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**Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan
Examination**

Hearing Sessions

COUNCIL'S CLOSING STATEMENT

17th July 2012

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Over the last three weeks you have heard a range of evidence from the Council and other participants including local residents, landowners and national organisations.

The Council has sought to demonstrate that the deposit Plan, as amended by Focussed Changes, sets out a locally distinctive and deliverable long term vision and spatial strategy for the Borough up to 2021; consistent with national policy and having regard to the Wales Spatial Plan. The Plan recognises the challenges the Borough faces and seeks to build on the opportunities presented by two large mixed use schemes and the unique characteristics of the area to overcome them.

The issue of sustainable development has been very much at the heart of developing the Plan. This is to be achieved by focusing development within urban areas; encouraging higher densities on appropriate sites; encouraging regeneration of our town centres; protecting and enhancing the green infrastructure network; encouraging sustainable construction and renewable technologies; and promoting measures to reduce the need to travel and the use of travel methods other than the private car.

The Council has sought to demonstrate that this strategy is deliverable through a range of methods including granyon;:yt2b,bq7-5/4%2ba2yr2Tq5;clZ%br2,o2Z

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of the sites in question has led the Council to delete H1.20 Land at Farm Road, Swfrydd. The Council considers that this approach provides a

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setting of the Brecon Beacons National Park in identifying this area. The Council considered advice in national policy, as set out in MPPW (W24) and MTAN2 (W26), which does not preclude development adjacent to National Parks. It is however accepted that reference should be made to rigorous examination being required on safeguarded land adjacent to the National Park.

The Council is preparing a schedule of Matters Arising Changes as a