



Chapter Seven **COMMUNITY EFFECTS**

INTRODUCTION

7.1 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 society¹.

7.2 This chapter of the ES examines the potential social and economic effects that might arise within the Hirwaun area as a result of constructing and implementing the proposed 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

7.3 As explained in detail in the separate *Planning Policy Statement* that accompanies EHL's planning application, the Enviroparks proposal is considered to be consistent with, and a positive exemplar of, a wide range of current and emerging waste, energy and development plan policy. Of particular relevance to social and community concerns are the following documents:

- The UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (2005);
- Wales Spatial Plan (2008);
- A Winning Wales - The National Economic Development Strategy of the Welsh Assembly Government (2002);
- SE Wales Development Strategy (2005);
- Turning Heads: a strategy for the Heads of the Valleys to 2020 (2006);
- A Better Life: Our Community Plan 2004-2014.

7.4 A common theme of these plans and policies is the need to deliver sustainable development to enable socio-economic and environmental regeneration. This overall thrust is most succinctly set out in first of the documents listed above, emphasising the need to 'live on the earth's income rather than eroding its capital'. The document stresses that there is a pressing need for the economy to become less reliant upon CO₂-producing energy sources, less damaging to the environment, and more efficient in resource use.

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



ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Outline

7.5 The methodology employed in this chapter is based on the Department of the Environment (DoE) Good Practice Guide (1995), which was intended for use in Wales, England and Scotland and was based on an eight-year programme of research. This is a proven methodology that 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. Baseline information on the socio-economic conditions of the area has been collated from a variety of sources referenced in the text. Crown Copyright material is reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO. Sources of information include:

- National Census (2001) and other ONS-produced sources
- NOMIS labour market statistics
- Welsh Indices of Multiple Deprivation
- Welsh Assembly Government Learning and Labour Market Intelligence (2008)

7.6 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 events that took place in relation to the scheme during September 2008.

Study area

7.7 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 EHL scheme is significant both in terms of the amount of employment it would create and in terms of 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, as such, a focus on RCT was considered to be appropriate for the purpose of this analysis.

7.8 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 area'. Furthermore, comparative data are frequently provided for Wales and Great Britain as a whole, in order to clarify the broader significance of various figures.



7.9 As the introduction to the RCT Local Plan notes, 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

7.10 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. 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

7.11 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.

7.12 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

7.13 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 existing businesses in the Hirwaun industrial estate and community facilities in the surrounding area.

The economy

7.14 In 2007² there were 6,800 unemployed people in Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT); a rate of 6.3%. This exceeds the Welsh average by 0.7%, and the British average by 1.1%. Similarly, rates of economic inactivity in RCT are higher than national averages: a total of 37,000 individuals of working age in RCT were economically inactive, with 24,200 not wanting a job. These findings are shown in Table 7.2 below. It should be noted that these statistics pre-date the closure of the Tower colliery near Hirwaun in spring 2008.

Table 7.2: economic inactivity in Rhondda Cynon Taf. 2007

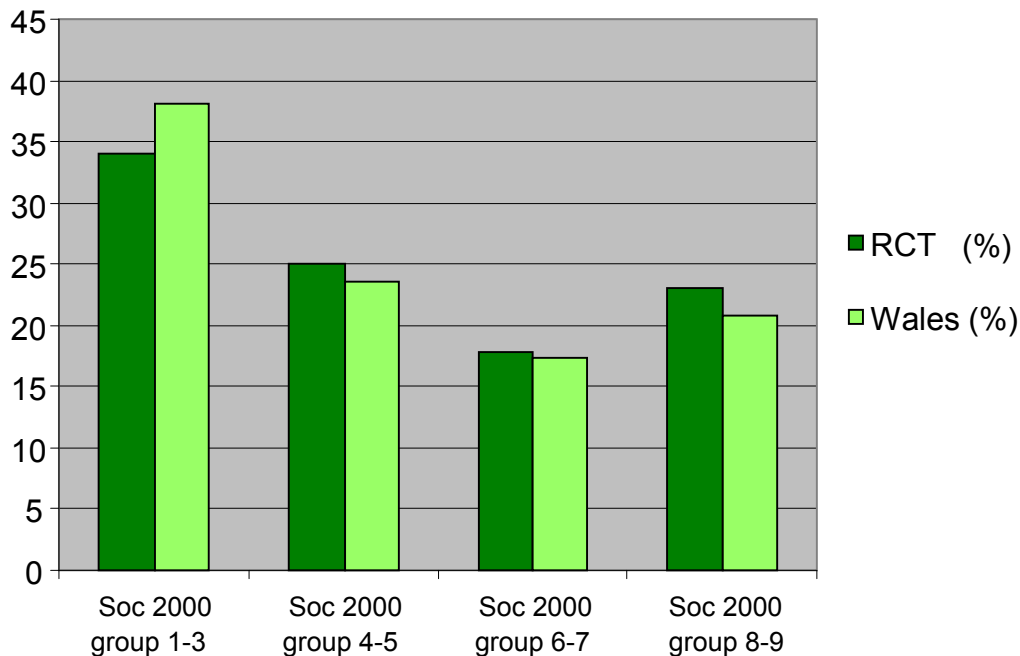
	<i>RCT (numbers)</i>	<i>RCT (%)</i>	<i>Wales (%)</i>	<i>GB (%)</i>
Economically inactive	37,000	26	24.5	21.4
Wanting a job	12,800	9	5.9	5.4
Not wanting a job	24,200	17	18.6	16.1

7.15 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.

² ‘Reweighted’ figure for the year as a whole (see <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/articles/374.aspx>)



Figure 7.1: Employment by occupation (2007)³



7.16 Average weekly earnings in RCT in 2007 were £398.20, which is around £17 less than the Wales average, and £61 behind the average for Great Britain.

7.17 The ONS reports that, in 2005, there were 88,000 jobs in Rhondda Cynon Taff. Based upon this, a 'jobs density' can be calculated which represents the ratio of jobs to working-age population. In RCT, this ratio is 0.62; a figure that is substantially lower than both Wales (0.78) and Great Britain (0.84). It appears likely that this is partly explained by out-commuting from RCT towards Cardiff, Swansea and elsewhere on the M4 corridor.

7.18 The majority of jobs in RCT (76.1%) are within the service sector. This figure is somewhat lower than the Wales and Great Britain figures of 79.6% and 82.9% respectively. This is counterbalanced by the manufacturing sector, which in RCT is proportionally larger at 17.6%, compared with 13.4% and 10.9% Wales and Great Britain respectively. The construction sector in RCT is also larger than average, at 5.5% compared with 4.8% across Great Britain.

7.19 The above observations reflect the findings of the 2001 Census Area Classification⁴, which categorised RCT as an 'industrial hinterland', along with much of south-east Wales, central Scotland, and parts of northern England.

7.20 The proportion of individuals within RCT claiming benefits is 23.6% (a total of 33,700 individuals); considerably higher than the figures of 18.7% and 14.1% across Wales and GB respectively. As table 7.3 below indicates, the claimant rate within RCT is higher for each of

³ NOMIS Labour Market Profile, August 2008

⁴ http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/Methodology_by_theme/area_classification/



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

	<i>RCT</i> (%)	<i>Wales</i> (%)	<i>GB</i> (%)
Total claimants	23.6	18.7	14.1
Incapacity benefits	14.9	10.7	7.1
Lone parents	2.6	2.1	2
Job seekers	2.4	2.3	2.2
Carers	1.5	1.4	1
Disabled	1.4	1.3	1
Others on income related benefits	0.4	0.4	0.5
Bereaved	0.3	0.3	0.3

Society ('quality of life')

7.21 Rhondda Cynon Taf is a large unitary authority area with a population of 233,900 in 2006⁵. Its age profile is similar to that of Wales as a whole, with a fairly even distribution across the age ranges, though with a characteristic 'dip' in people in their 20s and a 'spike' of people in their 50s. In 2007, the population of working age in RCT was 143,400. This comprises 61.3% of the total population, which is slightly above the Wales figure of 60.3%.

7.22 Compared with national averages, a smaller percentage of individuals in RCT have qualifications, and this is the case at every level, as Table 7.4 below illustrates. Conversely, RCT has a higher proportion of individuals *without* qualifications, totalling 23,800 individuals in 2007.

Table 7.4: Comparative qualification levels

	<i>RCT</i>	<i>Wales</i>	<i>Great Britain</i>
NVQ4 +	21	25.4	28.6
NVQ3 +	37.9	43.8	46.4
NVQ2 +	57.3	63.8	64.5
NVQ1 +	75.3	77.5	78.1
No qualifications	16.7	15.4	13.1

7.23 The 2008 Welsh Indices of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) report finds that much of RCT experiences relative deprivation. Geographically, figures are provided on the basis of 'Super-Output Areas' (SOAs), of which there are 152 in Rhondda Cynon Taf. Overall, 70% of

⁵ ONS mid-year estimate



these are below the median ranking for Wales. There is a significant over-representation at the most-deprived end of the spectrum, with 18% of RCT's SOAs falling within the lowest 10% in Wales.

7.24 In addition to providing an aggregate 'index' of deprivation, WIMD subdivides into a number of more specific 'domains'. Within RCT, the domains of employment and education perform particularly badly, with 22% of RCT's SOAs falling within the most-deprived 10% in Wales. RCT also underperforms in the education and income domains. In contrast, the domains of community, housing and 'geographic access to services' emerge more positively with relatively few SOAs at the lowest end of the spectrum. Table 7.5 below summarises these findings.

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

<i>Domain</i>	<i>% within most deprived 10% in Wales</i>
Employment	22
Health	22
Education	16
Income	13
Environment	10
Community	5
Housing	3
Access	1

7.25 Areas of particularly high deprivation occur within Hirwaun and Pen-y-waun, which are in very close proximity to EHL's planning application site. Six SOAs neighbouring the site have been considered in particular detail:

- *Rhigos 1*: the EHL 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;
- *Pen-y-waun 2*: eastern parts of the village.

7.26 Within table 7.6 below, it is apparent that SOA *Hirwaun 3* and both Pen-y-waun SOAs 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 EHL 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	961	1028	159	116	12	676
Income	1056	952	231	246	23	947
Employment	846	643	73	63	24	545
Health	854	1489	75	209	30	849
Education	1031	998	588	90	4	629
Access to Services	740	828	1755	732	763	296
Housing	1362	1152	1314	739	1540	1436
Physical Environment	179	497	365	1348	1405	412
Community Safety	920	1291	381	558	115	1214

- 1= most deprived, 1896= least deprived in Wales
- Shaded= within most deprived quartile in Wales

7.27 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 2001 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 fewer rented, and a greater proportion living rent free.⁶

Table 7.7: Tenure by household (2001)

	<i>RCT (%)</i>	<i>Wales (%)</i>
Owned	75.2	71.3
Social rented	14.7	17.9
Private rented	7.4	8.6
Living rent free	2.7	2.2

7.28 RCT falls somewhat behind Wales in terms of health. Life expectancy in 2004-6 was 75.6 years for males and 80.1 for females; for both sexes this is approximately one year below the Welsh average and 1.5 years below the average for England and Wales. At the 2001 Census, figures for 'general health' found that compared with Wales overall 4.1% fewer people in RCT considered their own health to be 'good'. Conversely, 3.2% more people in RCT considered their health to be 'not good', compared with Wales overall. Similarly, rates of limiting long-term illness in RCT (27.2%) exceeded the Wales average by 3.9%.

Community facilities

7.29 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

⁶ Source: ONS 2001 Census (UV63)



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 Community Centre
- Rhigos Community Sports Hall
- Rhydywaun Youth Centre (Lawrence Avenue, Penywaun)
- Penywaun Community Centre, (Gwladys St, Penywaun)

7.30 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. Nearest passenger rail services are at Aberdare, approximately 8 km to the east.

Employment at Hirwaun Industrial Estate

7.31 A site visit in December 2007 indicated that 40 companies were currently operating at Hirwaun Industrial Estate (HIE). These comprise primarily light industrial users, with a large number of engineering and metal-related companies:

- Aman Metal Spinners
- Anderson & Firmin
- Authentic Curry Company
- Barton Dale Engineering
- Cefn Strain Gauges
- Chiltern Services
- D & S Tooling Supplies
- Dare Valley Poultry
- Designs in Wood Ltd.
- Dyllas Engineering Co Ltd.
- Eden Manufacturing Ltd.
- Engard Fan
- Environmental Solutions Wales
- EPA plc
- Hirwaun Engineering
- Hirwaun Saw Mills
- Houghton Vaughan
- K & D Structural Stock Ltd.
- KJ Heating Service
- LJ Ashman & Sons
- Martin Williams Fashions Ltd.
- Maxweld Engineering Ltd.
- Metal Polishing Engineers Ltd.
- Millennium Windows
- ND Products
- Morgan & Brace Ltd.
- Pentapack
- Phoenix Metal Products Ltd.
- Precision Writing Points
- Primarius Wales Ltd.
- R Brown Ltd.
- Sealability Ltd.
- Swantex Party Creations
- Tebrax Ltd.
- The Picture Warehouse
- UK Euro Group plc
- Walters Group Ltd.
- WEB Engineering Ltd.
- Welsh Trust (Rhigos) Ltd.
- Willow Manufacturing Ltd.



POTENTIAL EFFECTS

During construction

7.32 Construction activity for the Enviroparks development could commence in the second quarter of 2009 and be completed in the second quarter of 2011. The economic and social impacts of the construction phase are set out below.

Economic impacts (employment)

7.33 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.

7.34 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. £20m) by the average annual output per construction employee⁷. Based on this calculation, the construction programme would necessitate the use of approximately 530 temporary construction workers.

7.35 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 is particularly at risk during the current period of economic stagnation and volatility.

7.36 In summary therefore it is considered that the EHL scheme would have a **moderate beneficial effect** on the local employment market.

Economic impact (secondary impacts)

7.37 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

⁷ The DTI figure for gross average annual output per construction employee in 2003 was £37,727.



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.

7.38 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

7.39 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.

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

During operation

Economic impacts (employment)

7.41 The proposed development will generate around 200 employment opportunities when it is operating at full capacity and with the 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.

7.42 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 200 jobs created would be filled by local people, including individuals who are currently unemployed. In August 2008 there were 85 claimants of Jobseekers' Allowance in the Hirwaun ward and 20 in Rhigos ward⁸, so the implementation of the EHL scheme could, theoretically, fully offset local unemployment. This benefit should be seen in the context of the closure of the Tower Colliery in 2008.

7.43 The operation of the plant would require both full and part-time jobs in a range of sectors and skills. The degree to which local people will be engaged in these new

⁸ Source: Nomisweb labour market profiles



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 EHL.

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

**Economic impacts
(secondary)**

7.45 The key secondary economic impact of the EHL 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 EHL, which would in turn increase their level of spending in the area;
- that part of the EHL workforce which commutes inward from surrounding areas would contribute to the economy during the working week, through their use of local services and facilities.

7.46 The proposed Enviroparks development would 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 EHL scheme in secondary economic terms is therefore considered to be **moderately beneficial**.

**Social impacts
(Education)**

7.47 EHL 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)**

7.48 The application 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 (explored in more detail in Chapter 8 of this Environmental Statement) are expected to contribute toward social inclusion by supporting and creating additional demand for these more affordable means of transport.



7.49 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. 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.

7.50 As noted in the Planning Policy Statement, the Wales Spatial Plan identifies the Heads of the Valleys as being particularly deprived, and the South-East Wales Development Strategy identifies a need for access to employment in areas where out-commuting to Cardiff and the M4 corridor is high. The 'jobs density' ratio referred to in the preceding section suggests that this is a factor in Rhondda Cynon Taf. In addition to the economic benefit of new employment opportunities coming to the area outlined above, a reduction in the need to commute long distances would contribute toward inclusion and quality of life. Overall therefore the EHL scheme is considered to have a **major beneficial** effect upon accessibility and inclusion.

**Social impacts
(Health)**

7.51 Other chapters of this Environmental Statement identify the beneficial effect this scheme would have in terms of reduced carbon dioxide and methane emissions, and diversion 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 EHL scheme would have a **beneficial** effect in this regard. However, given the global scale of these issues the contribution made by EHL scheme alone is considered to be **minor**.

**Social impact
(population/demographics)**

7.52 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 local population figures. However, given that the proposed development in total is to employ around 200 new staff at full capacity, the overall impact upon population will be **negligible**.

Summary of effects

7.53 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
Construction	Moderate beneficial	Minor beneficial
Operation	Major beneficial	Moderate beneficial

Table 7.9: Summary of social effects

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

PROPOSED MITIGATION

During construction

7.54 To ensure that any negative social or economic effects remain negligible, a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and Health and Safety Plan are proposed by EHL to control and manage any disruption.

During operation

7.55 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:

- 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, where possible, to capture the maximum benefits of the scheme to RCT construction firms and product manufacturers.
- 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

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

SUMMARY

7.57 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.

7.58 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 or thereabouts to 2007, during which the national economy performed well overall, the County Borough grew and benefited to some extent, however the legacy of the decline in mining and manufacturing was not fully overcome.

7.59 In the current period of economic recession, the comparatively weak economy of Rhondda Cynon Taf is liable to suffer more acutely than other parts of South Wales. Projects capable of generating new employment, such as the Enviroparks development, would thus be of significant benefit.