



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – FOR INFORMATION

SUBJECT: REGENERATION BOARD UPDATE

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR – COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with an update on the work of the newly constituted Regeneration Project Board.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 At its meeting on 30th May 2018 – Cabinet agreed that a Regeneration Project Board would be set up with a cross party political representation of Councillors plus key officers.
- 2.2 The Regeneration Project Board terms of reference were also approved by the Cabinet on 30th May 2018.
- 2.3 This information report sets out the progress that the Regeneration Project Board has made at its first two meetings held in June and September 2018.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. It requires public bodies to think more about the long term, working with people and communities, looking to prevent problems and take a more joined up approach. This will create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future. The Act puts in place seven wellbeing goals and the contents of this report which will hopefully contribute to significant levels of community regeneration and infrastructure development potentially links into all seven wellbeing goals.
- 3.2 A Foundation for Success is the Regeneration Strategy for Caerphilly County Borough which sets out the strategic priorities for the regeneration and enhancement of Caerphilly County Borough which identifies four strategic themes on which regeneration efforts should be focussed namely: Supporting People; Supporting Business; Supporting Quality of Life and Connecting People and Places.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Considerable work has been undertaken over the last six months to better position the Authority in order to take advantage of funding opportunities arising from the City Deal, Metro, the Valleys Task Force and the Welsh Government (WG) Targeted Regeneration Programme Initiative.

- 4.2 On the 30th May 2018, Cabinet agreed that a Regeneration Project Board be set up. The Terms of Reference of the Board were approved by Cabinet at the same meeting.
- 4.3 The Regeneration Project Board's remit is to provide clear strategic direction in relation to the Regeneration Project Team (officers) on regeneration projects to enable the Authority to react to calls for expressions of interest in short timescales. Further the Project Board:
- Can agree the range of projects to be developed by the project team in order to take advantage of regeneration investment opportunities.
 - Must provide periodic updates on project development to Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.
 - Agree that officers sitting on the Board can submit expressions of interest (EOI's) for project funding streams as long as the EOI's do not bind the Authority to any financial commitment.
 - Recommend the formal submission of projects to the Authority's Cabinet so that submission to external funding bodies can be made and/or Authority budgets can be committed accordingly.
- 4.4 In June 2018 the inaugural meeting of the Regeneration Project Board was held. The Regeneration Project Board comprises a politically balanced membership and includes:
- Councillor Sean Morgan – Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure, Sustainability & Wellbeing of Future Generations Champion (Chair);
 - Councillor Eluned Stenner – Cabinet Member for Environment & Public Protection;
 - Councillor Brenda Miles – Labour Ward Member
 - Councillor Kevin Etheridge – Independent Ward Member;
 - Councillor Rob Gough – Plaid Cymru Ward Member.
- 4.5 At the June meeting a Project Prioritisation Toolkit was approved for us to prioritise projects and this was subsequently agreed by Council on 17th July as part of the Council's consideration of A Foundation for Success (Regeneration Strategy).
- 4.6 At its June meeting the Project Board had a detailed discussion concerning the Council's priorities for the WG Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) programme. WG has identified Caerphilly and Ystrad Mynach as Strategic Hubs for the Valleys Task Force Initiative and it is these areas that will be targeted for WG TRI funding. It was therefore agreed that the first tranche of TRI funding bids should be targeted at these important strategic hubs.
- 4.7 The Project Board also agreed that a report should be prepared to capture all the existing (in construction) and proposed regeneration schemes across the County Borough, in order to provide a clear indication in terms of the value of the projects being proposed; their spatial distribution; and the likely timescales for delivery. Officers were tasked with preparing this Capital Projects List for consideration by the Board at its second meeting in September 2018.
- 4.8 £300k has been set aside as a development fund to work up projects in readiness for any calls for funding. The appropriateness of this level of development fund will be kept under review over the coming months as project work develops.
- 4.9 A second meeting of the Project Board was held on the 11th September 2018 at which the Draft Caerphilly Capital Projects List (CCPL) was presented. The CCPL sought to capture all key existing (in construction) and proposed capital projects across the County Borough, in order to provide an indication of value, spatial distribution, likely timescales for delivery and internal resource/lead.
- 4.10 The list was divided into various section headings and sub sections such as "Physical Infrastructure" – "Transport". Each sub section was further sub-divided to ascertain whether a project was Small (less than £1m) – Medium (£1m - £5m) – Large (greater than £5m); and the anticipated delivery timeframe. Each project was considered in turn and a number of projects were agreed to be moved to assessment stage.

- 4.11 An Assessment Panel has been set up to assess each of the Projects using the agreed Project Prioritisation Toolkit. The Assessment Panel is an internal officer panel from a wide range of service areas set up specifically to assess strategic regeneration schemes.
- 4.12 The first meeting of the Assessment Panel took place on 3rd October where the Terms of Reference of the Group were discussed and agreed. The next Assessment Panel meeting will assess the projects that have been agreed to be progressed to assessment stage by the Project Board.
- 4.13 A flow chart has been prepared that indicated the decision making process which results in a number of priority schemes being scrutinised by Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee on a 6 month basis prior to final decision by Cabinet. This will result in a pipeline of prioritised projects that will be the focus of the Council's initial regeneration priorities in the short to medium term.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 This report potentially contributes to all seven wellbeing goals as set out in the Links to Strategy section above. These include:-
- A globally responsible Wales
 - A prosperous Wales
 - A resilient Wales
 - A healthier Wales
 - A more equal Wales
 - A Wales of cohesive communities
 - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no specific equalities implications associated with this report for any specific groups or individuals therefore a full equalities impact assessment has not been carried out.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 As stated above an initial project development fund of £300,000 has been approved and will allow a project team of officers to develop projects ready for implementation once funding becomes available.
- 7.2 The appropriateness/sufficiency of this fund will be kept under review over the coming months as the development of projects progress.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

9. CONSULTATION

- 9.1 The report reflects the views of the listed consultees.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 To update the Scrutiny Committee on the work of the Regeneration Project Board.

12. STATUTORY POWERS

12.1 This is a Cabinet function. The setting up of the Regeneration Board was agreed by Cabinet in May 2018.

Author: Mark S. Williams, Interim Corporate Director Communities
Consultees: Councillor Sean Morgan, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure, Sustainability & Wellbeing of Future Generations Champion
Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration and Planning

Background Papers:
Report to Cabinet 11/04/2018 – Future Regeneration Projects – Use of Directorate Reserve for Project Development Funding.
Report to Cabinet 30/05/2018 – Future Regeneration Projects – New Project Governance Arrangements.