



CABINET - 13TH FEBRUARY 2019

SUBJECT: REGENERATION BOARD UPDATE

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with an update on the work of the newly constituted Regeneration Project Board.
- 1.2 To recommended an initial list of priority schemes for Development Funding to Cabinet.

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. The Board is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure, and Sustainability & Well Being of Future Generations Champion.
- 2.3 The Project Assessment Panel met on the 3rd October and agreed the Membership and Terms of Conditions of the Panel. The first formal Assessment Panel was held in January 2019 where they considered the first suite of projects which have been identified by the Board to move to Assessment Stage.
- 2.4 This report sets out the progress that the Regeneration Project Board has made as at January 2019 and seeks agreement for the initial project list to be funded through the Regeneration Board Development Fund.

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 2018-2023 (Approved July 2018) 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.

3.3 The Caerphilly Basin Masterplan (Approved July 2018) is the first of a number of area-specific strategies that identify projects that will help deliver on the Aims and Objectives set out within A Foundation for Success 2018-2023

4. THE REPORT

4.1 Considerable work has been undertaken over the last nine 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 (the Board) was held. The 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 the Board to prioritise projects and this was subsequently agreed by Council on 17th July 2018 as part of the Council's consideration of A Foundation for Success 2018-2023.

4.6 At its June meeting the Board had a detailed discussion concerning the Council's priorities for the Welsh Government 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 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. However it is firmly the view of the Board that this level of funding is insufficient and that further funds need to be allocated to the Development Fund.
- 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 CCPL 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); or Large (greater than £5m); and the anticipated delivery timeframe. Each project was considered in turn and the Board identified a number of projects to be moved to formal assessment stage for 2019/2020.
- 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 2018 where the Terms of Reference of the Group were discussed and agreed. A series of meetings were then held in December 2018 and January 2019 to assess the projects that were progressed to assessment stage by the Board at their Meeting on 23rd October 2018 as follows:
- T1 Ystrad Mynach Park & Ride;
 - T5 Llanbradach Park & Ride;
 - T6 Caerphilly Interchange;
 - Gen 19 Oakdale Business Park;
 - Gen22 Cwmcarn Forest Drive;
 - Gen23 Park Lane, Caerphilly;
 - Gen24 Pentrebane Street, Caerphilly.
- 4.13 The Caerphilly Interchange has secured £180k of development funding already and therefore at this stage there is no call on the Board’s Development Fund for this project. A project group has been set up for this project comprising CCBC/Welsh Government and Transport for Wales Officers to progress the feasibility work.
- 4.14 A number of other projects are already in development either by the Council or in partnership with the Private Sector and /or Welsh Government and therefore these are not required to move to Assessment e.g. The Lawns, Rhymney; Ty Du, Nelson; Caerphilly Business Park; Penallta Colliery; Monmouthshire and Brecon Adventure Triangle; Longbridge Baths; Brooklands Risca. However officers will work closely with the relevant partners and provide any necessary additional support/intervention to ensure that these important projects are realised.
- 4.15 Further to assessment of projects in December 2018 and January 2019, an initial list of priority schemes is now recommended to Cabinet for Development Funding as follows:

Development Funding Tranche 1 – Total £290,000

T5 Llanbradach Park & Ride

TOTAL PROJECT COST ESTIMATE (£): £300,000 budget required for feasibility works.
£150,000 is being requested to act as match to Local Transport Funding.

Gen23 Park Lane, Caerphilly

TOTAL PROJECT COST ESTIMATE (£): **£10million. £40,000 is being requested to act as match to TRI grant for purchase of No. 25 Cardiff Rd.**

Gen 19 Oakdale Business Park

TOTAL PROJECT COST ESTIMATE (£): Unknown. **£100,000 is being requested to undertake feasibility work.** In the short term this will not lever in external match funding towards feasibility, however it will provide a budget to allow the Council to work up costed proposals that can then be used to target external funding mechanisms to unlock private sector investment which is anticipated to run into millions of pounds.

(The RPB Assessment Panel – Project Information Forms for the Tranche 1 projects are attached at Appendix 1).

Development Funding Tranche 2 – Residual £15,000 (Awaiting assessment)

- T1 Ystrad Mynach P& R
- Gen22 a Cwmcarn
- Gen24 Pentrebane Street

4.16 If agreed, 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. The pipeline of projects will be reported to Cabinet on a six monthly basis and be updated accordingly as schemes progress.

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 If approved, the Tranche 1 projects would utilise £290,000 of the £300,000 Development Fund leaving £10,000 for Tranche 2.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

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

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 All consultation responses are reflected in the report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That Cabinet agree that £290,000 of the Regeneration Project Board Development Fund of £300,000 be allocated to the Tranche 1 Priority schemes identified by the Regeneration Project Board as outlined in paragraph 4.15 above.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 To progress feasibility works in respect of those priority regeneration schemes identified by the Regeneration Project Board.

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
Local Government Acts.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1: RPB Assessment Panel – Project Information Forms for the Tranche 1 projects