

Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee – 14th November 2023

Agenda Item 4 - Vale of Glamorgan Replacement Local Development Plan 2021-2036 Revised Delivery Agreement and Draft Preferred Strategy – Cabinet: 2nd November, 2023

Supplementary Information (2) – Alternative Vision provided by Councillor Ian Perry

“By 2036:

Active Travel has been delivered as a complete mobility solution for new developments and car ownership is in decline. Car clubs are built into new developments and new streets are spaces for people and activity rather than car storage. Footways on new developments are seldom interrupted by driveways.

Convenient bicycle and mobility scooter storage is provided at the front entrances to new homes, next to secure spaces and boxes for parcels and other home deliveries. Main roads have wide, fully segregated and protected paths for bicycles, trikes, cargo bicycles and mobility scooters. Urban road widths are the DfT recommended 3.2m releasing more space for active travel and purposes other than the movement and parking of motor vehicles. The bicycle paths have resulted in many more people with mobility impairment and other disabilities enjoying the freedom of travel without the need of a lift from a car owner. The paths have given back freedoms to children. Very few children are driven and no pupil drives themselves to school.

Car Clubs have contributed to a reduction in car ownership. A reduction in car journeys due to alternative modes of mobility and increased accessibility of facilities and services means that road intersections all always operate within capacity.

Walkability is much improved with seating every 100 metres to enable people with mobility impairments to rest – and this seating also provide opportunity for social engagement.

Rural communities have particularly benefitted from the provision of street fitness equipment, with residents having an alternative to driving to more populated areas for physical activity.

Secure or guarded bicycle parking is provided at key destinations. All events have guarded bicycle parking enabling families to access events by bicycle, with trailers, and be assured their property will be safe whilst they enjoy an event.

Access to the countryside has been improved by the provision of gates that enable people with all-terrain mobility scooters and/or sight impairment and or cognitive impairment to pass through. Picnic benches and water fountains and bottle refill stations are located along popular routes.

On-demand transport is successfully moving many people. Where people transfer between services, interchanges are fully enclosed. Other public transport services run so frequently that no timetable is needed, and dwell times have been minimised with no payments made on boarding. Public transport now connects to evening and weekend transport services in Cardiff for accessing other parts of south Wales and the UK.

Investment in light rail is advancing. New rail stations are opening, including St Athan, Peterston Super Ely, Aberthaw, Cogan and Dinas Powys.

Leisure and tourist places are reached by most people by cycle or public transport, with the journey being as pleasant and relaxing as the time spent at the destination.

Town and Community Councils have taken on a greater roll in managing public spaces, meaning decisions are taken locally by the people enjoying these spaces. Private management companies no longer control or bill residents for any public space. They are also responsible for all public art and planting green spaces.

A record number of innovative self-build homes are being constructed by residents as plots with utility services are being provided at new developments. Natural building materials, produced locally, are in widespread use. The housing stock includes more smaller bungalows with gardens.

Front gardens are protected and new homes provide front gardens that provide a green street-scene create social spaces for neighbours to interact. As car ownership has declined, parking spaces have been replaced with planters, seating and even play equipment.

Street lighting is now ecologically sensitive and guides people, rather than providing illumination. The reduction in light pollution has benefitted biodiversity and human health.

The share economy is thriving. Car clubs are popular. Share sheds free up space in homes whilst preserving the planet's scarce, finite resources, and people share ladders, carpet cleaners, leaf blowers, lawnmowers, heat guns, wallpaper strippers, sewing machines, etc. Small self-service laundrettes with extremely efficient machines are built within new developments – and new laundry services have sprung up.

Eateries are thriving since all taxation was removed from dining out. This has created employment and new cafes and restaurants have opened providing food for all budgets and social experiences. The efficiencies of these eateries reduce energy use and food waste bringing benefits beyond the communities they service. These businesses are also providing workspaces for individuals and groups.

Schools and colleges have excellent physical education space and equipment and secure bicycle parking. MUGA's have been built throughout the Vale, including smaller settlements, offering basketball, tennis, pickleball and netball courts.

Schools report that children are more attentive in class and GP's say fewer people are presenting to them with depression. The Vale of Glamorgan is climbing the happiness charts