

A vibrant new urban quarter on the site of the old steel works at Ebbw Vale has achieved an exemplary rating under BRE's masterplanning tool for creating sustainable communities Greenprint It is the first UK project to do so.

The regeneration project in Blaenau Gwent, in the South Wales Valleys began in 2005. It will provide a revitalised community which will act as a flagship project for delivering the Welsh Government's sustainable development agenda.

This £350 million project is a joint venture between Blaenau Gwent County Council and the Welsh Government. The development will comprise of up to 500 dwellings including a hospital (Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan), a 3-11 phase school that includes an integrated childcare centre and special education needs school and a refurbished grade II listed general offices building.

BRE's GreenPrint methodology, a tool designed to maximise the sustainability potential for sustainable communities, was used to provide an independent assessment of The Works masterplan. The tool assessed the project under eight overarching categories: Climate Change, Resources, Transport, Ecology, Business, Community, Placemaking and Buildings. The development scored highly under all categories and was awarded maximum points under the building category. The overall assessment score was 87% - the highest ever for any project assessed in the UK since the introduction of the tool.

Huw Lewis, Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage said: "I'm very pleased to hear that The Works project in Ebbw Vale has received this significant accolade for its sustainability. The Works has really set the bar for future construction projects to follow and I'm happy that Welsh Government funds have been contributed to the development of this important project."

A Blaenau Gwent Spokesperson said:

"Well done to everyone involved with these projects for achieving such a high rating for sustainability. Sustainable communities for Blaenau Gwent is one of the Council's main priorities and The Works development continues to play a major part helping us to achieve this by being at the forefront for green living and zero carbon ideas in Wales.

"We continue to work in partnership to ensure that our communities are as energy efficient and sustainable as possible to ensure the best environment for our future generations."

For further information on the project contact Dolores Kelly tel 01923 664 293, mobile 07772228788 email kellydm@bre.co.uk