

## Chapter Seven

# COMMUNITY EFFECTS

### ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT ADDENDUM INTRODUCTION

7.1 This ES Addendum chapter supersedes and replaces the Community Effects chapter in the 2008 ES. To maintain consistency, wherever possible a similar format as adopted in the 2008 ES has been used in this replacement chapter.

### INTRODUCTION

7.2 Socio-economic effects may be defined as the consequence to human populations of public or private actions that alter the way people live, play, relate to one another, organise their needs and generally cope as members of society<sup>1</sup>.

7.3 This chapter examines the potential social and economic effects that might arise within the Hirwaun area as a result of constructing and implementing the proposed Enviroparks resource recovery and energy production park. These include – amongst others – population, employment, quality of life, health, education, and recreation. Foremost amongst these are the economic effects of the permanent jobs created in the scheme, and the social effects which would result. Overall these are considered to be beneficial and substantial.

### Legislative framework and policy context

7.4 As explained in chapter five of this ES Addendum, the current Enviroparks proposal is considered to be consistent with, and a positive exemplar of, a wide range of current waste, energy and development plan policies.

7.5 Of particular relevance to community, social and economic concerns are the following documents:

- *Economic Renewal: A New Direction* (July 2010, Welsh Assembly Government)
- *Energy Wales: A Low Carbon Transition* (March 2012, Welsh Government)
- Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 9 (November 2016);
- Technical Advice Note 6 (TAN 6) – *Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities* (July 2010)
- Technical Advice Note 23 (TAN 23) – *Economic Development* (February 2014)

These documents are considered below.

7.6 ***Economic Renewal: A New Direction*** (July 2010, Welsh Assembly Government) recognises that in a post-recession economic climate there is a '*need to respond to climate change by improving resource productivity and decarbonising energy supply*' (page 5). It also confirms the Welsh

<sup>1</sup> The Interorganisational Committee on Guidelines and Principles for Social Impact Assessment, Guidelines and Principles for Social Impact Assessment (May 1994)

Government's vision that low-carbon energy will also 'contribute to economic, social and environmental performance' (page 12).

7.7 **Energy Wales: A Low Carbon Transition** (March 2012, Welsh Government) establishes the Welsh Government's vision that low carbon energy can improve Wales socially and economically. It states (at page 16), 'Our aim is to unlock and harness Wales' energy resources in order to maximise economic, social and environmental benefits for the people of Wales. We believe that our action on energy can and will generate wealth and deliver jobs and investment. We will seek to work in partnership with business to ensure this happens.'

7.8 **Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 9** (November 2016) sets out the Welsh Government's national vision that sustainable development will improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. PPW seeks to establish a strong, healthy and just society. It focuses on how a sustainable approach to development will improve the quality of life and well-being of the people of Wales and especially those in less well-off communities. PPW also aims to achieve a sustainable economy that is low carbon and low waste (PPW paragraph 4.1.6).

7.9 PPW defines economic development as 'development of land and buildings for activities that generate wealth, jobs and incomes' (PPW paragraph 7.1.1). The same paragraph of PPW confirms that 'the construction and energy sectors are also important to the economy'.

7.10 PPW Paragraph 12.1.1 states that efficient infrastructure and services, such as waste management, 'is crucial for the economic, social and environmental sustainability of all parts of Wales. It underpins economic competitiveness and opportunities for households and businesses to achieve more socially and environmentally desirable ways of living and working'.

7.11 **Technical Advice Note 6 (TAN 6): Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities** (July 2010) advises that 'Planning authorities should seek to strengthen rural communities by helping to ensure that existing residents can work and access services locally using low carbon travel and obtain a higher proportion of their energy needs from local renewable sources' (TAN 6 paragraph 2.1.1).

7.12 **Technical Advice Note 23 (TAN 23): Economic Development** (February 2014) advises that 'it is important that the planning system recognises the economic aspects of all development' (TAN 23 paragraph 1.1.1). The document continues to set out the Welsh Government's approach to how planning and economic development provides, amongst other aspects, positive social benefits. Key points of TAN 23 considered relevant to community effects and the Enviroparks proposals are set out below:

- 'PPW advises that economic land uses include the traditional employment uses (Class B in the Use Classes Order) as well as retail, tourism and public services. This list is not exhaustive and amongst other activities, economic land uses also include agriculture, energy generation and other infrastructure.' (TAN 23 paragraph 1.1.4.)
- 'The economic benefits associated with development may be geographically spread out far beyond the area where the development is located. As a consequence it is essential that the planning system recognises, and gives due weight to, the economic benefits associated with new development.' (TAN 23 paragraph 1.2.1.)

- *‘Market forces do not respect local authority boundaries and the planning system should steer development to the most efficient and sustainable locations. This means that strategic planning, larger than individual local planning authorities, for economic development is essential.’ (TAN 23 paragraph 1.3.1.)*
- *‘It should not be assumed that economic objectives are necessarily in conflict with social and environmental objectives. Often these different dimensions point in the same direction. Planning should positively and imaginatively seek such ‘win-win’ outcomes, where development contributes to all dimensions of sustainability.’ (TAN 23 paragraph 2.1.1.)*
- *‘Sustainable development is essential to building strong rural economies and vibrant communities.’ (TAN 23 paragraph 3.1.2.)*
- *‘There are two kinds of special contribution that are particularly relevant to rural development. Firstly, an economic development could make communities more sustainable, by improving the alignment of housing and jobs, encouraging people to work close to home. Secondly, the needs of established businesses or clusters may be very specific.’ (TAN 23 paragraph 3.1.3.)*
- *‘In developing their economic visions, local planning authorities should assess current and future business requirements, considering potential new inward investment opportunities and new start-ups as well as established local firms. They should search for opportunities to create better and more competitive business locations, responding to business requirements and filling any gaps in supply.’ (TAN 23 paragraph 4.3.5.)*
- *‘Certain industrial and related uses may conflict with other uses, especially housing. To operate effectively, these activities usually need dedicated industrial areas, where they can be confident that they will not be a bad neighbour to anyone.’ (TAN 23 paragraph 4.6.7.)*
- *‘In order to incorporate flexibility to respond to unexpected change or to deal with development not specifically allocated, PPW requires development plans to include criteria based policies outlining how an authority would respond to unexpected proposals. The requirement for such policies is important to allow for flexibility, and is therefore a significant aspect which LDPs should address.’ (TAN 23 paragraph 4.7.1.)*

7.13 A common theme of these documents and policies is the need to deliver sustainable development to enable socio-economic and environmental regeneration. The Welsh Government is supportive of a transition to a low carbon economy and recognises the social benefits this will have on the population of Wales.

## ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

### Outline

7.14 The methodology employed in this chapter comprises two stages: first, a detailed analysis of the local economy, population and community profile is set out, having regard to national, regional and local factors. Second, an assessment is made of the likely effects of the proposed development on the area, the significance of these effects, and whether these are beneficial or detrimental.

7.15 Baseline information on the socio-economic conditions of the area has been collated from a variety of sources referenced in the text. Sources of information include:

- National Census (2011) and other ONS-produced sources
- NOMIS labour market statistics
- Welsh Indices of Multiple Deprivation
- Welsh Government Statistics and Research<sup>2</sup>

7.16 These have provided a comprehensive quantitative ‘baseline’ of socio-economic conditions. However, it should be stressed that many social and community effects are by definition complex, interrelated and difficult to characterise or measure in any precise way. As a result, some judgements are necessarily subjective. Because of this, efforts have been made to incorporate and respond to issues arising from the public consultation that took place in relation to the scheme at the beginning of 2017.

### Study area

7.17 The study area for the purposes of this chapter is, for the most part, taken as the whole of the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT), which for most statistical purposes is the relevant authority for the entire application site. There are two main reasons for assessing the effects of the scheme over this broader area. First, the EWL scheme is significant in terms of both the amount of employment it would create and its waste management operations. Second, a wide variety of socio-economic data are collected and reported based upon on the geography of unitary authority boundaries. Whilst the planning application site lies partly within the Brecon Beacons National Park, major centres of population and economic activity in the National Park are remote from the Hirwaun Industrial Estate and, as such, a focus on RCT was considered to be appropriate for the purpose of this analysis.

7.18 Where appropriate and where published data allow, reference in this chapter is also made to smaller areas in order to provide greater clarity. This is done by making use of data at electoral ward and ‘super output areas’. Furthermore, comparative data are frequently provided for Wales and Great Britain as a whole, in order to clarify the broader significance of various figures.

7.19 The Cynon Valley area has been substantially shaped by the iron and coal industries, physically and economically. Over recent decades, these heavy industries have gradually been replaced by newer, more modern, and diverse economic activity. However, rapid growth in the coastal belt of south Wales over recent decades has not been fully shared in remoter areas such as Hirwaun, which continue to suffer from relative economic deprivation.

### Data analysis and assessment

7.20 Quantitative assessments have been made in this chapter where possible, including an estimate of the number of jobs to be created by the application proposals. However, due to the complexity of socio-economic issues and the numerous interactions that can occur with neighbouring and more distant communities, it is not possible to predict the precise nature or scale of each impact. Qualitative assessment has thus been used where necessary and significance criteria have been produced to ensure that there is a consistent identification of effects applied during the assessment.

<sup>2</sup> <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/?lang=en>

Significance criteria used to provide a consistent identification of effects in the assessment are shown in Table 7.1 below.

**Table 7.1: Significance criteria**

Significance	Criteria
Major	Social and economic effects that have an influence at the sub regional or possibly regional scale
Moderate	Social and economic effects that will have an influence on the wider local population
Minor	Social and economic effects that principally have an effect at the local scale or concern sub-sections of the local community
Negligible	No discernible social or economic effects

7.21 The methodology for assessing economic impacts has been structured around the following key stages:

- an analysis of the current state of the local economy including key sectors, unemployment and general trends in employment provision;
- an assessment of the provision for employment based land uses included within the proposal;
- consideration of the effects that the employment uses provided within the site might have on the local economy.

7.22 The methodology for assessing social impacts involved the following stages:

- collation of data relating to the existing population profile;
- consideration and assessment of the likely effects of the proposal based on available evidence.

## BASELINE CONDITIONS

7.23 This chapter is structured around the two key themes of economy and society. The first theme includes not only employment or unemployment, but also industrial sectors, earnings and other factors. The second theme is to be understood in the sense of overall 'quality of life', and includes health, education and indicators of deprivation. The chapter also provides a brief outline of the community facilities in the surrounding area.

### The economy

7.24 Between July 2015 – June 2016<sup>3</sup> there were 6,300 unemployed people in Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT); a rate of 5.6%. This exceeds the Welsh average by 0.6%, and the British average by 0.5%. Similarly, rates of economic inactivity in RCT are higher than national averages: a total of 37,200 individuals of working age in RCT were economically inactive, with 23,800 not wanting a job. These findings are shown in Table 7.2 below.

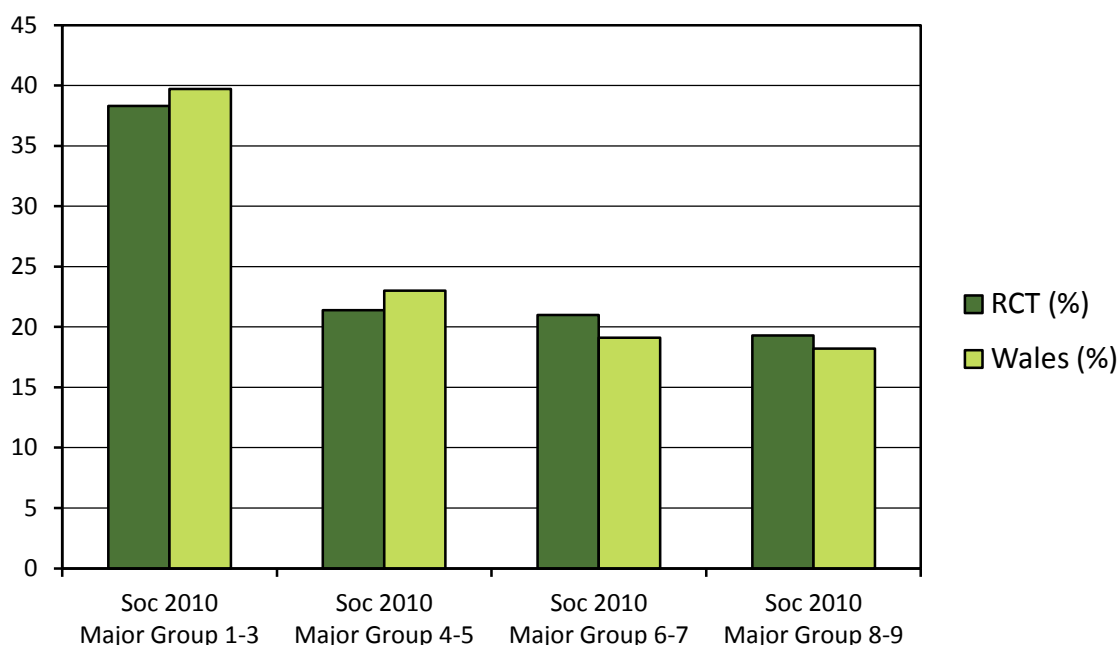
<sup>3</sup> 'Reweighted' figure for the year as a whole (see <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/articles/374.aspx>) Source: ONS annual population survey reproduced by Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics (<http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157398/report.aspx>)

**Table 7.2: Economic inactivity in Rhondda Cynon Taf (July 2015 – June 2016)**

	RCT (numbers)	RCT (%)	Wales (%)	GB (%)
Economically inactive	37,200	25	24.8	22.1
Wanting a job	13,400	36.0	26.6	24.5
Not wanting a job	23,800	64.0	73.4	75.5

7.25 The Office for National Statistics categorises occupations into nine levels, from skilled professions and management to unskilled elementary occupations. As illustrated in figure 7.1 below, RCT has proportionally more people in lower-skilled occupations (groups 8-9), and fewer within professional and managerial occupations (groups 1-3), compared with the average for Wales.

**Figure 7.1: Employment by occupation (July 2015 – June 2016)<sup>4</sup>**



7.26 Median weekly earnings in RCT in 2016 were £495.40, which is around £3.00 less than the Wales median, and £45.60 behind the median for Great Britain.

7.27 The ONS reports that, in 2014, there were 84,000 jobs in Rhondda Cynon Taf. Based upon this, a ‘jobs density’ can be calculated which represents the ratio of jobs to working-age population. In RCT, this ratio is 0.57; a figure that is substantially lower than both Wales (0.74) and Great Britain (0.82). It appears likely that this is partly explained by out-commuting from RCT towards Cardiff, Swansea and elsewhere on the M4 corridor.

7.28 Jobs in the manufacturing sector in RCT is 13.9%, which is proportionally larger when compared with Wales (12.0%) and substantially larger when compared with Great Britain overall

<sup>4</sup> NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics 2016/ONS annual population survey (<http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157398/report.aspx>)

(8.3%). The construction sector in RCT is also larger than average, at 5.6% compared with 4.6% across Great Britain<sup>5</sup>.

7.29 The 2011 Census Area Classification<sup>6</sup> categorised RCT as ‘mining heritage and manufacturing’, along with much of south-east Wales and parts of northern England.

7.30 The proportion of individuals within RCT claiming benefits is 19.1% (a total of 33,700 individuals); considerably higher than the figures of 14.9% and 11.5% across Wales and Great Britain respectively. As table 7.3 below indicates, the claimant rate within RCT is higher for each of the major benefit types, and the rate exceeds the national average by a particularly large margin in the case of incapacity benefit.

**Table 7.3: Comparative benefit claimant rates (May 2016)**

	RCT (%)	Wales (%)	Great Britain (%)
Total claimants	19.1	14.9	11.5
ESA and incapacity benefits	11.0	8.4	6.2
Lone parents	1.6	1.2	1.0
Job seekers	2.2	1.7	1.3
Carers	2.6	2.2	1.7
Disabled	1.2	1.0	0.9
Others on income related benefits	0.3	0.3	0.2
Bereaved	0.2	0.2	0.2

(ESA - Employment and Support Benefit)

### Society (‘quality of life’)

7.31 Rhondda Cynon Taf is a large unitary authority area with a population of 237,400 in 2015<sup>7</sup>. Its age profile is similar to that of Wales as a whole, with a fairly even distribution across the age ranges. In 2015, the population of working age (16-64) in RCT was 148,900. This comprises 62.7% of the total population, which is slightly above the Wales figure of 61.9%.

7.32 Compared with national averages, a smaller percentage of individuals in RCT have qualifications, and this is the case at every level from NVQ1 and above, as Table 7.4 below illustrates. Conversely, RCT has a higher proportion of individuals without qualifications, totalling 16,300 (10.9%) of individuals for the period January 2015 – December 2015.

<sup>5</sup> NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics: <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157398/report.aspx>

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/Methodology\\_by\\_theme/area\\_classification/](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/Methodology_by_theme/area_classification/)

<sup>7</sup> ONS population estimates – local authority based by five year age band

**Table 7.4: Comparative qualification levels (January 2015 – December 2015)**

Individual qualification levels	RCT (%)	Wales (%)	Great Britain (%)
NVQ4 and above	29.6	33.7	37.1
NVQ3 and above	49.1	53.1	55.8
NVQ2 and above	68.2	72.2	73.6
NVQ1 and above	81.4	83.6	84.9
Other qualifications	7.7	6.0	6.5
No qualifications	10.9	10.5	8.6

7.33 The 2014 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)<sup>8</sup> report finds that much of RCT experiences relative deprivation. Geographically, figures are provided on the basis of ‘Lower Super Output Areas’ (LSOAs), of which there are 154 in Rhondda Cynon Taf. There is a significant over-representation at the most-deprived end of the spectrum, with 16.9% (26) of RCT’s 154 LSOAs falling within the lowest 10% of most deprived LSOAs in Wales.

7.34 In addition to providing an aggregate ‘index’ of deprivation, the WIMD subdivides into a number of more specific ‘domains’. Within RCT, the domains of health perform particularly badly, with 21.4% of RCT’s LSOAs falling within the most-deprived 10% in Wales. RCT also underperforms in the employment, education and income domains. In contrast, the domains of community safety, housing and ‘geographic access to services’ emerge more positively with relatively few LSOAs at the lowest end of the spectrum. Table 7.5 below summarises these findings.

**Table 7.5: Percentage of RCT Lower Super Output Areas within lowest 10% in Wales**

Domain	% of RCT LSOAs within most deprived 10% in Wales
Employment	20.8
Health	21.4
Education	16.2
Income	14.9
Physical Environment	2.6
Community Safety	7.1
Housing	1.3
Access to Services	0.6

7.35 Areas of particularly high deprivation occur within Hirwaun and Pen-y-Waun, which are close to the Enviroparks site. Six LSOAs near the site have been considered in particular detail:

- *Rhigos 1*: the EWL site, surrounding countryside and villages;
- *Hirwaun 1*: eastern parts of the town including Maescynon;
- *Hirwaun 2*: the north west of the town including Mount Pleasant;
- *Hirwaun 3*: southern and central parts of the town;
- *Pen-y-Waun 1*: western parts of the village; and
- *Pen-y-waun 2*: eastern parts of the village.

<sup>8</sup> <http://wimd.wales.gov.uk/geography/la/W06000016?lang=en#&min=0&max=10&domain=overall>



7.36 In table 7.6 below it is apparent that LSOA ‘Hirwaun 3’ and both ‘Pen-y-Waun 1’ and ‘Pen-y-Waun 2’ LSOAs are particularly deprived, being within the lowest 25% in Wales across most of the ‘domains’ of deprivation. Only Hirwaun 2 has no instances within the lower quartile.

**Table 7.6: Deprivation by rank and ‘domain’ in areas surrounding the EWL site**

	<i>Hirwaun 1</i>	<i>Hirwaun 2</i>	<i>Hirwaun 3</i>	<i>Pen-y-Waun 1</i>	<i>Pen-y-Waun 2</i>	<i>Rhigos</i>
WIMD	889	776	180	92	9	696
Income	1010	718	181	130	16	995
Employment	772	596	96	33	12	732
Health	931	750	92	254	14	709
Education	594	625	313	89	7	521
Access to Services	938	1461	1249	379	331	188
Housing	1618	860	1701	1407	551	1140
Physical Environment	282	734	742	771	1257	1528
Community Safety	1157	1029	622	624	559	973
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 = most deprived, 1909 = least deprived in Wales</li> <li>• Shaded = within most deprived quartile in Wales</li> </ul>						

7.37 Rates of household overcrowding are marginally higher within RCT than across Wales as a whole: 4.8% of households in RCT had a negative occupancy rating at the 2011 Census, compared with a figure of 4.4% across Wales. In terms of tenure, as indicated in table 7.7 below, RCT has greater levels of owner-occupation compared with Wales, with slightly fewer rented, and a very comparable number of households living rent free compared with Wales as a whole.

**Table 7.7: Tenure by household (2011 Census)**

Tenure	RCT (%)	Wales (%)
Owned	70.9	67.5
Shared ownership	0.2	0.3
Social rented	13.7	16.5
Private rented	13.7	14.1
Living rent free	1.5	1.6

7.38 RCT falls somewhat behind Wales in terms of health. Life expectancy in 2010-12<sup>9</sup> was 76.4 years for males and 81.0 years for females. For males, this is the second lowest life expectancy rate of all unitary authorities in Wales and is 1.8 years below the Welsh average of 78.2 years. For females, the life expectancy is 1.2 years below the Welsh average, and is the third lowest life expectancy rate of all unitary authorities in Wales. At the 2011 Census, figures for ‘health and care’ found that compared with Wales overall, 1.7% fewer people in RCT considered their own health to

<sup>9</sup> Stats Wales, Welsh Government (See <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Life-Expectancy/LifeExpectancy-by-LocalAuthority-Gender>)

be 'very good' and 1.4% fewer people considered their health to be 'good'. Conversely, 1.6% more people in RCT considered they had 'bad health' and 0.36% more people considered they had 'very bad health' when compared with Wales overall<sup>10</sup>.

### Community facilities

7.39 Primary schools in the area are provided at Hirwaun, Rhigos and Penderyn. The nearest secondary school is Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun, a Welsh-medium comprehensive school approximately 3 km south-east of the site between Hirwaun and Penywaun. There are three further secondary schools in Aberdare. The nearest GP is Hirwaun Health Centre, and the nearest dental surgery is also in Hirwaun (D. Adams). Other community facilities in the area include:

- Hirwaun Village Hall (Hirwaun Community Centre, High Street, Hirwaun)
- Rhigos Community Sports Hall (Heol Pendarren, Rhigos)
- Rhydywaun Youth Centre (Lawrence Avenue, Penywaun)
- Penywaun Community Centre, (Gwladys St, Penywaun)

7.40 The main transport links to the area are the A465(T) Heads of the Valleys route, and the A4059 and A4061 which run northward and southward toward Brecon and Treherbert respectively. Public transport is limited to buses and coaches, which are mainly local services to surrounding towns and villages in the upper Neath and Rhondda, Cynon Taf valleys. Bus services suitable for commuters to Hirwaun Industrial Estate operate from Hirwaun and Penywaun. The nearest passenger rail services are at Aberdare, approximately 8 km to the east.

## POTENTIAL EFFECTS

### During construction

7.41 Construction activity for the Enviroparks development is scheduled to commence in the second half of 2017 and be completed by June 2019, subject to planning permission being granted. The economic and social impacts of the construction phase are set out below.

#### Economic impacts (employment)

7.42 Prior to the tendering process for construction contracts, it is not possible to accurately identify the origin of personnel, and hence predict to what degree the construction employment would represent an increase (short-term or residual) in the local population. However, it is a certainty that the construction would require both full and part-time jobs in a range of sectors and skills. There would be an opportunity to source employees from the local area where possible, and similarly to use local suppliers during the construction period.

7.43 HM Treasury measures construction jobs on the basis of 'job years' and this can be calculated by dividing the estimated construction capital cost for implementing the project (c. £135 million, of

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/ks301ew>

which £20 million has already been spent) by the average annual output per construction employee. Based on this calculation, the construction programme would require an estimated 108 temporary construction workers, averaged over the two-year construction period..

7.44 The following additional factors would also contribute to an overall beneficial impact:

- the relative local importance of the construction and manufacturing sectors in Rhondda Cynon Taf, as identified in the preceding section;
- inclusion of a range of occupational levels within the construction, including unskilled or labouring jobs to more senior positions, as well as across a range of disciplines;
- unskilled labour is often required in construction, making it a potential opportunity for unemployed people. The preceding section identified that there are relatively high numbers of unemployed and low-skilled people in the area;
- the local construction industry can be particularly at risk at times of economic volatility.

7.45 In summary, therefore it is considered that EWL’s scheme would have a **moderate beneficial** effect on the local employment market.

**Economic impact  
(secondary impacts)**

7.46 In addition to direct employment, the presence of the construction workforce would have an indirect impact on the local economy associated with their expenditure in local businesses. Major construction projects often indirectly generate significant additional temporary employment in businesses that benefit from the local spending of construction workers, as well as sub-contracts, services and supplies needed by the contractors.

7.47 It is not possible to quantify accurately the scale of impact which this would have. However, on balance it is reasonable to conclude that the secondary impacts upon the economy during the construction phase have a **minor beneficial** effect.

**Social impacts**

7.48 It is considered that the proposed development would not have significant effects upon residents during the construction phase, given the distance of the site from dwellings. Similarly, local businesses are likely to experience only minimal effects. Outdoor recreational users of the Penderyn Reservoir adjacent to the site (particularly anglers) and users of rights of way are likely to experience some noise impact during the construction period.

7.49 However, any disruption during construction would be controlled and managed through implementation of a Construction and Environmental Management Plan. Overall the social impact of the scheme during the construction phase has therefore been assessed as being **negligible**.

### Economic impacts (employment)

7.50 The current Enviroparks proposals will generate 69 full-time equivalent employment opportunities when it is operating at full capacity (excluding the consented high-energy user in operation). As with construction workforce, it is not possible to accurately identify the origin of personnel for the plant once in operation and consequently the permanent increase in local employment cannot be predicted.

7.51 As with the construction workforce there would be a significant opportunity to employ staff from the local area where possible, and similarly to use local suppliers during the construction period. Therefore, it can reasonably be expected that a significant proportion of the 69 jobs created from this proposal alone would be filled by local people, including individuals who are currently unemployed. In May 2016<sup>11</sup> there were 45 claimants of Jobseekers' Allowance in the Hirwaun ward and 20 in Rhigos ward, so the implementation of the EWL scheme could, theoretically, fully offset local unemployment.

7.52 The operation of the plant would require 69 full time jobs in a range of sectors and skills. The degree to which local people will be engaged in these new opportunities will be influenced partly by the level of training which is offered to the local community. Training and job preparation initiatives are therefore proposed by EWL.

7.53 In summary the overall impact of the EWL scheme in employment terms once in operation is considered to be **major beneficial**.

### Economic impacts (secondary)

7.54 The key secondary economic impact of the EWL scheme will be to increase levels of expenditure in the local economy as a result of the following:

- unemployed local people who gain work will have an increased level of disposable income;
- other employees in the area may, over time, increase their income through the opportunities provided by EWL, which would in turn increase their level of spending in the area;
- that part of the EWL workforce which commutes inward from surrounding areas would contribute to the economy during the working week, through their use of local services and facilities.

7.55 The consented Enviroparks development and the current proposals also contribute to improving the image of the local area as 'green' and forward-looking, potentially enhancing its attractiveness as an investment location especially within this sector. The overall impact of the EWL scheme in secondary economic terms is therefore considered to be **moderately beneficial**.

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<sup>11</sup> Department for Work and Pensions (see <http://tabulation-tool.dwp.gov.uk/NESS/BEN/jsa.htm>)

**Social impacts  
(Education)**

7.56 EWL proposes to dedicate a facility for educational use by visiting schools, colleges and the wider public. It is intended that this facility will help to enhance awareness and understanding of environmental and sustainability issues in general and renewable sources of energy and the need for waste reduction specifically. The effects of the proposal on education are assessed as being **moderately beneficial** in this regard.

**Social impacts  
(Accessibility and inclusion)**

7.57 The Enviroparks site was allocated partly due to its location within an established employment area, which is accessible by various sustainable means including by regular bus services, and by bicycle. These factors are expected to contribute toward social inclusion by supporting and creating additional demand for these more affordable means of transport.

7.58 An example of potential developments that could be supported is the proposed route of the National Cycle Network, promoted by Sustrans, which is adjacent to the site. When complete, National Route 46 of the National Cycle Network will connect Bromsgrove to Neath. The creation of jobs and additional expenditure within a relatively deprived area (as noted in the above sections) would have a further beneficial impact upon inclusion due to the opportunities for the community as a whole this would provide.

7.59 In addition to the economic benefit of new employment opportunities coming to the area outlined above, the potential for the workforce to reduce the need to commute long distances would contribute toward inclusion and quality of life. Therefore, overall the EWL scheme is considered to have a **major beneficial** effect upon accessibility and inclusion.

**Social impacts  
(Health)**

7.60 Other chapters of the 2008 Environmental Statement and this ES Addendum identify the beneficial effect this scheme would have in terms of reduced carbon dioxide and methane emissions, and diversion of waste from landfill. Since climate change and environmental degradation have a negative impact on people's health and well-being it can be concluded that the EWL scheme would have a beneficial effect in this regard. However, given the global scale of these issues the contribution made by EWL scheme alone is considered to be **minor**.

**Social impact  
(population/demographics)**

7.61 The impact of the proposed development on the size of the local population is likely to be minimal, since the application does not include proposals for residential development. It is possible that new employment opportunities generated by the proposal will be filled by people from outside the local area who might then move nearby, thus slightly raising the local population. However, given that these current EWL proposals in would employ 69 new staff at full capacity, the overall impact upon population will be **negligible**.

## Summary of effects

7.62 The economic and social effects of the proposed development scheme in economic and social terms are summarised in the tables below.

**Table 7.8: Summary of economic effects**

	Employment effects	Secondary effects
<b>Construction</b>	Moderate beneficial	Minor beneficial
<b>Operation</b>	Major beneficial	Moderate beneficial

**Table 7.9: Summary of social effects**

	Education	Accessibility and inclusion	Health	Population/ demographics
<b>Construction</b>	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
<b>Operation</b>	Moderate beneficial	Major beneficial	Minor beneficial	Negligible

## PROPOSED MITIGATION

### During construction

7.63 To ensure that any negative social or economic effects remain negligible, an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and Health and Safety Plan are proposed by EWL to control and manage any disruption.

### During operation

7.64 The effects of the proposed scheme during operation are predicted to be beneficial. The following measures could be considered to add further value to the area as a result of the Enviroparks development.

- Enviroparks has incorporated a Community Interest Company, Enviroparks (Community Liaison) Ltd and will invite members of the local community to sit on the board along with two directors from Enviroparks (Wales) Ltd. The purpose of this company is to promote good community relations with respect to the operations of the plant and distribute funds raised by Enviroparks (up to £600,000 over the first ten years of operations) to good causes in the local communities specifically relating to energy poverty.
- Development of specific vocational training initiatives in conjunction with local employers and local educational establishments, to help local people to develop new skills and to strengthen good public relations with the scheme.

- Early liaison with local people for their training and potential employment once the scheme is completed.
- Local labour agreements to encourage employment of local people and businesses.
- The use of local purchasing initiatives to capture the maximum benefits of the scheme for construction firms and product manufacturers based in RCT will be implemented where possible.
- The use of local purchasing initiatives, where possible, to optimise the benefits of the scheme to the economy and other product suppliers and manufacturers.

## RESIDUAL EFFECTS

7.65 No residual effects have been identified beyond those discussed above.

## SUMMARY

7.66 In summary it is considered that the Enviroparks project is likely to result in a range of beneficial effects on the socio-economic conditions within the catchment of the project, which could be enhanced with complementary measures such as local employment and skills initiatives outlined in the 'mitigation' section above.

7.67 This chapter has considered a broad range of official data and found that under most socio-economic indicators, Rhondda Cynon Taf is behind regional and national averages. During the decade to 2016, the national economy suffered from a global recession. Over the past three to five years, there has been an improvement in the UK and Welsh economy as part of the recovery following the recession. However, recovery has not been equal. Whilst there have been improvements and benefits within Rhondda Cynon Taf when compared to the situation identified in the 2008 ES, the County Borough still suffers from the legacy of the decline in mining and manufacturing. In this context the assessment in this chapter suggests that the Enviroparks scheme would be of significant benefit to job creation and the local economy.