



CABINET – 11TH NOVEMBER 2020

SUBJECT: REGENERATION BOARD – PROJECT PROPOSALS

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend the allocation of up to £509.7k Regeneration Project Board Development Funds towards a number of recently endorsed and evaluated projects, within the County Borough.
- 1.1 To seek approval for a streamlined approval process for the Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Thematic Grants Programme and the re-purpose of previously agreed funds for Oakdale Business Park Plateau 2 & 4 towards Council owned land at Caerphilly Business Park.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 At the 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. This group is supported by a Regeneration Assessment Panel consisting of officers from a range of service areas.
- 2.2 The Regeneration Assessment Panel have met on numerous occasions to consider the prioritised list of capital projects, which have been identified by the Board to move to the Assessment Stage. Following subsequent Cabinet Approvals, since February 2019 numerous projects have been endorsed with financial assistance provided (where necessary) from the Regeneration Project Board Development Funds.
- 2.3 During January 2019 Cabinet resolved to release £1.2m of reserves for the Regeneration Board prioritised projects, bringing the Total Development Fund budget allocation to £1.5m. To date, £882,500 has been allocated towards prioritised capital regeneration schemes, across the County Borough.
- 2.4 This report seeks Cabinet approval for the allocation of a further **£509.7k** Development Funds towards a number of prioritised projects, namely:
 - WG TRI Town Centre Covid-19 Response;
 - WG TRI Bid – Caerphilly Place Making Plan;
 - Oakdale Business Park – Plateau 1;
 - Caerphilly Workmen’s Hall & Institute;

- Cwm Ifor Solar Farm.

2.5 The above request would leave an active Development Fund of **£107,800**.

2.6 The report further seeks Cabinet endorsement for a streamlined approval process associated with the Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Thematic Grants Programme and the use of previously agreed funds for Oakdale Business Park Plateau 2 & 4 towards Council owned land at Caerphilly Business Park.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That Cabinet:

- i) Endorse the recommendations of the Regeneration Project Board towards the review of and development of the projects listed within this report.
- ii) Agree that **£509,700** of the residual Regeneration Project Board Development Fund of £617,500 be allocated to these priority schemes, as approved by the Regeneration Project Board.
- iii) Agree a streamlined approval process for the Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Thematic Grants Programme and the re-purpose of previously agreed funds for Oakdale Business Park Plateau 2 & 4 towards Council owned land at Caerphilly Business Park.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 To progress feasibility, development and delivery stage works in respect of those priority regeneration schemes identified by the Regeneration Project Board.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 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.

5.2 At the subsequent June 2018 Board meeting a Project Prioritisation Toolkit was approved for the Board to prioritise projects and this was subsequently agreed by Council on 17th July 2018. An Assessment Panel has been set up to assess each of the projects using this toolkit. The Assessment Panel is an internal Officer panel from a wide range of Service Areas set up specifically to assess prioritised strategic physical regeneration schemes.

5.3 The Assessment Panel has met several times to consider a list of previously prioritised capital projects. These, for the most part, have been evaluated and considered by the Regeneration Project Board before being presented to Cabinet for endorsement and funding (where required) from the available Development Funds.

5.4 Additional funding has been secured to enhance and supplement the Regeneration Project Board Development Fund. On the 30th January 2019 Cabinet resolved to release £1.2m of reserves for Regeneration Board Projects bringing the Total Development Fund budget allocation to **£1.5m**. This has allowed additional projects to be considered for development support, prioritisation and funding. It is estimated that

the investment made to date by Cabinet through the development fund will potentially leverage circa **£98m** investment into the county borough.

- 5.5 Those that have currently been assessed by the Panel and considered by the Regeneration Project Board, and subsequently Cabinet are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Schemes with an Agreed Funding Allocation:

Capital Project	Tranche	Agreed Funding Allocation
Llanbradach Park & Ride	1	£150,000
Caerphilly Interchange	1	£0
Oakdale Business Park	1	£100,000
Park Lane, Caerphilly	1	£40,000
	Sub Total	£290,000
Ystrad Mynach Park & Ride	2	£0
Cwmcarn Forest Drive	2	£75,000
Pentrebane Street, Caerphilly	2	£37,500*
	Sub Total	£112,500
Masterplan for Public Sector Land in Ystrad Mynach	3	£0 (£30K requested but project deferred)
Ty Du, Nelson (design of additional)	3	£40,000
Penallta Colliery - Former Powerhall Building	3	£0 (£20K requested but project deferred)
Coach Facilities – Caerphilly Town Centre/Castle	3	£50,000
	Sub Total	£90,000
Llanbradach Park and Ride revisit	4 (Tran 1 revisited)	£200,000
Ystrad Mynach Park and Ride	4 (Tran 2 revisited)	£170,000
	Sub Total	£370,000
TRI Thematic (Urban Centre Property/Living Environment grant programme)	5	£20,000**
Cwm Ifor Solar Farm request	5	£0 (£30K requested but funds taken from Council Reserves)
Grand Total Allocated		£882,500
Regen Project Board Development Funds		£1,500,000
<i>Residual Balance</i>		<i>£617,500</i>

* As per recommendation (iv) of the Exempt Report considered by Cabinet on the 2nd October 2019, a budget allocation of £37,500 towards this prioritised project was endorsed.

** As per recommendation (iii) of the Cabinet Report considered by Cabinet on the 29th January 2020, a budget allocation of £20,000 towards this project activity was endorsed.

- 5.6 During August 2020 a further five projects (Tranche 6) were evaluated by the Regeneration Assessment Panel. The five schemes were subsequently re-considered by the Regeneration Project Board on 15th September 2020. These projects are as follows:
- WG TRI Town Centre Covid-19 Response;
 - WG TRI Bid – Caerphilly Place Making Plan;
 - Oakdale Business Park – Plateau 1;
 - Caerphilly Workmen’s Hall & Institute; and
 - Cwm Ifor Solar Farm
- 5.7 A summary of each project and the Regeneration Project Board’s recommendations are set out below.
- 5.8 **(A) WG TRI Town Centre Covid-19 Response:**
- Total Project Cost Estimate (£): circa £1.179m. (Total TRI request @ 80% = £942,800 & Total Match [CCBC & Private Sector] = £235,700)
 - Regeneration Project Board Development Funds (Secured): £0
 - Current Request for funding from the Development Fund (£): up to **£142,700**
- 5.9 On the 11th June Welsh Government (WG) announced an urgent and immediate response to address the issues faced in town centres as a result of Covid-19. WG proposed that the current regional TRI Thematic programme, which has an allocation of £10m, be revised to allow the re-purposing of grant in order to aid the economic recovery of town centres.
- 5.10 Caerphilly CBC worked with Partner authorities to establish a SE Wales response, which was submitted to WG via the Lead Authority (RCT County Borough Council) on 19th June 2020.
- 5.11 The projects identified by CCBC for submission under the TRI (Thematic) Covid-19 Response funding were as follows:

Table 2: CCBC TRI Thematic Covid-19 Response Submission:

Project Activity	Anticipated Total Project Cost	TRI Grant Request (@ max 80%)	Match Funding (@ 20%)
Grants Programme (to allow changes to properties to aid social distancing & circulation rules etc)	£250K	£200K	£50K*
Outdoor Landscape enhancements (parklets, communal areas, planters etc)	£187.5K	£150K	£37.5K
Electric pop-up boxes in Town Centres to assist with outdoor events	£70K	£56K	£14K
Introduction of free public Wi-Fi in Town Centres	£206K	£164.8K	£41.2K
Replace coin only operated Pay & Display (P&D) machines in Town Centre car parks with	£215K	£172K	£43K**

mains powered P&D machines, enabled for contactless/card payments			
Introduction of experimental Traffic Order restrictions	£250K	£200K	£50K
TOTALS	£1,178,500	£942,800	£235,700

**the grants programme would see the required match of £50K coming from the private sector business owners.*

***the introduction of the contactless P&D machines would see match of £43K coming from existing transport budgets.*

****the introduction of experimental traffic orders (see consultation process at Appendix 1) associated with Parklets.*

5.12 The above schemes complement the focus on the main CCBC Town Centres and looks to add value where it can to the recently approved “Local Sustainable Transport COVID-19 Response” allocation.

5.13 The TRI (Thematic) Covid Response programme is to be delivered at a maximum intervention rate of 80%. This requires match funding of 20% to be established. As indicated above the proposed grants programme match would be derived from private sector businesses, with the match required for the P&D machines from CCBC Transport budgets. The remainder, which could equate to up to **£142,700**, has been requested from the Regeneration Project Board’s residual Development Fund budget.

5.14 **RPB Decision: Project Approved. It was agreed that up to £142,700 be allocated towards the project.**

5.15 **(B) WG TRI Bid – Caerphilly Place Making Plan:**

- Total Project Cost Estimate (£): £602,500
- Regeneration Project Board Development Funds (Secured): £0
- Current Request for funding from the Development Fund (£): **£126,000**

5.16 The Caerphilly Town Centre Place Making Plan identifies a clear set of projects within a 15-year period that can be progressed and implemented over the short, medium and long term to guide growth and help make Caerphilly an attractive place to live, work and invest. It develops the vision of the Council Approved (July 2018) Caerphilly Basin Masterplan to establish Caerphilly as a tourist destination, a thriving and vibrant town for the residents and people that it serves and a strategic hub in the Cardiff Capital Region.

5.17 The purpose of the Place Making Plan is to provide Caerphilly CBC with an integrated framework for the strategic redevelopment of Caerphilly town centre. The Plan does this by identifying a series of core ambitions for the town, key intervention areas and a series of projects that provide a ‘blueprint’ for making Caerphilly a diverse and successful town.

- 5.18 There are several projects within the programme of works that will help rejuvenate and sustain Caerphilly town centre, grow the local economy, increase job opportunities and provide for urban living, with the renewal of key sites across the town and the redevelopment of the Transport Interchange acting as the catalyst for change.
- 5.19 However, in order to fully achieve these projects a substantial and diverse co-financing package will be required as they will need a multi-million pound and long-term intervention in the town, which will lever in significant private sector investment.
- 5.20 Welsh Government funding is one source, which has recently been sought and awarded. Such funding will specifically be used to facilitate the early stage development/feasibility of:

Project Activity 1:

- The Headquarters Building (Primary Focus)
- The Commercial Viability of the Town Centre (Supplementary Focus)
- The Public Realm; including its connection with the Transport Interchange (Supplementary Focus)

Project Activity 2:

- The Acquisition & Demolition of Lansbury Park GP Surgery (Primary Focus)

- 5.21 The funding breakdown for these activities are outlined in table 3:

Table 3: WG TRI Bid - CPM Plan Project Cost Estimate:

ACTIVITY	COST ESTIMATE	
Project Activity 1	£420,000	
Project Activity 2	£182,500	
TOTAL	£602,500	
FUNDING	AMOUNT	STATUS
CCBC Match @ 30%	£126,000	Request made to CCBC Regen Project Board
HRA Match	£54,750	Secured
WG TRI @ 70%	£421,750	Basis of bid submitted 5 th Aug 2020. Award letter received 9.10.20

- 5.22 As indicated in the table above **£126K** is the match required towards the project and this sum has been requested from the Regeneration Project Board's residual Development Fund budget to help take this project forward.

- 5.23 **RPB Decision: Project Approved. It was agreed that the requested £126,000 be allocated towards the project.**

5.24 **(C) Oakdale Business Park – Plateau 1:**

- Total Project Cost Estimate (£): approx. £85,000 (Current proposal)
- Regeneration Project Board Development Funds (Secured): £100,000 (Plateau 2 & 4)

- Current Request for funding from the Development Fund (£): approx. **£85,000**
- 5.25 Oakdale Business Park is the largest employment site in the County Borough, occupying 162 ha of land. The former Colliery site has been transformed into a high quality, prestigious business park served by a strategic highway and transportation corridor on the eastern fringes of the County Borough.
- 5.26 The entire site has been re-contoured into 4 development plateaux comprising 170 acres (69 ha). The whole of Oakdale Business Park (with the exception of Plateau 3) is allocated for B1, B2 and B8 use classes in the Local Development Plan (Policy EM1 / EM2) with outline planning permission granted for the development of these uses.
- 5.27 Oakdale Plateau 1 is approximately 30ha in size, with commanding views across the Sirhowy Valley. Part of the site has already been developed by IG Doors and partial enabling highways infrastructure, with approximately 19ha remaining for further development.
- 5.28 The Council are currently working with the Welsh Government's Department of Economy and Infrastructure through a Collaborative Agreement to allow WG to acquire the remaining CCBC owned land at Plateau 1. This has prior Cabinet approval.
- 5.29 Upon acquisition, WG will provide the necessary investment, estimated at £3M, in order to bring the site forward for development. The development project (comprising site investigation, design, highways and service infrastructure works) will be undertaken in a phased manner.
- 5.30 In order for WG to formally acquire the remainder of the land at Plateau 1 certain restrictions need to be removed, which were imposed when part of the site was originally sold. The current occupiers of the site are willing to consider lifting these restrictions through a 'deed of variation' if the Council agree to their claim for payback regarding the retention sum held by the Council on their original development. The cost of which is estimated to be up to £85K, accounting for inflation and associated Legal fees, though discussions remain ongoing.
- 5.31 The approximate sum has therefore been requested from the Regeneration Project Board's residual Development Fund budget, facilitating WG's planned investment and the future development of the Plateau and Business Park.
- 5.32 **RPB Decision: Project Approved. It was agreed that the requested £85,000 be allocated towards the project.**
- 5.33 **(D) Caerphilly Workmen's Hall & Institute:**
- Total Project Cost Estimate (£): £360,000 (Phase 1 works)
 - Regeneration Project Board Development Funds (Secured): £0
 - Current Request for funding from the Development Fund (£): **£110,000**
- 5.34 Run by a small but committed group of dedicated volunteers, Caerphilly Workmen's Hall & Institute (CWMHI) is a historic and culturally important community arts and entertainment venue in the heart of Caerphilly Town Centre.

- 5.35 The building is situated in a prime location, directly facing Caerphilly Castle and currently host to a wide range of community events and facilities including:
- Meeting/training rooms;
 - Gymnasium;
 - Community Theatre events;
 - Well maintained main auditorium (400 seats).
- 5.36 However, investment is needed to upgrade and refurbish the listed building's external fabric and internal facilities. Many areas, including the main roof, need urgent attention to prevent this historic landmark falling into a state of disrepair, to the detriment of the community and the built fabric/historic character of Caerphilly Town. CWMHI has huge potential to increase and expand its current offer to capitalise on its history & unique location and consolidate its position as a landmark community and event hub within the heart of Caerphilly.
- 5.37 A "Phase 1" package of essential refurbishment works is planned, which will help address several critical issues and ensure that the building remains operational and viable, providing a strong foundation for further phases of restoration/enhancement work. The current Phase would include the following critical items:
- Renovation of the main roof;
 - Enhancements to the external façade;
 - Access improvements;
 - Upgrading of power supply.
- 5.38 Officers from the Council's Regeneration and Planning Service are supporting CWMHI with their plans to renovate the building. In this respect various funding options are being considered, including an application to the WG funded and Council administered Targeted Regeneration Thematic Grants Programme "The Urban Centre Fund" (UCF). The UCF is designed to support under-utilised or vacant Town Centre properties across SE Wales and offers a grant intervention rate of 70%, up to a maximum of £250,000 to carry out essential property enhancement works.
- 5.39 To progress an application to the UCF in this financial year, CWMHI is required to identify the balance of match funding. Based on a Phase 1 cost estimate of £360K and an indicative grant award of £250,000, this would be circa **£110,000**. This sum has therefore been requested from the Regeneration Project Board's residual Development Fund budget to help deliver the essential Phase 1 works.
- 5.40 With assistance from the Council's Regeneration Project Board progress towards a fully refurbished CWMHI can progress in earnest. Once complete the building will significantly contribute to the expansion of the night-time economy in Caerphilly, with upgraded facilities including regular Cinema clubs, theatre productions, training rooms, conference facilities.
- 5.41 **RPB Decision: Project Approved. It was agreed that the requested £110,000 be allocated towards the project.**
- 5.42 **(E) Cwm Ifor Solar Farm:**
- Total Project Cost Estimate (£): £46,000 (Current Proposal)
 - Regeneration Project Board Development Funds (Secured): £0

- Current Request for funding from the Development Fund (£): **£46,000**
- 5.43 The Council declared a Climate Emergency on 4th June 2019 and is developing a Decarbonisation Strategy and Prospectus which will outline several commercial opportunities. The Council have also adopted a longer-term transformation strategy that seeks to explore potential commercial/investment opportunities and has committed to finding ways of supporting both these strategic aims.
- 5.44 During April 2020 Cabinet approval was received, following Regeneration Assessment Panel and Board agreement, to purchase the novation agreement for a grid connection at Cwm Ifor for a potential 20MW solar farm.
- 5.45 The Utility Provider, Western Power, has recently confirmed that the Council will need to submit a planning application by 2021 to stay within the milestones agreed as part of the connection offer. Given the size of the scheme, (above 10MW) the planning application will not be determined by the Local Planning Authority but the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of Welsh Government.
- 5.46 Currently the project is in the feasibility phase, with the aspiration to move to Outline Business Case (OBC) to meet with the 2021 Planning deadline. The OBC will help determine and provide the evidence base for the Council to decide whether to proceed with the development and which options are preferred. Should a solar farm scheme not progress then the grid connection can be sold on to third parties or sold back to Western Power.
- 5.47 In order to have robust evidence to complete the OBC, professional external advice and reports are required as well as some Project Officer capacity. Cost estimates have therefore been acquired for this work, which have indicated four main areas of expenditure to the tune of circa £46K, as identified below:
- Land Negotiations: £6,000 to cover associated conveyancing fees;
 - Surveys and Reports: £20,185 for a suite of detailed surveys to determine the best option and suitability for the site development;
 - Technical professional advice: £2,500;
 - Project Officer (6 months post): circa £17,000. Dedicated resource to help pull the evidence together in a coherent OBC.
- 5.48 The request for up to £46k has been made to the Regeneration Project Board to facilitate this work and the OBC will include the following key activities:
- Grid Connection Costs, to be confirmed with WPD and milestones for the project;
 - Decision to prepare and submit planning application, with input from HV specialist for the design;
 - Decision to procure the facility, with proposed procurement route identified and timescales;
 - Financial modelling, to include accurate assumptions on land costs, development and construction costs, carbon accounting and funding streams;
 - Identification of Project Team and allocation of resources and budget for the whole project to take the scheme towards Final Business Case and beyond.
- 5.49 **RPB Decision: Project Approved. It was agreed that the requested £46,000 be allocated towards the project.**
- 5.50 In addition to the above and as indicated in Section 5.41 the Council's Regeneration & Planning Division are also delivering the TRI Thematic Grants Programme, known as the Urban Centre Fund. Cabinet have previously agreed that the Regeneration Project

Board have delegated powers to make decisions on grant awards of up to £250k under this programme. A streamlined approval process was proposed and agreed during the Project Board meeting on the 15th September 2020, subject to Cabinet approval.

- 5.51 The more responsive process discussed was one via electronic means, whereby Board Members decisions for grants over £50K would be requested and provided principally through email, with a turnaround for Members of 5 working days from receiving the Grant Report. The process agreed was as follows:
- Applications assessed in line with WG scheme guidance (contribution to TRI outputs)
 - Grant Approval Report with funding recommendations drafted by Case Officer
 - Report authorised by Regeneration Services Manager
 - Corporate Finance review of financial supporting information (maximum 5 working day turn around)
 - Report disseminated to Regeneration Project Board by Regeneration Services Manager by e-mail for decision in 5 working days
 - Decision made by Regeneration Project Board
 - Legal Services informed should registered restriction/legal charge on property apply
 - Decision posted on Intranet Information Items
 - Regular reports produced for Board on successful projects.
- 5.52 Additionally, it was agreed that delegated powers, for approvals under £50k, be given to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise (*and Chair of the Regeneration Project Board*), appropriate Head of Service and Finance Officer. This process will enable efficiency of approval and award of the grants programme and delivery of enhancements on the ground.
- 5.53 Furthermore, the allocation of funds towards an approved Tranche 1 project (Oakdale Business Park) was discussed and agreed to be re-purposed, subject to Cabinet approval. As indicated in Table 1, £100k was originally allocated toward a work package principally concerning Oakdale Plateau 2 & 4. However, as there is now an active interest in the whole of Plateau 4 it was agreed that this sum assigned to this part of the project could be used to progress design/development aspirations at Plateau 2 only and a parcel of Council owned land at Caerphilly Business Park.

Conclusion

- 5.54 At the behest of the Regeneration Project Board a further five projects (Tranche 6) were taken forward for assessment by the established Officer Assessment Panel. As outlined above upon review and subsequent feedback to the Board on the 15th September 2020 all funding requests totalling £509.7K were approved by the Board, subject to Cabinet agreement.
- 5.55 The Board further discussed and agreed a more streamlined approval process for the Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Thematic Grants Programme and the re-purpose of previously agreed funds for Oakdale Business Park Plateau 2 & 4 towards Council owned land at Caerphilly Business Park.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 This report assumes that the identified projects, once supported by Cabinet, will be developed further and where applicable implemented, with assistance from appropriate sourced and secured external funding.

7. **LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES**

Corporate Plan (2018-2023):

- 7.1 The report recommendations contribute towards or impacts predominantly on the following Corporate Well-being Objectives:

Objective 2 - Enabling employment.

Objective 5 - Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Well-being Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Objective 6 - Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being.

Regeneration Strategy - A Foundation for Success (2018 – 2023):

- 7.2 The work of the Regeneration Project Board supports and contributes toward the implementation of the four key strategic themes of the above named strategy, Supporting People, Supporting Business, Supporting Quality of Life and Connecting People & Places.
- 7.3 The proposals further contribute towards several key priorities of the Council's Regeneration Strategy - A Foundation for Success:

Priority SP1: Increasing employability

Priority SP3: Reducing worklessness

Priority SP7: Ensure a clear co-ordinated 'package of services' is available in order to reconnect people to employment.

Priority SB1: Building a more resilient and diversified economy

Priority SB2: Supporting economic growth and innovation

Priority SB3: Creating an environment that nurtures business

Priority SB4: Key sites and infrastructure for employment opportunities

Priority SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts

Priority SQL3: Active place making

Priority SQL4: Maximise the tourism potential of the County Borough to become an established tourism destination

Priority SQL7: Refocus on town centres to serve the needs of residents and business

Priority CPP1: Promote and identify major highway projects that would significantly improve connectivity

Priority CPP2: Promote public transport integration and connectivity

Priority CPP3: Promote place-making development around key transport hubs and nodes

Priority CPP6: Promote digital connectivity

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

8.1 The work of the Regeneration Project Board will contribute towards significant levels of community regeneration and infrastructure development which will help to create an environment that we all want to live in, now and in the future. This report therefore potentially contributes to all seven wellbeing goals:

- 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

8.2 The report recommendations are consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act. The five ways of working of the sustainable development principle, listed in the Act are:

- Long Term – The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability of future generations to meet their long-term needs;
- Prevention - How acting to prevent problems occurring, or getting worse, may help public bodies meet their objectives;
- Integration – Considering how the public body’s well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies;
- Collaboration – Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives;
- Involvement – The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 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.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 An overall project development fund of £1.5m has been previously approved to allow a project team of officers to develop projects ready for implementation when funding becomes available.

10.2 As shown in Section 5.5 above Development Funds of £882,500 have previously been approved and allocated to Tranche 1 – 5 projects. Leaving a residual balance of £617,500 from the total budget allocation.

10.3 The Total request for the five assessed projects is **£509,700**.

10.4 The above request would bring the Total Regeneration Board budget allocation up to £1,392,200 leaving an ‘active’ Development Fund of **£107,800**.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There will be a requirement for Officers from Regeneration & Planning, Transportation & Infrastructure, Corporate Policy, Housing and Corporate Services Divisions within the Authority to dedicate human resources to the project activities outlined in order to progress them, the level of which depends on the status of each project. Otherwise, there are no personnel implications arising from this report.

12. CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 All consultation responses are reflected in the report.

13. STATUTORY POWER

- 13.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

- 13.2 Local Government Acts.

- 13.3 Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Author: Ryland Llewellyn, Principal Regeneration Projects Officer

Consultees: Cllr Sean Morgan, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise (*and Chair of the Regeneration Project Board*)
Cllr Whitcombe, Chairperson, Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Cllr Christine Forehead, Vice Chairperson, Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Mark S. Williams, Interim Corporate Director Communities
Stephen Harris, Head of Corporate Finance/Section 151 Officer.
Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration and Planning
Marcus Lloyd, Head of Infrastructure
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer
Allan Dallimore, Regeneration Services Manager
Jane Roberts-Waite, Strategic Co-ordination Manager
Clive Campbell, Transportation Engineering Manager
Paul Hudson, Business, Enterprise & Renewal Team Manager
Glenn Cooper, Regeneration Projects Officer
Graham Middleton, Regeneration Projects Officer
Tim Broadhurst, Estates Manager
Victoria Camp, Transformation Manager
Local Ward Members (Bargoed, Blackwood, Newbridge, Penmaen, Penyrheol, Risca West, St Martins, St James & Ystrad Mynach)

Background Papers:

None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Process for Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders

Appendix 1

Process for Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders

Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (ETROs) can be used to enable the success or failure of a scheme to be assessed before a decision is taken on installing permanent measures.

An ETRO can only stay in force for a maximum of 18 months while the effects are monitored and assessed.

It is not possible to lodge a formal objection to an ETRO until it is in force. Once it is in force, objections may be made to the order being made permanent – objections must be made within six months of the day that the ETRO comes into force.

If feedback or an objection is received during the period that suggests an immediate change to the experiment is required, that change can be made and the experiment can then continue.

If the experimental order is changed, then objections may be made within six months of the day that the experimental order is changed.

ETROs have to follow a legal procedure which is set out in the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

The process used by Caerphilly County Borough Council is as follows:

1. Cabinet Member Consultation – Initial consultation with Cabinet Member to seek his / her support and obtain steer on whether CMT / PDM engagement is required. If scheme is deemed to be controversial / high impact Cabinet Member should engage with CMT / PDM prior to any further consultations being carried out.
2. Member Consultation - Initial consultation with local members Member to seek their support. Any changes requested can be considered before proceeding further.
3. Statutory Consultation - Statutory consultation with emergency services, Community and Town Councils and other affected statutory bodies. Again, any changes requested can be considered before proceeding further. Significant changes would require restarting the process.
4. Public Advertisement -The proposed Order is publicly advertised in the local press a minimum of 7 days in advance of the measures being introduced. Notices are also posted on the street and made available online. Affected properties would also be consulted by a letter drop giving details and a plan of the proposals, and information relating to how to object or obtain further information. Any objections received will be formally acknowledged by Legal Services. Objections are considered during the first 6 months following implementation. The ETRO allows any changes to be made to improve or

amend the scheme during the course of the first 6 months. The restrictions may also be removed and the scheme cancelled if necessary.

5. Formal Consideration of Objections – All objections received must be fully considered. Following the initial 6 months period, a summary of objections along with officers' recommendations is prepared and sent to the local members and the cabinet member to seek their views.
6. Delegated Decision Report – an information report is prepared to inform members of the decision to uphold or overrule any objections and the decision taken by the Head of Infrastructure on whether to proceed to make the Order permanent or revoke. This is placed on the Intranet and sent to local Members allowing the opportunity for call-in.
7. Making the Order - When approval has been granted, the Order is then legally signed and sealed a maximum of 18 months following its implementation. The 'Made' Order is then re-advertised and six weeks are given to challenge it in the High Court on procedural grounds. All objectors are provided with a copy of the Delegated Decision Report in response to their objection.