1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Thd [(T) [(o)2 (n s)6 (e)13 (ttl)4 (e)13 (m)4 (e)3 (n)10 (t r)4 (o)2 (l)14 (e)3 (s)6 (a

elements of the methodology have been adapted to ensure that it is relevant to Blaenau Gwent which is typified by valley towns with some small rural communities. If the proposed regional methodology were to be strictly adhered to, the settlement scores/weighting would be disproportionately low and skew the assessment. The application of a more flexible scoring approach to that proposed in the regional methodology is, therefore, considered necessary to take account of Blaenau Gwent's character. The differences between this and the SEWSPG methodology are set out in Appendix 1.

2.0 CONTEXT

Local- Background to settlements within Blaenau Gwent

2.1 Located in South East Wales 20 miles north of Newport and 20 miles north east of Cardiff Blaenau Gwent is well placed between South Wales and the Midlands. The County Borough covers an area of 10,900 ha and has an estimated population of 69,700 (2018). The area is characterised by its valley topography which creates a close relationship between densely urbanised communities and large tracts of open countryside.

2.2 Blaenau Gwent's origins lay in the wide range of local and nat(au)-4.58 0 Tal-1.91 (at)-4
2.2--5 T14f72 502.68 Tm3 TPpop cy(n)- Co82 (p

through the planning system. PPW 10 has a strong focus on promoting placemaking, which is considered instrumental to achieving sustainable places, delivering socially inclusive development and promoting more cohesive communities. Placemaking is deemed a holistic approach that "…considers the context, function and relationships between a development site and its wider surroundings" (PPW 10, p.16).

2.6

- Ensuring new development is located where there is, or will be, good access by public transport, walking and cycling thereby minimising the need for travel and fostering social inclusion;
- Managing parking provision;
- Ensuring that new development and major alterations to existing developments include appropriate provision for pedestrians (including those with special access and mobility requirements), cycling, public transport, traffic management and parking/servicing;
- Encouraging the location of development near other related uses to encourage multi-purpose trips;
- Promoting cycling and walking;
- Supporting the provision of high quality, inclusive public transport;
- Supporting provision of a reliable and efficient freight network;
- Promoting the location of warehousing and manufacturing developments to facilitate the use of rail and sea transport for freight;
- Encouraging good quality design of streets that provide a safe public realm and a distinct sense of place; and
- Ensuring that transport infrastructure or service improvements necessary to serve new development allow existing transport networks to continue to perform their identified functions.

2.15 TAN 18 (para. 3.4, 2007) goes on to emphasise the need to identify residential sites in accessible areas which have good links to jobs, shops and services by modes other than the car and where public transport services have existing or planned capacity to absorb further development. Based upon this, settlement policies should:

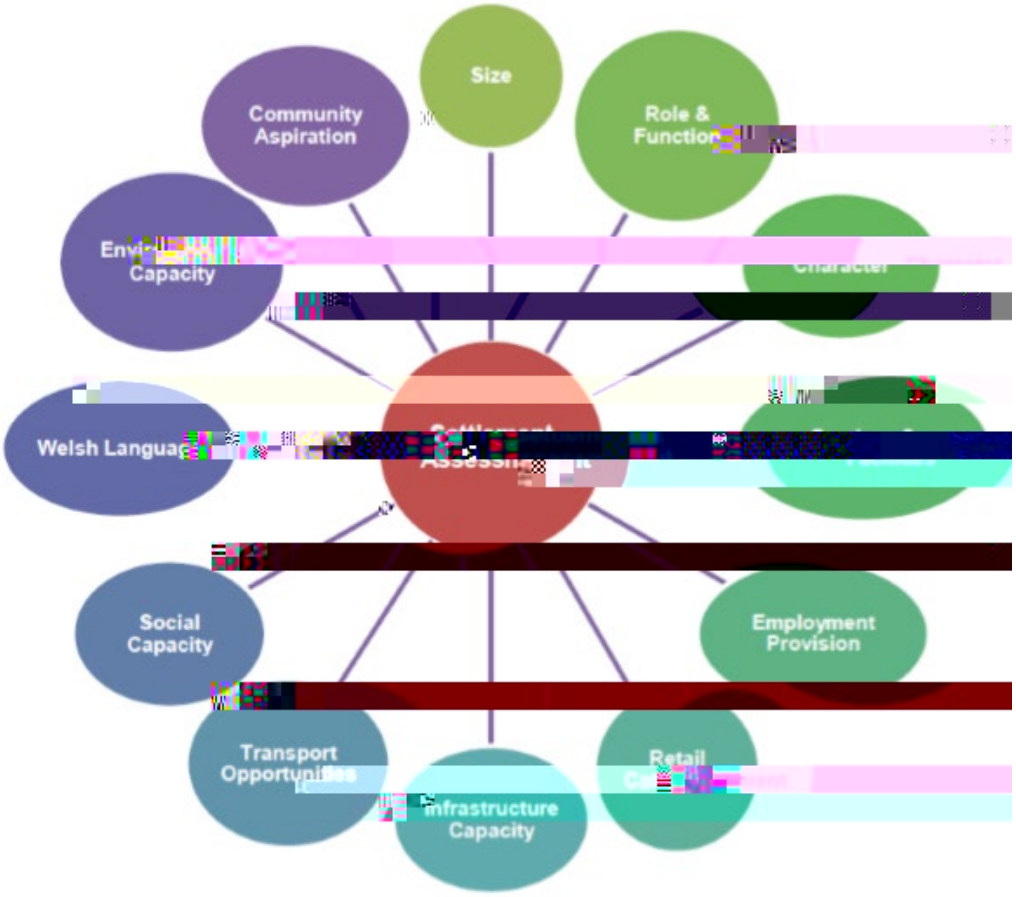
- Promote housing development at locations with good access by walking and cycling to primary and secondary schools and public transport stops, and by all modes to employment, further and higher education, services, shopping and leisure, or where such access will be provided as part of the scheme or is a firm proposal in the Regional Transport Plan;
- Ensure that significant new housing schemes contain ancillary uses including local shops, and services and, where appropriate, local employment;
- Include policies and standards on density, and parking to achieve higher residential densities in places with good public transport accessibility and capacity;
- Encourage residential layouts that incorporate traffic management proposals such as home zones, calming measures and 20 mph zones and where appropriate, layouts that allow public transport to pass through easily; and
- Require layouts and densities, which maximise the opportunity forp d(ro)8 (u)-uspialk1.22 T

2.17

Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013

2.21 The Active Travel (Wales) Act aims to make active travel the most attractive option

Diagram 1: Settlement Assessment



Source: Consultation Draft Development Plans Manual Edition 3 (June 2019)

employment opportunities, was used to establish a baseline of facilities and services that are known to be present within the settlements.

3.5 Each settlement was then assessed against a scoring system and ranked according to its overall score. The ranking provides an initial quantitative sustainability assessment which is limited to the measurable factors identified. This enables the identification of broad groupings of settlements with similar roles and functions.

Scoring System

3.6 The scoring system is based upon the three principles set out above.

Principle 1: Sustainable Transport and Accessibility

3.7 Principle 1 focuses on sustainable transport and accessibility [illegible]

Summary of Findings

Population

4.4 Ebbw Vale is the largest settlement both in terms of area and population with a total of 30% of all of Blaenau Gwent's population. (See Table 6 below)

Table 12: Ownership

Settlement	Dwellings Number

5.0 SUSTAINABLE SETTLEMENTS ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Initial Ranking of Settlements based on the 3 Principles

5.1 The Pre-Consultation Draft Development Plans Manual (2018) recommends that LPAs should consider the most practicable way of presenting the results of the settlement (e)]TJ

Table 6: Principle 1 Sustainable Transport and Accessibility

Settlement	Active Travel	Score	Bus Services	Score	Rail Services	Score	Proximity to Strategic Highway Network	Score	Total Score	Weighted Score % (Maximum achievable 40%)
Ebbw Vale	Several Routes	10	Medium frequency	5	Rail station in settlement	10	Less than 3 miles	5	30	34.3%

Principle 2 – Availability of Facilities and Services

5.7 The extent and range of retail, community and service facilities in a settlement is a good indication of its socio-economic sustainability. All facilities and services are important

Table 7: Principle 2 Availability of Facilities and Services

Settlement	Presence of Retail Centre within settlement	Score	Regular Needs	Score	Community Facilities	Score	Medical Facilities	Score	Education facilities	Score	Cafes, Bars Pubs, Restaurants & Takeaways	Score	Broadband Connection	Score	Weighted Score % (Maximum achievable 30%)
Brynmawr/ Nantyglo/ Blaina	Town & Local Centre	30	Yes	11	Yes	16	Yes	6	Yes	7	Yes	6	Med	2	78 22.7%
Ebbw Vale	Town & Neighbourhood Centre	25	Yes	11	Yes	17	Yes	8	Yes	7	Yes	6	Med	2	76 22.1%
Tredegar	Town & Neighbourhood Centre	25	Yes	10	Yes	15	Yes	6	Yes	7	Yes	6	High	5	

Abertillery (

Principle 3 – Employment Opportunities

5.10 Local employment opportunities provide a positive indicator.-1 (iW)D (s)0 13 (e)-1

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Table8: Principle 3 – Employment Opportunities

Settlement	Protected

6.0 SETTLEMENT HIERARCHY

Ranking of Settlement

6.1 The settlements hav n0 (t di631 0 Td i(e)3 (nd(n0 (d1 Tf -i631 nt Tf -o)3 (3)3 (.001 Tc -

Diagram 3: Scatter Graph of overall scoring

6.3

Principle 2 – Availability of Facilities and Services

Town Centres

The presence of Town Centres has been considered to understand the availability of facilities and town, local and neighbourhood centre.

Regular Needs

The SEWSPC methodology identified daily needs such as shops, post offices, butcher and

settlements to give more appropriate Active Travel routes and more sustainability to look at the presence of active travel routes within settlements. The methodology also looked at walking and cycling distances to higher order settlements via Active Travel Routes where there were limited services in the settlement.

Bus Services

Ebbw Fawr Valley – Ebbw Vale and Cwm

The Ebbw Fawr Valley is the central of the three valleys in Blaenau Gwent. There are two main settlements within the Valley;
nt of Cwm.

o Cardiff, and good road links to the west to Merthyr, Cardiff and West Wales and the east to
ds of the Valleys Road. In a north south direction the A4046 links Ebbw Vale to Cwm and

a health, education, and administrative centre for the Borough. It is also the largest town

assau Industrial Estate) with the majority of people working in manufacturing, retail and
orking in the higher category occupations. There are also proposed employment sites at

employment site at Marine Street and a proposed employment site at the former Marine

Ebbw Fawr- Ebbw Vale

Employment

Economically Active[2]: 62%

G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	1,287	16.3
H Transport and storage	258	3.3
I Accommodation and food service activities	362	4.6
J Information and communication	83	1.1
K Financial and insurance activities	127	0.2
L Real estate activities	87	1.1
M Professional, scientific and technical activities	64	0.8
N Administrative and support service activities	134	1.7
O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	555	7
P Education	651	8.2
Q Human health and social work activities	1,378	17.4
R, S, T, U Other	321	4.1

Source: Census 2011

Travel to Work Flows:

Source: Census 2011

Self-Containment

34% of Ebbw Vale residents who are employed work in Ebbw Vale.

Source: Census 2011

		Yes	No	Score	Comments

39

		Yes	No		Score	Comments
						Zion Church Vestry (Briery Hill) Bridge Christian Community Centre
	Library	q				

		Yes	No	ScouCID 4 T

		Yes	No		Score	Comments
	settlement					Rassau Industrial Estate (EMP1.4 and 1.5) Land at Waun-y-Pound (EMP1.6)
					20	

Other Employment

Ebbw Fawr Valley – Cwm

Settlement Area: 51 ha

Population Size[7]: 2,671

Age Structure:

Age Category	Mid-Year Population Estimate 2017	Percentage
Age 0 to 4	104	3.8
Age 5 to 9	165	6.2
Age 10 to 19	259	9.7
Age 20 to 44	849	31.8
Age 45 to 64	740	27.7
Age 65 and over	554	20.7

Source: Nomis Population Estimates 2017

Average age: 42.3 (Blaenau Gwent 41.6)

Welsh Language (Able to speak Welsh) 7.65% (Blaenau Gwent Average 7.8%)
Source: Census 2011

[7] 2011 Census

Self-Containment

Only 5% of Cwm residents who are employed work in Cwm

Source: Census 2011

Housing

Households: 1,850

Ownership	Number	Percentage
Owned	1,317	71.2
Shared ownership (part owned and part rented)	2	0.1
Social rented		

		Yes	No		Score	Comments
	Publicly Accessible Ope Space	q		1-3	2	Cendl Terrace, New Cwm Terrace

		Yes	No		Score	Comments
					5	

Sirhowy Valley–

Sirhowy Valley – Tredegar

Settlement Area: 547 ha

Population Size[13]: 15,228

Age Structure:

Age Category	Mid-Year Population Estimate 2017	Percentage
Age 0 to 4	815	5.4
Age 5 to 9	795	5.2
Age 10 to 19	1,592	10.4
Age 20 to 44	4,608	30.3
Age 45 to 64	4,236	27.8
Age 65 and over	3,182	20.9

Source: Nomis Population Estimate 2017

Average age: 42.2 (Blaenau Gwent 41.6)

G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	896	15.2
H Transport and storage	249	4.2
I Accommodation and food service activities	258	4.4
J Information and communication	59	1.0
K Financial and insurance activities		
L Real estate activities	48	0.8
M Professional, scientific and technical activities	114	1.9
N Administrative and support service rvi	56.84 Tm ( )Tj ET EMC.6 (e)-3 (n)26 s	

Housing

Households: 6,731

Ownership	Number	Percentage
Owned	4,089	60.7
Shared ownership (part owned and part rented)	12	0.2
Social rented	1,828	27.2
Private rented	729	10.8
Living rent free	73	1.1

Source: Census 2011

Dwelling Type	Number	Percentage
Detached	888	12.7
Semi Detached	2,335	33.3
Terrace	3,145	44.9
Flat	468	6.7
Shared House	41	0.6
Flat in a commercial building	120	1.7
Caravan	5	0.1

Source: Census 2011

Average house price: £101,998 Hou

		Yes	No		Score	Comments
Community Facilities						
9ii	P1	8	n	510.1.c00		

		Yes	No		Score	Comments
	Public House	q		1-3	3	Castle Hotel, Ye Olde Red Lion, The Olympia Public House, The Navy, The Cambrian, The Nags Head, The Railway Tavern, The Loft Club
	Tea Shop/café/restaurant & Takeaways	q		1-3	3	Morgan Coffee Shop, Ding Dongs Delights, Anns Café, Restaurant Europa, Refresh Coffee Shop,

Sirhowy Valley – Trefil

		Yes	No	Score		Comments
Settlement:		Trefil				
Principle 1: Sustainable Transport and Accessibility						
Presence of Active Travel Route						
	Several			10		
	One Route			5		
	None			0	0	

		Yes	No	Score

		Yes	No	Score		Comments
	Place of Worship	q		1-3	2	Horeb Chapel, Sardis Baptist Chapel
	Publicly Accessible Ope Space		q	1-3		

		Yes	No	Score	

Sirhowy Valley – Pochin

No	Score	Comments

		Yes	No		Score	Comments
					3	
Rail Service						

		Yes	No		Score	Comments
	village hall & church hall)					
	Library		q	1-3		
	Place of Worship		q	1-3		
	Publicly Accessible Ope Space		q	1-3		
	Sports Ground (pitch available)		q	1-3		
	Childs Play Area		q	1-3		
	Youth Club (including scout & guide groups)		q	1-3		
					0	
Medical Facilities						
	Hospital		q	1-3		
	GP Surgery		q	1-3		
	Pharmacy		qPhar76	1-3		

29.2 34.921.9 (h)57.48 12.96 re W n B481 hBDC Q q 252.36 343.44 351.48 13.08 re f96 re W n B481 hT EMC 415.08 3

	Yes	No	Score	

		Yes	No		Score	Comments
	Library		q	1-3		
	Place of Worship		q	1-3		

		Yes	No		Score	Comments
	between 24-30Mb/s					
	Low Connectivity less than 24Mb/s	q		1	1	Sub 24Mbps
					1	
Score					2 out of 103	=1.9% weighted to 30% 0.58%
Principle 3: Employment Opportunity						
	Protected Employment Site within settlement			20		
	Identified Business/Industrial Sites or Mixed-Use Sites within settlement			20		
					0	

Upper Ebbw Fach – Brynmawr, Nantyglo and Blaina

The Ebbw Fach Valley is the eastern valley of the three valleys in Blaenau Gwent. Brynmawr is located at the head of the Ebbw Fach Valley and the Clydach Gorge. The former mining communities of Nantyglo and Blaina have merged with Brynmawr and form urban settlement.

Brynmawr is the main hub for the district and the town centre is broadening its offer with proposals for a McDonalds, Costa Coffee, new supermarket and other retail units. The town attracts shoppers from a wider area than the district it serves.

The A465 Heads of the Valleys Road cuts the district to, Abergavenny and the Midlands to the east and Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, Merthyr, Cardiff and West Wales to the west. The A467 runs in a north south direction starting at the A465 and links the area to Abertillery, Blackwood, Ystrad Mynach, Pontypool and Cwmbran (via the A472); and Newport and Cardiff further the south. The Upper Ebbw Fach does not have a rail link.

Industrial estates are located to the south east of Brynmawr (Blaenant, and Noble Square) to the north of Nantyglo (Cwm Rising Sun and Barleyfieds and Pond Road). Most people are employed in health or manufacturing.

Blaina and Nantyglo played an important role in the Chartist uprisings. The round house towers were built as a fortress to protect the ironmaster Crawshay Bailey in the event of a workers uprising and now form part of a tourist offer. Brynmawr is well located in terms of access to the Brecon Beacons National Park and Blaenavon Works Heritage Site.

Employment

Economically Active[29]: 61%

Economically Active in Employment[30]: 6,902 85%

Occupation	Number	Percentage

[redacted]

H Transport and storage	220	3.6
I Accommodation and food service [illegible]ities	264	4
J Information and comm[illegible]on	60	1
K Financial and ins[illegible]ivities	79	1.3

L Q-1.5 (in)2.2 (an)2.2 (c)-1.9 (ieaQ q 72l59.6 38 e13.6 (ct)4 491.aQ q 72te)4

		Yes	No		Score	Comments
Settlement:		Brynmawr, Nantyglo and Blaina				
Principle 1: Sustainable						

		Yes	No		Score	Comments
	Takeaways					Bar, Wine Vaults, Café Lazeez
					6	
Broadband Connectivity						
	High Connectivity more than 30Mb/s			5		
	Medium Connectivity between 2430Mb/s	q		2	2	26 - 31 Mbps

		Yes	No		Score	Comments
	Between 3 miles to 5 miles			5		
	Greater than 5 miles			0		
					0	
Score					50 out of 50	100% weighted to 30%30%

Lower Ebbw Fach – Abertillery (including Cwmtillery and Six Bells), Aberbeeg / Brynithel / Llanhilleth and Swfrydd

The Ebbw Fach Valley is the eastern valley of the three valleys in Blaenau Gwent. The Lower Ebbw Fach is a very steep valley which limits opportunities for expansion. It comprises the settlements of Abertillery (including Cwmtillery and Six Bells), Brynithel / Llanhilleth / Aberbeeg and Swfrydd.

Abertillery is the hub of the district and is also the location for retail and main services. Cwmtillery and Six Bells form part of the urban form of Abertillery.

Aberbeeg / Brynithel / Llanhileth lie south of

Lower Ebbw Fach

Employment

Economically Active[35]: 62%

Economically Active in Employment[36]: 3,657 85%

Occupation	Number	Percentage
Managers directors and senior officials	259	7.0
Professional occupations	336	9.2
Associate professional and technical occupations	317	8.7
Administrative and secretarial occupations	379	10.4

S (t)-3 ra(rial od)2.2 (TT0 12.246 (n)-02 q 72.24 334.08 368.04 13W n BT

G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycle	693	14.81
H Transport and storage	210	4.49
I Accommodation and food service activities	242	5.17
J Information and communication	52	1.11
K Financial and insurance activities	92	1.97
L Real estate activities	62	1.33
M Professional, scientific and technical activities	102	2.18
N Administrative and support service activities	194	4.15
O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	396	8.46
P Education	348	7.44
Q Human health		

Housing

Households: 5,105

Ownership	Number	Percentage
Owned	3,364	65.9
Shared ownership	3	0.1
Social rented	840	16.4

		Yes	No	Score		Comments
Settlement:		Abertillery(including Cwmtillery and Six Bells)				
Principle 1: Sustainable Transport and Accessibility						
Proximity to Active Travel Route						
	Several Routes	q		10	10	Thereare a number oroutes which run in a north south direction through the settlement

		Yes	No	Score		Comments
Community Facilities						
	Public Hall (including village hall & church hall)	q		1-3	1	Jim Owen Pavillion,
	Library	q		1-3	1	Abertillery
	Place of Worship	q		1-3	3	Blaenau Gwent Baptist Church, Abertillery; Blaenau Gwent Methodist Church, Abertillery;Ebeneezer Baptist Church, Abertillery,Saint Paul's Church, Abertillery; St John's Six Bells
	Publicly Accessible Ope Space	q		1-3	2	Blaenau Gwent Rows, Valley View (Cwmtillery Ward) Clarence St (Abertillery Ward) SixBells Colliery Site (Six Bells Ward)
	Sports Ground (pitch available)	q		1-3	3	Roseheyworth, Abertillery Park, Jim Owen Fields, Playing Field, Woodland Play Filed, Abertillery School / Sport Centre(Cwmtillery Ward) Cwmnantygroes (Six Bells Ward)
	Childs Play Area	q		1-3	2	Roseheyworth, Abertillery Park, Jim Owen Fields, Woodland Play Filed, Abertillery School / Sport Centre(Cwmtillery Ward)

		Yes	No	Score		Comments
						Six Bells (new school)
	Secondary School/Further Education College	q		1-3	1	Abertillery Learning Campus – Secondary Campus
					5	
Cafes, Bars, Pubs, Restaurants & Takeaways						
	Public House	q		1-3	3	The Rolling Mill, Abertillery; The Garw, Abertillery; The Glasgow Pheonix, Abertillery; Somerset Hotel, Abertillery; Commercial Hotel, Abertillery; The Corner Club, Abertillery
	Tea Shop/café/restaurant/ takeaways	q		1-3	3	Bear Grills Café, Abertillery; Kebab Master, Abertillery; Mandras Coffee Shop, Abertillery; The Space Youth Café, Abertillery; Deja brew, Abertillery; The Coffee Shop, Abertillery; Coffee Bean

		Yes	No	Score		Comments
	Opportunity (B1/B2 use within settlement					
					0	
Proximity to Protected/Identified Employment Site if not within the settlement						
	Less than 3miles			10		
	Between 3 miles to 5 miles			5		
	Greater than 5 miles			0		
					0	
Score					40 out of 50	= 80% weighted to 30% 24%

Ebbw Fach – Aberbeeg / Brynithel / Llanhilleth

Settlement Area: 111 ha

Population Size[40]: 3,369

Age Structure:

Age	

Employment

Economically Active[41]: 59%

Economically Active in Employment[42]: 1,240 85%

Occupation	Number	Percentage
Managers directors and senior officials	72	5.6
Professional occupations	104	8.2
Associate professional and technical occupations	82	6.4
Administrative and secretarial occupations	117	9.2
Skilled trades occupations	181	14.2
Caring, leisure and other service occupations	130	10.2
Sales and customer service occupations	88	6.9
Process plant and machine operatives	258	20.3
Elementary occupations	236	18.6

Source: Census 2011

Industry Category	Number	Percentage
A Agriculture, forestry and fishing	11	0.6
B Mining and quarrying	4	0.2
C Manufacturing	500	27.2

I Accommodation and food service activities	83	4.5
J Information and communication	21	1.1

Housing

Households: 2,174

		Yes	No	Score		Comments
					3	
Rail Services						
	RailStation in settlement	q		10	10	Llanhilleth
	Less than 3 miles			5		
	Between 3 miles to 5 miles			1		

Lower Ebbw Fach Swfrydd

Settlement Area: 25 ha

Population Size[46]: 1,537

Age Structure:

Age	Mid-Year Population Estimate 2017	Percentage
Age 0 to 4	103	6.7
Age 5 to 9	101	6.6
Age 10 to 19	178	11.6
Age 20 to 44	471	30.6
Age 45 to 64	419	27.3
Age 65 and over	265	17.2

Source: Nomis Population Estimate 2017

Average age: 39.5 (Blaenau Gwent 41.6)

Welsh Language (Able to speak Welsh) 5.9% (Blaenau Gwent Average 7.8%)

Source: Census 2011

[46] Nomis Population Estimate 2017

Travel to Work Flows:

Source: Census 2011

Self-Containment

4% Swfrydd residents who are employed work in Swfrydd.

3

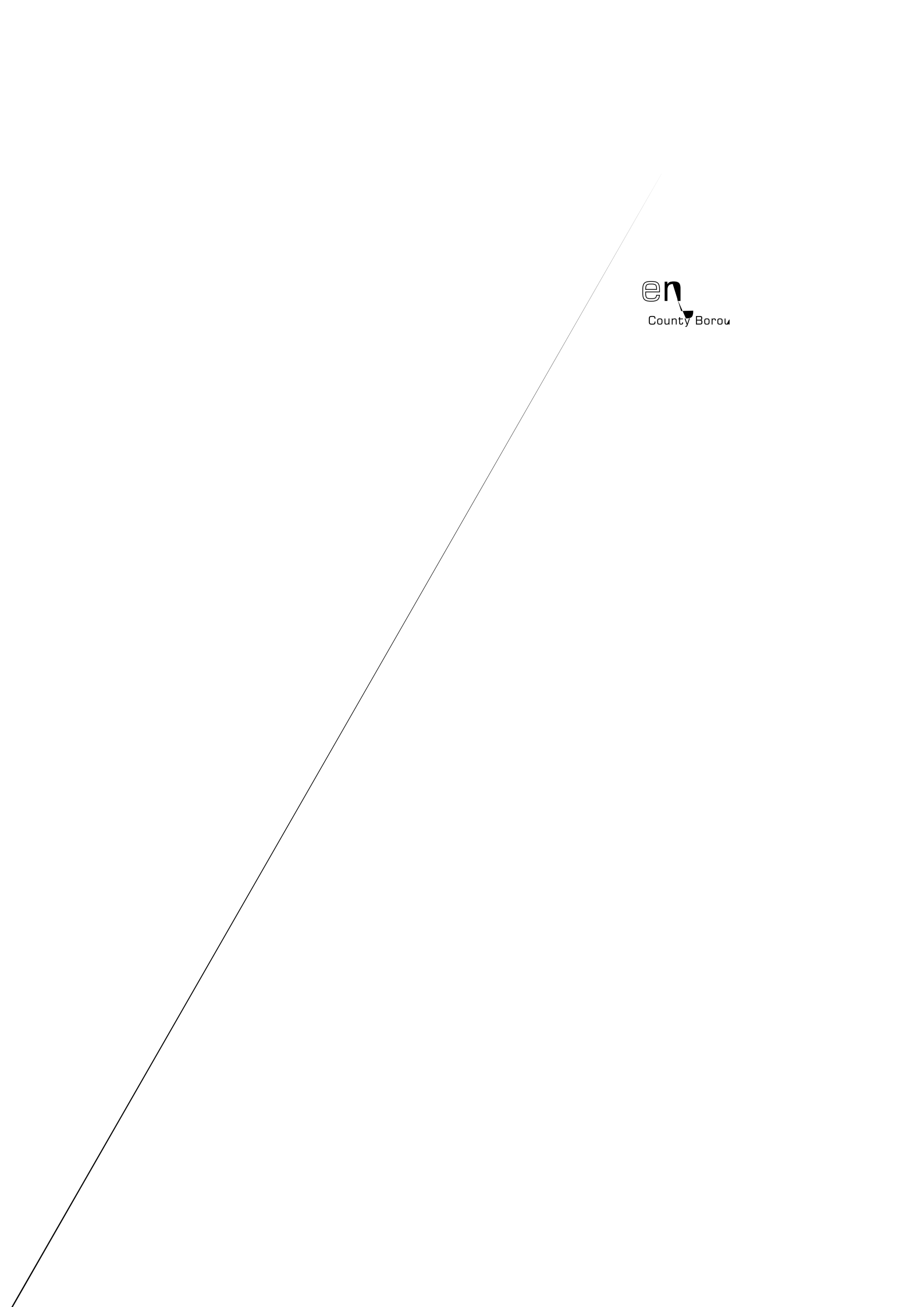
Source: Census 2011

		Yes	No	Score		Comments
Settlement:		Swffrydd				
Principle 1: Sustainable Transport and Accessibility						

		Yes	No	Score		Comments

		Yes	No	Score		Comments
	Library		q	1-3		
	Place of Worship		q	1-3		

		Yes	No	Score		
	24Mb/s					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