



Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Homes, Health and Community: Housing the people of Blaenau Gwent

December 2025

CONTENTS

FOREWARD	3
THE CHALLENGES FACING THE HOUSING SYSTEM	7
OUR AMBITION	8
MEETING OUR AMBITION:	10
MEETING OUR AMBITION:	11
1. A Step Change in the Supply of Affordable Housing	11
MEETING OUR AMBITION:	18
2. Standards which support wellbeing and health equity	18
MEETING OUR AMBITION:	25
3. Clear, Fair, and Efficient Pathways Through Housing at Every Stage of Life	25
MEETING OUR AMBITION:	30
4. Sharing Data and Insight to Monitor the Housing System Together as a Partnership	30

FOREWORD

Good housing is a fundamental need and social good, yet for many, a quality, secure and affordable home remains out of reach.

As the birthplace of Aneurin Bevan, his monumental impact is never far from our collective consciousness. When Minister for Health and Housing, he was driven by a determination to eradicate the misery of families living in cold, damp, overcrowded homes. He knew only too well the link between poor housing and ill health. Over seven decades later, that determination remains relevant.

The housing crisis creates real and lasting harm for the people touched by it. The supply of social housing is still affected by its depletion from the 1980s and the local housing system has not always reflected the needs of the people of Blaenau Gwent well enough. Increased housing costs and the cost-of-living crisis compound problems of housing insecurity and affordability, meaning people often have few options to secure a home to meet their needs and remain well.

This strategy marks a first step of a renewed focus on housing in Blaenau Gwent. It sets out our commitment to work proactively with our partners to use every tool available to bring forward good housing at pace. It recognises that people will have different housing needs at different stages of life, and that there are vulnerable people, some with complex needs, that we want to support. It commits us to making use of all powers, land and acquisition opportunities available to us.

We will work closely with our development partners to ensure that housing built is of a high standard that makes a positive addition to existing communities, and that it has a fair and ambitious mix of affordable and private housing. We will encourage housing that responds to the climate crisis with homes that are energy efficient and help reduce costs for the people living in them. I thank the many councillors, residents and partner organisations who have helped shape this strategy, and look forward to its delivery for and on behalf of the people of Blaenau Gwent.



Cllr Helen Cunningham
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member
Adults and Communities
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

HOW THE SYSTEM CAN WORK TOGETHER TO DELIVER AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR THE PEOPLE OF BLAENAU GWENT

Delivering affordable homes that keep us safe, well, and allow us to be part of a community requires a significant team effort by several different partners. Together these partners form a housing “system”.

- > **Owner Occupiers:** People who own their own property or have a mortgage. Housing development needs to create enough properties for sale so that house prices are affordable.
- > **The Private Rented Sector:** Homes provided by private landlords which offer a wider range of housing options for people who rent.
- > **Social Housing Provision:** Affordable homes for rental, delivered and managed by Registered Social Landlords (RSLs). The Council coordinates the development of new social housing, using Welsh Government Social Housing Funding to deliver a Programme Development Plan (PDP) of affordable housing sites. Applications for social housing are processed through a Common Housing Register, administered by the Council under a shared allocations policy. Homes are then allocated by Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) in line with this policy.
- > **Adapted Properties:** Homes are modified to meet the needs of people with disabilities, supported by Disabled Facilities Grants and other adaptation funding from health services.
- > **Housing First:** Delivered by the Council in partnership with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), Housing First is a distinct model for people with complex needs. It offers permanent housing from the outset, alongside intensive, wraparound support to help people sustain tenancies and improve wellbeing.
- > **Supported Accommodation:** Specialist housing with on-site or floating support helps people with complex needs live independently and sustain tenancies.
- > **Temporary Accommodation:** For residents in crisis, such as those facing homelessness, the Council provides short-term housing solutions to ensure immediate safety and stability. This is part of the Councils response to its Homelessness prevention duties under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

“Supported accommodation and temporary accommodation serve different but vital roles. Temporary accommodation offers a safe, short-term solution during crisis, while supported accommodation provides the structured help people need to move forward - offering not just a place to stay, but the support to rebuild, stabilise, and thrive.” - Blaenau Gwent Support Provider.

THE COUNCIL'S ROLE

Blaenau Gwent Council is at the heart of efforts to improve housing for local residents. Our role covers several key areas:

- > **Investment:** We secure investment for new affordable housing, and improvements to existing properties. This includes accessing Welsh Government grants, applying for other funding, working with partners, and targeting resources to where they are needed most.
- > **Research and Evidence Gathering:** We record housing needs and prepare evidence to inform local policy development. This includes recording housing requests through the Common Housing Register and preparing the **Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA)** to forecast future housing needs using local socio-economic information and the latest official household projections.
- > **Policy Development:** We set local housing policies that guide development and ensure homes meet the needs of the people of Blaenau Gwent. Our policies must support sustainable, healthy communities, prioritise affordable housing, and help tackle issues like homelessness and sub-standard homes. Some, such as the **Local Development Plan (LDP)** identify the types and numbers of homes needed and guide investment and development priorities. The **Disposal and Acquisition of Land and Property Policy** determines how our land is sold when all options for use have been exhausted. Other policies like the **Common Allocations Policy** determine how social housing is allocated to residents.
- > **Project Delivery:** We lead and support a wide range of housing projects. These are specific, time-limited activities (often in collaboration with our partners) such as innovative temporary accommodation solutions and bringing empty properties back into use.
- > **Team Focus:** Our housing team works closely with partners including housing associations, probation, police, support providers, private landlords, community groups and Welsh Government. Working together we monitor how the housing system is performing, setting targets that guide the priorities and focus for our teams.

THE CHALLENGES FACING THE HOUSING SYSTEM

Average (mean) Salary in Blaenau Gwent is £29,942

Over the last decade, Blaenau Gwent has seen the biggest increases house in prices in Wales

53 residents waiting for extra care accommodation

415 residents presenting as at risk of being made homeless in 2024/25

46% of residents at risk of becoming homeless could not find a suitable housing option in time.

70 Category 1 and 2 Housing & Health Safety Rating System (HHSRS) hazards identified in 2024/25

High number of households (2655 currently) on the Common Housing Register awaiting a property

Blaenau Gwent has the lowest healthy life expectancy in Wales - just 59.6 years for men and 59.3 years for women, nearly 11 years less than Monmouthshire, the highest in Wales.

The average property in Blaenau Gwent is 4.7x the average salary. This compares to 5.7 in Torfaen and 8.2 in Monmouthshire.

Average monthly private rent is £644

31 vacancies in sheltered accommodation

Only 54% of homelessness prevented in 2024/25

64 households currently living in emergency temporary

64 households currently living in emergency temporary accommodation

Only an average of 54 Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) were completed annually over the last five

THE CHALLENGES FACING THE HOUSING SYSTEM

Only 37 affordable properties available to the council for temporary accommodation.

Number of days spent in temporary accommodation remains high (average of 6 months).

Gross Disposal Household Income (GDHI) is £16,611 per head compared to the Wales average of £20,140.

Stagnant Social Housing Grant (SHG) allocation per year.
On average this this builds 30 units.

7 Year waiting list on the Common Housing Register

4 planned discharges of care delays linked to housing in the last 12 months.

Only 61 supported housing units

Over 1 in 4 children living in poverty

Current average cost of temporary accommodation is £900,000 per year.

Blaenau Gwent's homes are less energy efficient than the Welsh average (66) median EPC rating is 63, reflecting a high proportion of older properties.

OUR AMBITION

Quality housing plays a big part in our ability to stay healthy and well. A home that is located near to green spaces and community facilities strengthens our social connections which can help us to stay resilient when we face a crisis or change in our lives. Good quality, affordable housing can reduce the risk of illnesses, help maintain relationships and to thrive and flourish at work, home and in our communities.

In the most extreme cases – where someone experiences housing crisis or homelessness – their health and wellbeing are significantly affected, with a greater risk of illness, poor mental health and even a substantially lower life expectancy. So, our ambition is for our housing system based on local management of our neighbourhoods by our local partners; a housing system which provides people with dignity; and a housing system which significantly increases our access and access to a good, affordable home that supports our wellbeing and health.

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VISION 2030

A Blaenau Gwent where our homes enable us to lead dignified and healthy, resilient lives. A place where homelessness is brief and rare, because the housing system works to deliver high quality housing options at scale and at pace.

OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE 1: A step change in the supply of affordable housing

OBJECTIVE 2: Standards which support wellbeing and health equity

OBJECTIVE 3: Clear, fair, and efficient pathways through housing at every stage of life.

OBJECTIVE 4: Data and insight that informs the housing system holistically.

The combined impact will reduce housing stress, improve health and wellbeing, strengthen families, and ease pressure on public services.

1. A Step Change in the Supply of Affordable Housing

More families in safe, affordable homes - including empty properties brought back into use. Less overcrowding, more stability, and improved wellbeing.

We will do this by: Increasing affordable housing supply and reuse empty homes, focusing resources on prevention and support.

2. Standards which Support Wellbeing and Health Equity

Homes are safer, warmer, and promote better health for all, especially vulnerable residents.

We will do this by: Improving energy efficiency, expanding supported housing options, and maintaining and increasing high-quality standards across all homes.

3. Clear, Fair, and Efficient Pathways Through Housing at Every Stage of Life

People move smoothly through housing options, with less reliance on emergency accommodation and quicker access to stable homes.

We will do this by: Improving temporary accommodation and move-on pathways and supporting residents to achieve long-term housing solutions.

4. Sharing Data and Insight to Monitor the Housing System Together as a Partnership

Partners work together, using shared data to target support and build trust.

We will do this by: Strengthening partnerships and use data to identify needs, ensure transparency, and sustain progress.



MEETING OUR AMBITION:

The First 6 Months

Within the first 6 months of adopting this Strategy, we will have:

- > Supported our RSL partners to deliver 25 affordable homes
- > Delivered 16 additional disabled facilities grants
- > Returned an additional 5 empty homes back into use

And the First 12 Months

Within the first 12 months of adopting this Strategy, we will have:

- > Supported our RSL partners to deliver 59 affordable homes
- > Returned an additional 10 empty homes back into use
- > 1 site identified for a community-led housing pilot



MEETING OUR AMBITION:

1. A Step Change in the Supply of Affordable Housing

There are currently 30,300 residential properties in Blaenau Gwent. These properties are a mix of owner occupation, private rentals, social rentals, supported accommodation and temporary accommodation.

Over the past 5 years, 563 new properties were built in Blaenau Gwent of which 96 were classed as affordable homes. In the coming five years, the local population is expected to grow by 1.3%, which means around 581 additional households will need homes over the next five years. The Local Housing Market Assessment shows a particular lack of 1-bedroom and 4-bedroom properties.

The Council and our partners therefore need to drive a step change in the supply of affordable homes across the Borough.

We will know we are starting to achieve this step change when we see measurable progress against the following indicators:

OUTCOME 1: An average of 59 affordable homes being delivered each year	OUTCOME 3: Less than 300 households are at risk of homelessness
OUTCOME 2: Average cost of temporary accommodation decreases by 50%	OUTCOME 4: Less than 40 households are in temporary accommodation

To achieve this step change we are committed to delivering the following **policy change, investment, projects and team priorities**.



1a. Ensure that the development and planning regime drives up social housing development

The **Local Development Plan (LDP)** sets out local growth aspirations and identifies sites for new residential development across the borough. It also sets out the policies that we will use to determine whether planning permission should be granted and that influence the proportion of affordable housing built as part of new developments. Our development regime will prioritise the creation of healthy communities and affordable homes through new developments.

During the current LDP period, the Council will work with applicants, with the housing team offering advice and support to developers to maximise the amount of affordable housing being delivered. As part of the Replacement LDP (RLDP) the Council will look to drive a higher proportion of affordable housing on development sites through the adoption of new planning guidance. This will be developed in 2028 early in the RLDP process and will be subject to stakeholder and community consultation.



1b. Invite expressions of interest in a pilot community led housing scheme

Community-led housing schemes are initiated and shaped by communities to meet their specific needs. These schemes enable participants to develop new skills, access more affordable housing, and work on the basis of co-operation and mutual support.

By 2030 we commit to gauging interest to deliver a pilot housing scheme that overcomes traditional barriers to community-led housing schemes. Successful delivery relies on a clear, shared vision, guidance and support from the Council, clear supplementary planning guidance, appropriate funding, and access to affordable land.

As well as supporting a community housing development, we also want to support the community to take control over individual properties. We will ask and support our RSL partners to make small under-used land, housing plots, and surplus garages available for community-led housing, and will link these opportunities to target groups such as, those leaving our armed forces.

WHEN WILL WE COMPLETE THE ACTIVITY?

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
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WHAT CONTRIBUTION WILL THIS ACTIVITY MAKE?

Delivery of at least 4 additional affordable homes through community-led schemes by 2030

Support pilot of a community led housing scheme

WHO WILL DELIVER THIS?



ewmpas

What stakeholders said ... “Willingness to work together to make a difference.”

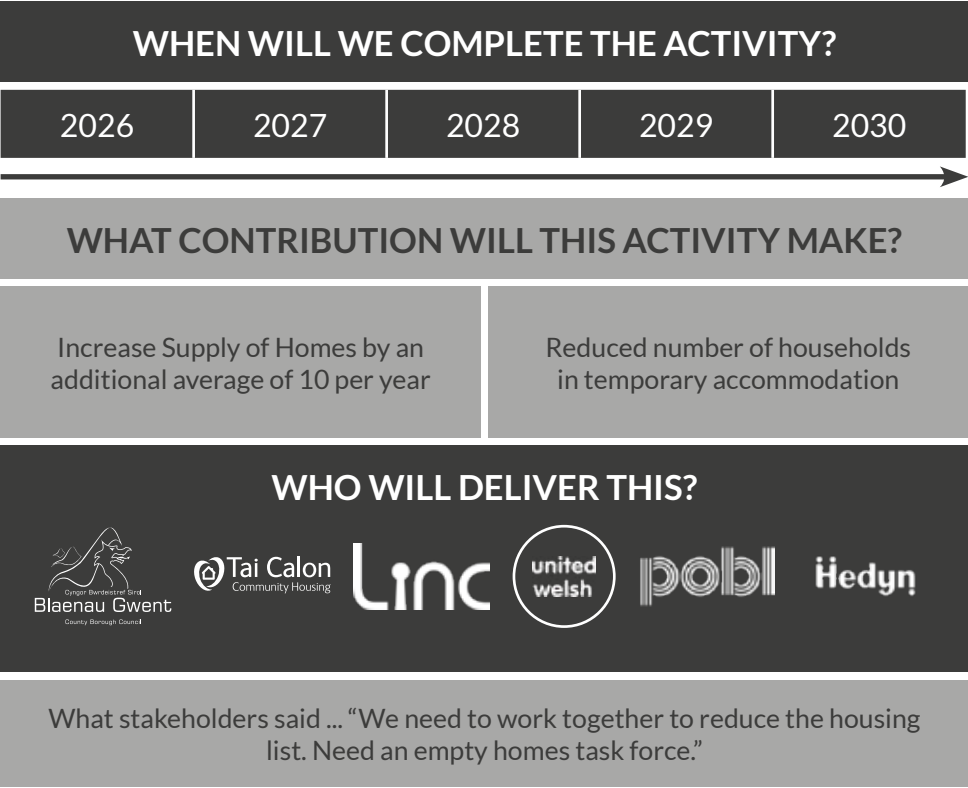
Website: www.blaenaugwenthomes.org.uk

13

1c. Increase the pace that of empty properties are brought back into use and coordinate their rapid return to the available social housing stock

The 2021 Census identified over 2,000 genuinely vacant dwellings in Blaenau Gwent, and by 2025, more than 1,000 residential properties remained empty. While the Welsh Government provides grant funding through various grant programmes, the current level and pace of investment are not sufficient to meet local housing need.

In response, our corporate approach to tackling empty homes seeks to ensure there is joined-up action across our council departments and partners to improve on the current annual average in the past 3 years of 23 homes being brought back into use. To support this, we have created two roles to coordinate bringing empty properties back into productive use. Through the Strategic Housing Partnership, we intend to maximise all available funding to accelerate acquisitions.



1d. **Encourage innovation from Registered Social Landlords to drive affordable housing development at scale and pace so that Social Housing Grant allocations are maximised**

New affordable housing in Blaenau Gwent is currently developed by Registered Social Landlords (RSL), using a mixture of Social Housing Grant (SHG) and RSL finance. We coordinate and allocate up to £7.1m per year to RSLs in SHG. To meet housing demand, the Council and partners must be able to maximise the SHG allocation and be prepared to move quickly should additional funding become available.

We will work with our RSL partners to stress-test plans to maximise SHG spend and we will explore all options to maximise development including our own role in the direct delivery and ownership of affordable homes.



1e. Prioritising affordable housing schemes when disposing of Council land

Most land in Blaenau Gwent is privately owned, or owned by other public bodies, but we own parcels that may be suitable for housing. We are committed to delivering better social, economic, and environmental outcomes on our residents’ behalf. Where these outweigh financial return, we can dispose of land at below market value.

To support this, the Council will update its 2015 Disposal and Acquisition of Land and Property Policy to ensure delivery of affordable housing is considered first as part of any disposal decision.



1f. Pilot the construction of modular homes to increase the supply of temporary accommodation

Modular housing involves the assembly of a series of pre-made modules on site to build homes quickly and more affordably. While modular housing can be used to support all parts of the housing system it is most effective for rapidly increasing the supply of temporary accommodation.

We will identify a site and funding to pilot the feasibility of modular construction for temporary accommodation. This pilot will scope our ability to develop and operate modular homes. It will evaluate the potential impact on temporary accommodation numbers to inform future potential for further delivery.

WHEN WILL WE COMPLETE THE ACTIVITY?

2026

2027

2028

2029

2030

WHAT CONTRIBUTION WILL THIS ACTIVITY MAKE?

At least 4 affordable Modular Homes delivered by 2027

Average cost of temporary accommodation decreases by £50,000 per year

WHO WILL DELIVER THIS?

What stakeholders said: “Modular homes for people aged under 35 are needed, combined with employment opportunities. Most people will move on from modular homes after 5 years.”

Website: www.blaenaugwenthomes.org.uk

17

MEETING OUR AMBITION:

2. Standards which support wellbeing and health equity

Quality homes help people live good lives that are dignified, healthy and fulfilling. They provide warmth, comfort and stability. They reduce stress, and they provide an environment which cohesive communities that provide mutual support to one another. The right home environment can delay and reduce the need for primary care and social care; can prevent hospital admissions, can enable timely discharge from hospital and can enable rapid recovery following periods of ill health.

There have been significant improvements in social housing stock since the introduction of the Welsh Housing Quality Standards. However, research by the Institute for Public Care (IPC) for this strategy tells us that Blaenau Gwent’s housing stock remains poor overall, with a pressing need to invest in and modernise supported accommodation - especially for older people.

In addition, there are opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of housing stock across the borough helping to reduce damp, increase warmth and reduce bills.

The main ways we will know that housing standards are driving our ambition in this area are:

OUTCOME 1: Less than 10 voids in RSL Supported Accommodation	OUTCOME 3: Reduce percentage of hazards identified under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) that originate from complaints received by at least 10% (demand-led)
OUTCOME 2: 0% Planned Discharges of Care (PDOC) delays linked to housing	OUTCOME 4: Increased number of Fuel-Efficient Homes annually by at least 100 homes

To achieve this step change we will deliver the following **policy change, investment, projects and team priorities**.

2a. **Redesign the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Scheme (ECO4 Flex) so that more owner-occupiers and private rented tenants benefit from energy improvement measures**

ECO4 Flex is the flexible route of the UK Government’s ECO4 energy efficiency programme. It provides grants to property owners, including private landlords, for homes occupied by low-income households or individuals with certain health conditions who would not normally meet the criteria for other forms of support.

We will use our discretionary powers to redesign the ECO4 Flex scheme to increase its reach, accompanied by improved data-led targeting and an awareness raising campaign.

WHEN WILL WE COMPLETE THE ACTIVITY?

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
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WHAT CONTRIBUTION WILL THIS ACTIVITY MAKE?

At least 100 additional homes achieve EPC rating C or above by 2030

WHO WILL DELIVER THIS?



Blaenau Gwent
County Borough Council

What stakeholders said: “Energy efficiency – cultural shift – people are not using new heating methods effectively.”

2b. Help the RSLs to secure funding for large-scale energy efficiency improvements in their properties to bring down the cost of living.

After rental costs, energy is the biggest household expense for most families. In the last decade there have been several innovations in household energy efficiency. These include wall-paper and ceiling based central heating, data centres that boil our water, lightweight solar panels, and household-sized battery storage, all controlled by technology on our mobile phones. This has huge potential to bring down the costs of our energy.

These technologies have not yet been installed in enough homes. We will work with our RSL partners and the Welsh Government to secure the funding to rapidly introduce these technologies at scale.



2c. Strengthen environmental health enforcement on sub-standard rented homes

Our environmental health team is responsible for the enforcement of housing standards. This includes investigating any problems in rented housing and carrying out assessments under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) to ensure that homes provide a safe and healthy environment for residents.

The environmental health team will prioritise improving standards in rented properties, tackling empty homes, and including compliance in Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) for the duration of this strategy using the full range of powers available. in rented properties and addressing empty properties for the duration of this strategy using the full range of powers available to them.

WHEN WILL WE COMPLETE THE ACTIVITY?

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
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WHAT CONTRIBUTION WILL THIS ACTIVITY MAKE?

Environmental Health response to service requests (demand-led).

Improvements in Minimum Housing Standards and the community.

Reduce empty properties to bring homes back to life in the community.

WHO WILL DELIVER THIS?



What stakeholders said: “Rogue Landlords need to be addressed as they’re spoiling it for everyone.” “Quality increases the chances of a sustainable tenancy so MUST focus on standards.”

2d. Work with landlords to help them access information, advice and assistance

We offer information, advice and financial assistance to landlords to encourage investment in the quality of their properties. Landlords are encourage to meet through the Landlords Forum in order to access this information. We will proactively encourage all landlords to join the forum and will strengthen the platform on which the information, advice and assistance is provided.



2e. Increase the number of adapted properties using Disabled Facilities and Low Cost Adaptations Grants

Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) are provided by us to help residents with disabilities - both owner-occupiers and private rented tenants- adapt their homes to promote independence and resilience. In 2024/25, the Council allocated £400,000 for DFGs

To increase the number of adapted properties, the Council has committed to increase DFG funding to £850,000 for 2025/26.

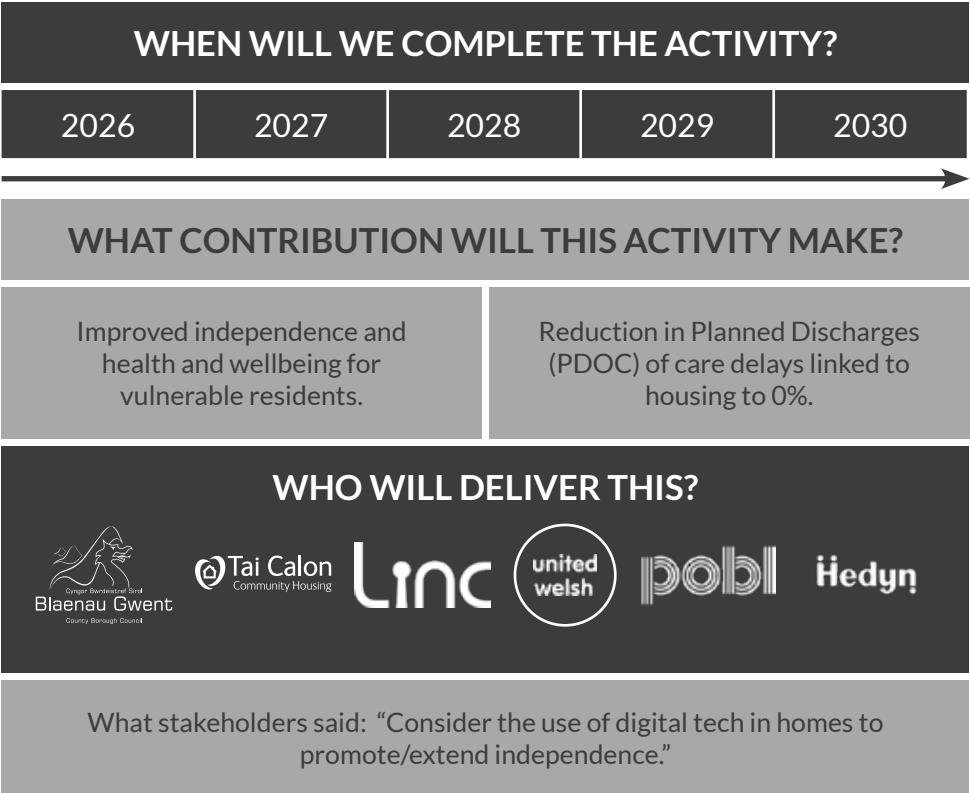


2f. Work with RSLs and Private Landlords to introduce Assistive Technology

Assistive Technology in homes can build resilience and prevent ill health.

From intelligent systems that monitor air quality to innovations that make our homes more efficient and comfortable, assistive technology is redefining what living in a healthy home means. Assistive technology can be introduced into a home to make daily living easier for people with, or at risk of, chronic health conditions, disabilities or frailty conditions.

We will work with our RSL partners and the Landlords Forum to identify how assistive technology can be introduced into existing and new properties at a greater pace. The Smart Flat in Six Bells, Abertillery provides a practical example of what is possible: voice-controlled lighting and heating, fall detection devices, and digital lifeline services show how technology can improve independence, reduce hospital admissions, and delay the need for residential care. By learning from this model, we can help landlords adopt solutions that future-proof homes and support healthier living.



MEETING OUR AMBITION:

3. Clear, Fair, and Efficient Pathways Through Housing at Every Stage of Life

Most of us will move from one home to another at some point in our lives. For many, this also means transitioning between different types of housing – whether temporary, rented, or owned. As we plan for these changes, we must consider the needs of households currently facing housing challenges.

These transitions can be complex and stressful, and we often depend on the support networks within our communities to help us navigate them. Having a good supply of different housing options means that transitions are more straightforward. Objective 1 discusses the actions we will take to increase supply. But transitions are also made easier where there are robust allocations policies, clear processes for sharing information and advice, and appropriate programmes of targeted support for those who need them.

This is particularly important for transitions into or out of supported housing; and for people facing or leaving homelessness. The main ways we will know that the transition between different housing options is simple, fair and effective for all is:

OUTCOME 1: 100% fewer Planned Discharges of Care (PDOC) delays linked to housing.	OUTCOME 2: 50% decrease in average move-on time from temporary accommodation.	OUTCOME 3: 50% less people in temporary accommodation.
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To achieve this step change we will deliver the following policy change, investment, projects and team priorities.



3a. Increase the supply and range of supported housing provision

Supported accommodation refers to housing where support is provided as an integral part of the offer. This provision varies depending on the needs of the individual, for example, extra care schemes for older adults; specialist dementia care settings that offer safe, structured environments with tailored support for individuals living with dementia; supported living bungalows for people with learning disabilities; Housing First properties for those at risk of or exiting homelessness; supported lodgings for young people; dedicated initiatives for care leavers, such as the STAR flat scheme in partnership with United Welsh; specialist accommodation for individuals with mental health needs; and refuge provision for those fleeing domestic abuse.

In Blaenau Gwent, supported accommodation is typically delivered by Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and commissioned by the Council through the Housing Support Grant. There are currently 146 supported accommodation units in the borough. Over the lifetime of this strategy, the Council aims to increase this provision to better meet the needs of vulnerable residents.

During the course of this strategy, we will work in partnership and, when necessary, develop specific strategies to shape accommodation across the borough so that it enables people to live in the way they want, within the community they choose.



3b. Increase the range of temporary accommodation housing options to reduce the need for bed and breakfast

At the time of writing this strategy, there are 64 households being supported in temporary accommodation. We deliver this support through a mix of private rented sector properties and accommodation commissioned from RSLs.

Through this strategy, we are committed to enhancing the provision of more suitable temporary accommodation by increasing the availability of private rented properties through the Welsh Government’s Private Rented Sector Leasing Scheme. It will also expand the number of homes secured through the Temporary Accommodation Capital Programme. We will also introduce a new modular temporary accommodation model, as outlined in section 1f.

WHEN WILL WE COMPLETE THE ACTIVITY?

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
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WHAT CONTRIBUTION WILL THIS ACTIVITY MAKE?

50 % less residents in temporary accommodation.

50% decrease in average move-on time from temporary accommodation.

WHO WILL DELIVER THIS?



What stakeholders said: “The demand is for good quality housing. TA is a short-term fix.”

Website: www.blaenaugwenthomes.org.uk

27

3c. **Review the Allocations Policy to ensure that it meets the principles of this strategy for residents transitioning between housing options.**

There are currently 7,919 socially rented homes in Blaenau Gwent, with 2,655 residents on the Common Housing Register seeking to move into or between these properties. This demand significantly exceeds the availability of homes, meaning many residents face long waits for the home that they need. All social housing in Blaenau Gwent is allocated through a Common Housing Register, using a Common Allocations Policy to ensure fairness and consistency across all partner landlords.

We will review our allocations policy twice in the next 5 years – once in 2026 and once in 2029 – to ensure that property allocations reflect the ambitions and values set out in this strategy.



3d. Redesign the way that the Council and partners provide and commission support to prevent homelessness

When people face a crisis or a transition they often rely on the support of family, friends, neighbours and their wider community networks (such as clubs, groups and charities). This support is crucial in helping people remain resilient. But sometimes a crisis – like being at risk of homelessness – can have a deeper impact on our wellbeing unless we receive some targeted support.

As part of the Blaenau Gwent Deal, we are investing in genuine prevention. This starts with a full review of all preventative services to reduce duplication, and ensure that each service can demonstrate its impact. A further review will take place in 2029.

We will also work with all RSLs to develop a 21st century operating model for housing officers which reflects the place-based, community-focussed objectives of the Deal.





MEETING OUR AMBITION:

4. Sharing Data and Insight to Monitor the Housing System Together as a Partnership

Delivering the ambitions of this strategy will require a significant increase in the number of social and affordable homes, improved housing standards, energy efficiency and a strong focus on effective support during key housing transitions. Robust data and insight will be essential to demonstrate the impact of our actions in these areas.

To be meaningful, this information must be monitored and acted on regularly and in partnership. Housing operates as a system - real progress depends on collaboration across multiple agencies and sectors. During the lifetime of this strategy, the Council and its partners will:

- 4a. Establish a Strategic Housing Partnership to monitor system-wide housing demand, share insights, and hold partners collectively accountable.
- 4b. Develop a shared housing data dashboard to track and monitor progress against the strategy's objectives and inform decision-making.
- 4c. Create an evidence base which shows our ability to deliver impact quickly, so that we are in a strong position to ask for and receive additional funding from Welsh Government to meet our needs.

