

VTF Action	Expected VTF outcome	CCBC Action	Partners
Strategic hubs and maximising the economic impact of the A465			
To monitor the progress and consider future funding proposals for the seven Strategic Hubs.	The strategic hubs will act as a focus for job creation by attracting private sector investment, allowing existing businesses to grow and promoting business start-ups. This will include realising economic regeneration opportunities through housing delivery and public service provision, while increasing connectivity through the South Wales Metro	<p>A Placemaking Plan for Caerphilly Town has been prepared in partnership with VTF/WG and TFW and key stakeholders to target appropriate regional investment opportunities (Metro Plus, HQ building, Caerphilly Castle Leisure Quarter, Park Lane Hotel, Ness Tar Redevelopment etc) to achieve maximum impact and take forward the next phases of physical regeneration and place making.</p> <p>Our strategic hub at Caerphilly will act as a focus for job creation by attracting private sector investment, allowing existing businesses to grow and promoting business start-ups through (in part) the Regional Business Hub at Welsh Ice. This will include realising economic regeneration opportunities through housing delivery and public service provision, while increasing connectivity through the South Wales Metro.</p> <p>Multi-disciplinary project teams have been set up to drive the Placemaking proposals forward in consultation with members and local stakeholders. Stakeholder engagement will resume as soon as it is safe to do so.</p> <p>As part of the Targeted Regeneration Investment programme, two thematic intervention schemes (the Urban Centre Property Enhancement Fund and the Urban Centre Living Grant) are progressing well, with a good pipeline of projects in place. This will improve commercial properties in our Caerphilly town and</p>	Transport for Wales (TFW), Welsh Government (WG), Valleys Taskforce (VTF) Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, Private Sector.

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		<p>enable the conversion of vacant properties back into beneficial use. The Taskforce have enabled the TRI programme to be utilised in other Principal towns, specifically Ystrad Mynach, Bargoed, Risca and Blackwood.</p> <p>Alongside the work on developing the Strategic Hubs, Welsh Government officials have been working with local authorities, academia and the Cardiff City Deal to develop proposals for maximising the benefits of the A465 and developing the Heads of the Valleys into a growth corridor.</p> <p>The A465, or Heads of the Valleys road, is one of the key east-west strategic links in Wales. It forms part of the Trans-European Road Network and is an international gateway for the South Wales economy. The improvements being made to the road are critical to the social and economic regeneration of the Heads of the Valleys area which, when finished, will deliver a continuous dual carriageway from the M4 along the A465 to the midlands and beyond.</p> <p>Following on from the work undertaken by the University of South Wales the Taskforce has brought together key stakeholders to progress a strategy for the A465 corridor.</p>	
Provide advice and guidance to businesses in the	Increased resource efficiency and associated cost	Tech Valleys - WG are currently running a Pilot with Blaenau Gwent called the 'Tech Valleys Productivity Enhancement Programme' targeted at SME's. Key focus being the heads of the	Business Wales, Blaenau Gwent, Private Sector

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Valleys taskforce area relating to the circular economy and innovation.	savings and new/protected jobs in businesses and the third sector	valley corridor and officers are working with WG to extend the pilot to the Upper Rhymney Valley. The programme is focussed on grounded manufacturing companies to help develop new technology, diversify customer base and develop new products, thus creating new productivity. Initially a company would have a 3-day free diagnostic of its business by one of WG's approved consultants, to identify potential new productions, improvements, processes, including investment in new technology. This would then lead to a small grant up to £25k, intervention rate of 30% De Minimis.	
Deliver a Heads of the Valleys economic strategy by Autumn 2020 identifying the range of national, strategic and local actions required to capitalise on the investment in the A465.	New supply chains will be developed and funding from infrastructure projects in the Valleys will be retained to create local quality jobs.	The Heads of the Valleys Masterplan has been prepared and been the subject of a wider public consultation exercise. It sets out the local actions required to capitalise on the investment in the A465 and will contribute to the wider economic strategy for the HOV area.	Welsh Government, Valleys Task Force, Public Service Board, Private Sector, Coleg y Cymoedd.
Work with Valleys Task Force to develop two new co-working hub pilots one of which would be in the Heads of the Valleys.	The co working hubs would be used by public, private and third sector employees to encourage new partnerships to	These flexible working spaces will be within walking or cycling distance of many people's homes, putting into practice the Town Centre First principle. 2 new hubs are currently being considered one in New Tredegar to serve the Heads of the Valleys and 1 in Ystrad Mynach.	Welsh Government, Valleys Taskforce, Public, private and third sector.

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	develop between industry, Welsh Government, local government and others		
Relocate more public sector jobs into the Valleys, including at the seven strategic hub locations, where appropriate in line with Welsh Government's Location Strategy.	Public sector bodies and departments will relocate to parts of the South Wales Valleys, helping to support the local economy and provide a basis to develop job opportunities locally.	<p>A site for a new HQ development has been identified as part of the Metro Plus proposals for Caerphilly Town.</p> <p>A proposed new mixed-use development is proposed for Pentrebanne Street comprising co work and living space within the heart of the town.</p>	<p>Transport for Wales</p> <p>Welsh Government</p> <p>Valleys Taskforce</p> <p>Cardiff Capital Region City Deal</p> <p>Linc Cymru</p> <p>Private Sector.</p>
Make more publicly owned land and property available in the Valleys for development	Public land will be maximised to offer economic development opportunities	<p>The Corporate Asset Management Strategy (2019) sets out the linkages between the Council priorities and the Corporate Asset Management Objectives. The enduring objective of the Corporate Asset Management Strategy is <i>"To secure reliable asset performance in order to enable safe and effective delivery of the Council's priorities."</i></p> <p>A range of projects are in development on Publicly owned land across the county borough, including (but not exhaustive):</p>	<p>Public Service Board</p> <p>Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, Welsh Government</p> <p>Registered Social Landlords, Private sector.</p>

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		<p>The Park Lane site in Caerphilly is being promoted for a quality hotel. The Council have invested upwards of £800,000 making the site clean and attractive for development.</p> <p>CCBC have submitted a successful TRI application for a mixture of grant and loan to purchase No 25 Cardiff Rd. The Council now own the building and this acquisition will make the site larger, more attractive and facilitate better access arrangement to the main site.</p> <p>Joint Venture with WG to develop Ty Du Nelson for an ambitious mixed- use Masterplan, comprising residential provision of up to 200 dwellings, including approximately 50 affordable homes, the development of 3.8ha (approx. 6,300 m²) of B1 Employment units, plus associated enabling highways infrastructure. A scheme to construct the enabling primary highways infrastructure for the site has recently been completed by Welsh Government and the employment units will commence construction in September 2020.</p> <p>Working with WG to transfer Oakdale Plateau to WG ownership. Upon acquisition of the residual Plateau One land WG will provide the necessary infrastructure, estimated at up to £3 million, in order to bring the site forward for development.</p> <p>On site works are now underway at one of Caerphilly County Borough Council's exciting new business developments, The Lawns Industrial Estate in Rhymney, just 2 miles south of the A465 Heads of The Valleys road.</p>	

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		<p>The site, which currently hosts several existing units, will welcome three new buildings of fifteen individual units, consisting of eight 50 sq. m units, four 75 sq. m units and three 98 sq. m units. It is anticipated that the units will be available for occupation by the end of 2020.</p> <p>The Council are working with Pobl to redevelop the former Civic Offices – Pontllanfraith to provide much needed local homes for local people. The scheme is proposed to be an exemplar garden suburb development incorporating: sound placemaking features, including best practice for sustainable drainage systems, integrated well designed open space and formal children’s play, comprehensive landscaping, active travel and high quality housing within a parkland setting: All respecting the presence of the listed war memorial. The development at Pontllanfraith will provide up to 125 new homes of which 66% (83 homes) are proposed to be of an affordable tenure.</p> <p>The Council are also working with Pobl and United Welsh to redevelop the former Windsor Colliery Site, Abertridwr to provide much needed local homes for local people. This scheme will also incorporate sound placemaking features, including best practice for sustainable drainage systems, integrated well designed open space and formal children’s play, comprehensive landscaping, active travel and high-quality housing the scheme details are still at a relatively early stage in the design process.</p>	

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		<p>Caerphilly Homes are currently in the process of identifying publicly owned land for future housing development throughout the county borough and several sites are in the process of being assessed to determine their suitability.</p> <p>Working with Welsh Government Energy Service, an audit of CCBC owned land assets has been conducted in order to prioritise a number of sites that can produce green energy through on shore wind or solar.</p>	
Foundational Economy			
Roll-out, support and monitor the Foundational Economy Challenge Fund3.	Raise the foundational economy's profile in the Valleys and stimulate debate and learning on what works	<p>Caerphilly Council in partnership with Welsh Ice ran the 2019 Caerphilly Hackathon to develop proposals for submission for the Foundational Economy Challenge Fund. The Fund offered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding of up to £100,000 to support the delivery of experimental projects. • Participation in a community of practice to strengthen existing networks and develop new networks. • Expert support through the developmental evaluation approach. <p>The winning proposal at the Hackathon was SWAPP: An Online portal in the form of an app. SWAPP forms a skill sharing community where users can trade their time and skills through time banking as opposed to exchanging money to create a community cohesion helping businesses, unemployed and the</p>	Valleys Task Force, Welsh Ice, Private Sector.

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		<p>elderly. This was one of four proposal successfully generated at the Hackathon which were submitted to the VTF for consideration three of which attracted £100,000.</p> <p>The Council's Head of Customer and Digital Services is chairing a Group at the request of Lee Waters MS, Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport to review the challenge fund projects specific to procurement. Although the three projects are not included within the Group's remit, this will help the Council raise the foundational economy profile and stimulate debate and learning on the foundational economy agenda.</p>	
<p>Spreading and scaling best practice by looking at social value within procurement. Using the methods of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act to help to make quick progress</p>	<p>Strengthening of local supply chains</p>	<p>The Council is committed to ensuring it achieves value for money from its third-party procurement expenditure, which is circa, £220 million per annum. It also recognises the value of using procurement to support its wider Cultural, Social, Economic and Environmental objectives, in ways that offer real long-term benefits to the community it serves and the people of Wales, whilst balancing the issues of value for money.</p> <p>The Council's Programme for Procurement is a living strategy, which is flexible, adaptable and alive to the changing environment; modular in nature so that it is easy to review and update annually in line with developments in the Procurement landscape. Our approach will be continuous improvement to bring about real change and to improve the lives of those who live and work within our borough.</p>	<p>PSB partners, Private sector.</p>

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		<p>Where appropriate the Council includes social benefit clauses within our contract terms and conditions. Furthermore, we have adapted procurement procedures to encourage quotations to be requested from SMEs and local businesses.</p> <p>The Council, where appropriate are utilising TOMs (Themes, Outcomes and Measures). This is framework for Social Value measurement and management aligned to the Well-being goals. The TOMs allows for the unlocking of Social Value through its integration into Procurement and ongoing contract management.</p> <p>Ongoing work with Public Service Boards to draw out best practice and learning.</p> <p>The Council are participating within Community Wealth Building through Progressive Procurement Project via the PSB Gwent Cluster. The Project is being funded by Welsh Government and is being led by The Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES). The Gwent Cluster includes Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen together with representatives of the anchor institutes.</p>	
Entrepreneurship and business support			
Develop and promote a thriving entrepreneurship culture in the	More effective, joined-up approaches to supporting	ICE/Caerphilly Business Park – Since opening in 2012 Welsh Ice has quickly flourished to become the largest community of co-working, start up and micro businesses in Wales, supporting over 300 businesses to develop and grow. It is currently home	Caerphilly Business Club, Big Ideas Wales, colleges and Universities; Welsh Government, Business in

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Valleys by connecting stakeholder partners to deliver 'easy to access' support to those people thinking about entrepreneurship.	entrepreneurs and businesses. People and businesses acting on entrepreneurial ambition and opportunity.	<p>to over 350 entrepreneurs. Ice have a 10-year Business Plan where they wish to grow their family. This is a major opportunity for business development in Caerphilly town centre. The project has several components comprising flexible business accommodation and employment units (office and workshop space). This links seamlessly with Business Wales and Big Ideas Wales in promoting entrepreneurship and supporting new business creation in the Valleys alongside local authorities, schools, colleges and Universities</p> <p>Delivered pre-start support via 5 to 9 Clubs via outreach satellites across other parts of the county Borough (Blackwood and New Tredegar) to stimulate ideas and encourage action leading to business starts. Promotion of flexible co-working space and 'wrap-around' business support from a range of sources and partners).</p> <p>Caerphilly Business Club has been relaunched in 2020 with a new Board, new Members and a new impetus. The criteria for partners are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A charity within the Caerphilly local authority; • A business that provides a service and/or function for the Caerphilly Business Club e.g. Board Member, IT Supplier; • Employer representative organisation in Wales with members in Caerphilly e.g. FSB, IOD, CBI; • An organisation who partners with CBC to collaborate in events, seminars and other activities; 	Focus, Welsh ICE, Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, Business Wales, Be The Spark, local partners, Wales Coop Centre, Superfast Broadband.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An organisation who provides support to enable CBC to function and serve the community. <p>Delivered a series of Business Breakfast events in collaboration with partners to support entrepreneurs and link them up with appropriate business support and business partners.</p> <p>The Taskforce worked with Hefin David MS and Dawn Bowden MS Business Wales, Caerphilly Council and other partners to pilot Local Business Surgeries in Bargoed and Rhymney.</p> <p>CCBC Business Start-up Grant</p> <p>This is a flexible grant scheme delivered through a partnership with UK Steel Enterprise and Caerphilly County Borough Council. It provides financial assistance to new starts-ups that are located, or are planning to locate, in Caerphilly County Borough.</p> <p>The Caerphilly Enterprise Fund can support new and established businesses and community enterprises throughout the County Borough. Sole traders, Partnerships, Limited Companies, Limited Liability Partnerships and Community Groups are all eligible to apply for grant assistance. It is aimed at small and medium sized enterprises with less than 250 employees. Start-ups can also apply.</p>	
Target valleys businesses from the foundational	Steady and accelerated business growth and scale-up	Ongoing work through Business Wales to provide practical business support and assistance to aid steady business growth for	Business Wales, Private Sector,

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economy and those demonstrating high growth potential and offer them extra support	through increased sales, export opportunities, access to funding and hiring staff.	all businesses including social enterprises, through a combination of digital, workshops and advisory support.	
Provide advice and guidance to businesses in the Valleys taskforce area relating to the circular economy and innovation.	Increased resource efficiency and associated cost savings and new/protected jobs in businesses and the third sector	Tech Valleys - WG are currently running a Pilot with Blaenau Gwent called the 'Tech Valleys Productivity Enhancement Programme' targeted at SME's . Key focus being the heads of the valley corridor and officers are working with WG to extend the pilot to the Upper Rhymney Valley. The programme is focussed on grounded manufacturing companies to help develop new technology, diversify customer base and develop new products, thus creating new productivity. Initially a company would have a 3-day free diagnostic of its business by one of WG's approved consultants, to identify potential new productions, improvements, processes, including investment in new technology. This would then lead to a small grant up to £25k, intervention rate of 30% De Minimis.	Business Wales, Blaenau Gwent, Private Sector
Ahead of the start of Job Support Wales in April 2020, provide employability support to unemployed people within the Valleys taskforce areas	Jobseekers who are out-of-work for less than 24 months in the Valleys taskforce area will have enhanced access to employability support.	Over 575 individuals within the county borough have accessed employability and skills support through the Communities for Work and Communities for Work Plus programmes in the 2019/20 financial year, with over 300 securing employment so far.	

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through the Access Programme.			
Housing			
Roll out phase one of the Rhondda Cynon Taff (RCT) Empty Homes Grant Scheme across the Valleys taskforce area	An increase in the number of empty homes being brought back into use across the Valleys which will increase the supply of affordable housing as well as decrease the likelihood of anti-social behaviour in those areas.	RCT have a team in place to deliver phase one of the Scheme across the Valleys taskforce areas which aims to bring empty owner-occupied homes back into use. Phase 2 is to be progressed and CCBC are yet to sign up to the Scheme but a decision on this is expected in the Summer of 2020.	
Develop and begin phase two of the RCT Empty Homes Grant. Criteria will include benefits for contribution to the decarbonisation	Benefits to the local economy, more empty homes back into use and an increase in energy efficient homes	CCBC are yet to sign up to the Scheme but a decision on this is expected in the Summer of 2020. Support from WG through the empty property team. Training for all relevant staff and councillors was due to be conducted but delayed due to Covid 19	RCT, Welsh Government, Valles Taskforce, Private Sector

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agenda through use of energy efficiency measures, and access for Registered Social Landlords and local authority Councils to apply to bring social homes back in to use.			
Valleys Taskforce Innovation Fund			
Develop an alumni programme, which compliments existing schemes, that all secondary schools in the South Wales Valleys can access.	Young people to access local role models to raise aspirations, encourage entrepreneurship and to raise awareness of different careers and learning/career pathways.	<p>The taskforce has been considering how they can improve the outcomes for young people in our Valleys communities, increase their aspirations and promote entrepreneurship. They are working with a group of entrepreneurs, small businesses and secondary schools to develop a suite of schemes that help young people to tap into local role models and alumni from their areas – to open up career paths they may not be aware of or didn't know how to access. 2 secondary schools in Caerphilly are part of the initial cohort to develop the scheme and act as a test bed.</p> <p>Link up with Careers Wales school-based advisors who already facilitate visits and workshops involving both local and national businesses. These take place from Year 10 onwards and are well received.</p>	Careers Wales, Schools, Private Sector.

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Transport			
A Transport subgroup to be established to set the direction for innovative transport solutions in the South Wales Valleys. Their work will build on the key issues raised during the Valleys taskforce and Transport for Wales public engagement events which were held across the region during September and October 2019.	Services to be better coordinated, improved quality, frequency and affordability of travel		
Valleys Regional Park			
Develop a new, positive narrative for tourism in the Valleys and identify	The Valleys enjoy a reputation for high-quality outdoor recreation with	Working with partners to develop our three regional significant Valleys Regional Park Discovery Gateways at Caerphilly Castle, Cwmcarn and Parc Penallta. The aim of the Valleys Regional Park	National Resources Wales, Cadw, Valleys Regional Park, Torfaen Council, the Canal and

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<p>projects to meet current and future tourism demand, focusing on the landscape, heritage and people</p>	<p>communities and businesses benefiting from a thriving visitor economy.</p> <p>The Valleys are recognised nationally and internationally for the quality and beauty of their unique, distinctive landscapes and heritage.</p> <p>Number of visitors to Valleys destinations and the visitor spend will increase.</p>	<p>is to unlock and maximise the potential of the natural and associated cultural heritage of the Valleys to generate social, economic and environmental benefits.</p> <p>The investment in the Discovery Gateways is crucial to ensuring these sites have the capacity to provide safe and welcoming spaces that can be enjoyed by the local community as well as visitors from further afield. To this end we are working in close collaboration with:</p> <p>Cadw in respect of its £5m Caerphilly Castle Investment Programme – transforming the monument into a world class tier 1 heritage attraction. CCBC now meet regularly with Cadw and have agreed a partnership approach to delivering improvements to the castle and its surrounds. Collectively the partnership are looking at the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressing a coach drop off point at the main entrance • Delivering the successful VRP Discovery Gateway bid projects • Ensuring the Caerphilly Placemaking plan fully exploits the opportunities for developing the visitor economy; • Developing a co-ordinated events agenda including the Big Chees, live gigs at the castle, Christmas market etc 	<p>River Trust, and the Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals Trust, Visit Wales, Welsh Government.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritising and implementing projects identified in the Arad masterplan within the castle’s footprint <p>Natural Resource Wales to position Cwmcarn Forest as one of the strongest outdoor visitor attractions in South East Wales. Recent investment will yield:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 (6 in place) New Luxury Accommodation Lodges; • A New ‘Adventure Play Hub’ facility; • 2 New Bike Trails (Blue graded and Cross County); • Landscape Enhancements & Welcoming Signage to Main Car Park; • Re-opening of the “Scenic Drive” and associated amenities; and • Enhancements to Visitor Centre facilities & environs. <p>The Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal Adventure Triangle project aims to develop outdoor recreation, tourism and leisure activity along the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal in Torfaen and Caerphilly and connecting upland area of Mynydd Maen. Through investment in physical infrastructure and adjacent visitor hubs, the project will help develop the economic potential of the canal as a prime location to visit, live and work generating investment and employment for local communities.</p>	

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		<p>Valleys Regional Park to deliver a new visitor centre at Parc Penallta which will provide a much needed base for a programme of community focused activities supporting economic and social well-being.</p> <p>The Council's portfolio of attractions has also been the subject of recent investment, with enhancements to the Visitor Centre facilities & environs at Caerphilly and enhancements to the bar at the Blackwood Miners' Institute.</p> <p>Continue to take forward key private sector-led tourism developments in the County Borough working closely with the private sector and Visit Wales.</p>	
<p>Identify opportunities to attract new events to the Valleys – sporting events, such as mountain biking and orienteering, and develop existing events, such as the Steelhouse Festival, in Ebbw Vale.</p>	<p>The number of visitors to Valleys destinations and visitor spend will increase.</p> <p>The profile of the Valleys as an area for sporting and cultural events will be raised</p>	<p>The Council has been running a varied and expanding events programme across different departments since its inception in 1996 as a tool to help meet its regeneration, leisure and tourism objectives.</p> <p>In light of Covid the 2020 events programme has been severely disrupted, however virtual events have been well received and these will continue until it is safe to arrange new events.</p>	<p>Town & Community Councils, Private Sector, Cadw</p>