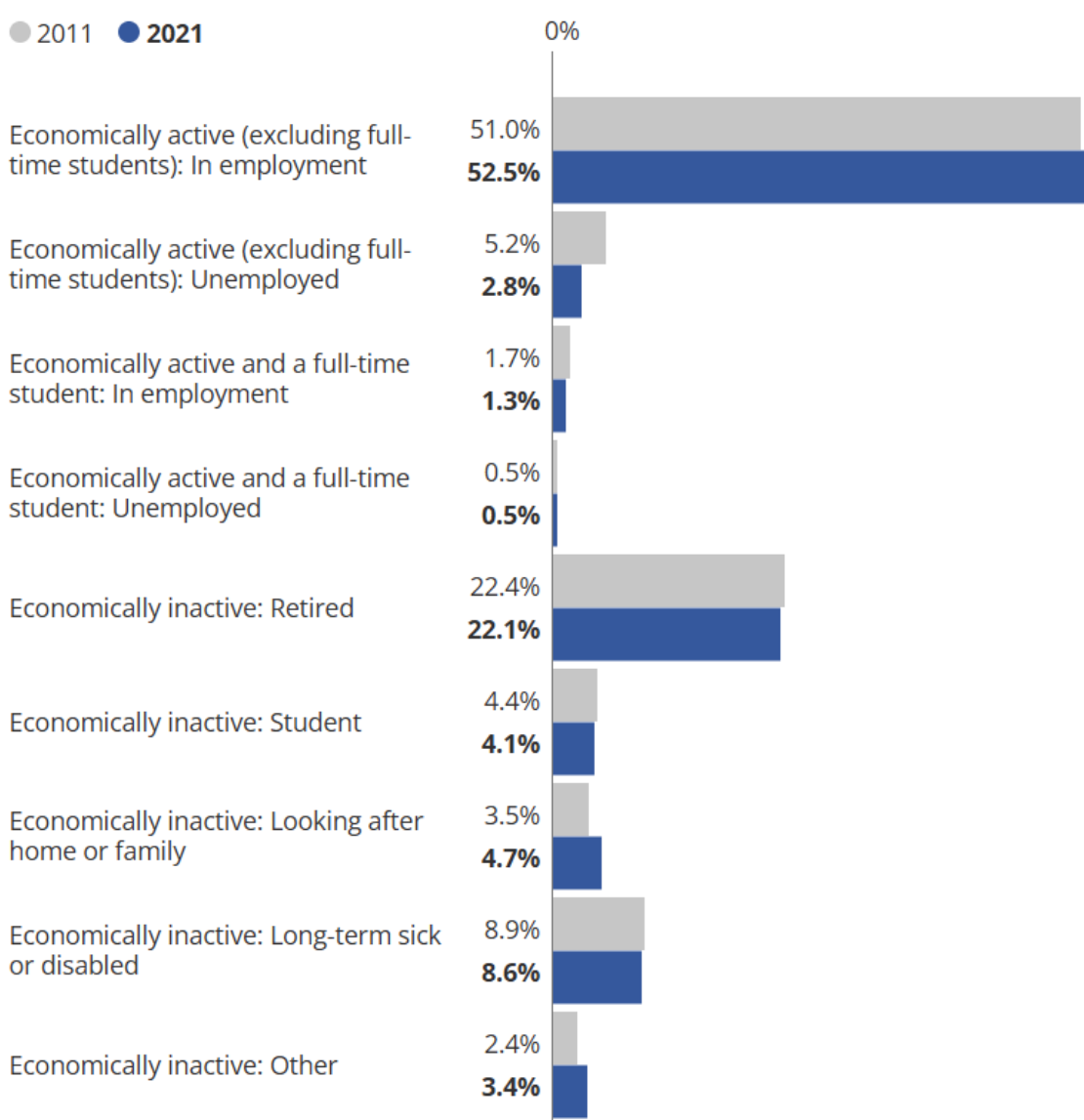


Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/w06000024/>
[accessed online: 20.03.2026].

Employment

The 2021 Census indicates that Merthyr Tydfil had the joint third largest percentage-point rise in the number of people aged 16 and over (excluding full time students) who were in employment, increasing from 51.0% in 2011 to 52.5% in 2021. This saw Merthyr Tydfil overtake seven other local authorities, becoming Wales's ninth highest percentage of people within employment for this age group. The ONS do however caution that the Census took place during the COVID-19 pandemic and consequently lockdowns and furlough schemes undoubtedly affected the labour market and all associated measures thereof. The chart below shows a full breakdown of the working age population by economic activity status between 2011 and 2021.

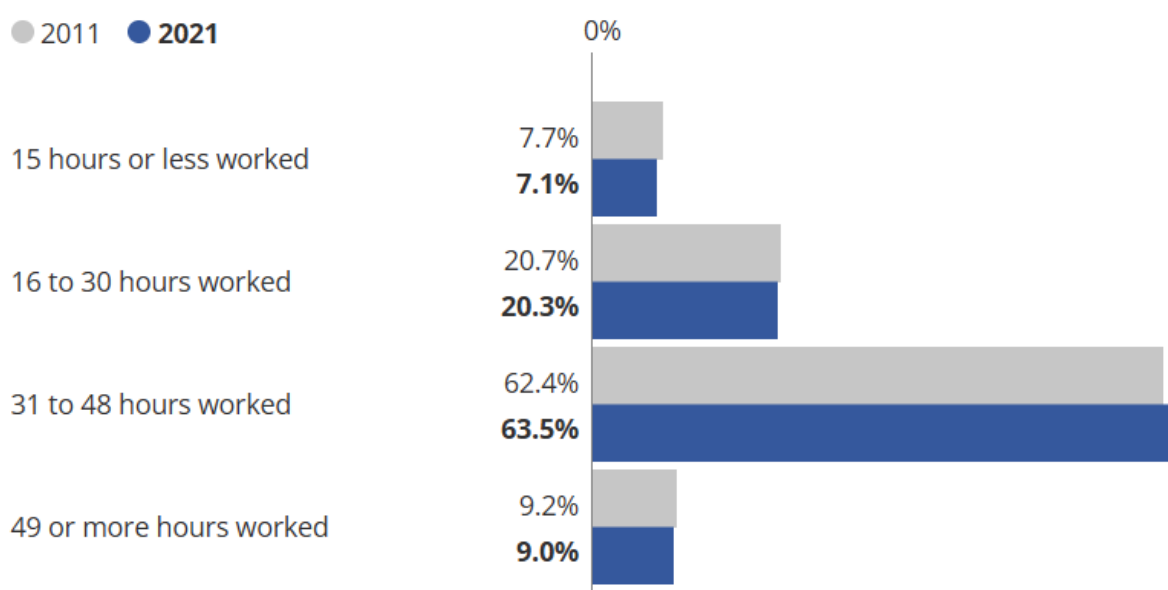
Percentage of Merthyr Tydfil Residents (16+) by Economic Activity Status



Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/w06000024/> [accessed online: 20.03.2026].

9.0% of the residents of Merthyr Tydfil, aged over 16 and in employment, indicate that they work over 49 hours per week. Conversely 7.1% indicate that they work less than 15 hours per week. The percentage of adults working 31-48 hours per week has increased from 62.4% in 2011 to 63.5% in 2021. Across Wales as a whole, the percentage of people working over 49 hours decreased overall from 11.9% in 2011 to 10.2% in 2021, although working hours may have been affected by the COVID-19 global pandemic. The comparison of working hours within Merthyr Tydfil is presented in the chart below.

Percentage of Merthyr Tydfil Residents, 16+ and in Employment, by Number of Hours Worked per Week



Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/w06000024/> [accessed online: 20.03.2026].

Merthyr Tydfil Area Profile – Other Statistical Information

The information in the table below compares the performance of Merthyr Tydfil against the UK median for a number of indicators that measure output, such as prosperity and quality of life.

Indicator	Merthyr Tydfil	UK (Median)
Economy		
Economic Inactivity Rate	23.3%	20.8%
Employment Rate	73.9%	76.6%
Claimant Count	3.2%	3.1%
Gross Disposable Household Income per head	£18,488	£23,192
Gross Median Pay (weekly)	£605	£629
Children in Relative Poverty	27.7%	18.9%
Gross Value Added per hours worked	£31.0	£38.1

Indicator	Merthyr Tydfil	UK (Median)
Economy Continued		
Gross Domestic Product per head current market price	£24,540	£31,133
Active Business (number of enterprises)	1,360	5,775
Business Births (as a percentage of all active UK business)	11.4%	10.4%
Business Deaths (as a percentage of all active UK business)	11.8%	9.5%
High Growth Business (as % of all active UK business)	3.2%	4.4%
Health and Well-being		
Cigarette Smokers	15.7%	11.4%
Healthy Female Life Expectancy	50.1	60.0
Healthy Male Life Expectancy	51.7	59.9
Environment		
Domestic Electricity Consumption (kWh)	2,299.5	2,517.4
Domestic Gas Consumption (kWh)	10,966.5	9,869.5
Connectivity		
Gigabit Capable Broadband	76.4%	87.9%
4G Coverage	99.4%	100%
5G Coverage	82.9%	97.3%
Premises below 30 Mbps	0.7%	1.6%
Transport		
Public EV Charging Devices per 100,000 of the population	92.5	95.0
Residents within 30min Walk to Local Library	67%	74%
Residents within 30min Walk to nearest Railway Station	51%	58%

The table below, concerned with educational attainment, compares data from Merthyr Tydfil to the overall Local Authority (LA) Average.

Indicator	Merthyr Tydfil	LA Average
Education		
Achieving Level 3+ or Equivalent (Level 3 = A-Level standard)	49%	67.1%
No Qualification	13.7%	6.6%

Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/explore-local-statistics/areas/w06000024-merthyr-tydfil/indicators#education-and-skills> [accessed online: 20.03.2026]

Appendix F – List of Internal and External Stakeholders Engaged in the Preparation of the Delivery Agreement

The list below presents those internal and external stakeholders who must be engaged in the preparation of the Delivery Agreement.

Internal Stakeholders:

- Chief Executive
- Directors
- Selected Heads of Service
- Specialist Officers
- Performance Management

External Stakeholders:

- The Welsh Government
- Planning and Environment Decisions Wales
- Natural Resources Wales
- CADW

Appendix G – Glossary of Terms

Adopted Plan: The final iteration of the Local Development Plan (LDP) that must be approved (adopted) by Full Council to become the statutory Development Plan for the purposes of the Act.

Adoption: The final stage of the plan-making process whereby the Plan and any changes made by the Inspector, are adopted by Full Council, confirming its status as the Development Plan for the administrative area.

Allocation: Allocations are a formal designation within a Development Plan, consisting of various parcels of land for future development, for a specified use (housing, employment, retail etc.)

Annual Monitoring Report (AMR): The AMR must be produced and submitted to the Welsh Government by the 31st of October each year. The report assesses the extent to which the LDP's Strategy and policies are being implemented. Noting any areas of concern where Indicators (performance targets) are not being met.

Candidate Sites (CS): A site submitted by a landowner for consideration in the LDP. All sites will be assessed against specific criteria to ascertain their suitability as a potential allocation.

Citizens Panel: The Council has previously used a 'Citizens' Panel' to successfully consult with local people. The panel is a collection of individuals from a cross section of Merthyr Tydfil's population who represent the overall views and characteristics of the County Borough's residents.

Community: People within a defined geographical area who are considered as a collective due to shared geography, social groupings and characteristics.

Community Involvement Scheme (CIS): The CIS identifies how and when the Council intends to involve consultation bodies and interested parties (including the public) in the preparation of the Local Development Plan. The CIS is submitted to the Welsh Government, as part of the Delivery Agreement, for approval.

Consensus Building: A collaborative process for early dialogue and decision-making, with the objective of finding a general agreement or consensus amongst all stakeholders. The focus is placed on achieving shared goals and mutual understanding. It often involves mediation between diverse viewpoints to reach a solution that is agreeable to all parties, thus eliminating significant opposition.

Consultation: A formal process whereby discussions occur or comments are invited on particular topic areas or draft documents.

Consultation Report: LDP Regulations requires the production of a Consultation Report to accompany the LDP when submitted for independent Examination. Furthermore, the Initial Consultation Report, covering the pre-deposit plan preparation stage is required under LDP Regulation 17(c).

Council: All references to ‘the Council’ explicitly refer to Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.

Cwm Taf Morgannwg Well-being Plan (CTMWBP): The CTMWBP is a strategic document covering Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Bridgend. It has been compiled by public services, including Councils, the Local Health Board, Police, Fire Services, Natural Resources Wales and others. The Plan focusses on creating a more equal region by fostering sustainable communities and healthy local neighbourhoods.

Delivery Agreement (DA): The Delivery Agreement is the document comprising the Local Planning Authority’s (LPA) timetable for the preparation of the LDP, together with the Community Involvement Scheme. The DA must be submitted to and agreed by the Welsh Government, prior to the commencement of the plan-making process.

Deposit: A formal six-week stage in the plan-making process whereby individuals and organisations can make Representations on the Deposit Draft Local Development Plan. Representations explicitly relating to the Plan’s ‘soundness’ will be examined by the independent Inspector.

Deposit LDP: The full Deposit draft of the LDP takes approximately a year to compile and comprises a long-term land use and development strategy, focused on achieving sustainable development. Upon completion, the Deposit Draft LDP undergoes a period of formal consultation, prior to being submitted to the Welsh Government, who appoint an independent Inspector to conduct the public Examination process.

Development: Development, as defined by planning law, related to the *carrying out of building, engineering, mining or other operations in, on, over or under land* (Section 55 of the *Planning Act, 1990*, as amended).

Duly Made: The term ‘duly made’ refers to those Representations made in the correct manner and timeframe, during a specified period of public consultation.

Engagement: A method of consultation whereby the views, involvement and participation of communities are sought in the decision-making process.

Evidence Base (EB): The Evidence Base consists of all data and documentation prepared during the plan-making process. It is used to underpin and support decision-making and justify the ‘soundness’ of the policy approach presented in the LDP.

Environmental Consultation Body: An authority with environmental responsibilities, who are concerned about the effects of implementing the LDP. These effects are consulted upon, as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations, with bodies including Natural Resources Wales and Cadw.

Examination: Examination is the phase of the LDP process conducted by the independent Inspector of Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW), on behalf of the Welsh Government. The Examination phase involves examining the Deposit Draft LDP, alongside associated evidence, Representations, the Consultation Report and Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (inclusive of SEA and HRA). The

Examination ensures that the LDP is based on robust evidence and sound reasoning, and that all concerns raised about the Plan have been thoroughly considered.

Future Wales (National Plan 2020-2040): Future Wales is the highest tier of Development Plan in Wales and is the national spatial development framework, setting a twenty-year strategy for housing, economic prosperity, climate change and renewable energy projects. All lower tier Development Plans must align with the Vision and policies presented within Future Wales.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR): The GDPR strengthens data protection and privacy for individuals, stipulating how personal data is to be managed, necessitating express permission to hold personal data and includes the right to be forgotten/erased. GDPR has recently been strengthened, as part of *The Data (Use and Access) Act, 2025*, which received Royal Assent on the 19th of June 2025.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA): The HRA is concerned with assessing the impacts of plans and projects against the nature conservation objectives of the sites within the National Sites Network for likely significant effects, including affecting the integrity of the site.

Indicator: A mechanism employed to measure the progress and success of LDP objectives, targets and policies over the plan period. Indicators are a fundamental element of the Annual Monitoring Report, helping to track the implementation of the Plan.

Involvement: Involvement of the community in the plan-making process by consulting with them on issues that interest or affect them, prior to making decisions. Involvement includes liaising with individuals, organisations and government bodies.

Inspector's Report: The Report produced by the independent Inspector following the public Examination of the LDP. The Inspector sets out their findings and recommendations, which are binding upon the Council, meaning that the LDP must be adopted by Full Council, as directed within the Report.

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA): The ISA is a detailed process, which evaluates the social, economic and cultural, in addition to environmental impacts of the LDP Strategy and policies. ISA puts sustainability at the heart of decision-making by identifying, mitigating and reporting on the potential negative effects, whilst simultaneously maximising the identified positive impacts to achieve sustainable development.

Interested Parties: Interested parties are those organisations or individuals who have provided the Council with their personal data to be kept informed of the various stages of the LDP process. Individuals can request to be removed from the consultation list should they change their minds.

Local Development Plan (LDP): The Local Development Plan is the land-use planning document for the administrative area, which includes the Vision, Strategy, policies and allocations, as required under Part 6 of the *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004*.

Local Planning Authority (LPA): The LPA, also known as the Planning Department of the Local Authority or Council, is the body responsible, by law, for exercising statutory planning functions for their administrative area.

Objective: A specified, measurable target or outcome that is to be achieved within a stipulated timeframe.

Participation: A process, (not a single event) of direct engagement with the public in decision-making, giving due consideration to public input.

Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW): PEDW is an independent division of the Welsh Government that manages Local Development Plan Examinations, in addition to planning appeals and significant infrastructure projects. PEDW report to the Welsh Ministers, although they maintain independence in the decision-making process. PEDW were formerly known as the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Wales.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW): The national planning policy framework, issued by the Welsh Government. It contains land-use policies on various areas of planning, which apply Wales-wide.

Pre-Deposit Stage: The stage of the plan-making process that includes the Strategic Options and Preferred Strategy. This stage occurs prior to the Deposit stage.

Preferred Strategy (PS): The Preferred Strategy contains the preferred level of growth and distribution thereof, via the spatial strategy. It provides the strategic direction of the LDP, inclusive of the Visions, Aims and Objectives that underpin the Plan.

Public Services Board (PSB): Public Services Boards are statutory partnerships, established under the *Well-being of Future Generations Act, 2015* to improve the social, environmental, economic and cultural well-being of Wales. The boards comprise Local Authorities, the health board, fire service and other bodies, such as Natural Resources Wales, to work collaboratively to achieve community-focused objectives.

Regulations: The LDP Regulations provide the framework for plan preparation, as set out in Welsh Statutory Instruments.

Report of Consultation: The Consultation Report is a mandatory document that must be produced to coincide with the Examination stage of the LDP process. Likewise, the Initial Consultation Report must be produced at the Pre-Deposit Stage of plan preparation.

Representations: Representations are submitted during periods of designated public consultation, which indicate support for, objections to or comments (observations) about various aspects of the LDP. Representations must be collated and responded to by the Local Planning Authority.

Review Report: The Review Report forms part of the full revision process whereby an overview of all issues considered are presented. The document considers any changes likely to be required in a revised LDP, based on evidence gathered to date. Additionally, it sets out those contextual changes that the LDP will need to comply with, alongside the revision procedure to be followed.

Scoping: Scoping forms the initial stage of the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA), defining the key social, economic and cultural, as well as environmental (SEA) issues, that the LDP needs to address. It determines the scope of issues to be investigated, alongside establishing the baseline and identifying relevant policies, to ensure that the ISA is focused and comprehensive.

Service Level Agreement: An agreement between PEDW and the Local Planning Authority regarding the LDP Examination. It sets out the roles, actions and commitments, inclusive of the likely timescales and costs of Examination, as well as the production of a Statement of Common Ground and detailed responses to any preliminary questions.

Site Specific Allocations: An allocation for a specific site or proposal indicating a use or mix thereof. (Also see 'allocation' above).

Soundness (Tests of Soundness): To be considered 'sound' by an Inspector at LDP Examination, a Plan must be effective and fully justified, founded on robust, credible evidence, in addition to containing the most appropriate Strategy for the area. There are three tests of soundness against which the LDP will be examined, these being: consistency, coherence and effectiveness.

Stakeholders: Individuals, groups or organisations whose interests are directly affected by the production of the LDP (and/or the Strategic Environmental Assessment) and are generally involved through representative bodies.

Strategic Development Plan (SDP): Strategic Development Plans were introduced in the *Planning (Wales) Act, 2015*. They are a new tier of development plan, covering the regional level to address cross-boundary issues inclusive of housing, strategic employment and transportation.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): A generic term used to describe environmental assessment, as applied to policies, plans and programmes. The SEA Regulations require a formal environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, including those in the field of planning and land use.

Submission: A formal stage of plan preparation, whereby the Local Development Plan is submitted to the Welsh Government for independent Examination by a Welsh Government appointed Inspector of PEDW.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG): SPG provides additional information in relation to policies contained within the Local Development Plan. SPG do not form part of the Development Plan and are not assessed at the Examination in public. They must however be consistent with the LDP and national policy, and have a demonstrable link with specific policies, upon which they provide further guidance.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA): A mechanism for appraising policies and proposals to ensure that they reflect sustainable development objectives. Section 62(6) requires all LPAs to undertake an SA of the Plan, many of whom chose to incorporate the SA into an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal. The Strategic Environmental Assessment will be compiled alongside the SA.

Sustainable Development: Sustainable Development is defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (WBFGA): The WBFGA was introduced in 2015 and requires public bodies (including Local Authorities) to think about the long-term impacts of their decisions, policies and proposals, in addition to preventing problems and following the sustainable development principle. LPAs must also enact the five-ways of working and work toward the seven well-being goals.

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD): The WIMD is an official measure of relative deprivation for Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) (small geographical areas) in Wales. The latest update was published in November 2025 and ranks all 1,917 LSOAs from most to least deprived, based on eight domains, namely: income, health, education, employment, housing, community safety, access to services and the physical environment.