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Date: 22nd June 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

A multi-locational meeting of the **Cabinet** will be held in Penallta House, and via Microsoft Teams on **Wednesday, 29th June, 2022 at 1.00 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided on request.

Members of the public or Press may attend in person at Penallta House or may view the meeting live via the following link: <https://civico.net/caerphilly>

This meeting will be live-streamed and a recording made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. Therefore, the images/audio of those individuals present and/or speaking will be publicly available to all via the recording on the Council website at www.caerphilly.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chrissy'.

Christina Harrhy
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

	Pages
1 To receive apologies for absence.	
2 Declarations of Interest.	

A greener place Man gwyrdach



Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on the agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

To approve and sign the following minutes: -

3 Cabinet held on 15th June 2022. 1 - 4

To note the Cabinet Forward Work Programme.

4 Cabinet Forward Work Programme. 5 - 8

To receive and consider the following reports on which executive decisions are required: -

5 UK Government Levelling Up Fund Update. 9 - 84

6 UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund. 85 - 120

7 Regeneration Project Board - Project Proposals. 121 - 148

8 Public Interest Test.

To receive and consider the following report which in the opinion of the Proper Officer may be discussed when the meeting is not open to the public and first to consider whether the public interest requires that the meeting should be closed to the public for consideration of this item.

9 Oakdale Business Park. 151 - 176

Circulation:

Councillors C. Andrews, S. Cook, Miss E. Forehead, N. George, Ms P. Leonard, S. Morgan, C. Morgan, J. Pritchard, J. Simmonds and Mrs E. Stenner

And Appropriate Officers

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Agenda Item 3



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 15TH JUNE 2022 AT 2PM

PRESENT:

Councillor S. Morgan – Chair

Councillors:

J. Pritchard (Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration & Climate Change), N. George (Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Property), C. Andrews (Cabinet Member for Education & Communities), S. Cook (Cabinet Member for Housing), J. Simmonds (Cabinet Member for Highways & Transportation), E. Forehead (Cabinet Member for Social Care), P. Leonard (Cabinet Member for Planning & Public Protection) and C. Morgan (Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure & Green Spaces).

Together with:

C. Harrhy (Chief Executive), D. Street (Corporate Director - Social Services and Housing), M. S. Williams (Corporate Director – Economy and Environment), and S. Harris (Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer).

Also in Attendance:

R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), A. Cullinane (Senior Policy Officer), K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager), S. Hughes (Committee Services Officer), J. Lloyd (Committee Services Officer) and M. Afzal (Committee Services Officer).

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Leader reminded those present that the meeting was being live streamed, and a recording would be made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. [Click Here To View](#).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs E. Stenner (Cabinet Member Finance & Performance) and R. Edmunds (Corporate Director – Education and Corporate Services).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

3. CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – TO NOTE

Cabinet was provided with the Cabinet Forward Work Programme, which detailed the scheduled reports until the 29th of June 2022. Members were reminded that the Cabinet Forward Work Programme is a working document and therefore subject to change.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the Forward Work Programme be noted. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Forward Work Programme be noted.

4. CABINET – 6TH APRIL 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th April 2022 be approved as a correct record.

5. CABINET – 13TH APRIL 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2022 be approved as a correct record.

6. WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022.

Consideration was given to the report which informed Members and sought their endorsement of the progress made during the financial year 2021-2022 against four specific areas of Welsh language work, as required under the regulatory framework for implementing the Welsh Language Standards. Members were advised that the report will be published online by the deadline date of 30 June 2022, as required by Welsh Language Standard 158.

The Cabinet Member highlighted the specific areas the authority must report on, in relation to Welsh language work and was pleased to note that good progress had been made. It was hoped that collaboration with partner organisations and advice and best practice from the Welsh Language Commissioner would make way for further progress.

Clarification was sought in relation to the recruitment of essential Welsh language speakers to specific posts and what, if any possible impact that this might have on non-Welsh speaking applicants from a particular age demographic, which might not have benefited from any form of Welsh language education.

The Officer outlined the requirements of the Council's compliance notice which sets out a number of Standards that the Council must comply with. This included the recruitment of Welsh speakers into post where Welsh was considered to be essential. Assurances were given that the Council has a comprehensive training programme in place for anyone who wished to learn Welsh, and this was supported by excellent ties with educational institutions that would facilitate the recruitment of Welsh speakers. The Member thanked the Officer for the clarification.

Cabinet congratulated Menter Iaith Caerffili and the Equalities and Welsh Language Team on Ffiliffest and paid a special tribute to everyone involved in making the celebration of Welsh language and culture a huge success.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report the content of the report be noted and the publication of the information as a record of progress towards, and compliance with, the relevant Welsh Language Standards be endorsed.

The meeting closed at 14:22.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 29th June 2022.

CHAIR

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<p>29/06/2022 13:00</p>	<p>Caerphilly County Borough Council Round 2 Levelling Up Fund Submissions</p>	<p>To outline the opportunities and constraints for the Council presented by this new round of Levelling Up funding and seek endorsement for the submission of two constituency projects and one Transport project under this new funding programme by the deadline of the 6th July 2022.</p>	<p>Williams, Mark S;</p>	<p>Cllr. Pritchard, James;</p>
<p>29/06/2022 13:00</p>	<p>Shared Prosperity fund</p>	<p>To update Cabinet on the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund as part of the UK Government’s Levelling Up programme and seek agreement for Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (RCT) to act as Lead Local Authority for the UK SPF for the Cardiff Capital Region and submit the CCR Investment Plan to the UK Government by the submission deadline of 1st August 2022.</p>	<p>Kyte, Rhian;</p>	<p>Cllr. Pritchard, James;</p>
<p>29/06/2022 13:00</p>	<p>Plateau 4 Oakdale - Draft Heads of Terms</p>	<p>To seek Cabinet approval to agree to the sale of the remaining undeveloped land at Oakdale Business Park Plateau 4 to facilitate the relocation of an existing company to the site to accommodate their growth and expansion plans and retain highly skilled and well paid jobs in the county borough.</p>	<p>Kyte, Rhian;</p>	<p>Cllr. Pritchard, James/Cllr. George, Nigel;</p>
<p>29/06/2022 13:00</p>	<p>Regeneration Project Board - Project Proposals</p>	<p>To consider the allocation of £60,000 of the Non-Community Council Community Infrastructure Levy funding for the Penmaen Ward to the Engineering Projects Group to implement a car park extension at Oakdale Sports Pavilion.</p>	<p>Kyte, Rhian;</p>	<p>Cllr. Pritchard, James;</p>

<p>13/07/2022 13:00</p>	<p>Registrars (Ceremony) Fees</p>	<p>To consider proposed increases to locally set statutory ceremony fees in the Registration Service for 2022/23 on a cost recovery basis.</p>	<p>Hartshorn, Robert;</p>	<p>Cllr. Leonard, Phillipa;</p>
<p>13/07/2022 13:00</p>	<p>Compliance with the minimum energy efficiency standards fixed penalty notice proposal</p>	<p>For Cabinet to agree and adopt an Enforcement Protocol as the Council's approach to dealing with identified non-compliances with the MEES Regulations, including the use of Compliance Notices and Penalty Notices where appropriate. The Protocol will improve the energy efficiency of private rented sector housing whilst ensuring landlords comply with their legal obligation under the MEES regulation.</p>	<p>Taylor-Williams, Nick;</p>	<p>Cllr. Cook, Shayne;</p>
<p>13/07/2022 13:00</p>	<p>The Implementation of Renting Homes Wales Act – Contracts</p>	<p>To update Cabinet on the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 which is new legislation the provisions of which affect all rented homes in Wales. The Act gives greater clarity on the rights and responsibilities of both public and private sector tenants and landlords through written contracts.</p>	<p>Taylor-Williams, Nick;</p>	<p>Cllr. Cook, Shayne;</p>
<p>13/07/2022 13:00</p>	<p>The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (decision)</p>	<p>Local Authorities in discharging their duties under Part 3 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 are required to produce a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment and to make provision for sites where the assessment identifies an unmet need for accommodation / mobile home pitches The report will outline the findings of the GTAA that was undertaken during the latter part of 2021/22 before it is submitted to Welsh Government.</p>	<p>Roberts-Waite, Jane;</p>	<p>Cllr. Cook, Shayne;</p>

13/07/2022 13:00	Rent Policy Report	To offer recommendations to Cabinet for reviewing the current rent policy to reflect an appropriate affordability model (to evidence to WG that our rents are affordable to tenants).	Taylor-Williams, Nick/Evans-McLean, Rhian;	Cllr. Cook, Shayne;
27/07/2022 13:00	2021/22 Provisional Outturn Report	To provide Cabinet with details of the provisional revenue budget outturn for the 2021/22 financial year prior to the annual external audit of the accounts by Audit Wales.	Harris, Stephen R;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
27/07/2022 13:00	Shared Ambitions Strategy 2019 – 2022.	To provide Cabinet with an update on the Shared Ambitions Strategy 2019-2022. As part of the Council’s self-evaluation, a review of the impact of the Shared Ambitions Strategy has been completed. Recommendations are included in the new Strategy to be launched in September 2022.	Cole, Ceri;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
27/07/2022 13:00	Childcare Sufficiency Assessment	Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2027 and subsequent action plan has been completed and now needs consultation and approval to submit final report to WG.	Mutch, Sarah;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
27/07/2022 13:00	Proposed construction of a multi-purpose Cadet and Sports Pavilion at Morgan Jones Park, Caerphilly	To seek the views of Cabinet in relation to a joint project with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to construct a multi-functional cadet and sports pavilion at Morgan Jones Park, Caerphilly and to seek capital funding.	Headington, Mike;	Cllr. Morgan, Chris;

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CABINET – 29TH JUNE 2022

SUBJECT: UK GOVERNMENT LEVELLING UP FUND UPDATE

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the UK Government's recent announcements of Round 2 of the UK Government's Levelling Up programme.
- 1.2 To outline the opportunities and constraints for the Council presented by this new round of funding.
- 1.3 To seek approval of the Cwmcarn Forest masterplan.
- 1.4 To seek endorsement for the submission of two constituency projects and one Transport project under this new funding programme by the deadline of the 6th July 2022.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The UK Government has recently published details on Round 2 of their Levelling Up Fund, which forms one of the key programmes introduced to replace European funding programmes that are due to cease shortly. The suite of programmes for local and regional economics comprises of the Levelling Up Fund, The UK Community Renewal Fund and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. A move towards this domestic funding arrangement will be instrumental to the future economic resilience and prosperity of Caerphilly County Borough and it is key that the Council maximises the potential.
- 2.2 The second round of the Levelling Up Fund will focus on the same three investment themes as the first round:
 - local transport projects that make a genuine difference to local areas;
 - town centre and high street regeneration;
 - support for maintaining and expanding the UK's world-leading portfolio of cultural and heritage assets.
- 2.3 A report outlining the UK Government programmes was presented to Cabinet on the 19th May 2021. A list of CCBC projects which would potentially be eligible was outlined

in that report. The list has been distilled through a vetting process undertaken by senior officers from within the Regeneration and Infrastructure divisions with the Place shaping Framework in mind. A summary of those projects is outlined within section 5.11. There has been a need to revise this list to respond to the LUF Round 2 criteria and to better reflect which projects have developed to a stage where they will be robust and detailed enough for submission to UK Government.

2.4 This report requests endorsement of three submissions under the LUF Programme Round 2:

- A constituency submission for the Islwyn Parliamentary Constituency that concentrates on developing the visitor offer at Cwmcarn Forest based on the recent masterplan, plus enhancement works along the and Monmouth and Brecon canal.
- A constituency bid for the Caerphilly Parliamentary Constituency that focuses on the provision of a new Well-being centre on council owned land at Caerphilly Business Park.
- A transport bid that focuses on securing funding to develop a new transport interchange in Caerphilly Town Centre.

2.5 This report also seeks Cabinet approval / endorsement of the Cwmcarn Masterplan developed by Tomorrow's Tourism on behalf of the council, so it can act as the catalyst for investment at Cwmcarn Forest to fulfil the ambitions of establishing it as a regional visitor attraction.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That Cabinet:

- (i) Consider the detail of Round 2 of the UK Levelling Up programmes and the opportunities for the Funds to contribute significantly to the Council's own Place Shaping, Transformation and Regeneration agendas.
- (ii) Approve the projects set out in paragraph 5.13-5.30 and included in Table 3 (Financial Implications Section) in respect of the Levelling Up Fund that have been identified as those that will be advanced enough for submission.
- (iii) Endorse the Cwmcarn Forest Masterplan to enable it to drive future investment activity at the venue.
- (iv) Approves a proposal that the Caerphilly CBC match-funding requirement of up to £14.8m for the Levelling Up bids should be funded from the Council's Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework Earmarked Reserve and the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Fund
- (v) Approves a further £0.2m to be allocated from the CIL fund to cover the cost of the bid preparations to enable submission to UK government by 6/7/2022.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that the Council is fully prepared to maximise funding opportunities from the Round 2 of the UK Levelling Up Funding Programme for the benefits of its citizens and communities and to allow for robust engagement to take place.
- 4.2 To allow officers to progress project development to enable the requirements set out by UK Government are met by the submission date of the 6th July 2022.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The UK Government has recently published details on Round 2 of their Levelling Funding (LUF) programme.
- 5.2 Wales is expected to receive 5% of the £4.8bn budget which equates to some £240m. To date £120m has already been allocated to Round 1 projects in Wales.
- 5.3 The Fund is managed by the UK Government via the Treasury, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Department for Transport. The UK Government has opened applications for the LUF and published a Prospectus to provide guidance on how to submit bids. It is important to note that funding will be delivered through local authorities and that Welsh Government will no longer have a role in administering the funds.
- 5.4 The LUF is a competitive fund with a finite budget. For Wales this equates to circa £120m for Round 2 projects. To apply for funding, local authorities must submit their bids to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government by **noon on 6th July 2022**. Decisions on successful bids are expected to be made in the Autumn of 2022.
- 5.5 The second round of the LUF focuses on the same three themes as the first round, but with subtle differences relating to types of projects supported:

Table 1: Main Themes of Levelling Up Fund

THEME	TYPE OF PROJECT SUPPORTED UNDER ROUND 2
TRANSPORT INVESTMENTS	<p>Investments in new or existing cycling provision</p> <p>Improved priority for local bus services (e.g. bus priority lanes or signal priority at junctions).</p> <p>Enhanced public transport facilities, such as bus stops and stations.</p> <p>Accessibility improvements to local transport networks for disabled people.</p>

	<p>Enhancements and upgrades to local road networks (e.g. by passes and junction improvements)</p> <p>Structural maintenance works to local roads, including bridges.</p> <p>Multi-modal proposals which combine two or more interventions to enhance transport across modes.</p>
<p>REGENERATION AND TOWN CENTRES</p>	<p>Regenerating key leisure and retail sites and improving their security, in order to encourage new businesses and public services to locate there.</p> <p>Removing derelict buildings and other eyesores to make way for new developments.</p> <p>Site acquisition and remediation of abandoned or brownfield sites, for both commercial and new residential use.</p> <p>Improving the public realm including high streets, parks and green spaces, designing out opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Creating better connectivity between and within key retail and leisure sites.</p> <p>Putting forward 'Town Deals' for individual or groups of smaller towns.</p>
<p>CULTURAL INVESTMENT</p>	<p>Upgrading and creating new cultural and creative spaces including sports or athletics facilities, museums, arts venues, theatres, galleries, libraries, production facilities, film/TV facilities, visitor attractions, prominent landmarks, historical buildings, sites, parks, or gardens.</p> <p>Protecting cultural sites from crime and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>New, upgraded, or protected community hubs, spaces or assets (and associated green spaces) e.g., village halls, community centres.</p> <p>Acquiring, renovating, and refurbishing key cultural and heritage sites including hostels and historic buildings and sites,</p>

	<p>including accessibility improvements where needed.</p> <p>Developing local assets that support the visitor economy.</p>
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- 5.6 The second round of funding will prioritise projects which are able to demonstrate spend from the Fund in the 2022-23 financial year. UK Government would expect all funding provided from the Fund to be spent by 31 March 2025. The UK Government has advised there may be a further round of bids but this has not been confirmed.
- 5.7 The number of successful bids that a local authority can make will relate to the number of constituencies/MPs in their area. In this context, Caerphilly CBC is eligible to submit three applications. Notably the MP for the area should endorse the projects to be submitted for their constituency. In addition, the authority is permitted to submit **one additional** large transport related project.
- 5.8 The LUF Round 2 still focuses investment on projects that require up to £20 million of funding. As outlined above, there is also the opportunity to submit one larger high value transport project to a value of between £20 million and below £50 million.
- 5.9 Local authorities will be expected to provide match funding at an intervention rate of at least 10% for all projects submitted.
- 5.10 The LUF Round 2 assessment process will be based on four key criteria:
- **Characteristics of the place** – each local authority has been sorted into category 1, 2 or 3 based on UK Government assessment metrics, with category 1 representing the highest level of identified need. CCBC sits within Category 1.
 - **Deliverability** - All bids will be assessed for evidence of robust management and delivery plans, including a procurement strategy, project management (including skills and experience) governance structures, risk management, project costings, and monitoring and evaluation. Bids must also demonstrate spend from the Fund in the 2022-23 financial year.
 - **Strategic fit** – Applications should set out how the bid supports the economic, community and cultural priorities of their local area and will further the area’s long-term levelling up plans, complementing national (including delivering net zero carbon emissions and improving air quality), regional and local strategies and investments. Proposed bids and constituent projects should secure the support of, and be developed following consultation with, relevant local stakeholders and partners.
 - **Economic Case** - Bids should demonstrate how they represent public value to society. A range of benefits will be considered in our value for money appraisal of projects, including both quantitative and qualitative benefits. This includes potential to boost local economic growth, environmental benefits (including contribution to achieving the UK government’s net zero carbon commitments and improving local air quality), greater employment opportunities, reduced

travel times to key services, increased footfall in town and city centres, crime reduction, improved health and wellbeing, and social value to local communities.

- 5.11 The 19th May 2021 Cabinet Report identified a long list of potential projects for submission under very similar criteria for Round 1. Since this time, officers have been working diligently on each of these projects with some projects experiencing more traction than others due to a range of factors. The table below sets out a brief update on each project's potential to be submitted under this programme:

Table 2: Projects presented to Cabinet May 2021

Caerphilly Constituency (upto £20m)

Project	Latest Position
Provision of infrastructure at Caerphilly Business Park for new industrial/employment units aimed at SME's.	Superseded by a proposal to develop a new Well Being centre on this site.
Bedwas Bridge roundabout –road and bridge enhancements to mitigate against traffic congestion along with complementary active travel schemes.	Currently at WelTAG Stage 1 – not sufficiently developed to be submitted.
Ness Tar brownfield site – Provision of an access road to traverse the rail line to unlock this large site for development (subject to due diligence).	Due diligence work currently being undertaken on access options. Not sufficiently developed to be submitted. Loan agreement with WG provides funding to advance this project.

Islwyn Constituency (upto £20m)

Project	Placeshaping Framework
Cwmcarn Visitor attraction – a commercial opportunities masterplan has been prepared. Phase 1 projects from this masterplan will be implemented including the possible development of accommodation plus a number of attractive new visitor attractions.	Masterplan developed by Tomorrow's Tourism. Mace consultants working on elements of plan suitable for submission
Mon Brecon Cwmcarn spur Canal enhancements – providing longer navigable stretches along the canal and improving the connectivity to Risca from the Cwmcarn Forest site.	Sufficiently detailed to combine some enhancement elements as part of a wider Cwmcarn submission.

Redevelopment of a Strategic Town Centre Site, Risca – Pursue options to purchase and develop this important brownfield site. Options to explore include a new waterside park that will act as a visitor attraction, hotel accommodation and other complementary uses.	Delays with NRW flood risk mapping has delayed the progress of this project. Not sufficiently developed to be submitted.
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Merthyr/Rhymney Constituency (Upto £20m)

Project	Latest Position
The A469 relief road – improvements to stabilise the arterial road route to Upper Rhymney Valley and the Heads of the Valleys.	Funding proposal is targeted towards the WG Resilient Roads programme.

Separate Transport Bid (upto £50m)

Project	Latest Position
Caerphilly Transport Interchange – take project on from feasibility and design stage (WelTAG and RIBA Stage 2) to practical completion.	External consultants appointed to progress RIBA Stage 2 and complete WelTAG Stage 2 by LUF submission date.

- 5.12 The next section of this report concentrates on the projects that are considered sufficiently developed to be identified for submission by the deadline. It is worth noting that the projects outlined for submission all sit within the Council’s ambitious Placemaking Framework and complement the proposals being developed for consideration under the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) (which will be considered under a separate Cabinet report).

Islwyn Constituency - Cwmcarn Forest/Canal Project

- 5.13 Visitor attractions need to continually invest in new products and facilities to compete with the demands on visitors’ leisure time. The development of new attractions such as Zip World, Hirwaun and the role of the International Conference Centre Wales (ICC) in Newport will serve to push and pull visitors to the region. A regional tourism destination strategic plan is being considered as part of the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) and this proposal seeks to align with the overarching regional tourism destination plan. This therefore presents an exciting opportunity for the Council and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to work towards establishing a complementary offer at Cwmcarn Forest, recognising it is a Valleys Regional Park Discovery Gateway, which seeks to drive new visitors to Wales and the region and contribute to the growing appeal of South-East Wales as an adventure hub location.
- 5.14 Tomorrow’s Tourism were engaged in the early part of 2021 to develop a Masterplan to deliver the Council’s aspiration for the Cwmcarn Forest visitor attraction, to take on board the views of our partners, NRW and to reflect the wishes of the community and

other stakeholders to develop the vision for the site with the following key elements underpinning the Masterplan:

- Growing the visitor economy to Caerphilly County Borough (CCB) for the broader benefit of the community;
- Raising the profile of CCB as a place to live, work and visit;
- Jobs and income for local people;
- Environmental enhancement and protection of core resources.

5.15 Cwmcarn Forest is an important local leisure amenity run in collaboration by CCBC and NRW. It generates high repeat visits from the local community who value the site for a variety of reasons. There is now a need to improve the visitor offer to cement its position as a regional tourist attraction. The aim is to maximise the potential of the site whilst there is a growing trend towards an increased demand for outdoor experiential provision and in recognition of the fact that Outdoor Activity Tourism (excluding walking and road cycling) is a significant driver of visits, estimated to be worth over £500m to the Welsh economy; accounting for 10% of expenditure in the tourist economy of Wales as a whole and supporting 8,000+ FTE jobs.

5.16 This report firstly seeks Cabinet approval of the Cwmcarn Forest Masterplan. It then advocates that elements of the Masterplan as outlined below should be submitted as the main focus of a tourist/leisure themed bid for the Islwyn Constituency. In May 2021 Cabinet approved, in principle, phase 1 projects from the Masterplan to form the basis of the Islwyn Constituency bid for the Levelling Up Fund under the Cultural Investment theme. It is considered that this would serve to foster collaborative working across Service Areas and ensure the viability and realisation of the Council's long-term PlaceShaping, Transformation and Regeneration strategies. Officers believe the project is sufficiently progressed to form the basis of the bid to UK Government.

5.17 Following substantial investment into the facilities in recent years, the Council's Regeneration Project Board agreed to fund the development of a Masterplan to direct investment objectives for the short to medium term, and specialist consultants 'Tomorrow's Tourism' were engaged to undertake this work. The Masterplan is presented as Appendix 1.

5.18 Mace Consultancy have been commissioned (utilising the LUF upfront capacity funding of £125k) to work with Tomorrow's Tourism to advance some key projects within the Masterplan that would fit with the criteria set out by the LUF programme and would be deliverable by the programme deadlines. These include:

- **New accommodation within the heart of the site.** Prefabricated offsite with high quality design a mixture of two, three and four room units can be sited sympathetically in glades with tree planting to reduce any visual crowding. The LUF bid will concentrate on introducing the infrastructure to attract private operators.
- **A Forest 'Coaster'.** The concept sees the longest Alpine Coaster (1.1km in total length (including both the lift and the run)) in the UK being developed.
- **A broader range of activities in the form of a 'string of pearls'.** The concept sees 3 or 4 activity points joined together by an elevated treetop pathway loop of some 1km in length that traverses the Forest contours.
- **Upgrade to existing Visitor Centre.** The additional visitors will require an upgraded centre and catering offer to maximize its commercial potential.

- **Activities and initiatives that extend to the wider area of the NRW ownership and beyond.** The legibility around the site will improve with the treetop walkway and activities being brought outside the current boundaries. This will include some activities and improvement to the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal that runs between the site and Risca Town.
- 5.19 The package of interventions outlined above make up the LUF constituency bid of up to £12 million. The 10% match funding contribution by the Council necessary to submit a LUF bid will be circa £1.2m. Cabinet is asked to approve a proposal that this is funded from the Council's Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework Earmarked Reserve.

Caerphilly Constituency– New Well Being Centre

- 5.20 Caerphilly Town 2035 proposes a range of projects and opportunities for driving the prosperity of Caerphilly Town forward. The plan identifies the undeveloped land at Caerphilly Business Park as being suitable for redevelopment. Originally this land was being considered for a further phase of employment development. However due diligence work on the adjacent Ness Tar site has led the Caerphilly Town 2035 Executive Group/Programme Board to determine that a proposed Wellbeing Centre on Ness Tar is no longer a viable option. Stride Treglown (the multi-disciplinary consultants appointed to develop the projects within the 2035 Plan) have investigated alternative locations and have concluded that Caerphilly Business Park's residual land is the best option for this development.
- 5.21 The need for a new contemporary Wellbeing Centre that encompasses some of the traditional facilities offered by a leisure centre along with wider facilities to offer a broader public service and community offer are well documented and remain a priority for the Council under its Placeshaping agenda and are acknowledged and recognised within the Sports and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-2029 (SARS) adopted by Cabinet in November 2018. The existing Caerphilly Leisure Centre opened in the early 70's and is no longer fit for purpose. It is in need of major investment and is difficult to access by much of the community. A new contemporary facility at a location at the heart of the town centre in line with Welsh Government's Town Centre First Principle will drive footfall in Caerphilly Town. Located within easy walking and cycling distance of both rail and train services the siting of the Centre will improve the accessibility of such a facility and also extend its reach to a much wider county borough wider and beyond catchment. The site is also ideally located to benefit from excellent road access arrangements that will keep user traffic away from the town centre itself. Active Travel permeability to the former Ness Tar site is also key as the redevelopment of this brownfield site forms an integral part of the regeneration proposals within Caerphilly Town 2035.
- 5.22 The development will also add value to the visitor economy following principles set out in the Welsh Government's "Facilities for Future Generations" framework. It will have facilities that will be attractive to visitors to the area (innovative splash swimming and activity pool) supported by a high-end state of the art Fitness Suite provision and will be designed in a manner that allows it to accommodate alternative and broader uses.
- 5.23 Stride Treglown are working with the Council's Leisure consultants Alliance Leisure to undertake design work to RIBA Stage 2 and due diligence on the site to determine what works are required to facilitate development of the new well-being facility. This initial task load has led to a LUF bid that will encompass:

Site

- Dealing with site conditions and implementing a remediation strategy, if required
- Ensuring all utility works are completed to accommodate new development, including drainage.
- Providing the necessary access arrangements.
- Incorporating Active Travel principles, particularly better pedestrian/cycling links with the town centre and Public Transport Interchange.

Building

- New build Wellbeing centre with associated parking that offers cutting edge leisure facilities, activity pool with an educational element and also accommodates holistic public service, wellbeing and community focused activities through the introduction of facilities such as a café, community space, children's play zone, outdoor fitness trail etc.
- Focused on sustainable carbon neutral principles.
- Accessible to all.
- Flexible space to accommodate alternative and broader uses.

- 5.24 It has been estimated that the scheme will cost up to £33.6m. As only £20m is available per constituency submission, the Caerphilly Constituency submission to the LUF programme will need to include at least £13.6m funding as match. Cabinet is asked to approve a proposal that will see this match-funding met from the following:

£10.6m from the Council's Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework Earmarked Reserve £3m from CiL fund.

Transport Focused Submission – Caerphilly Town Public Transport Interchange

- 5.25 A fundamental component of Caerphilly Town 2035 and a key Council Placeshaping priority is the development of a new public transport interchange at the site of the existing train station and bus station in Caerphilly Town Centre.
- 5.26 Caerphilly Interchange is one of the Cardiff Capital Region's Metro Plus Phase 1 projects. Caerphilly is a popular residential town and major tourism destination, being home to the UK's second largest medieval castle. It is served by an existing rail and bus station which is the only current example of an integrated multi-modal station in South-East Wales. The station layout, appearance and public realm are however poor, which creates an uninviting impression when arriving at the town.
- 5.27 The Caerphilly Interchange project will redevelop the existing station into an exemplar mixed-use transport hub. Our ambition is for the new interchange to become a best practise 'demonstrator' for future transport interchanges in Wales / UK. The project is an integral part of the wider regeneration programme of Caerphilly Town 2035, that will create an environment that can meet the aspirations of the people of Caerphilly.
- 5.28 WG Metro Plus monies have been utilised to take this project through RIBA Stage 1 and WelTAG Stage 1. Using the same WG resource, consultants have been appointed to deliver WelTAG Stage 2 and RIBA Stage 2 design in readiness for the LUF submission date of the 6th July 2022. The project is being progressed in partnership

with Transport for Wales (TfW) who own and operate the rail assets. They have committed £2.41m Access for All grant secured towards this project. These funds will act as match for the LUF bid.

5.29 This is a transformational project at the heart of Caerphilly Town centre (a key regional destination) and provides one of the main building blocks of the Caerphilly Town 2035. The project will provide a new net zero carbon landmark interchange that will:

- Provide the catalyst for further economic regeneration activity in Caerphilly town centre, the county borough and the region.
- Accommodate increased passenger numbers using the South Wales Metro network.
- Help towards the modal shift in commuting towards public transport
- Provide a landmark gateway building to welcome visitors to the town centre and that will enhance the sense of prosperity.
- Provide cutting edge service provision to rail and bus users.
- Provide additional space for complementary activities within the building's footprint.
- Create better synergy between rail and bus service provision and the Town Centre and the wider environs.
- Provide electric charging facilities that will contribute to the broader aspirations of the sustainable Active Travel Plan for the town.

5.30 The cost of developing a new landmark transport interchange will be circa £35m. Transport focused schemes also need to identify 10% match funding and it is expected that this contribution will be found from WG/CCR/TfW funding sources. A positive dialogue is currently open with these potential funding sources around this funding requirement.

Merthyr/Rhymney Constituency - No project proposals for Round 2

5.31 The Cabinet report in May 2021 outlined the opportunity to use the LUF as a basis for funding the improvement works to stabilise the arterial A469 relief road to Upper Rhymney Valley and the Heads of the Valleys. Work on design resolutions continue but it has been determined that this project can/should be submitted under the WG's Resilient Roads programme.

5.32 The constituency straddles two local authority areas and under round One a collaborative approach between Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and CCBC was required. However, under Round 2 the rules have changed to allow individual bids to be submitted for the geographical area that is covered by each respective LA. Merthyr have indicated that they are focusing their LUF activity on one major transport project and may be able to submit a constituency bid for a large employment land purchase.

5.33 Our initial focus for this part of the county borough is to utilise the funding opportunities offered through the SPF to target social regeneration programmes and some focussed place based regeneration projects focussed around the central core of Rhymney. With regard to the LUF offer, officers are developing an employment growth themed submission for subsequent rounds which could include:

- Northern Bargoed site clearance Bargoed Plateau Development

- Purchase & development of Heads of the Valleys estate land
 - Developing land clustered around Rhymney train station
 - Purchase of the former Skinners site
 - Develop out the council owned Aldi site
 - Potential Phase II development at the Lawns Employment site
- 5.34 However these projects are embryonic in their formation and are therefore not at a stage for funding consideration at this time.
- 5.35 Cabinet are therefore requested to endorse the suite of three projects outlined above and to accept the overarching regeneration funding proposal as detailed above.
- 5.36 Cabinet are asked to recognise that engagement with the three constituency MPs is essential to ensure that they are comfortable endorsing the projects to be submitted under the LUF. It is also recommended that Members of the Senedd be part of the process. Officers are aware that these discussions and engagement have taken place between the Leader and Deputy Leader in this regard.
- 5.37 £125,000 of capacity funding has been allocated to Caerphilly County Borough Council with the primary intention of supporting the local authority to develop bids. CCBC have used this allocation to appoint consultants to develop project submissions for Cwmcarn Forest and to undertake the necessary due diligence work required to determine the costs of providing a clean site with the necessary infrastructure to accommodate a new Wellbeing centre in Caerphilly Town.
- 5.38 However, this funding alone will not cover the work required to develop the suite of projects identified above to submission stage. A further sum of up to £200k has been committed to develop the projects to submission stage and the Corporate Director for Economy & Environment has posted a delegated decision in this regard given the urgency of the situation and disruption to political decision making resulting from the election in May 2022.

Conclusion

- 5.39 The LUF provides an exciting but challenging opportunity to offer funding that supports our regeneration strategy and key projects detailed within it. Council is eligible to submit four applications to the LUF, one of which could be a joint proposal with Merthyr CBC. The projects in this second round need to be delivered by March 2025 with a potential extension into 2025/26 for larger transport schemes. Ensuring each MP is supportive with the Council's submissions is key to delivery, as is the development of projects to a stage where they can be successfully submitted and delivered. When one considers there is likely to be only circa £120m allocated within Wales, competition towards this fund will be intense, and consideration needs to be given to alternative funding mechanisms to deliver these schemes should the LUF bids prove unsuccessful.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 This report assumes that some £240million (5% of the total £4.8billion) is earmarked to Wales and that £120m of this has already been allocated. This means that Round 2 will be intensely competitive, and any bids submitted by the authority need to be well developed and robust.

6.2 UK Government will only entertain robust submissions that can evidence spend in 22/23 and guarantee delivery by 31st March 2025. Therefore, delivery of these projects will be essential and sufficient resources across the Council will be required in order to ensure this is achieved. This requirement has been considered as part of the bid formation.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 The UK Levelling Up projects outlined in this report will have a positive impact on equalities, Welsh language and the Socio-economic Duty. An IIA has been completed with the information that is available for the project proposals to be submitted in July 2022. However, as each proposal is taken forward, a detailed IIA will be undertaken. The IIA is attached at Appendix 2

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The LUF Prospectus encourages bids to include “a local financial contribution representing at least 10% of total costs”. A contribution would be expected from private sector stakeholders, such as developers, if they stand to benefit from a specific project. In the same manner local authorities will need to find suitable match should they submit projects.

8.2 The projects being presented to Cabinet for consideration and approval will therefore all require a minimum of 10% match to be established in order for them to progress past the initial sift by UK Government. Table 3 sets out the project costs for each project. Please note that a higher match contribution increases the chances of the bids being successful.

Table 3 : Project Costs and Match Funding Requirement

Project	Total Project Costs (estimated)	Minimum match requirement (At 10%) where applicable)	Proposed Source of Match
Cwmcarn Forest/canal	£12m	£1.2m	CCBC Place Shaping Reserve
Caerphilly Well-being Centre	£33.6m	£13.6m	CCBC Place Shaping Reserve (£10.6m) and CiL (£3.0m)
Caerphilly Transport Interchange	£35m	£3.5m	WG Metro Plus, CCR and TfW (all external sources)
TOTAL	£80.6m	£18.3m	
Total CCBC match requirement		£14.8m	

- 8.3 Table 3 identifies that a total of up to £14.8m is required from the Council as match to allow all three bids to be submitted to UK Government. This requirement is proposed to be met from a number of sources as outlined in the report. Cabinet is asked to approve a proposal that up to **£11.8m** is set aside from the Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework Earmarked Reserve along with **£3m** from the CIL fund to meet the Council's match funding contribution. As outlined above, it is also proposed that a further **£0.2m** is funded from the CIL to meet the cost of preparation of the bids as set out in paragraph 5.38 above.
- 8.4 Each of these projects has a large initial capital outlay, and it is worth noting that the Wellbeing Centre and the Cwmcarn Forest/canal projects will all seek to generate income to the Council over the course of their lifespan. This will be subject to separate detailed business plans for Cabinet consideration at a later date. Leisure Services have indicated that the relocated Wellbeing Centre will look to generate circa £1.5m gross income per annum. In addition, the accommodation offer at Cwmcarn along with some of the activities along the "string of pearls" are intended to be offered to private sector operators to recoup some of the original investment.
- 8.5 To accelerate the development of the projects to a point of submission by the deadline of 6th July 2022 will require concentrated, intense work from the respective consultants appointed and Council staff to deliver them. A budget is in place to accommodate this work for the Transport Interchange and Cwmcarn Forest but consultants working on the Wellbeing Centre proposal had indicated a requirement for a further £200k to prepare the project and produce the LUF bid. As outlined in paragraph 5.38 above, these costs are already being/have been incurred in order to get a robust project ready for submission by the impending deadline.
- 8.6 As with all externally funded programmes there will be pressure on staff to manage the LUF programme, both in terms of developing bids but also in delivering and monitoring them. Bids are currently being developed using a combination of in-house staff and external consultants. The workloads associated with the development of the bids is large but is being managed.
- 8.7 However, in the event of bids being successful, the Council will need to consider staffing implications associated with the implementation and management phases. This will form the basis of a further report, should we receive funding

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 In England, Scotland and Wales, the overall programme will be delivered by local authorities. This is a significant change from previous EU funding programmes, which were managed and administered by the Welsh European Funding Office.
- 9.2 The impact to the Council is that there is will not only be immediate pressure on staff to develop and submit coherent and robust project submissions, but there will be an ongoing requirement for the local authority to manage and administer the overall programme, in addition to managing the implementation of projects. This will put pressure on a number of service areas to provide the necessary staff support for this programme. This matter is being considered separately by CMT and the Cabinet and will feature in separate but related reports.
- 9.3 Each project being submitted will cover the costs associated with the necessary project management and monitoring requirements as set out by UK Government. However,

due to the complex nature of the bids, input has been required from a number of service areas to submit the projects. As CCBC will be tasked with the overall management and reporting of these projects to UK Gov then staff from Regeneration, Leisure, Transport, Planning, Finance, Procurement and Legal will continue to be involved in their implementation should the bids be successful.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 All consultation responses are reflected in the report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.2 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000, Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Local Government and Elections Act 2021.

Author: Allan Dallimore, Regeneration Services Manager

Consultees: Cllr James Pritchard, Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration & Climate Change
Cllr Julian Simmonds, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation.
Cllr Sean Morgan, Leader of Council
Christina Harrhy, Chief Executive
Mark S. Williams, Corporate Director for Economy & Environment
Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services & Section 151 Officer
Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration and Planning
Marcus Lloyd, Head of Infrastructure
Nick Taylor Williams, Head of Housing
Clive Campbell, Transportation Engineering manager
Antony Bolter, Visitor Economy and Destinations Manager
Paul Hudson, Business Enterprise Renewal Team Manager
Jeff Reynolds, Sport and Leisure Facilities Manager
Hamish Munro, Caerphilly Placemaking Programme Manager
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer, Equalities and Welsh Language
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
Local Ward Members for Morgan Jones, St Martins, Van, Bedwas Trethomas and Machen, Aber Valley, Penyrheol, Llanbradach, Ynysddu, Abercarn, Crosskeys and Risca via a briefing meeting followed by receipt of the report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Tomorrow's Tourism Cwmcarn Masterplan

Appendix 2 – Levelling Up Submission Integrated Impact Assessment

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Appendix 1

Cwmcarn Forest Masterplan

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Draft V1.3 - 17 February 2022

Tomorrow's Tourism
on behalf of
Caerphilly County Borough Council
& Partners



1. Context

Cwmcarn Forest can be at the centre of a rejuvenated offer that showcases and connects a range of important natural and heritage-led attractions, providing the hub for a new visitor destination in South East Wales.

This masterplan sets out a concept using 6 different elements to secure the future of Cwmcarn Forest. The concept is supported by the recent investment made in the Forest Drive which provides a unique and high quality experience in its own right. This plan, and the associated business case document, shows that a set of appropriate and linked investments can help Caerphilly County Borough Council and its partners drive new job creation, help business growth, improve health and other community benefits as well as substantially reposition the County.



The Council's Vision for Cwmcarn Forest

Caerphilly County Borough will become known as the green destination in the heart of Wales with a warm welcome and a unique set of connected destinations and outdoor attractions offering numerous active experiences, as well as a range of outstanding sustainable visitor accommodation suitable for all budgets.

Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) and its partners wish to capitalise on Cwmcarn Forest, consolidating the site as a key regional destination and tourism hub, whilst also providing significant benefits for the local community in terms of informal recreation, health, leisure and inter-generational activity.

CCBC aims to develop Cwmcarn into a 'cost neutral' and environmentally sustainable hub for outdoor activity within a scenic natural setting that offers an authentic and local experience, whilst adding value to the local and regional economy.

The elements that are seen to be important for Cwmcarn Forest to deliver are also important for the wider County Borough, notably:

- Growing the visitor economy to CCB for the broader benefit of the community
- Raising the profile of CCB as a place to live, work and visit
- Jobs and income for local people
- Environmental enhancement and protection of core resources
- Financial benefits to the Councils concerned

Key Objectives of this work

- Develop the tourism industry, particularly the accommodation base, to contribute to the further enhancement and conservation of Caerphilly's cultural, natural and historic heritage and minimise damage to the natural and built environment.
- Build back a resilient, future-proof tourism sector, with the industry employing more UK nationals in year-round, quality jobs and that this workforce is adequately and appropriately skilled.

- Provide an inclusive and accessible offer that is open to all.
- Promote our tourism attractions to the creative industries for use by the UK's film, heritage, sports and music sectors.
- Make full use of digital, technology and data to engage new audiences, enhance the visitor experience and provide an offer that continues to meet consumer expectations.

- Primary:**
1. Growing the visitor economy to CCB for the broader benefit of the community
 2. Raising the profile of CCB as a place to live, work and visit
 3. Jobs and income for local people
 4. Environmental enhancement and protection of core resources
 5. Financial benefits to the Council
- Secondary:**
6. Health and wellbeing opportunities for local people and visitors
 7. Social and community benefits as a result of the facilities
 8. Educational and training opportunities for local people
 9. Supply chain development – local products and services

Cwmcarn Forest's Competitive Advantage

- Position, connectivity and catchment – proximity to the Capital, other major regional cities and 4.7m people within 90 minutes drivetime.
- A growing accommodation base in the area.
- Recent investment of £2m at the Forest Drive; a clear high quality USP.
- Established day visitor destination for loyal, local and regional visitors.
- Exceptional mountain bike trails and loyal mountain bikers market.
- Sustainable transport option with the station 1.6 miles from the site entrance and bike hire options available.
- A growing cluster of adventure related attractions in the area giving rise for joint marketing, joint itineraries and longer stays.
- Cultural heritage, industrial heritage and natural assets.

2. Strategic Approach



View of the site looking north east across the Forest Drive from above Car Park 7 (left)

The Forest area benefits from a range of woodland types, given even more variety by the enforced clearance of the Larch trees. The dramatic topography and self-contained quality of the core site area adds an extra dimension to the visitor experience and gives it a very distinctive character.

Nantcarn Valley viewed from the Forest Drive (between entrance and Car Park 1 (below))

The steep sides of the Nantcarn valley significantly constrain the development of new facilities. The strategy will need to incorporate facilities that can operate on – and benefit from – sloping sites.



Introduction

The strategic approach must:

- Respond directly to the key objectives outlined above;
- Create a development framework that can help deliver those objectives; and
- Build on the strengths and inherent qualities of the Cwmcarn Forest site.

The strategy should aim to maximise the benefits for the local community, increase visitor numbers (and visitor spend in particular) and in so doing, bring financial benefits to the Councils and NRW. This, in turn, will bring sustainability, viability and vitality to the Forest Park and the surrounding area.

The clearest route to achieve these objectives is to create more attractions on the site, as well as reinforcing and strengthening the existing facilities.

The choice of those new attractions needs to be driven by a clear understanding of the qualities of the site.

- What makes Cwmcarn special and unique?
- What distinguishes it from other competing sites?
- What additional facilities can strengthen and support the existing successful activities at the site and give a solution that is ‘more-than-the-sum-of-the-parts’?

Development Context

The narrow and steeply-sided Nantcarn valley means that space is very limited for the expansion of existing or development of new facilities that are readily accessible. Away from the visitor centre, main car parks, lake and environs, areas of flat ground are rare, and where they occur are, for the most part, already in use as car parking areas that serve the Forest Drive.

2. Strategic Approach (continued)

Landscape and Environmental Fundamentals

The fundamental essence of the site is the quality of its landscape, natural environment and topography.

The topography creates a range of opportunities:

- The variety of views and vistas in a relatively small area gives a constantly changing perspective as one moves around the site;
- The intimacy, scale and configuration of the Nantcarn Valley creates a visually self-contained environment, within which there are few - if any - views to and from the surrounding areas of development;
- This contrasts with the longer reaching views from the western end of the Forest Drive, that create additional variety and interest; and
- The larch clearance, whilst being driven by unplanned and unwelcome disease, has left a legacy that opens up vistas through the site, offers new opportunities for habitat creation and diversity and creates a template for new, exciting developments at the site.

The strategic approach to future tourism development at the site, will seek to retain and reinforce these landscape and environmental fundamentals. They will not form constraints to development but rather should be seen as the core foundations upon which the strategy should be built.



Looking south west across the site (above)

The topography creates a self-contained and enclosed area with extensive views but, for the most part, limited views in or out, to or from the wider area of development and the adjacent settlements. This gives the site a very special sense of a hidden and almost secret valley.

Views to the wider landscape and Cwmcarn town (left)

From the western and south western extents of the Forest Drive, the topography allows excellent views to the wider landscape and the development that follows the Ebbw River corridor.



2. Strategic Approach (continued)



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Hubs & Connections

Much of the enjoyment of the site is achieved through movement, be it by car, bike or on foot.

Many of the current activities at the site are based on different forms of movement: the Forest Drive; off-road bike paths; and footpaths.

The car parks along the Forest Drive provide focal areas and hubs but are relatively 'passive' in the activities and facilities that are available. Apart from the cost of access to the Drive, there are limited opportunities to increase spend at the site or broaden the range of experiences undertaken. A notable exception is the current accommodation that is on offer at the site. Building on the popularity of this, and enhancing the range, quality and scale of the accommodation is an important strand of the proposed strategy for the site.

It will also be important to create new hubs of activity - and connections between them - which relate positively and supportively to the existing networks of movement, and interacts with them.

The movement through the site by a combination of foot, bike and car is a major part of the experience of the site.



3. Development Principles

Protection of natural, cultural and intangible assets

Development Principles: Natural assets

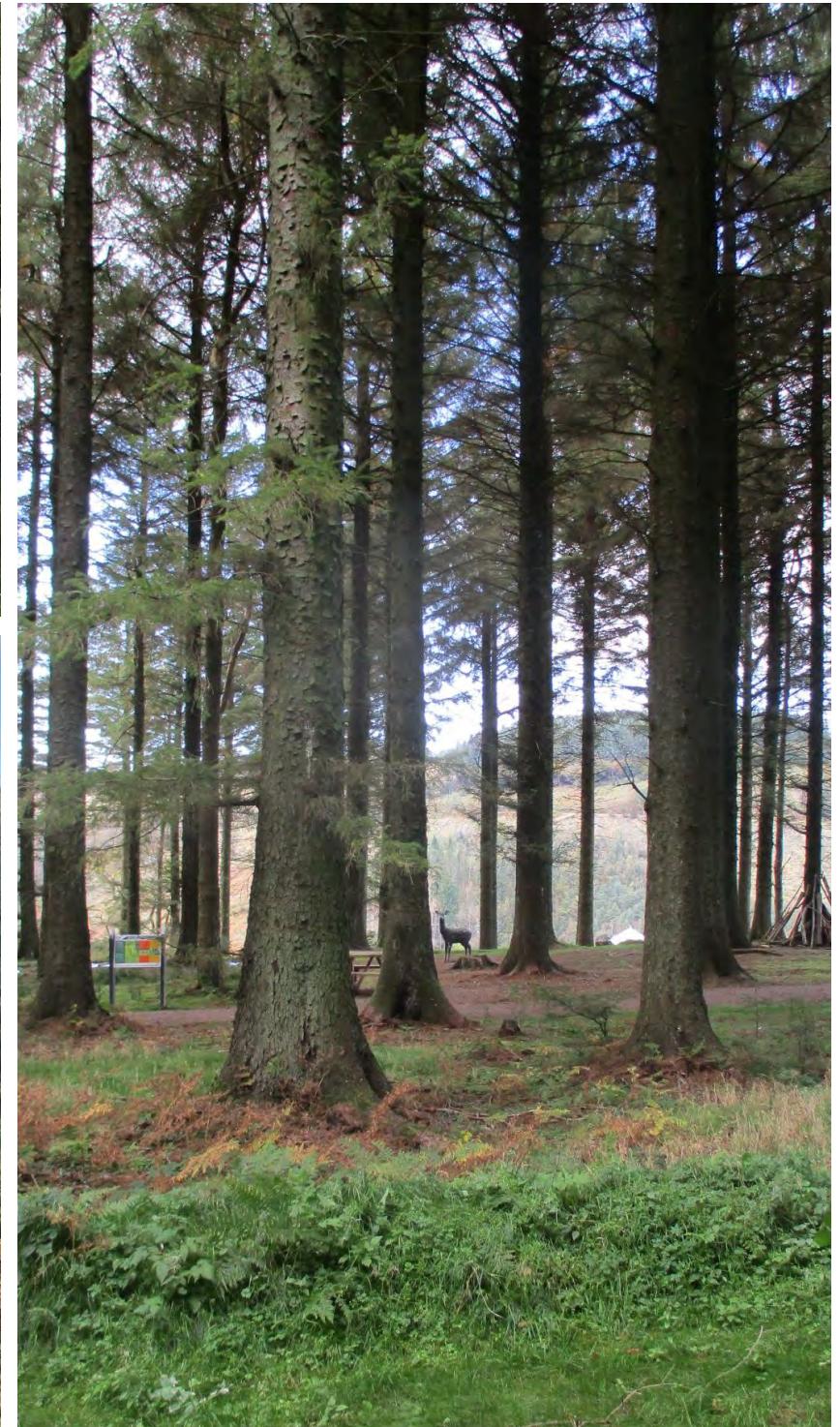
The natural landscape is the foremost resource and basis of all activities at Cwmcarn Forest. The site contains a variety of habitats which support an important range of species.

The main types are:

- **Acid grassland** with small amounts of heath mainly on the lower slopes of both sides of the valley;
- **Broadleaf woodland**, mainly within the valley floor and on the lower slopes. Some of this is mature, including areas of ‘ancient woodland’ and has developed naturally while other areas relate to the reclamation planting of the 1970s and more recent regeneration;
- **Coniferous forestry plantation** managed by NRW. Considerable areas of this are on former ancient woodland sites and within the forestry there are individual old trees, notably beech, and pockets of native woodland; and
- **Wetlands** at Cwmcarn include the fast-flowing Nantcarn stream and the man-made lake that it feeds. There are also small ponds, springs and seepages with associated marshy areas.

The *Phytophthora ramorum* disease has affected almost all the larch trees at Cwmcarn. NRW have now felled all larch within the Forest, amounting to almost 80% of plantation trees. For safety reasons, the Forest Drive was closed to public vehicles during felling and re-planting, re-opening in Summer 2021.

There are no statutory environmental designations within the park area, although there are several Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) with a range of habitats and species regarded as significant. The SINCs have been identified using the Guidelines for the Selection of Wildlife Sites in South Wales, August 2004, which set out the criteria for identifying important local wildlife sites. The impact of any changes to these areas will need to be considered in any development proposals.



The entire park area within the Caerphilly Borough is categorised as a ‘Visually Important Local Landscape’ in the Borough Constraints Map.

It will therefore be critical that any development proposals support and reinforce this high-quality landscape environment.

3. Development Principles (continued)

Protection of natural, cultural and intangible assets

Cultural assets

The Twmbarlwm mound (within Caerphilly Borough) is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The monument will need to be very carefully considered in any development proposals for the park area, particularly those that may impact on the visual setting of the area, such as a cable car and / or tower, which have been suggested as potential attractions at the site.

There are no protected historic remains actually within Cwmcarn Forest. There is, however, a variety of features of **local historic interest** within Cwmcarn Forest, and local knowledge about past activities in the area.

There are the remains of several **farmsteads** now subsumed in forestry, or enveloped by later mining activities. Dilapidated stone walls, distorted ancient beech trees, and old tracks and paths tell of former patterns of land management.



Views from Twmbarlwm mound offer magnificent views of the surrounding area

The Twmbarlwm mound is outside the NRW ownership, but can be accessed from the Forest Park site on foot. It is relatively close to car parks 4 and 7. It provides a unique and memorable destination as a focus for walkers and general visitors. The use of natural, simple and robust materials for the walkway and steps (images above) provides a good precedent for the treatment of infrastructure within the Forest Park, which is consistent with the attractive landscape design of the existing Forest Drive, following the recent refurbishment.



3. Development Principles (continued)

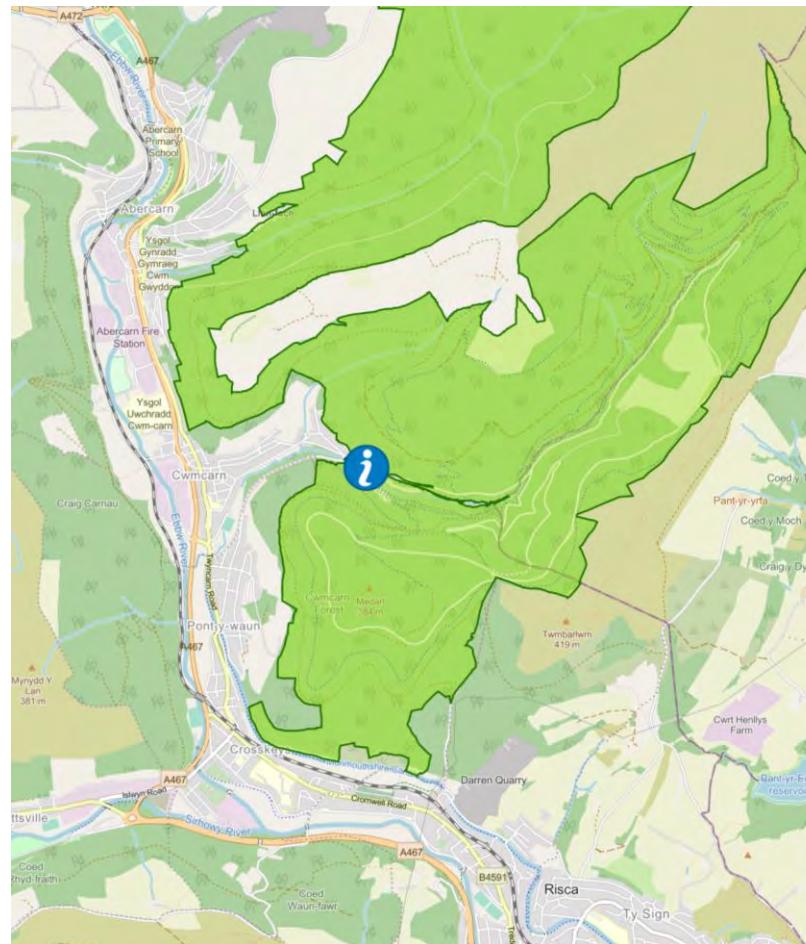
Integration of and support to the local community

An ex-industrial area, Cwmcarn Forest is surrounded by some of the most deprived wards in Wales. A high percentage of ethnic minority groups in Wales are resident in the catchment.

Developments in Cwmcarn Forest should align with the area's economic and social development, as well as the health and wellbeing of local people.

The political and strategic context is favourable to the continued sustainable development of Cwmcarn Forest – especially those which generate social and economic benefits for local people, workers and businesses and in particular for the area's more deprived communities. Alongside essential considerations around commercial viability and visitor appeal, CCBC will need to balance other issues such as environmental protection as well as the continued provision – and enhancement – of amenities and leisure opportunities for local communities that positively impact their health, wellbeing and quality of life.

Cwmcarn Forest is an important local leisure amenity. Currently the site sees very high repeat visits from the local community, who value the peace and tranquility, natural environment and views, clean, fresh air, activities and their physical and mental health benefits, connection with childhood memories, and value for money, among other things. It will be important to consider the impact of the proposed developments on these values and to ensure that the local community continue to be able to access the area, in terms of both physical and financial access.



Left: Map shows the proximity of the Forest and Visitor Centre to Cwmcarn village, highlighting the importance of including the community in the development of the site

Development of local economy and businesses

Business & employment analysis shows a healthy number of take away food shops, pubs, restaurants etc. While most will be sustained by the resident economy, currently around 25% are sustained by visitor spending. Much of the related activity takes place in informal businesses – such as self-catering accommodation.

655 businesses are registered as operating in the visitor economy in CCB and Torfaen, the vast majority of which are micro or small and 60% of which are in the food and drinks sub-sector. We estimate that visitor spending is underpinning at least 25% of all these businesses. There are currently 1,875 FTE jobs in the visitor economy in Caerphilly and Torfaen.

If managed thoughtfully, the proposals have the potential to stimulate and provide direct and indirect opportunities for local people, including existing and new and businesses in food and beverage provision (onsite and in the surrounding areas); retail; outdoor activities; equipment hire; housekeeping and cleaning; maintenance; head office/operations; accommodation; transport. Furthermore, the development could support the growth of green skills and sustainable supply chains.

Modelling shows that the impact is likely to include:

- Increased direct visitor spending with a high local multiplier
- A minimum of 56 new FTE jobs
- Further indirect impact through the local supply chain as detailed above, particularly in the accommodation and food & beverage sectors
- An improved range of active amenities within a popular local leisure facility enabling health and other community benefits
- An increase in local pride and positive perceptions of Caerphilly more broadly.

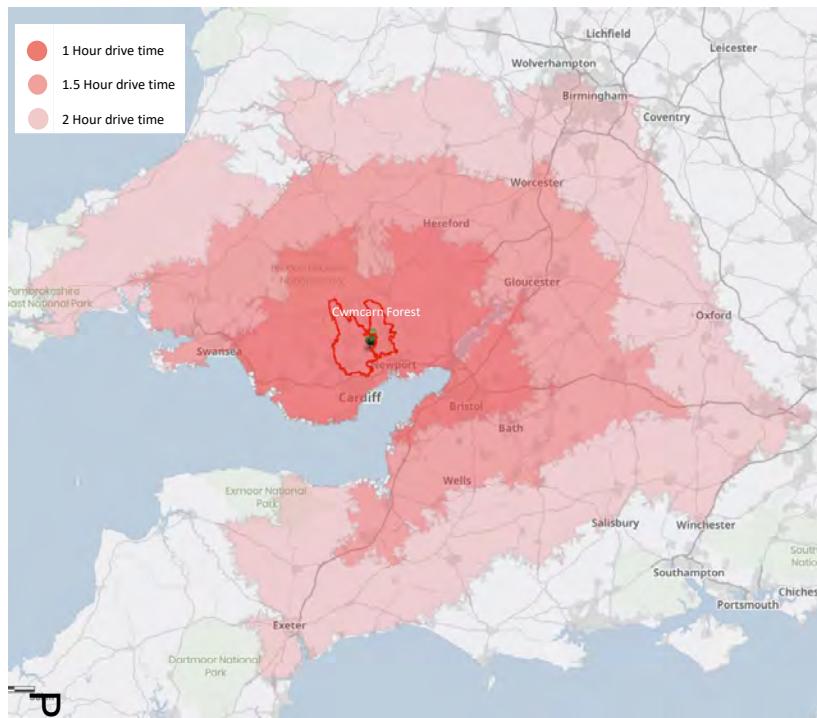
During early consultation, the local community expressed interest in improvements in the following areas:

- Family and forest-based activities, and family bike trails
- Events, craft and food markets
- Varied and improved food and drink offer
- More for young children and teens
- More camping pitches
- Bike hire, e-bikes
- Electric shuttle service from station around Forest Drive
- Longer opening hours, especially in summer
- Non-bike / walking only areas and / or times
- Reduced price for local residents, annual parking permits
- More links with heritage e.g. through interpretation
- Walking maps and better signage
- Investment in Cwmcarn village

Left: Word cloud from a survey of residents when asked what facilities they would like to see in the Forest



4. Constraints and Opportunities Framework



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Map showing drive time areas from Cwmcaern Forest Visitor Centre (Above)
Summit of Twmbarlwm (Below)

Location in a regional context

The population catchment is relatively high for Wales at 2.6 million within an hour's drive but it is typically lower than most of England. Proximity to Cardiff and other major regional cities is beneficial, with almost 5 million people living within 90 minutes drive time and 10 million within 2 hours. Cwmcaern's proximity to the M4 (20 minutes drive) is also an advantage, as it provides relatively direct access from a number of major population centres including, Swansea, Cardiff, Bristol, and even London.

There are just under 750 visitor attractions within a 50-mile radius of Cwmcaern Forest, representing significant competition, both in the immediate area and further afield. A number of new attractions are shortly to open in the area which can either be seen as complementary to Cwmcaern's current offer or indeed in competition with it. Some 30% of visitor attractions in the region have a similar theme or base offering to Cwmcaern Forest - natural areas, visitor centres or

related experiences. Many are owned by Natural Resources Wales and have similar inherent characteristics.

The market for activities and experiences within the visitor attractions sector has shown high growth over the past 5 years and this supports the case for offering a range and mix of activities that can appeal to a range of different segments.

Such an approach is also supported by the challenging commercial viability for iconic visitor attraction developments, both in terms of capital cost and operation. A range of different types of activities offered within a mixed-use facility could be more financially viable in the longer term.

Options appraisal matrix

An initial long-list of options was derived from the client, stakeholder feedback, and examples from comparable sites elsewhere. In an options appraisal matrix, the longlist was scored for suitability against a set of criteria using a traffic light system in order to identify the most appropriate options for Cwmcaern Forest (extract right). The criteria included: Commercial viability; Likelihood of funding; Feasibility; Fit with policy objectives; Visitor / user appeal; CCBC visitor economy; Local reputation, and; Sustainability (economic, socio-economic, social, and environmental). The resulting shortlist provides the basis for the following concepts set out in the subsequent pages.

CATEGORY	SUB-CATEGORY - PRINCIPAL OPTIONS LISTING	SELECTION CRITERIA	COMMERCIAL VIABILITY (e.g. initial cost - low/moderate/significant; maintenance and operational costs; payback period; return on investment; yield)	LIKELIHOOD OF FUNDING (e.g. for capital costs; running costs; public funding; grants; private investment)
Accommodation	Additional self-catering accommodation			
	Additional camping accommodation			
Food and drink	Food and drink - improved / expanded offer			
	New provision			
	Temporary Provision - mobile catering			
	Local food and drink experiences			
Activities	Nature, wildlife or bird watching			
	Walking / hiking / hillwalking			
	Horse-riding			
	Country pursuits e.g. archery, falconry, clay pigeon shooting, axe throwing			
	Bushcraft / survival skills / foraging / den-building / campfire cooking			
	Night-time walks / activities e.g. star gazing			
	Forest activities e.g. treetop rope course, tree trampoline adventure, disc golf			
	Orienteering			
	Environmental activities e.g. tree planting			
	Relaxation e.g. forest bathing			
	Segway tours (Forest Drive)			
	Tower			
Aerial / ground based forest coaster				
Cable car / access experience				



4. Constraints and Opportunities Framework (continued)

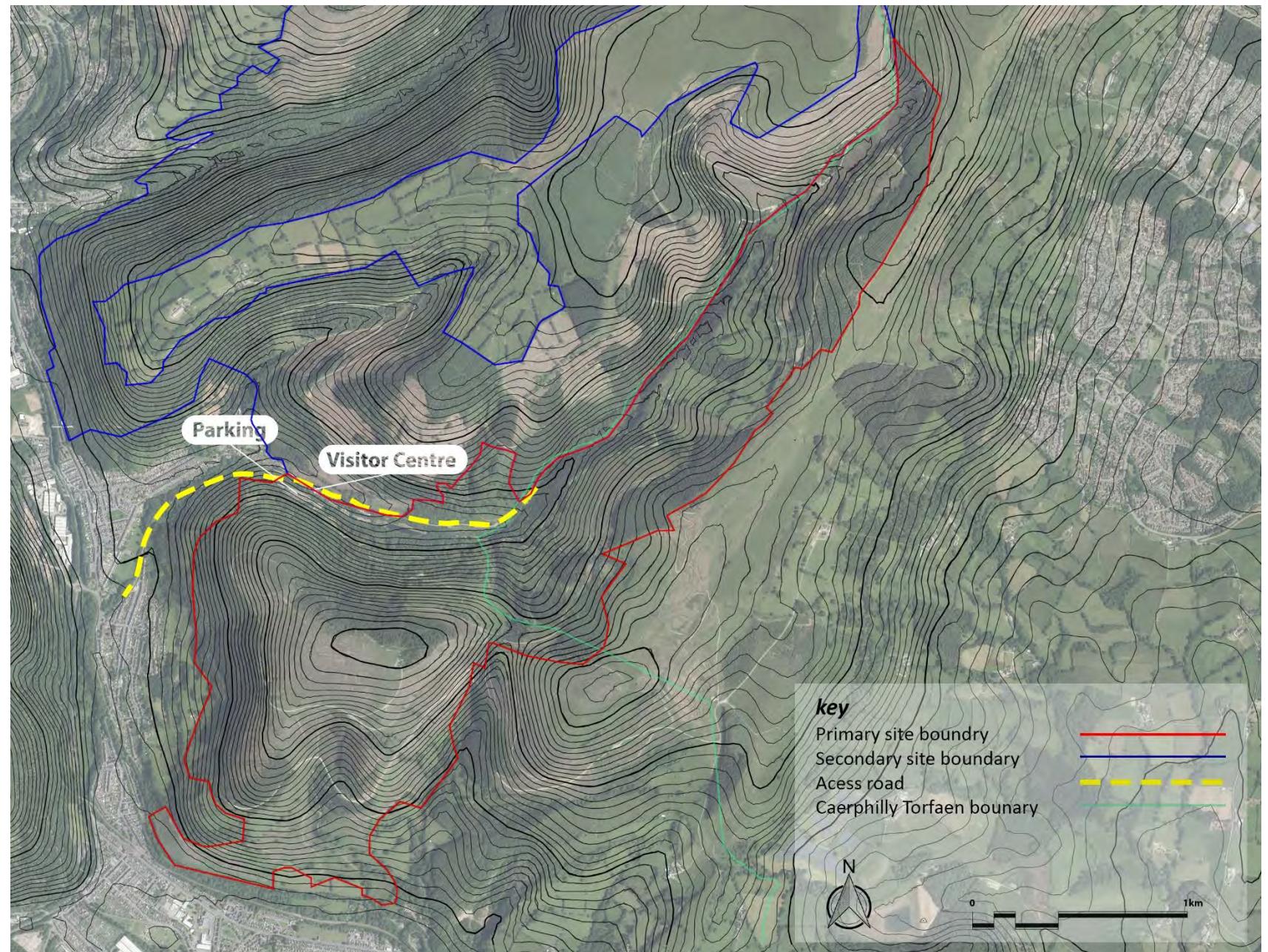
Topography

The site topography provides the fundamental and distinctive character of the site.

- It creates the opportunities for the cycle and pedestrian routes through the Forest Park and beyond;
- It forms the setting and context for the varied and dramatic views from within the site;
- It contributes to the secluded, peaceful and visually-contained nature of the core park area;
- It provides the habitat for the high quality and diverse natural environment within the park; and
- It has been part of the narrative of the site and its use of many centuries.

The topography of the site is a fundamental component of its character and special qualities (as seen below).

The subtle changes in orientation of the slopes results in varied and interesting views, that change constantly as one moves through the site.



Through the combination of these attributes the topography offers an excellent starting point and foundation for the formulation of new ideas and activities at the site. It also creates constraints to development.

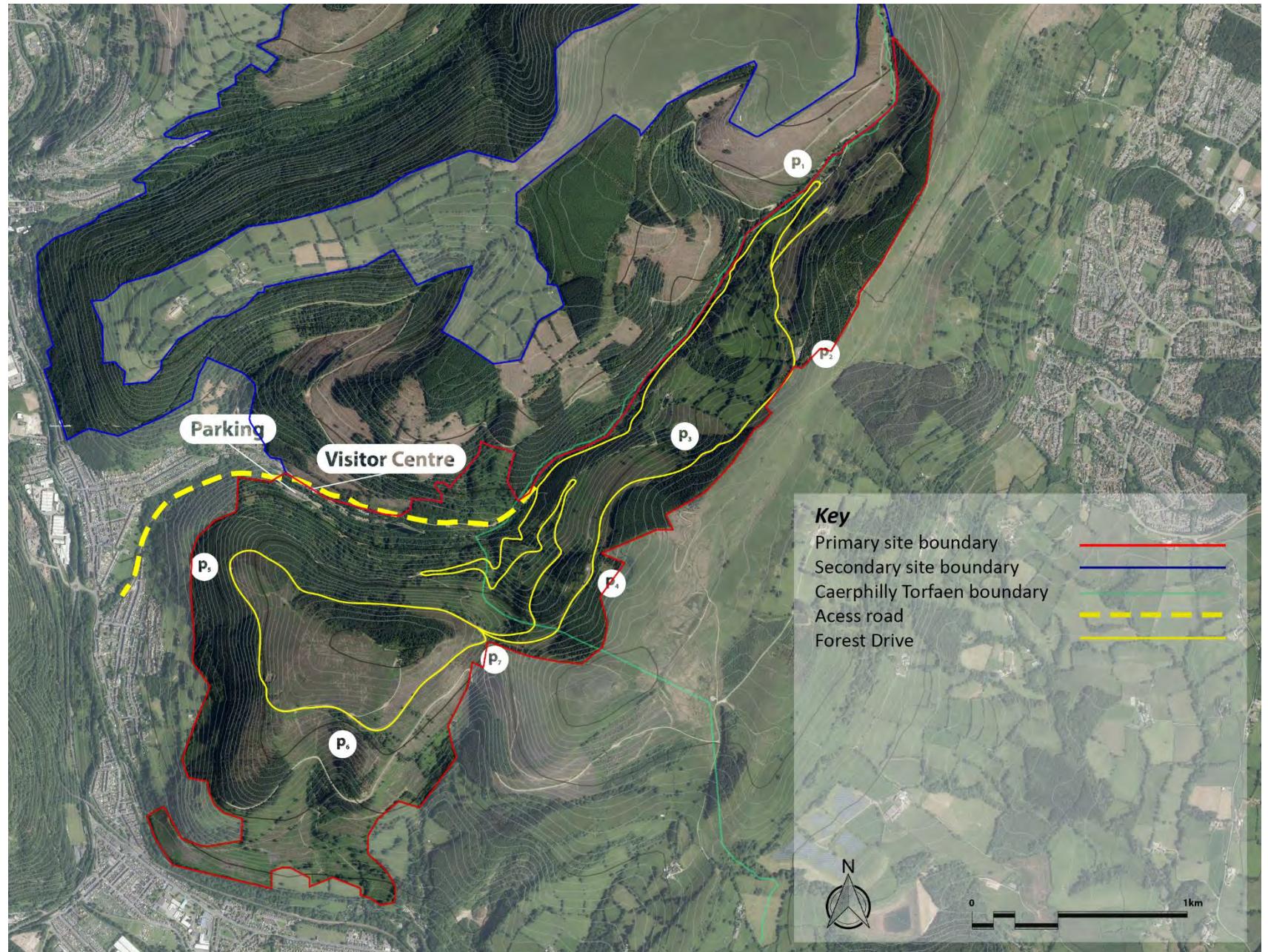
- There are very limited areas for activities that require relatively flat land, including car parking;
- Movement around the site for children and adults with mobility constraints are largely limited to the area around the visitor centre / lake and some areas close to the Forest Drive car parks. Extensive networks of footpaths and cycleways are limited except for the relatively fit. Opportunities for new routes for families and mixed groups will require some innovative thinking.

4. Constraints and Opportunities Framework (continued)

Access and movement: Vehicular

The newly refurbished Forest Drive is an important focus and 'differentiator' for the current range of visitor activities at the site. The seven car parks offer a varied range of environments and facilities. They provide the hubs for exploration of the wider area of the Forest Park.

A walk or cycle along the Forest Drive reveals the extent to which there are views, vistas and diverse natural environments along the route that are very difficult to experience from a vehicle. The nature of the one-way, narrow road inhibits spontaneous stops (other than the formal car parks) and the views and experience from the vehicle are sometimes limited or diluted.



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The main park area is currently only accessible to vehicles that have paid to access the Forest Drive. Car parking along the drive is limited, and that, in turn, limits the numbers of vehicles and people who can use it at any one time. Additional car parking, to access additional facilities and activities is needed.

The topography constrains the provision of significant areas of car parking within much of the site. However, an existing freehold site has been identified as a site with relatively flat land. Acquisition of this area for lodges and as a springboard to a range of additional activities is an important strand of the later Masterplan.

4. Constraints and Opportunities Framework (continued)

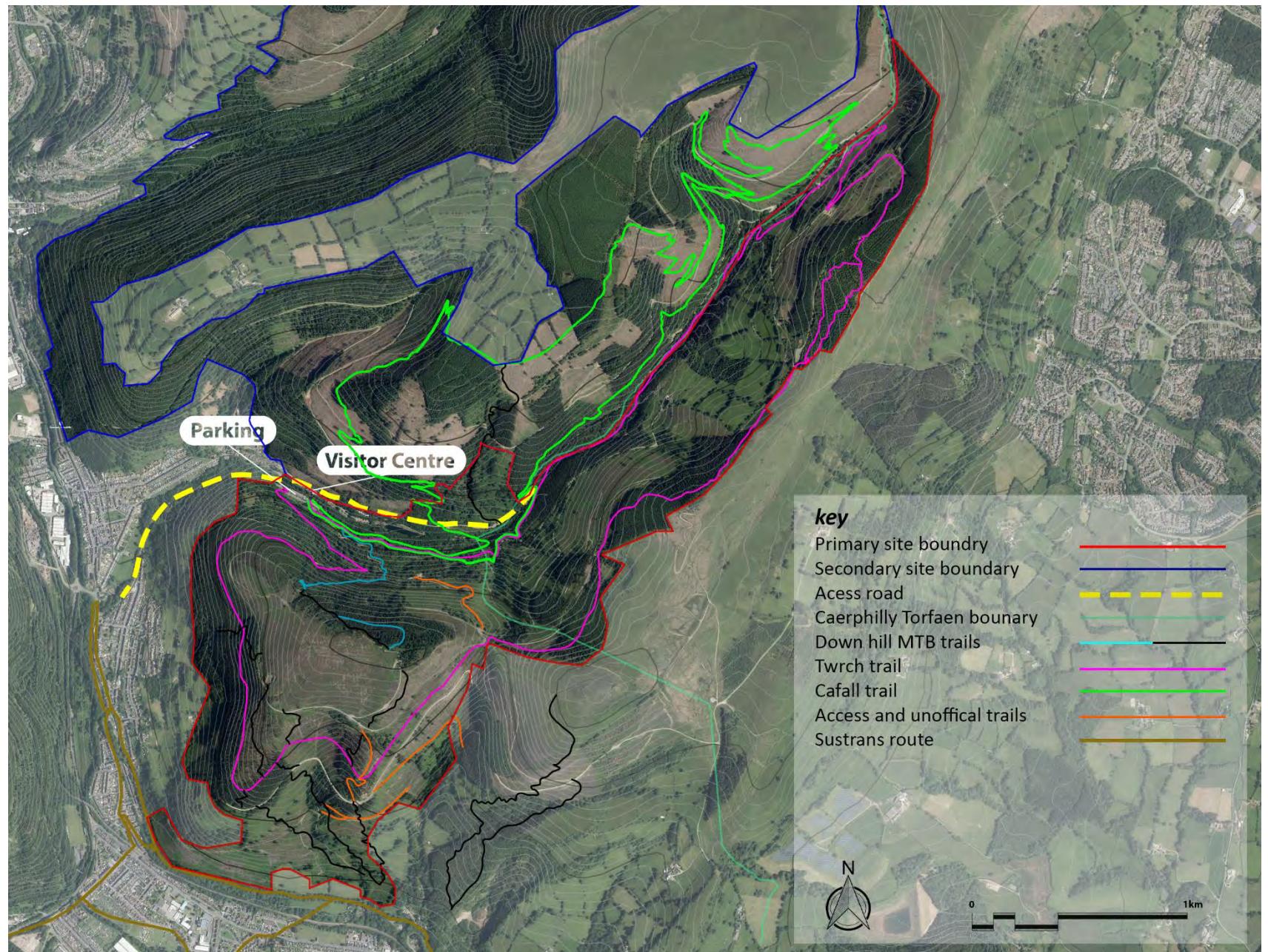
Access and movement: Cycle

There is an extensive network of formal cycle routes through the site as well as multiple sections of cycle track that have been constructed informally by enthusiastic off-road cyclists.

As highlighted in the commentary on topography, the lack of flat terrain limits the full range of cycle paths, particularly for children and less experienced riders. With competing cycle parks in South Wales, the cycling facilities at the Cwmcarn site are considered to be a great asset, but not a key driver for the future strategy for the site.

It is noted that the current landmark structure on the A467 roundabout (below), that is the principal access point into the site, is an off-road cyclist. In light of the strategy to extend the scope and range of visitor facilities, the consideration of a change, or addition, to this 'message' may be worthwhile.

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The first of the cross-country trails (Twrch) opened in 2003 with the World-class extreme downhill trail of Y Mynydd opening in 2005. The second cross-country mountain bike trail 'Cafell' and second downhill mountain bike trail 'Pedal hounds' opened in 2014. All trails start and finish at the main car park and utilise both sides of the valley. Despite being a popular mountain bike destination, there are few routes for family or children's cycling, largely due to the constraints of the topography.

4. Constraints and Opportunities Framework (continued)

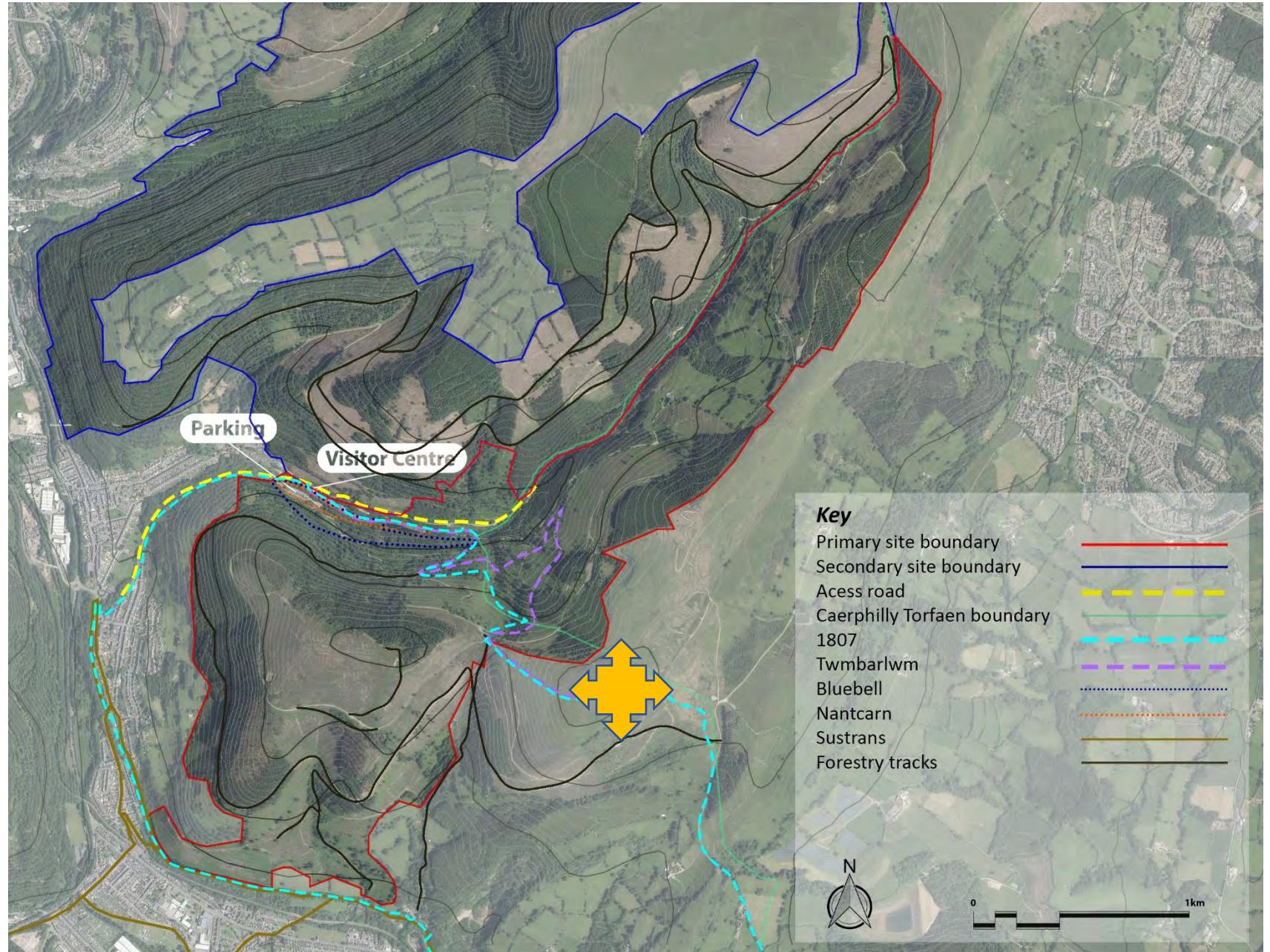


Footpath leading to the view point at Twmbarlwm (above) which is outside the NRW ownership.

Signage for the designated walks at the site (top)

Access and movement: Pedestrian

There are a range of designated walks at the site, some of which extend into the wider area. They range from 30 minutes to 6 hours in length, with the longer ones utilising land outside the NRW boundary. The topography inhibits the provision of more 'easy-walking' routes.



Twmbarlwm is a natural focal point and destination for walks in the area.

Additional walking routes could be considered that link between specific view-points (many of which could be readily identified at the site) and/or localised areas of interest within the Park. The car parks along the Forest Drive also provide focal areas and destinations in themselves.

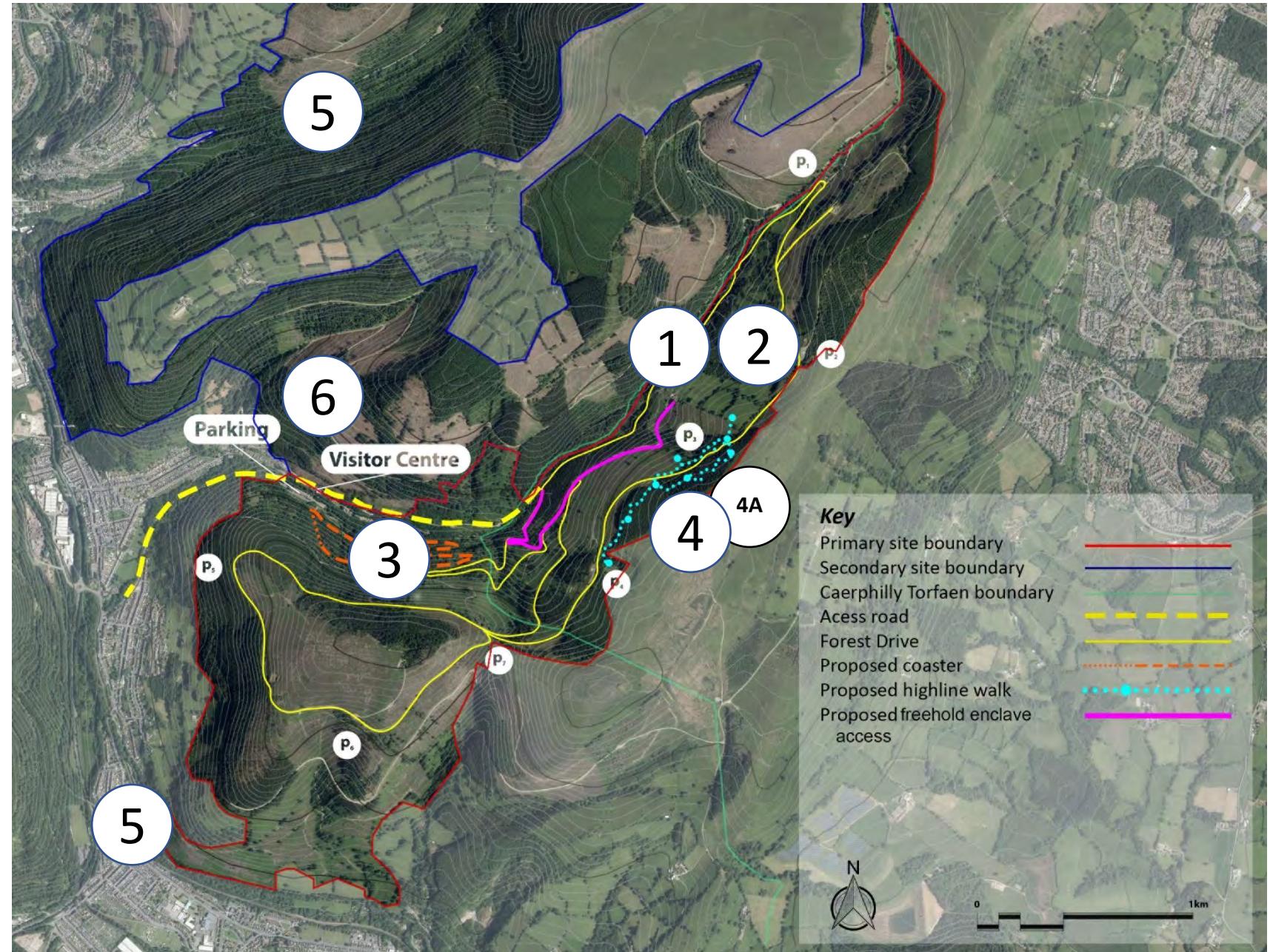
5. Masterplan Framework

Masterplan Vision

There is a wide range of potential new activities that could be attractive to the local and regional catchment and meet the Key Objectives. However, an analysis of the site has shown that there are significant constraints to development, and it is therefore vital that any activities are recommended are compatible with the physical and environmental issues outlined above.

Key drivers to the selection of options include:

- The need for several separate initiatives that can meet the needs of different market groups to provide diversity and resilience;
- The benefit for these initiatives to be independent and mutually exclusive, where feasible;
- The aspiration for activities and facilities that put Cwmcarn 'on the map' and provide something unique, special and highly memorable;
- Activities that can respect, preserve and reinforce the environmental qualities of the site with a 'light-touch' approach to development impact;
- Activities that are derived from the fundamental strengths of Cwmcarn;
- The opportunity to look wider than the site boundary itself and take advantage of the potential connections and linkages to the positive elements of the surrounding area (Canal, Sustrans routes, local settlements etc); and,
- The strategic role of the current freehold enclave in light of its central location at the heart of the site and the development opportunities it offers by virtue of its relatively flat topography in comparison to the NRW site as a whole.



Six key Priority Projects and Initiatives are identified to meet these criteria:

1. Acquisition of the freehold enclave
2. New accommodation within the heart of the site
3. A Forest 'Coaster'
4. & 4A - A broader range of activities in the form of a linked set of attractions both family orientated and adrenalin based
5. Activities and initiatives that extend to the wider area of the NRW ownership and beyond
6. Upgrade to the existing Visitor Centre

5. Masterplan Framework (continued)

1 and 2. Acquisition of the freehold enclave allowing new accommodation within the heart of the site

New accommodation can take full advantage of the high-quality environment within the Park area and provide a core of year-round users for paid activities within the site. The potential use of the freehold site is important to the success of the accommodation related element of this proposal.

3. A Forest 'Coaster'

A coaster offers proven appeal to a wide range of visitors including families and the local community as a whole. Whilst there are various approaches to the design of a coaster, it will be important that any such development at Cwmcarn sits gently within the forest landscape and minimises any negative impacts on the environment. A ground-level track that can weave through the forest setting can help to achieve this.

4 & 4A A broader range of 'Forest Activities' in the form of a set of linked activities

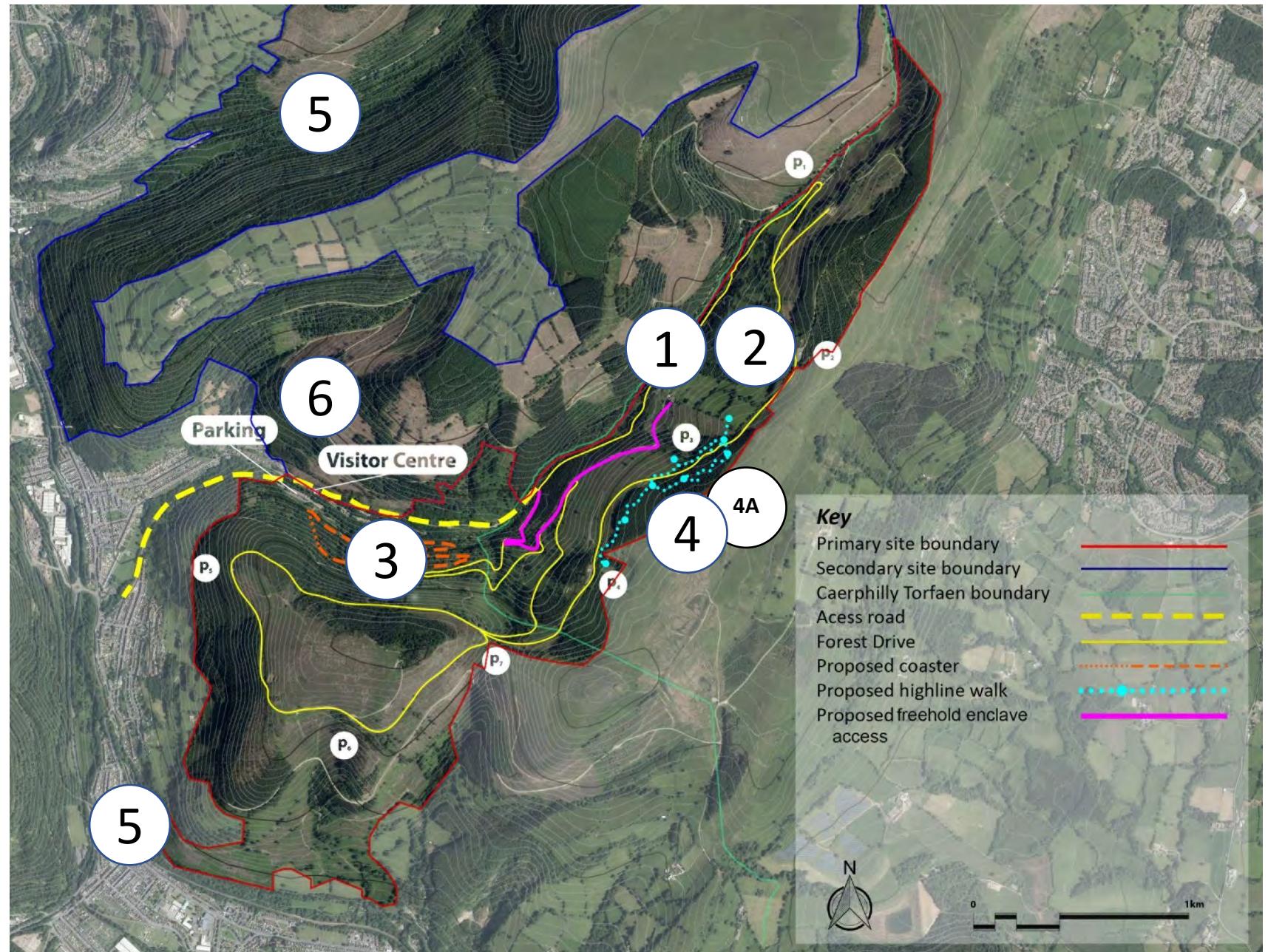
A series of activity nodes, (as opposed to a single, focussed area), will allow for a range of activities; better use of the Forest Park as a whole; and an activity / adventure route in itself. The addition of some 'Adrenalin' elements will increase the market appeal.

5. Activities and initiatives that reach out into the wider area of the NRW ownership and beyond.

The Park area is very self-contained but there is scope to make connections to the wider area where local settlements, the Canal, and existing Sustrans routes offer a framework within which to form integrated and holistic connections.

6. Review / upgrade of existing Visitor Centre

The proposed changes to the scale and scope of activities at the site will necessitate a review of the existing Visitor Centre and its facilities.



Although the Forest Park site is quite extensive, it is necessary to locate facilities where they can be supported by the appropriate levels of car parking. Without expensive - and potentially environmentally damaging - earthworks, there are few areas of the site with topography that allows any significant additional areas of car parking to be provided. The main exception is the freehold site (1 above), which is not flat but offers more manageable slopes as well as less constraints from existing vegetation. There is also substantial parking at the site entrance/arrival point, close to the Visitor Centre. Additional car parking in this area would be beneficial and could be achieved through a combination of: rationalisation of the layout to maximise the number of spaces within the existing car parking areas and an appraisal of all areas of level ground that are not in use as car parking, to assess scope for a change of use. For example, if the freehold site is to provide new accommodation, it may be beneficial to relocate all accommodation provision to that area and, in doing so, free up a substantial area for additional car parking. This can serve any increase in demand driven by the Forest Coaster proposal.

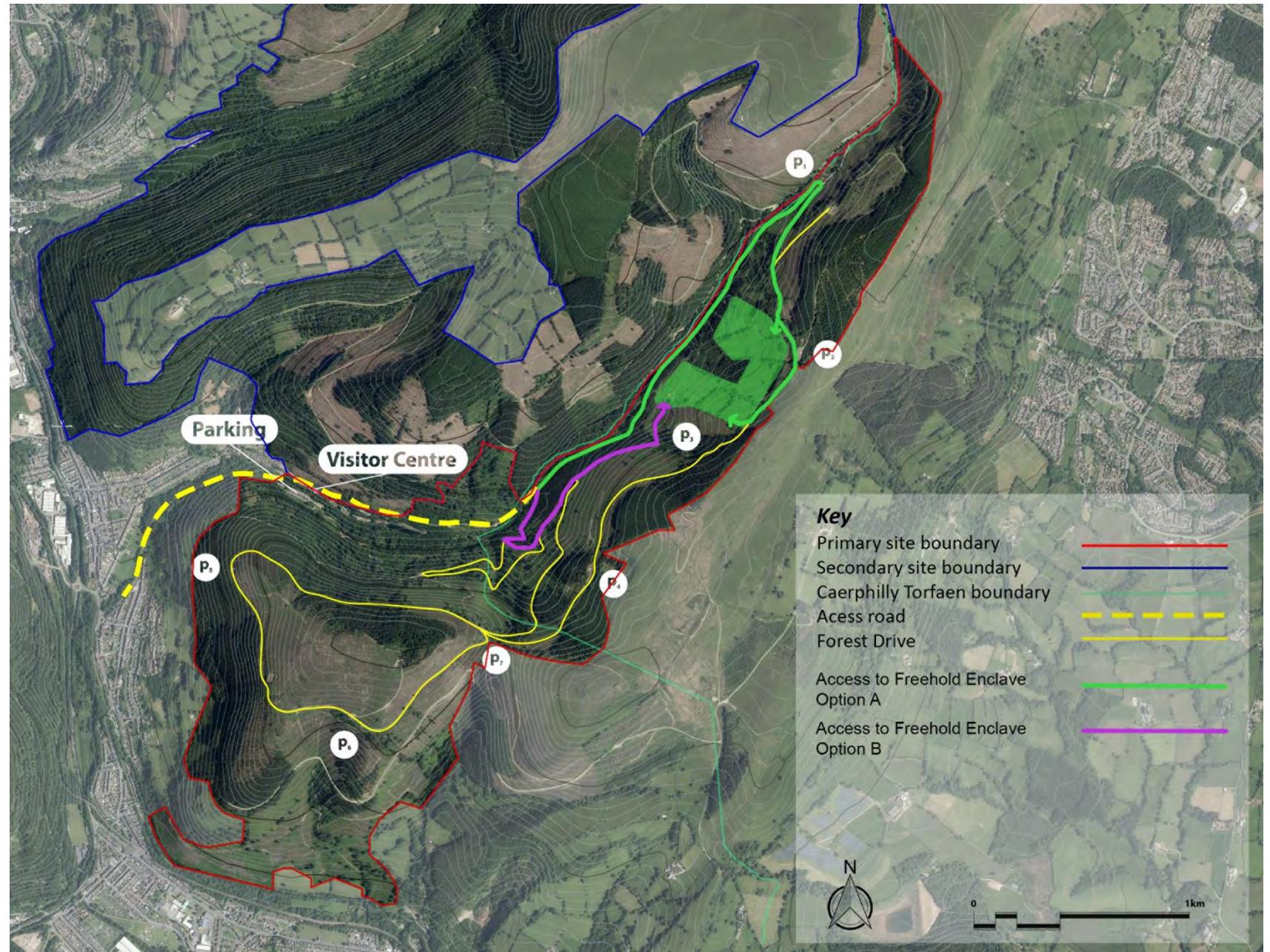
5. Masterplan Framework (continued)

Access to the freehold enclave

The topography of the site significantly limits the options for access and circulation. The existing Forest Drive provides the principal vehicular route around the site for visitors – and was completely upgraded in 2021.

To utilise the freehold site for accommodation and / or visitor facilities will result in a significant increase in vehicles needing to access the core park area. Two potential options are suggested for this access route.

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OPTION B

Option B (purple line in the figure right) is a more direct route that requires improvement to the Forest Drive to allow two-way traffic along some sections of the Drive. More detail is provided in the slides below.

OPTION A - Preferred

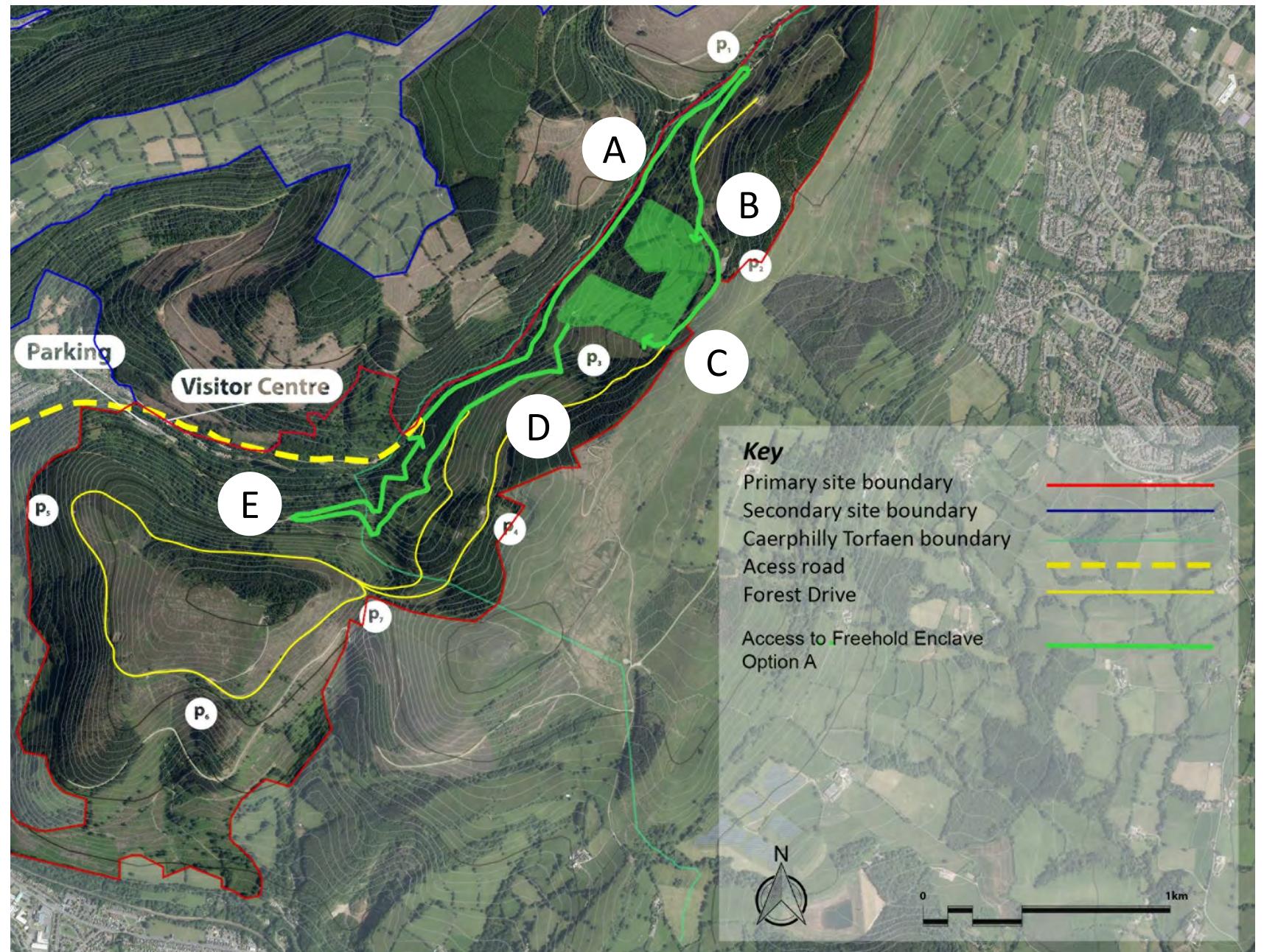
Option A (green line in the figure right) utilises the existing Forest Drive circuit, with two potential new access points from the Forest Drive into the freehold enclave. Where access is shown - on the western side of the freeholding – the site is adjacent to the Forest Drive with modest level differences that can be overcome with a ramped access road. More detail is provided in the slides below

5. Masterplan Framework (continued)

Access to the freehold enclave – Option A

- A** The access route under Option A follows the existing Forest Drive route, which is a one-way road.
- B** A direct access into the freehold site is possible between car parks 1 and 2. This could be via a controlled security gate with number recognition cameras. This provides access directly into the heart of the proposed accommodation site
- C** A second access into the freehold site, between car parks 2 and 3, would allow direct access to the focal area for new visitor facilities, including car parking for the proposed aerial walkway.
- D** Exit from the site could be via the existing access track (which would need to be improved).
- E** It could then join the lower section of the existing Forest Drive to return to the visitor centre and site entrance.

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Option A requires limited changes to the existing road network. It does require parts of the Forest Drive to be shared by visitors who are solely accessing the proposed accommodation site and / or those accessing the proposed new visitor facilities. However, security control gates and number-plate recognition technology should be able to resolve any conflicts.

5. Masterplan Framework (continued)

Access to the freehold enclave – Option B

Option B gives separation of those using the Forest Drive from those accessing the accommodation and activities at / near to the freehold site.

To do so will require some improvements and widening to the roads, which are currently one-way only. This is described in more detail below.

A The freehold site is currently accessed via a track from the south and uses the lower section of the Forest Drive, between points B and C, driving the 'wrong way' up the one-way Forest Drive loop. The relatively low volume of traffic to the freehold site makes this manageable.

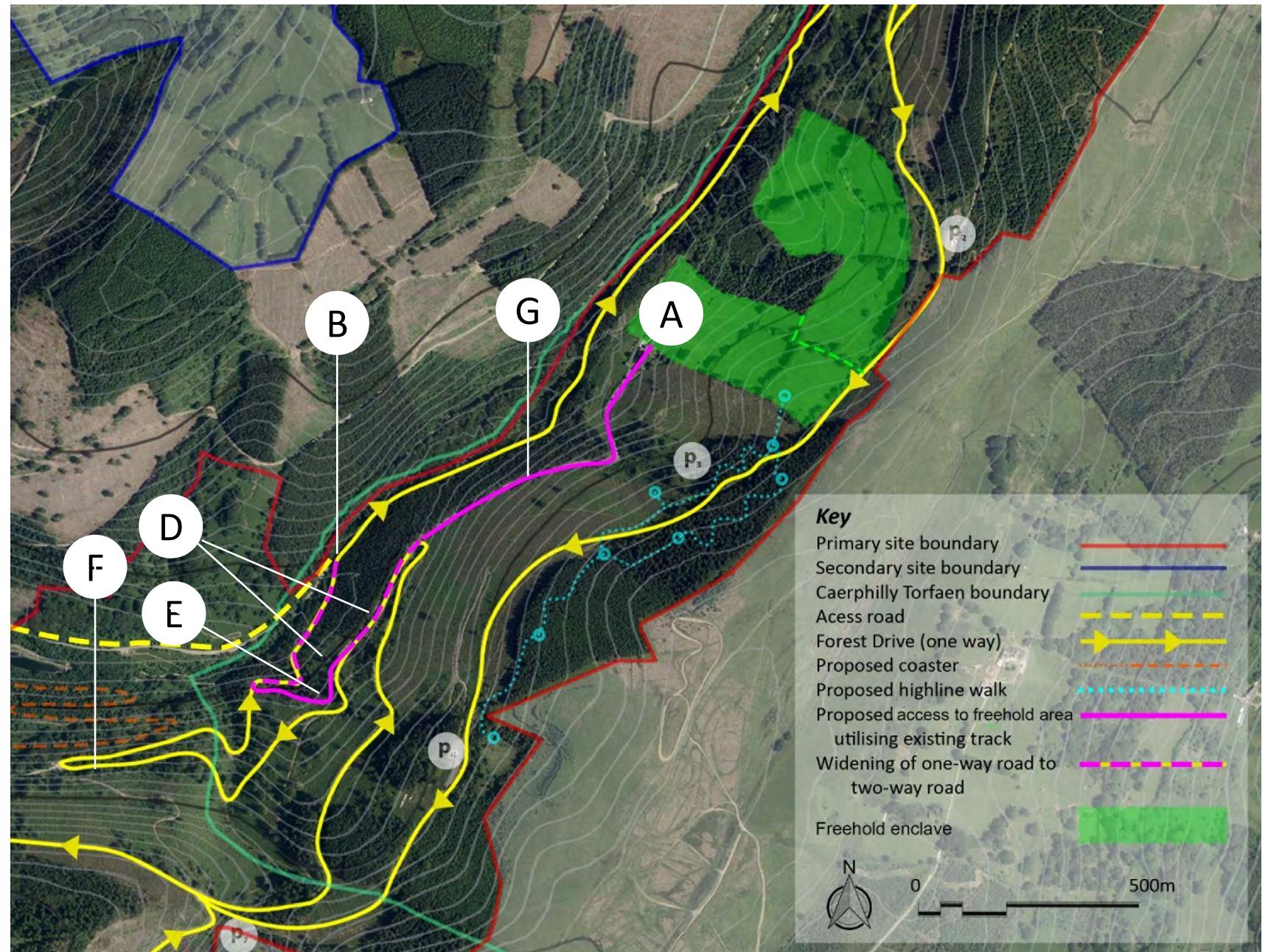
B The security gate that gives access to the Forest Drive is located at point B.

D The two sections of road (highlighted in yellow/pink) will need to be widened and / or provided with passing places to allow two way traffic movements. More detailed survey work is required to assess the most appropriate approach.

E A short section of Forest Track may be suitable for improvement to provide part of the new vehicular route to the freehold site. Topography may constrain its use, but it should be investigated as it minimises the need for two-way sections of road.

F The alternative is to utilise more of the existing Forest Drive as a two way road

G Both of the strategies for Option B described above allow access to the freehold site without compromising the effective operation of the Forest Drive. Both would utilise the existing access track (G) which would need to be improved.



The current one-way loop of the Forest Drive is accessed through a security gate (as it is a paid attraction).

Option B enables the Forest Drive to continue in its current form – whilst also allowing convenient access to the freehold without a long detour.

6. Key Components

Summary

The concept consists of 6 different elements that may be developed in different combinations subject to detailed survey. Some of the concepts are stand-alone although to maximise revenues all elements should ultimately be taken forward. The existing visitor centre facilities, particularly the café will also need to be enhanced in order to be able to cope with the increased volumes and expectations of visitors. Some elements, particularly the lodges and the alpine coaster will significantly contribute to revenues.

The accommodation concept is predicated on the acquisition and development of a freehold enclave in the middle of the primary part of the site where the Forest Drive loops around the holding. This part of the site is situated in Torfaen County Borough. It is assumed that this site may become available in the relatively short-term and that there is currently mains water, electricity and landline to the existing buildings with a domestic septic tank for effluent. If this does not become available a smaller number of lodges could be developed in other parts of the estate.

The concept elements and related high-level capital costs are detailed in a financial Business Case where various options are considered. A summary of high level costs is shown below.

1. Freehold Enclave

Securing the freehold interest in this site of some 47 acres of relatively flat and undulating pasture, enables a degree of flexibility and ultimately greater longer-term profitability. The preferred option is to use the entire site for lodge accommodation with a mix of circa 80 lodges along with a central facility which could include food & beverage and possibly other facilities.

2. Lodge Accommodation

The lodges can be pre-fabricated offsite with a high quality design – a mixture of two, three and four room units to be sited sympathetically in glades with tree planting to reduce any visual crowding. A central facility could include food and beverage and possibly other services. It is initially expected that the original buildings would be retained to provide servicing and other space. This might include a wellness facility which could fit well with the market and the overall natural offer.

3. Forest Coaster

The concept sees the longest Alpine Coaster in the UK so at least 1.1km in total length (including both the lift and the run). Two sites have been considered, on the slope to the south of the main car park and near the pit wheel. Both these sites are in Caerphilly County Borough.

4. Forest Activities & 4A Adrenalin Activities

The concept sees 3 or 4 activity points joined together by a two level elevated treetop pathway loop of some 1km in total length that traverses the Forest contours and starts near Car Park 3 on the Drive with a route towards Car Park 4.

Adrenalin activities, from a high tower that is part of the treetops pathway, such as a zip line and a helter-skelter, can complement the more family-based forest activities.

5. Extending the Forest's Reach

The legibility around the site will improve with the treetop walkway and the concept also sees activities being brought outside the current boundaries. Three options are considered here: 1) The joining up of Sustrans circular routes 465 and 466 using existing Forest Paths; 2) The development of a walking route that takes in the canal to the south and east of the primary site; 3) The development of an electric bike hire business that could be the subject of a competitive tender as the lease of the existing operator comes up.

6. Existing Visitor Centre

The additional visitors will require an upgraded catering offer. New management arrangements for the existing centre are likely to be needed to maximise potential.

Estimated Costs:

Lodge Accommodation (& site)	£12.2m
Forest Coaster	£ 2.2m
Forest Activities & Adrenalin Activities	£ 5.2m
Extending the Forest Reach & Existing Visitor Centre	£ 0.5m
Total	£20.1m

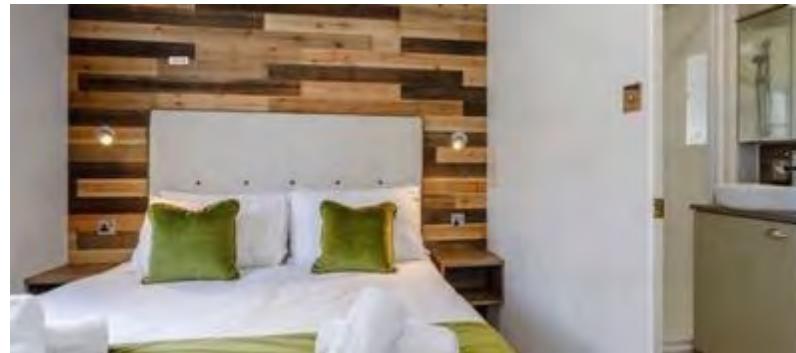
6. Key Components – Lodge Accommodation

Lodge Accommodation – concept and potential location

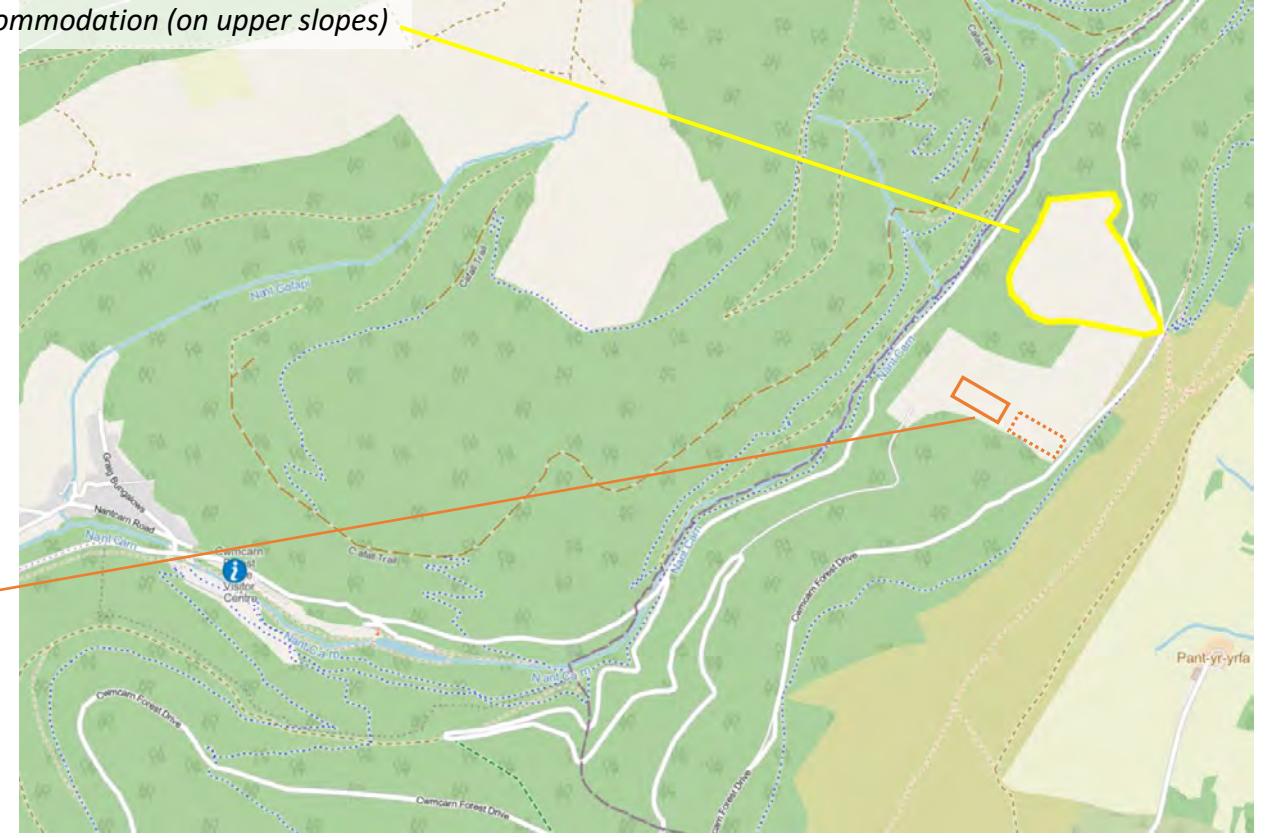
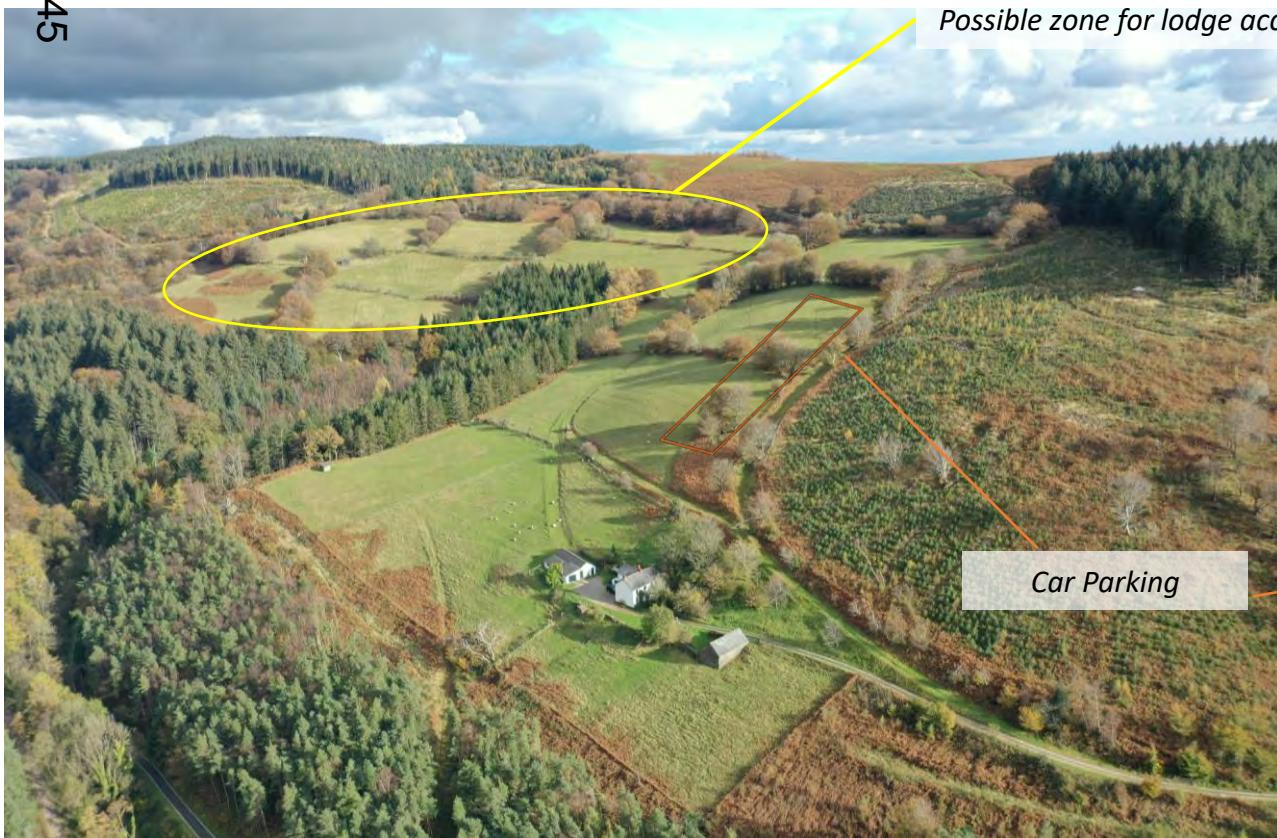
Pre-fabricated offsite with good quality design – approximately 80 lodges, in a mixture of two, three and four room units can be sited sympathetically in glades with tree planting to reduce any visual crowding.

A modest central facility is costed that could include food and beverage or shop. It is initially expected that the original buildings on the freehold site would be retained to provide servicing and other space.

Phase 2 would typically include more lodges and a higher cost central facility with potentially a different food & beverage, wellness, plays-space or other options added in. This would typically be put in place when annual occupancy reached 75%. Car parking would be positioned as per the orange border with some 160 car spaces typically needed for the 80 lodges in Phase 1. The car park could be accessed for visitors to the Treetops walkway who would access direct from the Forest Drive.



Example lodge accommodation (above). Sources: Coppergreen Leisure Resorts, Forest Holidays



6. Key Components – Forest Coaster



Location

A number of sites could be further considered including:

- ① On the slope to the south of the principal car park;
- ② To the north of the Forest Drive near the pit wheel, and;

Both options need further detailed survey work to see which is best in relation to a number of criteria, including:

- Terrain and slope
- Ground Engineering
- Parking
- Capital costs
- Impact on other activities
- Impact on existing users, residents and other stakeholders
- Operational costs

There may be other sites within the primary area that could be used although access and other issues for different options will need to be considered in greater detail.

Forest Coaster – features

The concept sees the longest Alpine Coaster in the UK which means it will be at least 1.1km in total length (including both the lift and the run).

The forest coaster is an all-weather toboggan which can be operated throughout the year. Utilisation is typically high in markets such as Germany with visitor numbers averaging 97,000 per year across 5 different sites.

The coaster lets users control the speed of their sled, designed for one or two people to whiz silently down the hillside at speeds of up to 30mph. There is a large market from children to grand-parents.

The tracks are elevated without the need for foundations, reducing the ecological impact. The track can weave into and out of forestscapes. The version below has a cover for protection against rain. Various solutions for storage and uphill transportation are available. Wood and other natural materials can be used as part of the build.

A capacity of approximately 500 people per hour and low staff and maintenance costs mean the coaster system can be more easily operated than many other visitor attractions. This sort of coaster typically needs 2 or 3 people for successful operation.

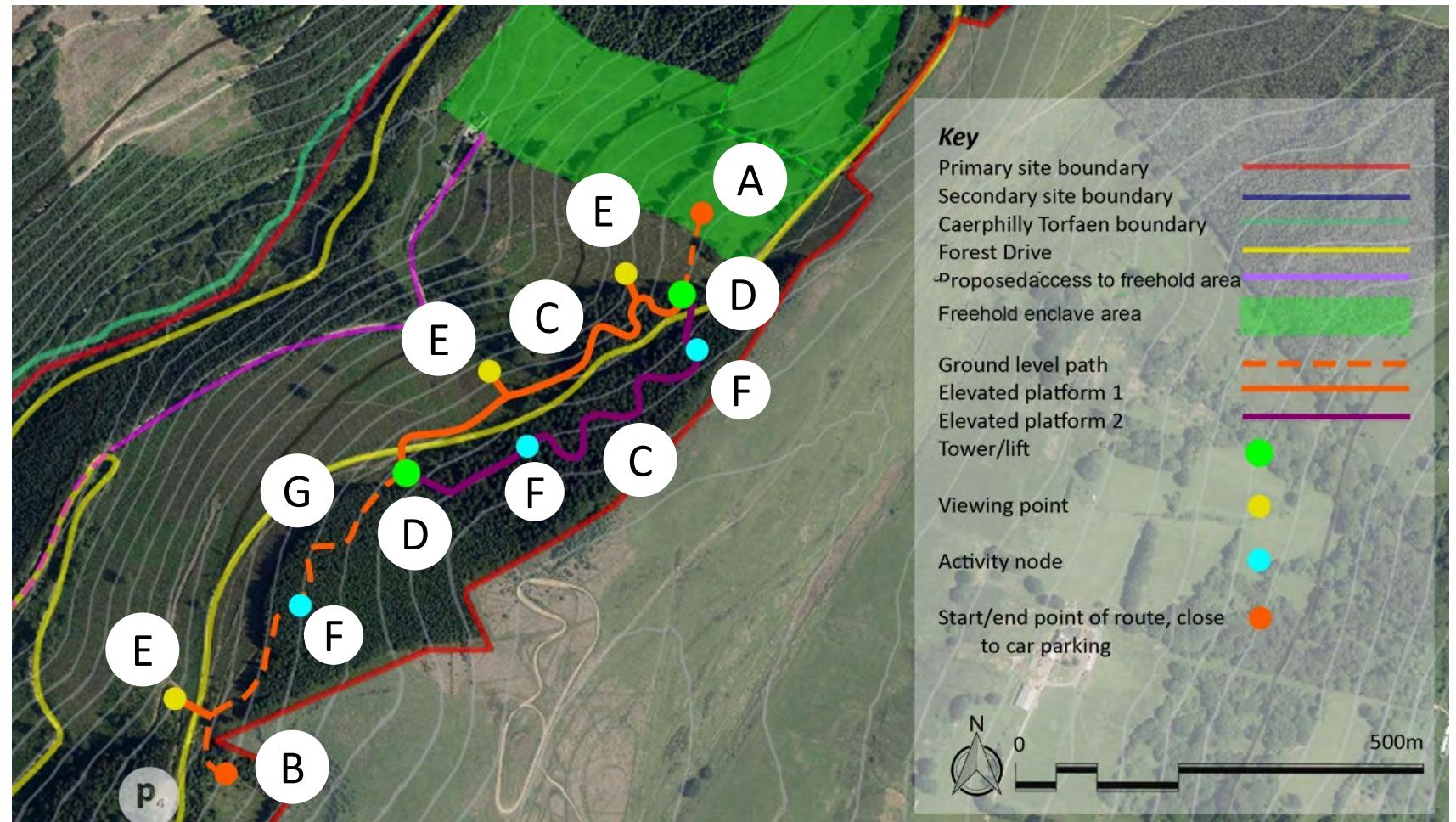


6. Key Components – Forest Activities – Including aerial walkway

Proposed route and facilities

The route illustrated and described here is an initial concept proposal, which will need to be refined following site surveys and more detailed design work. It is 'scale-able' in the sense that it has no fixed length or extent of facilities but can develop incrementally and / or to meet the demand. It is costed at 500 metres in length with dual levels. The proposal, as shown, is described below:

- A** The existing freehold site is the location for the main start point, where car parking can be provided. The location is at the south eastern area of the land, where it abuts Car Park 3.
- B** The southern end of the route is at Car Park 4, where there is existing car parking. This allows the route and activities to integrate with the Forest Drive.
- C** An elevated aerial walkway is proposed that provides a loop through the existing forest, with branches that connect to viewpoints. It is split into two parts, each providing a level path, that can be wheelchair accessible.
- D** Two towers are proposed that allow the incorporation of lifts to connect between the two levels of the walkway. The North tower will be higher to enable the jump off point for Adrenalin Activities.
- E** A series of viewpoints can take advantage of the extensive views to the valley that are possible from this part of the Forest Park.
- F** A series of nodes will punctuate the route, offering the scope for a wide range of Forest-based activities.
- G** The topography inhibits the use of an aerial walkway for the southern half of the route which can be at grade, but can still offer the scope for a very varied and interesting mix of facilities, activities and experiences.



6. Key Components – Forest Activities (continued)

Aerial walkway

The proposed aerial walkway snakes through the existing forest area. It can combine both a high-quality contemporary structure with a sensitive design that respects the natural context. The ideas described here are very much a concept and further work will need to be done to refine them, but the proposal is for a loop, with towers at either end. The two halves of the loop are at different levels, allowing them to move through different parts of the forest area.

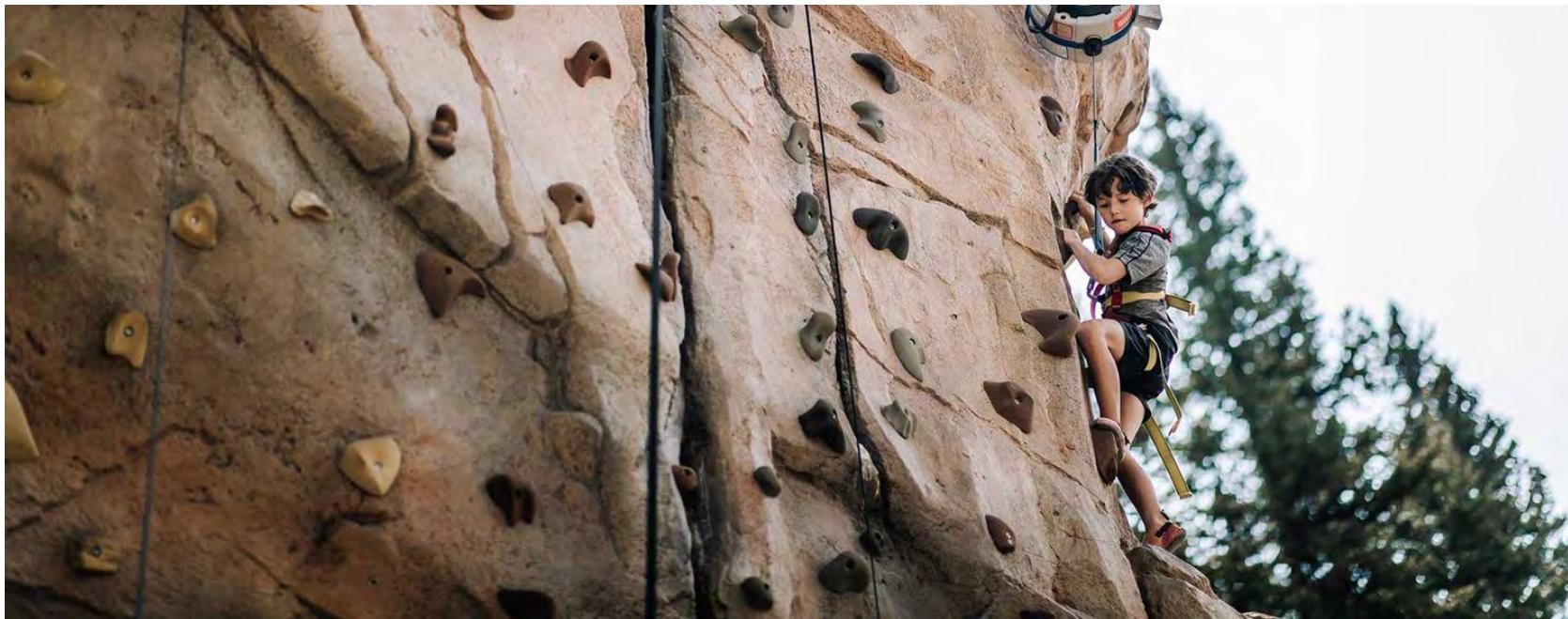
The towers connect the two levels. This allows them to be wheelchair-friendly and accessible by all users. Along the route, there is scope for a very wide range of adventure activities, both active and passive.

The route intersects with the Forest Drive and the Twrch Cycle route, and these interactions offer opportunities for interesting relationships.

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6. Key Components – Forest Activities (continued)

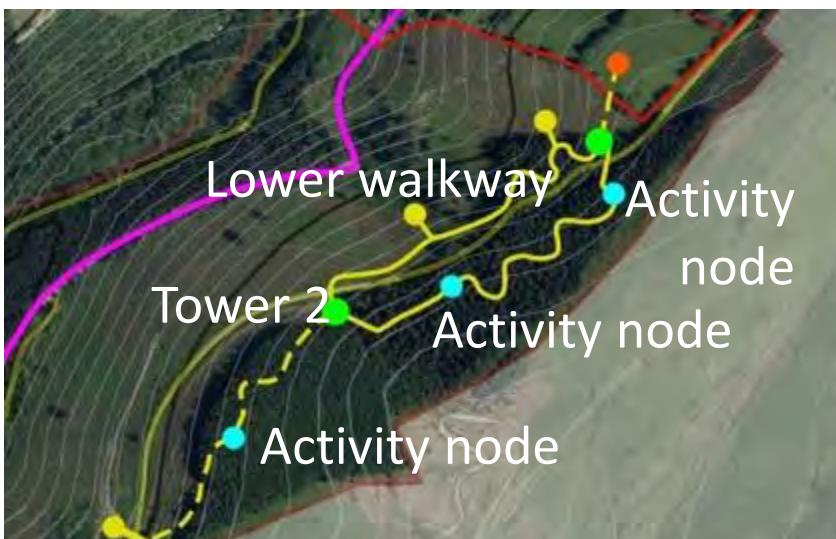


Activities and activity nodes

There are almost limitless opportunities for activities that relate to the forest setting, for all ages and for all levels of fitness. Although the plan shows notional locations for activity nodes, they could, be incorporated anywhere within the locality of the proposed Forest Activities area, if they are accessible and sensitively integrated with the existing environmental setting.

Tried and tested activities include:

- Treetop adventure walks & courses (Go Ape and similar)
- Children’s activities: den making, outdoor cooking etc
- Educational opportunities
- Small and medium scale performance spaces
- Climbing walls and structures
- Nature trails
- Boardwalks



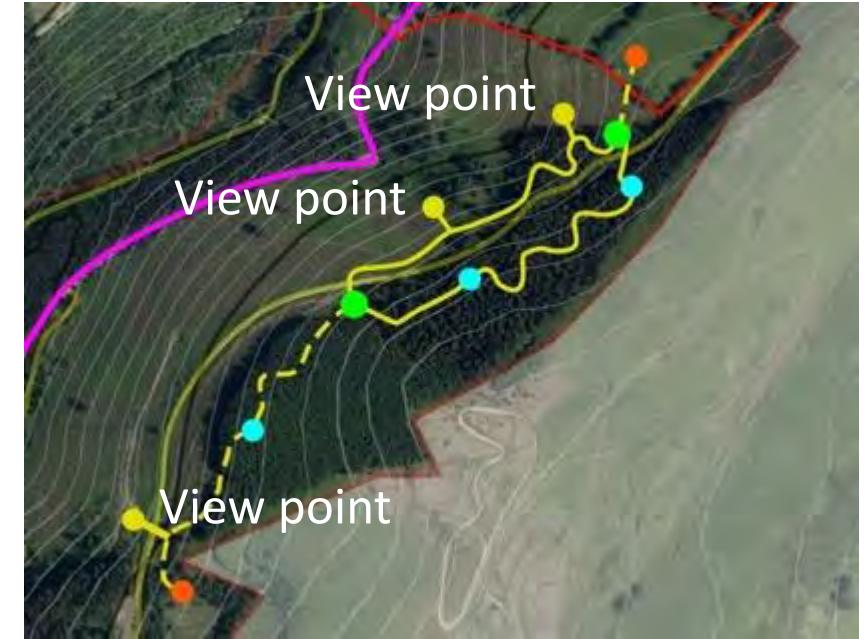
6. Key Components – Forest Activities (continued)

Look out / view point

Viewpoints along the walkway route can use the natural topography to create a dramatic setting, without the need for towers or steps. Cantilevering a platform above a steep drop will create an exciting location to take advantage of the multi-directional views that the Forest Park offers.

Contemporary and bold architectural designs can create great opportunities for memorable photographs and ‘selfies’ and give the Cwmcarn Forest site its own distinctive design brand. Exemplars include Norway, where tourism strategies for scenic locations have made a particular point of using high-profile designers and innovative designs to create memorable landmarks.

The slide overleaf shows a concept for Cwmcarn Forest.



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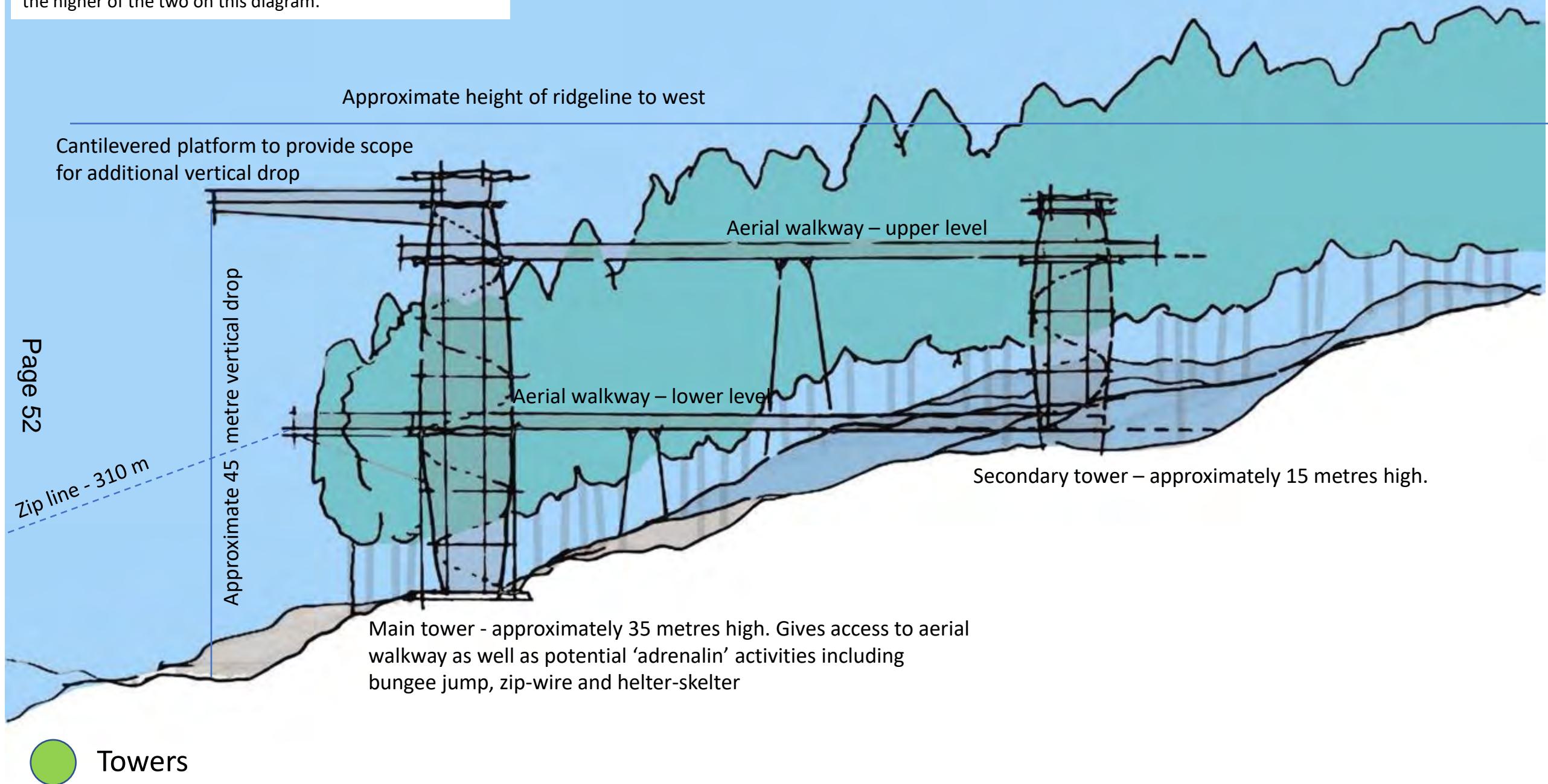
6. Key Components – Forest Activities (continued)



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6. Key Components – Adrenalin Activities

A range of adrenalin activities are also considered that can include a zip wire, swing and helter-skelter amongst other options. These would be operated from the north tower – the higher of the two on this diagram.



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Zip line - 310 m

Main tower - approximately 35 metres high. Gives access to aerial walkway as well as potential 'adrenalin' activities including bungee jump, zip-wire and helter-skelter

Secondary tower - approximately 15 metres high.

Approximate height of ridgeline to west

Cantilevered platform to provide scope for additional vertical drop

Aerial walkway - upper level

Aerial walkway - lower level

Approximate 45 metre vertical drop

 Towers

The sketch diagram above indicates a provisional proposal for the height of the towers based on current information of contours, levels etc in the location of the proposed aerial walkway and towers. More detailed survey work and design will be required to refine the proposals. As shown, the proposal shows a main tower of 35 metres and a secondary tower of 15 metres. Each tower would incorporate a lift that would allow access between the two levels of the aerial walkway, that are shown 15 vertical metres apart. A cantilever from the main tower could allow additional vertical drop (shown here as an additional 10 metres, giving a total vertical drop of 45 metres). It will be important to keep the towers at a lower height than the adjacent ridge-line to ensure that views to and from the Scheduled Ancient Monument are not compromised.

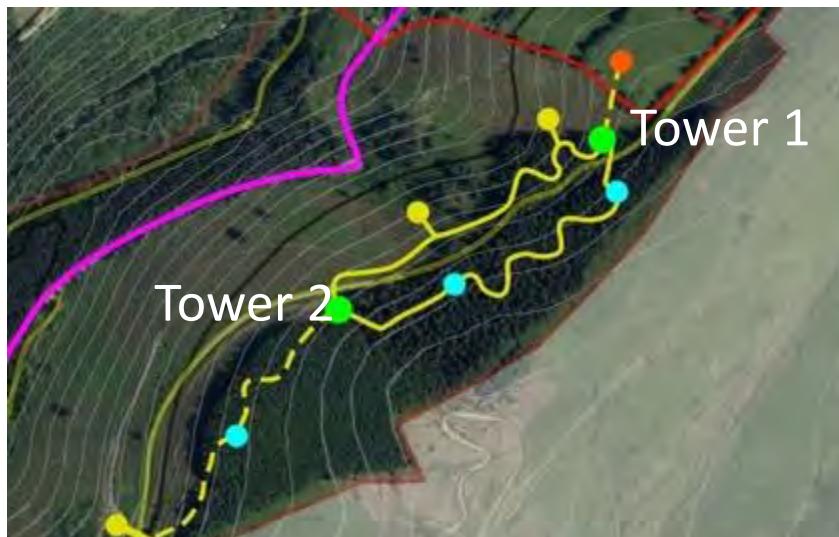
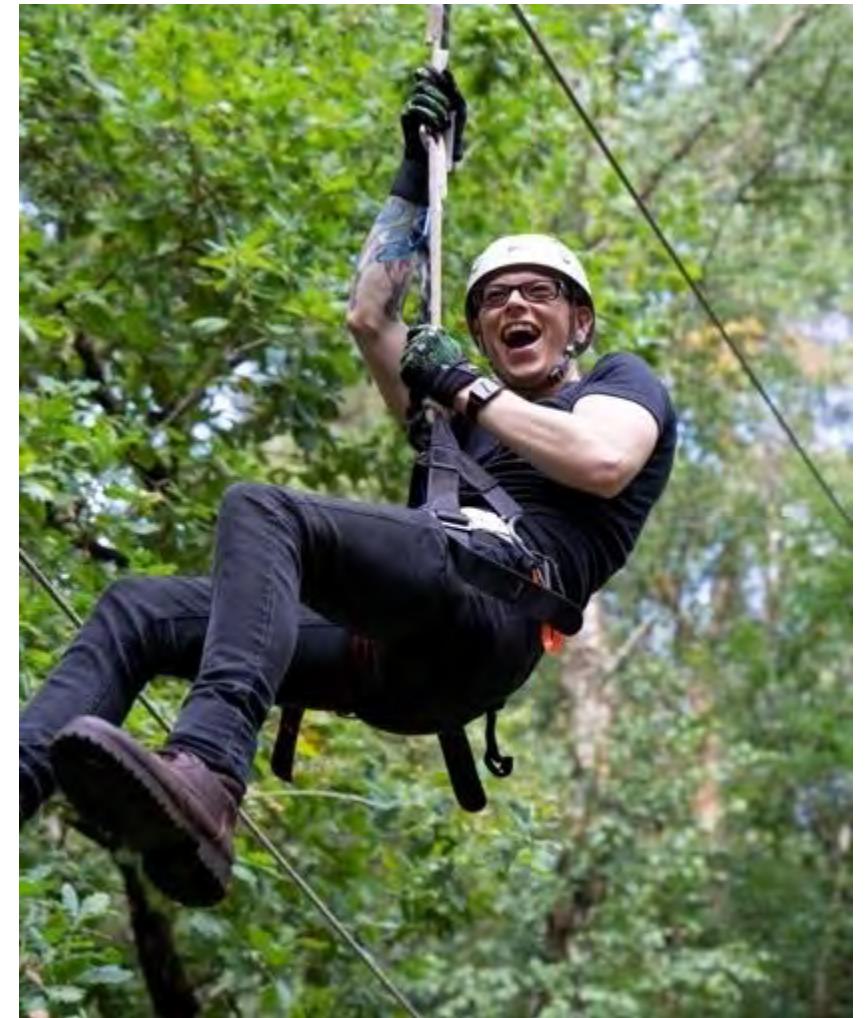
6. Key Components – Adrenalin Activities (continued)



Towers

The proposed towers are an important element for giving access to the aerial walkway, but also offer opportunities in their own right. As well as being visually striking and memorable, they can form the structure to facilitate the starting point for a zip wire, a cantilevered platform for bungee jumping, a launch pad for a dramatic treetop swing and the skeleton of a helter-skelter.

As well as providing active adventure opportunities, they offer scope for passive adventure and spectating by other visitors in and around the tower area.



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6. Key Components – Extending the Reach

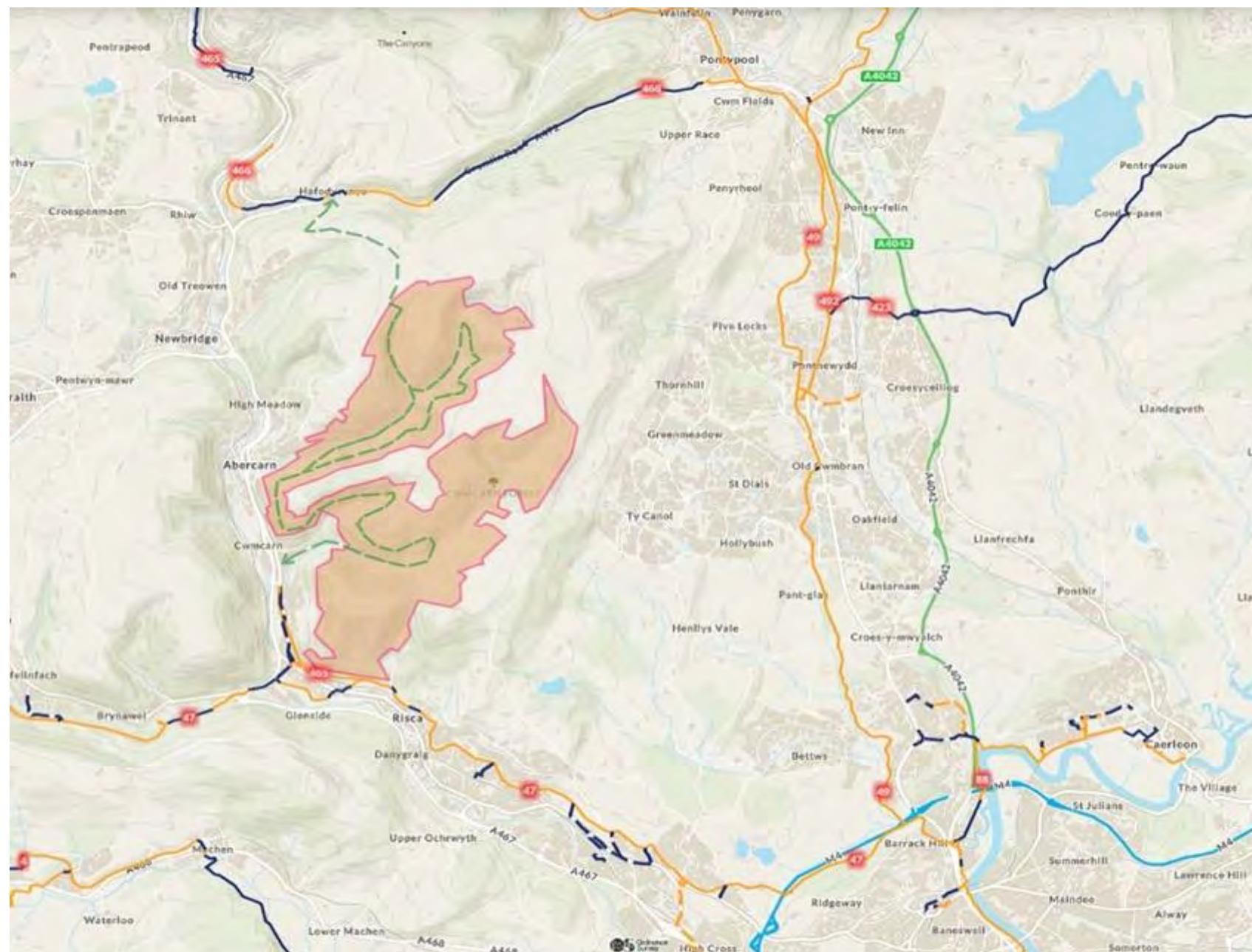
Extending into the wider area

There are other opportunities to place Cwmcarn Forest at the hub of a wider network of activities and facilities. This can:

- Increase the scope and range of attractions;
- Spread the economic and social benefits into local communities and businesses; and
- Increase site 'capacity' by utilising the larger area to absorb visitor numbers and spread visitor impact

The site itself is already a focus and attraction for walking and cycling. Close to the site there is an existing network of Sustrans' routes, which are part of the National Cycle Network. The majority of these are in canal paths that are also very suitable for walking.

What is evident in looking at the map, is that the Forest area offers the opportunity to make a connection between the Sustrans routes 465 and 466. Route 465 ends/starts immediately opposite the entrance into the Forest Park and, apart from a short road section at the northern end, the connection can go entirely through the NRW Forest Park area (as shown in the map right).



The plan above indicates the existing Sustrans routes in the surrounding area. The Park area is also highlighted.

A potential connection is shown that provides a cycle link through the NRW land, utilising existing tracks. This, in combination with a short section of public road to the north of the Forest Park – provides the connecting element of an attractive and varied circuit, utilising canal paths, quiet rural roads and the Forest Park itself.

Additional forest tracks in the northern part of the NRW area could be identified to offer a network of routes. With the increasing use of electric bikes, the range of potential users of these tracks has risen considerably, with a particular need for routes that do not require advanced technical skills (such as those that are needed for Twrch), but still offer a challenging and varied route.

6. Key Components – Extending the Reach (continued)



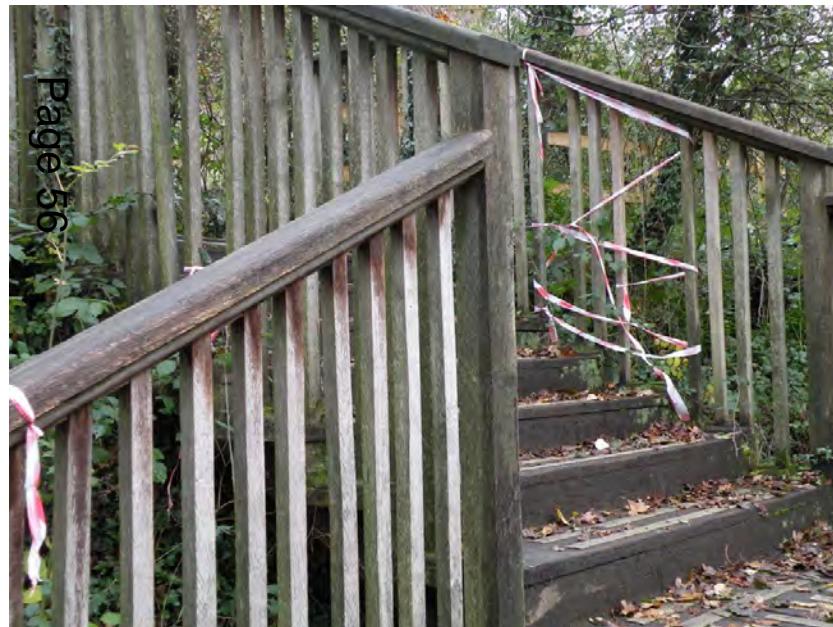
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The proposed circuit offers a varied and interesting route.

The three images in the top row are of the existing forest tracks, within the NRW ownership in the secondary site area. These offer the potential for routes and leisure circuits for electric bikes and provide part of the potential connectivity to link to the wider area and the Sustrans routes.

The three images in the bottom row show the varied and interesting character of the canal path which is a combined pedestrian and cycle route. It is fairly narrow in places, particularly around Newport, and signage through the Newport area where the continuity and clarity of the path is less clear, is poor in places. This could easily be rectified with simple signage.

6. Key Components – Existing Visitor Centre & Accommodation



Existing Visitor Centre

The concept will see significantly more visitors on site and the café will be a key focal point which would benefit from enlargement in order to be able to increase throughput and maintain high levels of customer service.

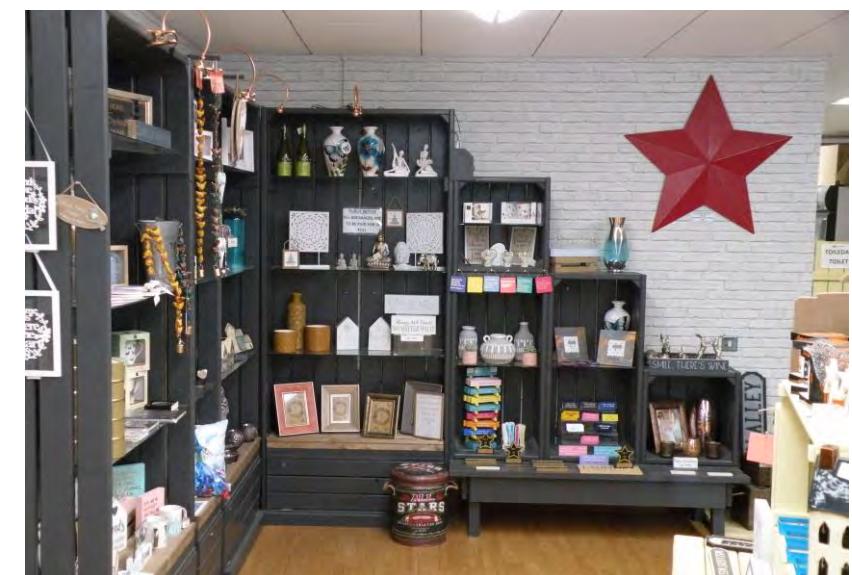
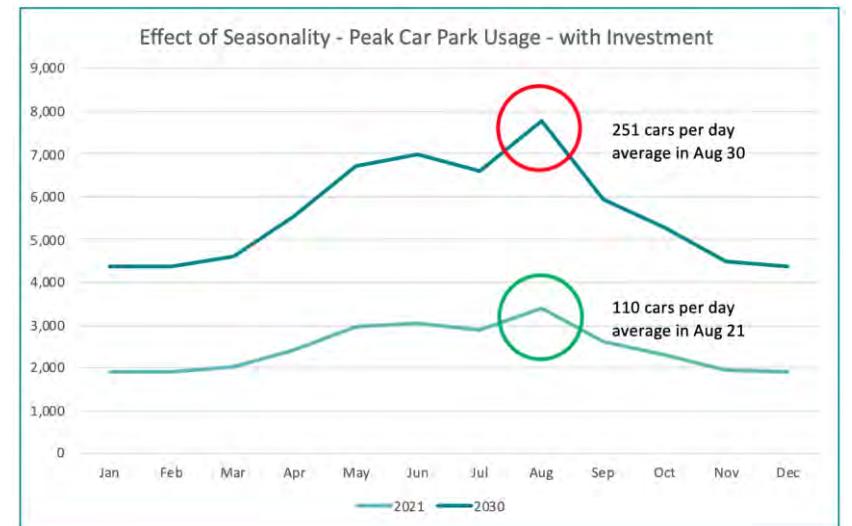
Retail is often a challenge in visitor centres and current sales are understandably low at £4,400 (COVID-19 affected) but also relatively low in 2019 at £25,000.

The first floor could possibly be the location to house the HQ for the new management company or private sector partners involved in a larger operation.

The existing accommodation facilities nearby to the Visitor Centre are appropriate for the local market and could continue to run in parallel to any lodge development but with potential additional investment in Phase 2. For example an indoor play centre could be added later but as a community facility rather than a visitor facility. The current accommodation could be made to work harder in terms of units on site and mix of different accommodation types.

While the accommodation should continue in the short term the space also presents an option for additional car parking in the longer term and once the major visitor attractions are built. Current capacity in the existing car parks is not likely to be able meet peak demand once the new attractions are in place – shown in the graph to the right. This is dependent also on the extent of the new car parking arrangements at the Pit Wheel and the final location of the Coaster.

There are currently high quality shower and changing facilities for the mountain bikers in the car park near to the leased cycle shop and the business case sets out the opportunity to reinvest in that current facility to provide an electric bike hire operation that will also serve the lodge guests during their stay. This will create the means by which many types of visitors can access the wider site with ease in a sustainable way. It also opens up the opportunity to think bigger in the longer terms about prioritising walking and cycling on the Forest Drive.



Current Usage

On the ground floor the Visitor Centre provides a reception, a café with external terrace, a small retail unit and WCs. There are offices, exhibition and meeting rooms on the first floor. Some of the related infrastructure would benefit from immediate investment – such as the main staircase from the lower car park, shown above. Ideally the Visitor Centre should be able to cover its direct costs but due to COVID and the fact that the Forest Drive has not been open it has not done so over the last two years. This has an effect on viability - presented in more detail in the Business Case.



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Caerphilly County Borough Council - Integrated Impact Assessment

This integrated impact assessment (IIA) has been designed to help support the Council in making informed and effective decisions whilst ensuring compliance with a range of relevant legislation, including:

- Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Socio-economic Duty – Sections 1 to 3 of the Equality Act 2010
- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Statutory Consultation v Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation and Gunning Principles

PLEASE NOTE: Section 3 *Socio-economic Duty* only needs to be completed if proposals are of a strategic nature or when reviewing previous strategic decisions.

See page 6 of the Preparing for the Commencement of the Socio-economic Duty Welsh Government Guidance.

1. Proposal Details

Lead Officer:-Allan Dallimore

Head of Service:- Rhian Kyte

Service Area and Department:- Regeneration Services, Regeneration and Planning Department

Date:-29th June 2022

What is the proposal to be assessed? *Provide brief details of the proposal and provide a link to any relevant report or documents.*

The UK Government has recently published details on Round 2 of their Levelling Up Fund, which forms one of the key programmes introduced to replace European funding programmes that are due to cease shortly. The suite of programmes for local and regional economics comprises of the Levelling Up Fund, The UK Community Renewal Fund and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. A move towards this domestic funding arrangement will be instrumental to the future economic resilience and prosperity of Caerphilly County Borough and it is key that the Council maximises the potential.



The second round of the Levelling Up Fund will focus on the same three investment themes as the first round:

- local transport projects that make a genuine difference to local areas;
- town centre and high street regeneration;
- support for maintaining and expanding the UK's world-leading portfolio of cultural and heritage assets.

A report outlining the UK Government programmes was presented to Cabinet on the 19th May 2021. A list of CCBC projects which would potentially be eligible was outlined in that report. The list has been distilled through a vetting process undertaken by senior officers from within the Regeneration and Infrastructure divisions with the Place shaping Framework in mind. A summary of those projects is outlined within section 5.11. There has been a need to revise this list to respond to the LUF Round 2 criteria and to better reflect which projects have developed to a stage where they will be robust and detailed enough for submission to UK Government.

This report requests endorsement of three submissions under the LUF Programme Round 2:

- A constituency submission for Islwyn that concentrates on developing the visitor offer at Cwmcarn Forest based on the recent masterplan, plus enhancement works along the and Monmouth and Brecon canal.
- A constituency bid for Caerphilly that focuses on the provision of a new Well-being centre on council owned land at Caerphilly Business Park.
- A transport bid that focuses on securing funding to develop a new transport interchange in Caerphilly Town Centre.

This report also seeks Cabinet approval / endorsement of the Cwmcarn Masterplan developed by Tomorrow's Tourism on behalf of the council, so that it can act as the catalyst for investment at Cwmcarn Forest to fulfil the ambitions of establishing it as a regional visitor attraction.

It is expected that projects developed under these programmes will be aware of, and address, the well-being of current and future generations whilst addressing the needs of the people CCBC currently serve. The UKLUF programme will fund transformational physical projects that will have a long-lasting impact over 10-25 years

2. Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011

*(The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to have "due regard" to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and foster good relations between different groups). Please note that an individual may have more than one **protected characteristics**.*

2a Age (people of all ages)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

Positive – the LUF submissions, if successful will allow projects to progress that benefit this group

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

No negative impacts

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

All three LUF submissions are aimed at improving the lives of local residents; be it through improving access to public transport, access to fitness and well being services or access to the visitor services and the outdoors. The evidence to support each is being gathered in readiness for LUF submission and will be reported for each project individually as the projects are developed.

2b Disability (*people with disabilities/ long term conditions*)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

Positive – the LUF submissions, if successful will allow projects to progress that benefit this group

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

No negative impacts

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

All three LUF submissions are aimed at improving the lives of local residents, including disabled groups; be it through improving access to public transport, access to fitness and well being services or access to the visitor services and the outdoors. The evidence to support each is being gathered in readiness for LUF submission and will be reported for each project individually as the projects are developed.

2c Gender Reassignment (*anybody who's gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex they were assigned at birth*)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

Positive – the LUF submissions, if successful will allow projects to progress that benefit this group

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

No negative impacts

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

None are specifically aimed at this group . However, all three LUF submissions are aimed at improving the lives of local residents; be it through improving access to public transport, access to fitness and well being services or access to the visitor services and the outdoors. The evidence to support each is being gathered in readiness for LUF submission and will be reported for each project individually as the projects are developed.

2d Marriage or Civil Partnership (*people who are married or in a civil partnership*)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

Positive – the LUF submissions, if successful will allow projects to progress that benefit this group

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

No negative impacts

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

All three LUF submissions are aimed at improving the lives of all local residents; be it through improving access to public transport, access to fitness and well being services or access to the visitor services and the outdoors. The evidence to support each is being gathered in readiness for LUF submission and will be reported for each project individually as the projects are developed.

2e Pregnancy and Maternity (*women who are pregnant and/or on maternity leave*)

- (i) **Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?**

Positive – the LUF submissions, if successful will allow projects to progress that benefit this group

- (ii) **If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?**

No negative impact

- (iii) **What evidence has been used to support this view?**

All three LUF submissions are aimed at improving the lives of local residents, including those who are pregnant ; be it through improving access to public transport, access to fitness and particularly through better access to well being services at the proposed new facility in the heart of Caerphilly town. The evidence to support each is being gathered in readiness for LUF submission and will be reported for each project individually as the projects are developed.

2f Race (*people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds*)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

Positive – the LUF submissions, if successful will allow projects to progress that benefit this group

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

There are no negative impacts

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

All three LUF submissions are aimed at improving the lives of local residents, including people of colour; be it through improving access to public transport, access to fitness and well being services or access to the visitor services and the outdoors. The evidence to support each is being gathered in readiness for LUF submission and will be reported for each project individually as the projects are developed.

2g Religion or Belief (*people with different religions and beliefs including people with no beliefs*)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

Positive – the LUF submissions, if successful will allow projects to progress that benefit this group

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

There are no negative impacts

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

All three LUF submissions are aimed at improving the lives of local residents; be it through improving access to public transport, access to fitness and well being services or access to the visitor services and the outdoors. The evidence to support each is being gathered in readiness for LUF submission and will be reported for each project individually as the projects are developed.

2h Sex (*women and men, girls and boys and those who self-identify their gender*)

- **Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?**
Positive – the LUF submissions, if successful will allow projects to progress that benefit this group

- **If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?**

There are no negative impacts

- **What evidence has been used to support this view?**

All three LUF submissions are aimed at improving the lives of local residents; be it through improving access to public transport, access to fitness, visitor services and the outdoors and in particular for this group access or access to well being services. The evidence to support each is being gathered in readiness for LUF submission and will be reported for each project individually as the projects are developed.

2i Sexual Orientation (*lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual, other*)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

Positive – the LUF submissions, if successful will allow projects to progress that benefit this group

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

There are no negative impacts for this group

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

All three LUF submissions are aimed at improving the lives of local residents; be it through improving access to public transport, access to fitness and well being services or access to the visitor services and the outdoors. The evidence to support each is being gathered in readiness for LUF submission and will be reported for each project individually as the projects are developed

3. Socio-economic Duty *(Strategic Decisions Only)*

*(The Socio-economic Duty gives us an opportunity to do things differently and put tackling inequality genuinely at the heart of key decision making. **Socio-economic disadvantage** means living on a low income compared to others in Wales, with little or no accumulated wealth, leading to greater material deprivation, restricting the ability to access basic goods and services)*

Please consider these additional vulnerable group and the impact your proposal may or may not have on them:

- Single parents and vulnerable families
- People with low literacy/numeracy
- Pensioners
- Looked after children
- Homeless people
- Carers
- Armed Forces Community
- Students
- Single adult households
- People misusing substances
- People who have experienced the asylum system
- People of all ages leaving a care setting
- People living in the most deprived areas in Wales (WIMD)
- People involved in the criminal justice system

3a Low Income / Income Poverty *(cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing, transport etc.)*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive – the LUF submissions, if successful will allow projects to progress that benefit this group

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

No negative impacts

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

All three LUF submissions are aimed at improving the lives of local residents; be it through improving access to public transport, access to fitness and well being services or access to the visitor services and the outdoors. The evidence to support each is being gathered in readiness for LUF submission and will be reported for each project individually as the



projects are developed. Each project will bring employment and training opportunities and should improve access to public transport

3b Low and/or No Wealth (*enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provisions for the future*)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive – the LUF submissions, if successful will allow projects to progress that benefit this group

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

No negative impacts

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

All three LUF submissions are aimed at improving the lives of local residents; be it through improving access to public transport, access to fitness and well being services or access to the visitor services and the outdoors. The evidence to support each is being gathered in readiness for LUF submission and will be reported for each project individually as the projects are developed. Each project will bring employment and training opportunities and should improve access to public transport

3c Material Deprivation (*unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, hobbies etc.*)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive – the LUF submissions, if successful will allow projects to progress that benefit this group

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

no negative impacts

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

All three LUF submissions are aimed at improving the lives of local residents; be it through improving access to public transport, access to fitness and well being services or access to the visitor services and the outdoors. The evidence to support each is being gathered in readiness for LUF submission and will be reported for each project individually as the projects are developed. Each project will bring employment and training opportunities and should help with peoples well being

3d Area Deprivation *(where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of public transport) Impact on the environment?)*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive – the LUF submissions, if successful will allow projects to progress that benefit this group

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

No negative impacts

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

All three LUF submissions are aimed at improving the lives of local residents; be it through improving access to public transport, access to fitness and well being services or access to the visitor services and the outdoors. The evidence to support each is being gathered in readiness for LUF submission and will be reported for each project individually as the projects are developed. Each project will bring employment and training opportunities and should improve access to public transport

3e Socio-economic Background *(social class i.e. parents education, employment and income)*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive – the LUF submissions, if successful will allow projects to progress that benefit this group

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

No negative impacts

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

All three LUF submissions are aimed at improving the lives of local residents; be it through improving access to public transport, access to fitness and well being services or access to the visitor services and the outdoors. The evidence to support each is being gathered in readiness for LUF submission and will be reported for each project individually as the projects are developed. Each project will bring employment and training opportunities and should improve access to public transport

3f Socio-economic Disadvantage *(What cumulative impact will the proposal have on people or groups because of their protected characteristic(s) or vulnerability or because they are already disadvantaged)*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive – the LUF submissions, if successful will allow projects to progress that benefit this group

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

No negative impacts

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

All three LUF submissions are aimed at improving the lives of local residents; be it through improving access to public transport, access to fitness and well being services or access to the visitor services and the outdoors. The evidence to support each is being gathered in readiness for LUF submission and will be reported for each project individually as the projects are developed. Each project will bring employment and training opportunities and should improve access to public transport

4. Corporate Plan – Council’s Well-being Objectives

(How does your proposal deliver against any/all of the Council’s Well-being Objectives? Which in turn support the national well-being goals for Wales as outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Are there any impacts (positive, negative or neutral? If there are negative impacts how have these been mitigated?) Well-being Objectives

Objective 1 - Improve education opportunities for all.

Levelling Up funding will allow the three projects to progress that will encourage associated training projects to proceed that promote this objective

Objective 2 - Enabling employment.

LUF funding would allow the three projects to proceed, producing direct employment outputs and also projects that upskill people to enter into employment

Objective 3 - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people’s well-being. LUF projects identified are unlikely to affect the availability, condition and sustainability of homes,

Objective 4 - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impact on the environment

One of the main LUF project is a new transport interchange in Caerphilly that will promote a modern integrated and sustainable transport system. Active travel routes will be introduced to support the other two projects as well.

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

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

LUF funding would allow projects to proceed that promote this objective as it would encourage investment into the following:

- Investment in Skills



- Investment for Local Business
- Investment in Communities and Place

Supporting People into Employment

4a. Links to any other relevant Council Policy *(How does your proposal deliver against any other relevant Council Policy)*

CCBC Leisure Strategy
CCBC Transport Strategy
CCBC Regeneration Strategy
Caerphilly Basin Masterplan
Caerphilly Town 2035 Plan
CCBC Corporate Plan

5. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – The Five Ways of Working *(Also known as the sustainable development principles. The Act requires the Council to consider how any proposal improves the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales using the five ways of working as a baseline)*

How have you used the Sustainable Development Principles in forming the proposal?

Long Term

It is expected that projects as they are developed will be aware of, and address, the well-being of current and future generations whilst addressing the needs of the people CCBC currently serve. The UKLUF programme will fund transformational physical projects that will have a long-lasting impact over 10-25 years. All projects are being developed to have long term viability

Prevention

Proposals developed by CCBC under these programmes will prevent problems occurring or getting worse. The LUF projects will look to develop physical outputs that respond to local issues. They will relief transport issues, stimulate the local economy, provide employment, deliver environmental improvements and provide better access to physical exercise and well being support.

Integration

The LUF submissions will impact positively on the services provided by the Council, be it Leisure, Tourism, Transport or our community support services.

Collaboration

In a similar vein to the opportunities outlined above for Integration section, the LUF submissions will allow for projects to be delivered that are collaborative between the Council and other actors/agencies within the community. This is particularly relevant to the Well being centre

Involvement

Key stakeholders have been engaged specifically for each of the three projects as part of the project evolution to ensure their views are incorporated into the final plans

6. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Does the proposal maximise our contribution to the Well-being Goals and how?

A Prosperous Wales

An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work

The CCBC projects being submitted adhere to the overall objectives of the Levelling Up programmes as set out in the UK prospectus documents. Hence the three CCBC projects, if funded, will look to generate wealth, provide jobs and training by efficiently using both funding from the programmes and our own match where applicable.

A Resilient Wales

A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for climate change)

Projects being submitted have been to be developed so that each is considered against their environmental impact and maximise opportunities to enhance existing ecosystems. All three will have a positive impact in different ways



A Healthier Wales

A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood

The CCBC projects being submitted adhere to the overall objectives of the Levelling Up programmes as set out in the UK prospectus documents. Hence the three CCBC projects, if funded, will look to generate improvements in peoples well being using funding from the programmes and our own match where applicable. In particular, the Well Being centre and the development of the visitor offer at Cwmcarn will have a positive impact

A More Equal Wales

A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances)

The CCBC projects being submitted adhere to the overall objectives of the Levelling Up programmes as set out in the UK prospectus documents. Hence the three CCBC projects, if funded, will look to generate wealth, provide jobs and training by efficiently using both funding from the programmes and our own match where applicable. In addition improvement to transport infrastructure will improve accessibility to those in more deprived areas

A Wales of Cohesive Communities

Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities

The CCBC projects being submitted adhere to the overall objectives of the Levelling Up programmes as set out in the UK prospectus documents. Hence the three CCBC projects, if funded, will look to generate wealth, provide jobs and training by efficiently using both funding from the programmes and our own match where applicable. In addition, improvement to transport infrastructure will improve accessibility to those in more deprived areas.

A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation

The overall objectives of the LUF programme as set out in the UK prospectus documents will be adhered to. Hence CCBC projects, when being developed, will look to CCBC projects will look to promote and protect culture, particularly at Cwmcarn and within Caerphilly basin. The well being centre will have flexible space for community/cultural events and will encourage people to participate in sports and recreation. The project at Cwmcarn will also encourage recreational activities



A Globally Responsible Wales

A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being

All three projects will look to improve the economic, social and cultural well-being of the community

7. Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and Welsh Language Standards

(The Welsh Language Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards require the Council to have 'due regard' for the positive or negative impact a proposal may have on opportunities to use the Welsh language and ensuring the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language) Policy Making Standards - Good Practice Advice Document

7a. Links with Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy and CCBC's Five Year Welsh Language Strategy 2022-2027 and the Language Profile

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

The UK levelling up bids will have the capacity to have a positive effect. The use of the Welsh language will be promoted where possible and organisations who benefit from funding will be expected to comply with the Welsh Language Act and Welsh language standards

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

No negative impacts

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view? e.g. the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Annual School Census

UK Prospectus documents for each submission

7b. Compliance with the Welsh Language Standards. *Specifically Standards 88–93*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Project will comply where necessary and where they don't impact then correspondence and detail on website will be bilingual

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

No negative impacts

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view? e.g. the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Annual School Census

UK Prospectus documents for each submission

7c. Opportunities to promote the Welsh language *e.g. status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life in work / community*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

The UK Levelling Up programme submissions will have the capacity to have a positive effect. The use of the Welsh language will be promoted where possible and organisations who benefit from funding will be expected to comply with the Welsh Language Act and Welsh language standards.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

No negative impact

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view? *e.g. the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Annual School Census*

UK Prospectus documents for each submission

7d. Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language *e.g. staff, residents and visitors*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

The CCBC Levelling up submissions will have the capacity to have a positive effect. The use of the Welsh language will be promoted at each location should the projects gain funding. In addition, organisations who benefit from funding will be expected to comply with the Welsh Language Act and Welsh language standards

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

No negative impacts

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view? *e.g. the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Annual School Census*

UK Prospectus documents for each submission

7e. Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

The three levelling up submissions will have the capacity to have a positive effect. The use of the Welsh language will be promoted where possible and organisations who benefit from funding will be expected to comply with the Welsh Language Act and Welsh language standards

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

No negative impacts

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view? *e.g. the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Annual School Census*

UK prospectus documents for each submission

7f. Having considered the impacts above, how has the proposal been developed so that there are positive effects, or increased positive effects on (a) opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and (b) treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

The UK programmes will have the capacity to have a positive effect. The use of the Welsh language will be promoted within each of the three projects, including bi-lingual signage, promotion of the language on site and bi-lingual staff where possible. Organisations who benefit from funding will be expected to comply with the Welsh Language Act and Welsh language standards

8. Data and Information

(What data or other evidence has been used to inform the development of the proposal? Evidence may include the outcome of previous consultations, existing databases, pilot projects, review of customer complaints and compliments and or other service user feedback, national and regional data, academic publications and consultants' reports etc.)

Data/evidence *(Please provide link to report if appropriate)*

Each project will have its own data set which will be presented in individual reports when the projects develop further, should LUF funding be forthcoming

Key relevant findings

To be determined

How has the data/evidence informed this proposal?

To be determined

Were there any gaps identified in the evidence and data used to develop this proposal and how will these gaps be filled? *Details of further consultation can be included in Section 9.*

Each project needs to develop further and this will happen if LUF funding submissions are successful. It is at this stage that more detailed evidence will be presented for each project

9. Consultation

*(In some instances, there is a legal requirement to consult. In others, even where there is no legal obligation, there may be a legitimate expectation from people that a consultation will take place. Where it has been determined that consultation is required, **The Gunning Principles** must be adhered to. Consider the **Consultation and Engagement Framework**. Please note that this may need to be updated as the proposal develops and to strengthen the assessment.*

Briefly describe any recent or planned consultations paying particular attention to evidencing the Gunning Principles.

Key stakeholder have been engaged in developing the submissions. These stakeholders will have a pivotal role to play as the projects develop, should funding be secured with further engagement being undertaken. Local members have been consulted on the proposals

Who was consulted?

For each projects a different set of key stakeholders has been engaged with

When they were consulted did the consultation take place at the formative stage and was adequate time given for consultees to consider and respond?

Consultation has taken place at the formative stage of each project and has continued to the submission stage. Further consultation will be required if the projects are successful in gaining funding



Was sufficient information provided to consultees to allow them to make an informed decision on the proposal?

Initial consultation will be followed with more detailed engagement should the projects receive funding to develop further

What were the key findings?

In short the findings supported the rationale for identifying these three projects as being necessary and beneficial to take forward

How have the consultation findings been taken into account?

Feedback has been fed into the design process for each project.

10. Monitoring and Review

How will the implementation and the impact of the proposal be monitored, including implementation of any amendments?

The UK programmes will have grant award conditions that will set out detailed and robust monitoring arrangements for projects. The project submissions each set out in detail how the project will be monitored and evaluated

What are the practical arrangements for monitoring?

Each project will appoint monitoring and evaluation consultants to appraise the project

How will the results of the monitoring be used to develop future proposals?

Monitoring information helps to reflect on delivery success. And helps inform future project delivery

When is the proposal due to be reviewed?

Too early to be determined yet

Who is responsible for ensuring this happens?

Each project has a lead Senior Responsible Officer (for each it will be a senior CCC office) - it will be their duty to ensure this happens

11. Recommendation and Reasoning (delete as applicable)

- Implement proposal with no amendments

Have you contacted relevant officers for advice and guidance? (delete as applicable)

- Yes
-

12. Reason(s) for Recommendations

(Provide below a summary of the Integrated Impact Assessment. This summary should be included in the "Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment" section of the Corporate Report Template. The Integrated Impact Assessment should be published alongside the Report proposal).

The UK levelling Up projects outlined in the report will have a positive impact on equalities, Welsh language and the Socio-economic Duty. An IIA has been completed with the information that is available for the project proposals to be submitted in July 2022. However, as each proposal is taken forward, a more detailed IIA will be undertaken

13. Version Control

(The IIA should be used in the early stages of the proposal development process. The IIA can be strengthened as time progresses to help shape the proposal. The Version Control section will act as an audit trail to evidence how the IIA has been developed over time) (Add or delete versions as applicable)

➤ Version 1

Author:- Allan Dallimore, Regeneration Services Manager

Brief description of the amendments/update:-

Revision Date:-

➤ Version 2

Author:-

Brief description of the amendments/update:-

Revision Date:-



Integrated Impact Assessment Author

Name:-Allan Dallimore

Job Title:- Regeneration Services Manager

Date:-09.06.22

Head of Service Approval

Name:- Rhian Kyte

Job Title:-Head of Regeneration and Planning

Signature:-

Date:-09.06.22



CABINET – 29TH JUNE 2022

SUBJECT: UK GOVERNMENT SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund as part of the UK Government's Levelling Up programme.
- 1.2 To seek agreement for Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (RCT) to act as Lead Local Authority for the UK SPF for the Cardiff Capital Region.
- 1.3 To seek endorsement for RCT to submit the CCR Investment Plan to the UK Government by the submission deadline of 1st August 2022.
- 1.4 To delegate powers to the Corporate Director for Economy and Environment in consultation with the Head of Legal Services and the Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration & Climate Change, to agree the legal agreements associated with the UKSPF with the Lead Local Authority namely Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council on behalf of Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- 1.5 To agree to extend the contracts of staff who are at threat of redundancy as a consequence of the cessation of the European Social Fund in 2022/23 via the SPF funding allocation up to March 2023 and to agree a number of other interventions across the County Borough to ensure that the 2022/23 funding is spent in a timely manner. This will be at financial risk to the council in the first instance. The contracts can be further extended once confirmation of SPF funding is received.
- 1.6 To agree to utilise part of the 4% SPF administration/management fee to appoint a small project team to manage and administer the delivery of the SPF programme for Caerphilly CBC.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK government's ambitious Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding

formula rather than a competition.

2.2 The UKSPF will support the UK government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives to:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging
- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency

The primary goal of the UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK.

2.3 Underneath the overarching aim of building pride in place and increasing life chances, there are three UKSPF investment priorities: communities and place; supporting local business; and people and skills. The SPF aligns and compliments the Levelling Up Fund and the proposals considered under a separate Cabinet report.

2.4 All places in the UK will receive a conditional allocation from the UKSPF. Caerphilly County Borough has a conditional allocation of £28,272,298, and an allocation of £5,901,499 for *Multiply (*UK Gov Adult numeracy programme).

2.5 The 10 LAs in the CCR have a combined conditional allocation of £230,432,572 and £48,100,003 for *Multiply.

2.6 Local authorities within the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) have been invited to collaborate and feed into one regional investment plan for CCR. As part of this process there is a need to appoint one local authority to assume the role of the 'Lead Local Authority' for the UKSPF, and it is proposed that Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC performs this role.

2.7 The regional investment plan will need to be submitted to UK Government during the investment plan window between 30 June and 1 August 2022. The anticipated date for the first investment plans to be approved and payment awarded to Lead Local Authorities by UK Government thereafter is October 2022 onward.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That Cabinet:

- (i) Consider the detail of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the opportunities for the Funds to contribute significantly to the Council's own Place Shaping, Transformation and Regeneration agendas.
- (ii) Agree that Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council assume the role of the 'Lead Local Authority' for the UKSPF for the Cardiff Capital Region.

- (iii) Agree that Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council submit the CCR Investment Plan for consideration by UK Government prior to the closing date for submission of 1st August 2022.
- (iv) Give delegated powers to the Corporate Director for Economy and Environment in consultation with the Head of Legal Services and the Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration & Climate Change, to agree the legal agreements associated with the UKSPF with the Lead Local Authority namely Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council on behalf of Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- (v) Agree to utilise the 2022/23 budget at risk to deliver the interventions outlined in Appendix 1 in order to ensure that the fund for 2022/23 is fully expended.
- (vi) Agree to extend the contracts of staff who are at threat of redundancy as a consequence of the cessation of the European Social Fund in 2022/23 up to March 2023. This will be at financial risk to the council in the first instance and the contracts can be further extended once confirmation of SPF funding is received.
- (vii) Agree that any elements of 2022/23 at risk expenditure that are not subsequently approved for funding through the SPF are funded through the council's Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework Earmarked Reserve.
- (viii) Agree to appoint a small project team using the administration/management fee, initially comprising of a lead project officer (Grade 10), finance officer (Grade 9) and 1 x support officer (Grade 9) to manage and administer the delivery of the SPF programme for Caerphilly CBC.
- (ix) Note that further reports will be presented to Cabinet detailing the funding proposals for future stages of the fund.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that the Council is fully prepared to maximise funding opportunities from the Shared Prosperity Fund for the benefits of its citizens and communities and to allow for robust engagement to take place.
- 4.2 To respond to the UK Government's invitation to collaborate on and submit one regional investment plan for the Cardiff Capital Region in full consultation with stakeholders in readiness for submission to UK Government by 1st August 2022.
- 4.3 To agree the legal agreements associated with the UKSPF with the Lead Local Authority namely Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council on behalf of Caerphilly County Borough Council in a timely manner.
- 4.4 To utilise the 2022/23 budget at risk to implement specific interventions outlined at Appendix 1 in order to ensure that the fund for 2022/23 is fully expended.
- 4.5 To effectively manage and administer the delivery of the SPF programme for Caerphilly CBC.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK government's ambitious Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition.
- 5.2 The UKSPF will support the UK government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives to:
- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging
 - Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
 - Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
 - Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency

The primary goal of the UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. It aligns with the Levelling Up fund proposals considered under a separate report to Cabinet.

- 5.3 Underneath the overarching aim of building pride in place and increasing life chances, there are three UKSPF investment priorities: communities and place; supporting local business; and people and skills.
- The **communities and place** investment priority will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place.
 - The **supporting local business** investment priority will enable places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow.
 - The **people and skills** investment priority can provide funding to help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. This theme can also target funding into skills for local areas to support employment and local growth.
- 5.4 Within the context of the Fund's aims, each place will have the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. The balance of priorities should reflect local need and opportunity. This flexible approach represents a key shift from the previous EU system.

- 5.5 All places in the UK will receive a conditional allocation from the UKSPF. Caerphilly County Borough has a conditional allocation of £28,272,298, and an allocation of £5,901,499 for *Multiply (*UK Gov Adult numeracy programme programme).
- 5.6 Table 1 provides the Caerphilly County Borough allocations up to March 2025. It is important to note that any funding not utilised in year cannot be carried forward and will be lost. In this context, local authorities can spend at risk from 1 April 2022 for 2022-23. Mechanisms are also being explored to ensure that all funding is maintained within the CCR each year through the development of a legal agreement between the Lead Authority and UK Government and via back-to-back legal agreements with RCT and the 9 Local Authorities in the CCR.

Total SR (UKSPF core)	22-23 (UKSPF core)	23-24 (UKSPF core)	24-25(UKSPF core)
£28,272,298	£3,431,104	£6,862,208	£17,978,985
Total SR (Multiply)	22-23 (Multiply)	23-24 (Multiply)	24-25 (Multiply)
£5,901,499	£1,784,174	£2,058,662	£2,058,662

Table 1: Caerphilly CBC Shared Prosperity Fund and Multiply allocation.

- 5.7 The 10 LAs in the CCR have a combined conditional allocation of £230,432,572 and £48,100,003 for *Multiply. Note: Up to 4% of the funding can be used for financing the administration of the fund. This 4% does not need to be spent wholly by the lead authority, a proportion of the administration budget can be allocated to individual authorities as appropriate.
- 5.8 The local split of capital and revenue for the Fund in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland is as follows:

Year	Core UKSPF: revenue	Core UKSPF: capital	*Multiply: revenue
2022-23	89.6%	10.4%	100%
2023-24	87.5%	12.5%	100%
2024-25	82.1%	17.9%	100%

Table 2: Shared Prosperity Fund and Multiply Revenue/Capital allocation

- 5.9 In order to access UKSPF funding, lead local authorities are being asked to complete an investment plan, setting out how they intend to use and deliver the funding.

- 5.10 Local authorities within the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) have been invited to collaborate and feed into one regional investment plan for CCR. As part of this process there is a need to appoint one local authority to assume the role of the 'Lead Local Authority' for the UKSPF, and it is proposed that Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC performs this role.
- 5.11 The 'Lead Local Authority' will be responsible for submitting the regional investment plan to UK Government during the designated "investment window" period of 30th June and 1st August 2022. The lead authority for the strategic geography i.e. RCT for CCR, will have overall accountability for the funding and how the fund operates. If a specific local authority within the CCR takes lead responsibility for a particular UKSPF intervention or policy for the wider geography (for example Torfaen is leading on People and Skills), the lead authority i.e. RCT can allocate a proportion of the 4% administration budget to them.
- 5.12 Lead local authorities for each area will have flexibility over how they deliver the Fund. They may wish to use a mix of competitions for grant funding (which is the default approach set out in Cabinet Office Grants Standards), procurement, commissioning or deliver some activity through in-house teams. For example, some community level interventions may require a commissioning or in-house approach, recognising that competitions for grant may create barriers to participation in left behind communities.
- 5.13 CCR will need to engage with regional partnership groups in order to effectively develop the regional investment plan. To this end a number of workshops have been held throughout May/June to engage with a diverse range of partners. In addition all MPs and Constituent MS's have been engaged in the process throughout.
- 5.14 Notably, Caerphilly County Borough Council is not required to develop its own local investment plan for submission to UK Government. However, it is important that a local investment plan for the County Borough is prepared to inform the regional plan and provide clarity at the local level on the Caerphilly specific interventions, targets and outputs that the Council wants to achieve through the UKSPF.
- 5.15 However, given the tight timescales involved in preparing the local investment plan, work will need to continue throughout the summer to develop the detailed local interventions in partnership with local stakeholders, in preparation for the payment award from UK Government in October 2022.
- 5.16 Workshops will be held with local partners through early summer (in line with agreed regional timescales) to feed into the priorities for Caerphilly and also for the wider work on the CCR Investment Plan, but further engagement will be needed.
- 5.17 The regional investment plan will need to be submitted by RCT to UK Government during the investment plan window between 30 June and 1 August 2022. The anticipated date for the first investment plans to be approved and payment awarded to Lead Local Authorities by UK Government thereafter is October 2022 onward.

As indicated the fund can support investment in interventions that start from 1 April 2022 where they fit with the intervention toolkit. Any such interventions will be at risk prior to approval by UK Government of the CCR Investment Plan. In order to ensure that the £3,431,104 allocation for 2022/23 and the £1,784,174 Multiply allocation is

fully utilised, it is recommended that specific interventions outlined in Appendix 1 be funded for 2022/23 at risk.

- 5.18 Lead local authorities can also incur administrative and preparatory costs from 1 April 2022. This is subject to provisions on the use of the fund for administration and all other fund requirements, including but not limited to branding and publicity, and reporting.
- 5.19 Funding is confirmed for three financial years: 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 providing a predictable baseline element of local growth funding. All interventions should end by March 2025 or have a break clause allowing for closure by March 2025 if required (for example, yearly renewable funding).

Conclusion

- 5.20 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK government's ambitious Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025. This funding along with the LUF provides us with a significant but challenging opportunity to deliver key aspects of our regeneration strategic intentions over the next few years. Further details are being developed in consultation with key stakeholders and further reports will be presented to Cabinet outlining details of future projects.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 This report assumes that RCT will be the Lead Local Authority for the Cardiff Capital Region for the UKSPF; and that the CCR Investment Plan will be submitted by RCT to UK Government by the submission deadline of 1st August 2022.
- 6.2 Delivery of the programme is challenging with funding lost if not committed in accordance with the in-year allocations. A small project team has been identified within the funding envelope to ensure a sharp focus remains on delivery and outcomes.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The integrated impact assessment is included as appendix 2 to this report

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 All places in the UK will receive a conditional allocation from the UKSPF. Caerphilly County Borough has a conditional allocation of £28,272,298, and an allocation of £5,901,499 for *Multiply (*UK Gov Adult numeracy programme).
- 8.2 The 10 LAs in the CCR have a combined conditional allocation of £230,432,572 and £48,100,003 for *Multiply. Note: Up to 4% of the funding can be used for financing the administration of the fund. This 4% does not need to be spent wholly by the lead

authority, a proportion of the administration budget can be allocated to individual authorities as appropriate.

- 8.3 The fund can support investment in interventions that start from 1 April 2022 where they fit with the intervention toolkit. Any such interventions will be at risk prior to approval by UK Government of the CCR Investment Plan. In order to ensure that the £3,431,104 allocation for 2022/23 and the £1,784,174 Multiply allocation is fully utilised, it is recommended that the specific interventions outlined at Appendix 1 totalling £2,417,000 plus the multiply allocation of £1,784.174 be supported and funded for 2022/23. It is also recommended that that any elements of the 2022/23 at risk expenditure that are spent between now and the approval date (October 2022) if not subsequently approved for funding through the SPF are funded through the council's Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework Earmarked Reserve.
- 8.4 The lead authority for the strategic geography i.e. RCT for CCR, will have overall accountability for the funding and how the fund operates.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 In Cardiff Capital Region, the overall UKSPF programme will be delivered by a Lead Local Authority (potentially RCT) and implemented, delivered and monitored at the local level by the individual local authorities. This is a significant change from previous EU funding programmes, which were managed and administered centrally by the Welsh European Funding Office.
- 9.2 This programme is significant and challenging in terms of delivery and will place additional pressure on a number of key service areas to provide the necessary staff support for the programme, in particular Regeneration & Finance. It is therefore proposed that a small project team is appointed, initially comprising a lead officer (Grade 10), finance officer (Grade 9) and 1 x support officer (Grade 9) to manage and administer the delivery of the programme for Caerphilly CBC. The Team will be funded through the local authority's share of the 4% SPF administration fee and will be part of the Business Enterprise & Renewal Team.
- 9.3 Staff funded through existing European funding programmes will be protected from the threat of redundancy through the allocation of funding at risk in 2022/23 to extend their contracts up to 31st March 2023. These contracts will be further extended on receipt of confirmation of SPF funding in the autumn.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 All consultation responses are reflected in the report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000, Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Local Government and Elections Act 2021.

Author: Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration & Planning

Consultees: Cllr J Pritchard, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Prosperity,
Regeneration & Climate Change
Cllr Sean Morgan, Leader of Council
Christina Harrhy, Chief Executive
Mark S. Williams, Corporate Director for Economy & Environment
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services
Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services & Section 151 Officer
Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration and Planning
Marcus Lloyd, Head of Infrastructure
Nick Taylor Williams, Head of Housing
Allan Dallimore, Regeneration Services Manager
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer
Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning and Strategy
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer, Equalities and Welsh Language

Appendix 1: Proposed interventions at risk for 2022/23

Appendix 2: Integrated impact assessment

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Appendix 1 : Interventions at risk for 2022/23

		Spend Profile	
		2022-23	
Eligible Intervention Number e.g. W15.	LA Proposal Please provide a brief description of the project	Cap	Rev
Communities and Place			
W1	Public realm improvements, street furniture, bin storage, railing and other decorative improvements across the County Borough.	£50,000	£25,000
W1	Town response team operational budget		£30,000
W1	Establish Town Response Teams to deal with town centre Audit issues across the 5 main town centres.		£150,000
W3	Establish Green Space Teams - to work under the management of Parks Services and tackle issues such as weed control / removal and other matters of public concern.		£250,000
W5	Review of existing ASB prevention measures and new technology available. Funding to tackle anti-social behavior problems at key hotspots including physical measures. Continuation of the Smart Water Project to support business owners to design out crime. Increased security in areas targeted by fly-tipping.	£30,000	£15,000
W6	Expand town centre events programme. Increased event funding administered by events staff		£85,000
W8	Investigation into the creation of Business Improvements Districts		£20,000
W13	COST OF LIVING CRISIS FUND: Programmes/campaigns to encourage uptake of energy efficiency measures for homes, including, heat pumps, water pumps and increased insulation. Support for local foodbanks. Social supermarkets. Fair Share Scheme. Energy Efficiency fabric first Programme to tackle cost of living crisis and fuel poverty. Targeted at specific geographically deprived area.	£150,000	£100,000
Supporting Local Business			
W16	Expansion of Community Enterprise Fund (CEF) programme - Investment to town centre retail and service sector with wrap around support for small businesses. Increase budget of CEF fund to include retail/night time economy and tourism sub threads, decarbonisation & feasibility studies	£800,000	£200,000
W16	Develop a meanwhile uses support programme to tackle empty properties in our town centres.		£10,000
W16	Improve Wi Fi/digital connectivity in town centres and offer support to local businesses to enhance digital connectivity		£50,000
W16	Funding programme to support start-up businesses / entrepreneurial support. Increase Business start up grant . Offer upto £5k		£25,000
W16	Facilitate relocation of market tenants out of current accommodation and facilitate new market in Caerphilly		£25,000
W17	Support and promote the LA's visitor portfolio. Marketing drive specifically designed for promoting visitor offer throughout the county borough while also supporting the Caerphilly tourism association (CTA)		£5,000
People and Skills			
W34,W35,W39,W40, W41,W42	Regional Employability Model - continuation of CCBC teams and programmes previously funded by EU programmes.	£25,000	£262,000
Programme Support			
	SPF Programme support team - small project team comprising a lead officer (Grade 10), finance officer (Grade 9) and 1 x support officer (Grade 9) to manage and administer the delivery of the programme for Caerphilly CBC		£100,000
			£1,352,000
MULTIPLY			
Multiply programme	Adult numeracy programme allocation for 22/23		£1,784,174
Totals		£1,055,000	£3,136,174

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Appendix 2:

Caerphilly County Borough Council - Integrated Impact Assessment

This integrated impact assessment (IIA) has been designed to help support the Council in making informed and effective decisions whilst ensuring compliance with a range of relevant legislation, including:

- Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Socio-economic Duty – Sections 1 to 3 of the Equality Act 2010
- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Statutory Consultation v Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation and Gunning Principles

PLEASE NOTE: Section 3 Socio-economic Duty only needs to be completed if proposals are of a strategic nature or when reviewing previous strategic decisions.

See page 6 of the Preparing for the Commencement of the Socio-economic Duty Welsh Government Guidance.

1. Proposal Details

Lead Officer:-Rhian Kyte

Head of Service:-Rhian Kyte

Service Area and Department:-Regeneration Services, Regeneration and Planning Department

Date:-23rd May 2022

What is the proposal to be assessed? *Provide brief details of the proposal and provide a link to any relevant report or documents.*

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK government's ambitious Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition.

The UKSPF will support the UK government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives to:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging
 - Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
 - Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
 - Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency
-

The primary goal of the UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life changes across the UK. This report asks Cabinet to:

- i. Consider the details of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the opportunities for the Funds to contribute significantly to the Council's own Place Shaping, Transformation and Regeneration agendas.
- ii. Agree that Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council submit the CCR Investment Plan for consideration by UK Government prior to the closing date for submission of 1st August 2022.
- iii. Give delegated powers to the Corporate Director for Economy and Environment in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, to agree the legal agreements associated with the UKSPF with the Lead Local Authority, namely Rhondda Cynon Taff Borough Council on behalf of Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- iv. Agree to continue the contracts of staff who are at threat of redundancy as a consequence of the cessation of the European Social Fund in 2022/23, using the SPF allocation for 22/23.
- v. Agree to appoint a small project team using the administration/management fee, initially comprising a Lead Officer (Grade 10), Finance Officer (Grade 9) and one 1x Support Officer (Grade 9) to manage and administer the delivery of the SPF programme for Caerphilly CBC.

There are three UKSPF investment priorities: Communities and Place, Supporting Local Business and People and Skills.

- The **Communities and Place** investment priority will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood level. The intention of this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place.
- The **Supporting Local Business** investment priority will enable places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow.
- The **People and Skills** investment priority can provide funding to help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. This them can also target funding into skills for local areas to support employment and local growth.

It is expected that projects developed under the SPF will be aware of and address, the



wellbeing of current and future generations, whilst addressing the needs of the people CCBC currently serve.

2. Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011

(The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to have “due regard” to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and foster good relations between different groups). Please note that an individual may have more than one [protected characteristics](#).

2a Age (people of all ages)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

Positive – the SPF allocation will allow projects to progress that benefit people of all ages.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

Each place will have the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. The balance of priorities should reflect local need and opportunity. The evidence to support each intervention is being gathered to support the preparation of the Local Investment Plan.

2b Disability (people with disabilities/ long term conditions)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

Positive – the SPF will allow projects to progress that benefit people with disabilities and long term conditions.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

Each place will have the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. The balance of priorities should reflect local need and opportunity. The evidence to support each intervention is being gathered to support the preparation of the Local Investment Plan.

2c Gender Reassignment (anybody who’s gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex they were assigned at birth)



(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

The funding programme will have a positive impact on., regardless of protected characteristics.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

Each place will have the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. The balance of priorities should reflect local need and opportunity. The evidence to support each intervention is being gathered to support the preparation of the Local Investment Plan.

2d Marriage or Civil Partnership *(people who are married or in a civil partnership)*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

Positive – the SPF allocation will allow projects to progress that benefit people who are Married or in a Civil Partnership.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

Each place will have the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. The balance of priorities should reflect local need and opportunity. The evidence to support each intervention is being gathered to support the preparation of the Local Investment Plan.

2e Pregnancy and Maternity *(women who are pregnant and/or on maternity leave)*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

Positive – the SPF allocation will allow projects to progress that benefit people, all Pregnant women and those on Maternity.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

Each place will have the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. The balance of priorities should reflect local need and opportunity. The evidence to support each intervention is being gathered to support the preparation of the Local Investment Plan.

2f **Race** (*people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds*)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

Positive – the SPF allocation will allow projects to progress that benefit everyone regardless of Race.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

Each place will have the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. The balance of priorities should reflect local need and opportunity. The evidence to support each intervention is being gathered to support the preparation of the Local Investment Plan.

2g **Religion or Belief** (*people with different religions and beliefs including people with no beliefs*)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

Positive – the SPF allocation will allow projects to progress that benefit people with different religious belief.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

Each place will have the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. The balance of priorities should reflect local need and opportunity. The evidence to support each intervention is being gathered to support the preparation of the Local Investment Plan.

2h Sex (*women and men, girls and boys and those who self-identify their gender*)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

Positive – the SPF allocation will allow projects to progress that benefit people regardless of gender.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

Each place will have the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. The balance of priorities should reflect local need and opportunity. The evidence to support each intervention is being gathered to support the preparation of the Local Investment Plan.

2i Sexual Orientation (*lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual, other*)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

Positive – the SPF allocation will allow projects to progress that benefit people regardless of their sexual orientation.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

Each place will have the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. The balance of priorities should reflect local need and opportunity. The evidence to support each intervention is being gathered to support the preparation of the Local Investment Plan.

3. **Socio-economic Duty** *(Strategic Decisions Only)*

*(The Socio-economic Duty gives us an opportunity to do things differently and put tackling inequality genuinely at the heart of key decision making. **Socio-economic disadvantage** means living on a low income compared to others in Wales, with little or no accumulated wealth, leading to greater material deprivation, restricting the ability to access basic goods and services)*

Please consider these additional vulnerable group and the impact your proposal may or may not have on them:

- Single parents and vulnerable families
- People with low literacy/numeracy
- Pensioners
- Looked after children
- Homeless people
- Carers
- Armed Forces Community
- Students
- Single adult households
- People misusing substances
- People who have experienced the asylum system
- People of all ages leaving a care setting
- People living in the most deprived areas in Wales (WIMD)
- People involved in the criminal justice system

3a **Low Income / Income Poverty** *(cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing, transport etc.)*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive – the SPF will allow projects to progress that benefit this group of people through projects that support job creation, accessibility to services, community cohesion etc etc

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

Each place will have the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. The balance of priorities should reflect local need and opportunity. The evidence to support each intervention is being gathered to support the preparation of the Local Investment Plan.

3b Low and/or No Wealth *(enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provisions for the future)*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive – the SPF will allow projects to progress that benefit this group of people through projects that support job creation, accessibility to services, community cohesion etc etc

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

Each place will have the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. The balance of priorities should reflect local need and opportunity. The evidence to support each intervention is being gathered to support the preparation of the Local Investment Plan.

3c Material Deprivation *(unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, hobbies etc.)*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive – the SPF will allow projects to progress that benefit this group of people through projects that support job creation, accessibility to services, community cohesion etc etc

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

Each place will have the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. The balance of priorities should reflect local need and opportunity. The evidence to support each intervention is being gathered to support the preparation of the Local Investment Plan.

3d Area Deprivation *(where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of public transport) Impact on the environment?*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive – the SPF will allow projects to progress that benefit this group of people through projects that support job creation, accessibility to services, community cohesion etc etc



(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

Each place will have the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. It will improve public access to jobs, training and the outdoors.

The balance of priorities should reflect local need and opportunity. The evidence to support each intervention is being gathered to support the preparation of the Local Investment Plan.

3e Socio-economic Background (*social class i.e. parents education, employment and income*)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive – the SPF will allow projects to progress that benefit this group of people through projects that support job creation, accessibility to services, community cohesion etc etc

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

Each place will have the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. Each project will bring employment and training opportunities and should improve access to public transport

The balance of priorities should reflect local need and opportunity. The evidence to support each intervention is being gathered to support the preparation of the Local Investment Plan.

3f Socio-economic Disadvantage *(What cumulative impact will the proposal have on people or groups because of their protected characteristic(s) or vulnerability or because they are already disadvantaged)*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive – the SPF will allow projects to progress that benefit this group of people through projects that support job creation, accessibility to services, community cohesion etc etc

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

Each place will have the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. Each project will bring employment and training opportunities and should improve access to public transport. The balance of priorities should reflect local need and opportunity. The evidence to support each intervention is being gathered to support the preparation of the Local Investment Plan.

4. Corporate Plan – Council’s Well-being Objectives

(How does your proposal deliver against any/all of the Council’s Well-being Objectives? Which in turn support the national well-being goals for Wales as outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Are there any impacts (positive, negative or neutral? If there are negative impacts how have these been mitigated?) Well-being Objectives

Objective 1 - Improve education opportunities for all

SPF allocation will allow projects to progress that will remove barriers to employment and provide training to proceed that promote this objective.

Objective 2 - Enabling employment

SPF allocation will allow projects to progress that will remove barriers to employment and provide training to proceed and produce direct employment outputs and projects that upskill people to enter into employment.



Objective 3 - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people's well-being

SPF allocation could potentially serve to address the condition and sustainability of homes throughout the County Borough and provide advice, assistance and support to help improve people's wellbeing.

Objective 4 - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impact on the environment
One of the main SPF themes is related to the provision of a more accessible a sustainable transport system. It is envisaged that several active travel routes will be introduced through the funding.

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

The SPF will provide investment into the following:

- Investment in Skills
- Investment for Local Business
- Investment in Communities and Place
- Supporting People into Employment

Objective 6 - Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being
SPF would allow projects to proceed that promote this objective as it would encourage investment into the following:

- Investment in Skills
- Investment for Local Business
- Investment in Communities and Place
- Supporting People into Employment

4a. Links to any other relevant Council Policy *(How does your proposal deliver against any other relevant Council Policy)*

The projects supported under the SPF will help achieve the objectives as set out on the following relevant Council documents:

- The Caerphilly We Want 2018-2023
- Caerphilly County Borough Council Corporate Plan 2018-2023
- A Foundation for Success combined with Foundation for Success – delivering prosperity after Covid.
- Area Regeneration Masterplans (4 completed, 1 in Progress).
- Sport & Active Recreation Strategy (SARS).
- Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- Decarbonisation Strategy – Produce, Reduce, Offset and Buy.

- Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024
- Five Year Welsh Language Strategy 2022-2027

5. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – The Five Ways of

Working *(Also known as the sustainable development principles. The Act requires the Council to consider how any proposal improves the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales using the [five ways of working](#) as a baseline)*

How have you used the Sustainable Development Principles in forming the proposal?

Long Term

It is expected that as the SPF projects are developed providers will be aware of, and address, the well-being of current and future generations whilst addressing the needs of the people CCBC currently serve. The UKSPF programme will fund projects initially up to 2025 that will have a lasting impact.

Prevention

Proposals developed by CCBC & partners under this programmes will prevent problems occurring or getting worse. The SPF will look to develop interventions and outputs that respond to local issues. This will:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging
- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost

Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency

Integration

The SPF will impact positively on the services provided by the Council, be it Leisure, Tourism, Transport or community support.

Collaboration

In a similar vein to the opportunities outlined above for Integration section, the SPF will allow for projects to be delivered that are collaborative between the Council and other actors/agencies within the community. The Council will have flexibility over how the Fund is delivered we can use a mix of competitions for grant funding, procurement, commissioning or deliver some activity through in-house teams.



Involvement

Key stakeholders will be engaged through workshops to be held with local and regional partners in the summer to enable them to feed into the priorities for Caerphilly and the Cardiff Capital region.

6. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Does the proposal maximise our contribution to the Well-being Goals and how?

A Prosperous Wales

An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work

The CCBC projects being submitted adhere to the overall objectives of the SPF as set out in the UK prospectus documents. The projects to be funded, will seek to

- **Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging**
- **Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest**
- **Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost**
- **Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency**

The primary goal of the UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK.

A Resilient Wales

A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for climate change)

The Communities and Place SPF investment priority will enable places to invest to restore their community and green spaces and create relationships and to enhance the foundations for social and economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place.



The funding can also be used to increase communities' resilience to natural hazards such as flooding and can be used to transition the community to low carbon living.

A Healthier Wales

A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood

The Communities and Place SPF investment priority will enable places to create the foundations for improved health and wellbeing. The intention of this is to strengthen the social and economic fabric of communities and build pride in place.

A More Equal Wales

A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances)

The CCBC projects being submitted adhere to the overall objectives of the Levelling Up programmes as set out in the UK prospectus documents. The projects to be funded, will seek to

- **Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging**
- **Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest**
- **Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost**
- **Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency**



The primary goal of the UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK.

A Wales of Cohesive Communities

Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities

The CCBC projects being submitted adhere to the overall objectives of the SPF as set out in the UK prospectus documents. All funded projects, will look to generate wealth, provide jobs and training by efficiently using funding from the programmes. In addition, improvement to transport and green infrastructure will improve accessibility to those in more deprived areas, connecting people more effectively to facilities and jobs.

A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation

The overall objectives of the SPF as set out in the UK Prospectus documents will be adhered to. Hence, CCBC projects where relevant, will look to promote Culture and Heritage and promote the Arts. The projects will align with the actions in the Five Year Welsh Language Strategy, working in partnership with Welsh medium local organisations for support and delivery where needed

A Globally Responsible Wales

A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being

All projects will seek to improve the economic, social and cultural well-being of the community.



7. Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and Welsh Language Standards

(The Welsh Language Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards require the Council to have 'due regard' for the positive or negative impact a proposal may have on opportunities to use the Welsh language and ensuring the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language) Policy Making Standards - Good Practice Advice Document

7a. Links with Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy and CCBC's Five Year Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022 and the Language Profile

(i) **Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?**

The SPF will have the capacity to have a positive effect. The use of the Welsh language will be promoted and organisations who benefit from funding will be expected to comply with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, the Council's Welsh Language Standards and assist in meeting the actions in the Five Year Welsh Language Strategy 2022-2027 for the county borough.

(ii) **If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?**

(iii) **What evidence has been used to support this view?** *e.g. the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Annual School Census*

UK Prospectus documents for each programme

Menter Iaith Caerffili – Language Profile 2021

Census Data for the county borough

Welsh medium education



Welsh in Education Strategic Plan

7b. Compliance with the Welsh Language Standards. *Specifically Standards 88–93*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Project will comply where necessary and where they don't impact then correspondence and detail on website will be bilingual.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view? *e.g. the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Annual School Census*

UK Prospectus documents for each programme

7c. Opportunities to promote the Welsh language *e.g. status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life in work / community*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

The SPF will have the capacity to have a positive effect. The Use of the Welsh Language will be promoted where possible and organisations who benefit from funding will be expected to comply with the Welsh Language Act and Welsh Language Standards. Opportunities under the programme that actively promote and support Welsh language activities, events, delivery of services etc.. will be explored

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view? *e.g. the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Annual School Census*

UK Prospectus documents for each programme.

7d. Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language e.g. staff, residents and visitors

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

The SPF will have the capacity to have a positive effect. The Use of the Welsh Language will be promoted where possible and organisations who benefit from funding will be expected to comply with the Welsh Language Act and Welsh Language Standards.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

e.g. the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Annual School Census
UK Prospectus documents for each programme.

7e. Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

The SPF will have the capacity to have a positive effect. The Use of the Welsh Language will be promoted where possible and organisations who benefit from funding will be expected to comply with the Welsh Language Act and Welsh Language Standards.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view? e.g. the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Annual School Census

UK Prospectus documents for each programme.

- 7f. Having considered the impacts above, how has the proposal been developed so that there are positive effects, or increased positive effects on (a) opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and (b) treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.**

The SPF will have the capacity to have a positive effect. The use of the Welsh language will be promoted and organisations who benefit from funding will be expected to comply with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, the Welsh Language Standards and assist in meeting the actions in the Five Year Welsh Language Strategy 2022-2027 for the county borough.

8. Data and Information

(What data or other evidence has been used to inform the development of the proposal? Evidence may include the outcome of previous consultations, existing databases, pilot projects, review of customer complaints and compliments and or other service user feedback, national and regional data, academic publications and consultants' reports etc.)

Data/evidence *(Please provide link to report if appropriate)*

Each project will have its own data set which will be presented in individual reports when the projects develop further. There will be in individual IIA undertaken per project detailing all relevant information against each section of the assessment.

Key relevant findings

How has the data/evidence informed this proposal?

Were there any gaps identified in the evidence and data used to develop this proposal and how will these gaps be filled? *Details of further consultation can be included in Section 9.*

Each project needs to develop further and this will happen through the summer of 2022. It is at this stage that more detailed evidence will be presented for each project.

9. Consultation

*(In some instances, there is a legal requirement to consult. In others, even where there is no legal obligation, there may be a legitimate expectation from people that a consultation will take place. Where it has been determined that consultation is required, **The Gunning Principles** must be adhered to. Consider the **Consultation and Engagement Framework**. Please note that this may need to be updated as the proposal develops and to strengthen the assessment.*

Briefly describe any recent or planned consultations paying particular attention to evidencing the Gunning Principles.

Key stakeholder will be engaged throughout the summer of 2022 in developing the interventions. These stakeholders will have a pivotal role to play as the projects develop.

Each intervention will be developed with key stakeholders to determine their parameters and develop the look and feel of each.

More detailed engagement will be undertaken throughout the summer of 2022.

10. Monitoring and Review

How will the implementation and the impact of the proposal be monitored, including implementation of any amendments?

The UK programmes will have grant award conditions that will set out detailed and robust monitoring arrangements for projects.

What are the practical arrangements for monitoring?

These have yet to be determined but will comply with the conditions set by the funding body.

How will the results of the monitoring be used to develop future proposals?

Monitoring information helps to reflect on delivery success. And helps inform future project delivery.

When is the proposal due to be reviewed?

Too early to determine.

Who is responsible for ensuring this happens?

Not applicable.

11. Recommendation and Reasoning (delete as applicable)

- **Implement proposal with no amendments**

Have you contacted relevant officers for advice and guidance? (delete as applicable)

- **Yes**
-

12. Reason(s) for Recommendations

(Provide below a summary of the Integrated Impact Assessment. This summary should be included in the "Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment" section of the Corporate Report Template. The Integrated Impact Assessment should be published alongside the Report proposal).

All projects will seek to improve the economic, social and cultural well-being of the community and leave a lasting positive impact. Proposals developed by CCBC & partners under this programmes will prevent problems occurring or getting worse. The SPF will look to develop interventions and outputs that respond to local issues. This will:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging
 - Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
 - Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
 - Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.
-

13. Version Control

(The IIA should be used in the early stages of the proposal development process. The IIA can be strengthened as time progresses to help shape the proposal. The Version Control section will act as an audit trail to evidence how the IIA has been developed over time) (Add or delete versions as applicable)

➤ Version 1

Author:-Allan Dallimore

Brief description of the amendments/update:-
No amendments.

Revision Date:-

➤ Version 2

Author:-

Brief description of the amendments/update:-

Revision Date:-

Integrated Impact Assessment Author

Name:-Allan Dallimore

Job Title:-Regeneration Services Manager

Date:-28.04.2022

Head of Service Approval

Name:-Rhian Kyte

Job Title:-Head of Regeneration and Planning



Date:-9th June 2022

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CABINET – 29TH JUNE 2022

SUBJECT: REGENERATION PROJECT BOARD – PROJECT PROPOSALS

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend the allocation of £60,000 of the Non-Community Council Community Infrastructure Levy funding for the Penmaen Ward to the Engineering Projects Group to implement a car park extension at Oakdale Sports Pavilion.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was introduced on 1 July 2014 within Caerphilly County Borough. CIL is a statutory levy on qualifying development and is intended to be a significant tool for the delivery of the Council's aspirations in terms of infrastructure that cannot be funded through other means and for which no alternative funding mechanisms are available.
- 2.2 CIL can also be utilised to lever in additional funding that would not otherwise be available, for example, to match or attract other funding. Match funding of the Council's contribution would enable delivery of infrastructure of greater value than could otherwise be sought. In line with the CIL Regulations, CIL receipts are dispersed as follows:
- 80% is retained by the charging authority for funding infrastructure to support development in accordance with the LDP;
 - 15% is passed to the respective Community Council; and
 - 5% covers the Council's CIL administrative costs.
- 2.3 Caerphilly County Borough does not have 100% coverage by Community Councils. The CIL Regulations however allow the Council to make a proportion of CIL receipts available to fund appropriate infrastructure in those areas that do not have a Community Council. In adopting CIL the Council agreed to administer the 15% of the CIL receipts in those areas without coverage as a ring-fenced pot for the provision of infrastructure in areas where there is no Community Council coverage.

- 2.4 In October 2021 the Cabinet delegated powers to the Regeneration Project Board to determine the priorities for Community Infrastructure Levy expenditure in non-Community Council areas in consultation with the local ward member/s and in line with the Council's Strategic Priorities.
- 2.5 This report seeks Cabinet approval for the allocation of £60,000 of the Non-Community Council Community Infrastructure Levy funding for the Penmaen Ward to the Engineering Projects Group to implement a car park extension at Oakdale Sports Pavilion.
- 2.6 If approved, this will result in a residual balance of £109.64 in the Non-Community Council Community Infrastructure Levy funding for the Penmaen Ward.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1.1 That Cabinet:

- i) Approve the allocation of £60,000 of the Non-Community Council Community Infrastructure Levy funding for the Penmaen Ward to the Engineering Projects Group to implement a car park extension at Oakdale Sports Pavilion.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To facilitate and implement a car park extension at Oakdale Sports Pavilion via the Community Infrastructure Levy Non-Community Council funding available for the Penmaen Ward.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was introduced on 1 July 2014 within Caerphilly County Borough. CIL is a statutory levy on qualifying development and is intended to be a significant tool for the delivery of the Council's aspirations in terms of infrastructure that cannot be funded through other means and for which no alternative funding mechanisms are available.
- 5.2 CIL can also be utilised to lever in additional funding that would not otherwise be available, for example, to match or attract other funding. Match funding of the Council's contribution would enable delivery of infrastructure of greater value than could otherwise be sought. In line with the CIL Regulations, CIL receipts are dispersed as follows:
- 80% is retained by the charging authority for funding infrastructure to support development in accordance with the LDP;
 - 15% is passed to the respective Community Council; and
 - 5% covers the Council's CIL administrative costs.
- 5.3 Caerphilly County Borough does not have 100% coverage by Community Councils. The CIL Regulations however allow the Council to make a proportion of CIL receipts available to fund appropriate infrastructure in those areas that do not have a Community Council. In adopting CIL the Council agreed to administer the 15% of the

CIL receipts in those areas without coverage as a ring-fenced pot for the provision of infrastructure in areas where there is no Community Council coverage.

- 5.4 In October 2021 the Cabinet delegated powers to the Regeneration Project Board to determine the priorities for Community Infrastructure Levy expenditure in Non-Community Council areas in consultation with the local ward member/s and in line with the Council's Strategic Priorities.
- 5.5 It was agreed that at the end of each financial year, Heads of Service would be notified of the amount of CIL funds available for each non-Community Council area and be invited to submit potential infrastructure schemes to the Regeneration Project Board in consultation with the elected ward member, for prioritisation by the Regeneration Assessment Panel.
- 5.6 To ensure that the funds are spent on appropriate infrastructure only schemes with a total value in excess of £5,000 will be considered. Further as most of the schemes likely to be funded are of a relatively small scale the Cabinet has given delegated powers to the Regeneration Project Board for proposals under £20k. Schemes that require a CIL contribution greater than £20k require Cabinet approval further to consideration by the Regeneration Board.
- 5.7 This report seeks Cabinet approval for the allocation of £60,000 of the Non-Community Council Community Infrastructure Levy funding for the Penmaen Ward to the Engineering Projects Group to implement a car park extension at Oakdale Sports Pavilion.
- 5.8 If approved, this will result in a residual balance of £109.64 in the Non-Community Council Community Infrastructure Levy funding for the Penmaen Ward

Regeneration Project Board consideration

- 5.9 The Regeneration Board considered the following project proposal remotely and recommended that the proposal be approved. A summary of the project and the Regeneration Project Board's recommendations are set out below.

Non-Community Council Community Infrastructure Levy funding for the Penmaen Ward

Total project cost estimate:	£75,000
CIL Funding Sought:	£60,000 (from Penmaen Ward reserve)

- 5.10 The facilities provided at Oakdale Pavilion are well used by local residents and sports and social clubs. However the existing carpark is no longer sufficient, and a proposal was submitted to the Regeneration Project Board to extend and increase the capacity of the car park. Increasing the capacity will allow more people to enjoy the facilities and will reduce the need for on street parking on adjacent roads which will make access to the facility safer for all users. If approved, the extension to the car park will be maintained in the long term by Parks Services. Local councillors believe the extension to the car park is a much needed facility to alleviate traffic congestion along Groveside Road. This road is a main artery to the large housing developments in Oakdale and can be heavily congested particularly during occasions when there are activities on the recreation ground.

- 5.11 The CIL Replacement Regulation 123 List (Approved November 2015) sets out the types of infrastructure that are eligible to be funded through CIL. The infrastructure can be generic types of infrastructure, e.g. strategic Highway improvements, or projects or specific infrastructure items. The proposed scheme would result in the upgrade to an existing community facility at Oakdale Sports Pavilion which is eligible to be funded through the Community Infrastructure Levy as such schemes are identified as Social Infrastructure on the Regulation 123 List.

RPB Decision: Project Approved. It was agreed that £60,000 be allocated towards the project.

Conclusion

- 5.12 If Cabinet approve the recommendations contained in the Report, £60,000 of the Non-Community Council Community Infrastructure Levy funding for the Penmaen Ward will be allocated to the Engineering Projects Group to implement a car park extension at Oakdale Sports Pavilion; and the residual Non-Community Council CIL funding available to the Penmaen Ward will be £109.64

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 None

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The recommendations contained in the report have a positive overall impact. The IIA is attached at Appendix 1

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 If Cabinet approve the recommendations contained in the Report, £60,000 will be allocated to the car park extension which would leave £109.64 Non-Community Council CIL funding available to the Penmaen Ward.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The scheme is already within the Engineering Projects Group work programme and if the CIL allocation is agreed then the scheme will progress to tender, and if tender returns are within budget, then award of contract and construction.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 All comments received from consultees have been incorporated into the report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

11.2 The Local Government Acts 1998 and 2003.

11.3 Town and Country Planning Act 1990

11.4 The Planning Act 2008

Author: Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration & Planning

Consultees:

Cllr J Pritchard Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration & Climate Change (and Chair of the Regeneration Project Board)

Christina Harrhy, Chief Executive

Mark S. Williams, Corporate Director for Economy & Environment

Dave Street, Corporate Director for Social Services and Housing

Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services

Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services & Section 151 Officer

Marcus Lloyd, Head of Infrastructure

Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer

Sue Richards, Head of Education Strategy & Finance (Interim Head of Transformation)

Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services

Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer

Allan Dallimore, Regeneration Services Manager

Cllr R Saralis, Penmaen Ward

Cllr J Sadler, Penmaen Ward

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Project Integrated Impact Assessment

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Appendix 1

Caerphilly County Borough Council - Integrated Impact Assessment

This integrated impact assessment (IIA) has been designed to help support the Council in making informed and effective decisions whilst ensuring compliance with a range of relevant legislation, including:

- Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Socio-economic Duty – Sections 1 to 3 of the Equality Act 2010
- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Statutory Consultation v Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation and Gunning Principles

PLEASE NOTE: Section 3 *Socio-economic Duty* only needs to be completed if proposals are of a strategic nature or when reviewing previous strategic decisions.

See page 6 of the **Preparing for the Commencement of the Socio-economic Duty** Welsh Government Guidance.



1. Proposal Details

Lead Officer:- Rhian Kyte

Head of Service:- Rhian Kyte

Service Area and Department:-Regeneration & Planning

Date:-31.05.2022

What is the proposal to be assessed? *Provide brief details of the proposal and provide a link to any relevant report or documents.*

Allocation of £60,000 of the Non-Community Council Community Infrastructure Levy funding for the Penmaen Ward to the Engineering Projects Group to implement a car park extension at Oakdale Sports Pavilion.

Corporate Plan (2018-2023)

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

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

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

The work of the Regeneration Project Board supports and contributes toward the implementation of the four key strategic themes of the strategy, Supporting People, Supporting Business, Supporting Quality of Life and Connecting People & Places.

The proposals further contribute towards several key priorities of the Council's Regeneration Strategy – A Foundation for Success:

SP8: Support interventions to improve health

SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was introduced on 1 July 2014 within Caerphilly County Borough. CIL is a statutory levy on qualifying development and is intended to be a significant tool for the delivery of the Council's aspirations in terms of infrastructure that cannot be funded through other means and for which no alternative funding mechanisms are available.

CIL can also be utilised to lever in additional funding that would not otherwise be available, for example, to match or attract other funding. Match funding of the Council's contribution would enable delivery of infrastructure of greater value than could otherwise be sought. In line with the CIL Regulations, CIL receipts are dispersed as follows:



80% is retained by the charging authority for funding infrastructure to support development in accordance with the LDP

15% is passed to the respective Community Council and

5% covers the Council's CIL administrative costs

Caerphilly County Borough does not have 100% coverage by Community Councils. The CIL Regulations however allow the Council to make a proportion of CIL receipts available to fund appropriate infrastructure in those areas that do not have a Community Council. In adopting CIL the Council agreed to administer the 15% of the CIL receipts in those areas without coverage as a ring-fenced pot for the provision of infrastructure in areas where there is no Community Council coverage.

2. Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011

(The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to have “due regard” to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and foster good relations between different groups). Please note that an individual may have more than one [protected characteristics](#).

2a Age (people of all ages)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

Positive

Young people – Making it safer for them to access the facilities.

Older people – Making the facilities accessible

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

No negative impact

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

2b Disability (people with disabilities/ long term conditions)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

Positive - some spaces will be disabled spaces.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

No negative impact

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

2c Gender Reassignment (anybody who's gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex they were assigned at birth)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

Positive – will provide better access to all

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

No negative impacts

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

2d Marriage or Civil Partnership (*people who are married or in a civil partnership*)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

Positive – will provide better access to all

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

No negative impact

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

2e Pregnancy and Maternity (*women who are pregnant and/or on maternity leave*)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

Positive – Having additional car parking spaces will make the facilities accessible for pregnant women or parents of babies and young children.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

No negative impact

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

2f Race (*people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds*)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

Positive – will provide better access to all

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

No negative impact

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

2g Religion or Belief (*people with different religions and beliefs including people with no beliefs*)

- (i) **Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?**

Positive – will provide better access to all

- (ii) **If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?**

No negative impact

- (iii) **What evidence has been used to support this view?**

2h Sex (*women and men, girls and boys and those who self-identify their gender*)

- (i) **Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?**

Positive – will provide better access to all

- (ii) **If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?**

No negative impact

- (iii) **What evidence has been used to support this view?**

2i Sexual Orientation (*lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual, other*)

- (i) **Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?**

Positive – will provide better access to all

- (ii) **If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?**

No negative impact

- (iii) **What evidence has been used to support this view?**

3. Socio-economic Duty *(Strategic Decisions Only)*

*(The Socio-economic Duty gives us an opportunity to do things differently and put tackling inequality genuinely at the heart of key decision making. **Socio-economic disadvantage** means living on a low income compared to others in Wales, with little or no accumulated wealth, leading to greater material deprivation, restricting the ability to access basic goods and services)*

Please consider these additional vulnerable group and the impact your proposal may or may not have on them:

- Single parents and vulnerable families
- People with low literacy/numeracy
- Pensioners
- Looked after children
- Homeless people
- Carers
- Armed Forces Community
- Students
- Single adult households
- People misusing substances
- People who have experienced the asylum system
- People of all ages leaving a care setting
- People living in the most deprived areas in Wales (WIMD)
- People involved in the criminal justice system

3a **Low Income / Income Poverty** *(cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing, transport etc.)*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Not applicable – however additional car parking will benefit all users of the facilities aiding accessibility.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

3b **Low and/or No Wealth** *(enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provisions for the future)*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Not applicable – however additional car parking will benefit all users of the facilities aiding accessibility.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

3c Material Deprivation (*unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, hobbies etc.*)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Not applicable – however additional car parking will benefit all users of the facilities aiding accessibility.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

3d Area Deprivation (*where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of public transport) Impact on the environment?*)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Not applicable – however additional car parking will benefit all users of the facilities aiding accessibility.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

3e Socio-economic Background *(social class i.e. parents education, employment and income)*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Not applicable – however additional car parking will benefit all users of the facilities aiding accessibility.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

3f Socio-economic Disadvantage *(What cumulative impact will the proposal have on people or groups because of their protected characteristic(s) or vulnerability or because they are already disadvantaged)*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Not applicable – however additional car parking will benefit all users of the facilities aiding accessibility.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?



4. Corporate Plan – Council’s Well-being Objectives

(How does your proposal deliver against any/all of the Council’s Well-being Objectives? Which in turn support the national well-being goals for Wales as outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Are there any impacts (positive, negative or neutral? If there are negative impacts how have these been mitigated?) Well-being Objectives

Objective 1 - Improve education opportunities for all

N/A

Objective 2 - Enabling employment

N/A

Objective 3 - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people’s well-being

N/A

Objective 4 - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impact on the environment

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

The work of the Regeneration Project Board supports and contributes toward the implementation of the four key strategic themes of the regeneration Strategy A Foundation for Success as follows: Supporting People, Supporting Business, Supporting Quality of Life and Connecting People & Places.

The proposals further contribute towards Priority SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts, also the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy.

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

4a. Links to any other relevant Council Policy *(How does your proposal deliver against any other relevant Council Policy)*

Caerphilly County Borough Council Local Development Plan up to 2021

The CIL Regulation 123 List draws heavily upon the infrastructure requirements set out in the Adopted Caerphilly Local Development Plan up to 2021 (LDP) and reflect the infrastructure requirements necessary to bring forward planned development identified in the LDP.



The facilities provided at Oakdale Pavilion are well used by local residents and sports and social clubs. The facility is that well used that the original car park installed is no longer sufficient to support the usage this facility offers and a proposal was put forward to extend/increase the capacity of the car park. Increasing the capacity will allow more people to enjoy the facilities and will reduce the need for on street parking on adjacent roads which will make access to the facility safer for all users.

Sport and Active Recreation Strategy – additional car parking spaces will improve accessibility to the facilities and encourage more use from the local community.

5. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – The Five Ways of Working *(Also known as the sustainable development principles. The Act requires the Council to consider how any proposal improves the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales using the [five ways of working](#) as a baseline)*

How have you used the Sustainable Development Principles in forming the proposal?

Long Term

The allocation of funding will help deliver an improvement to ensure the long term resilience of the Sports Facility.

Additional car parking spaces will improve accessibility to the facilities and encourage more use from the local community.

Prevention

The allocation of funding will help deliver an improvement, to ensure the long term resilience of the Sports Facility and will protect the strategic highway network from adverse impacts related to on street parking and reduce pedestrian/vehicular conflict.

Integration

The allocation of funding will allow more people and organisations to enjoy the facilities and will reduce the need for on street parking on adjacent roads, which will make access to the facility safer for all users.

Additional car parking spaces will improve accessibility to the facilities and encourage greater participation from the local community and community groups.

Collaboration

The allocation of funding will allow more people and organisations to enjoy the facilities and will reduce the need for on street parking on adjacent roads, which will make the facility safer for all users.

Involvement

All relevant stakeholders will be fully engaged in all of the scheme when developed and when there is sufficient detail available.

6. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Does the proposal maximise our contribution to the Well-being Goals and how?

A Prosperous Wales



An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work

The decisions contained in the report will not make a contribution to this goal.

A Resilient Wales

A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for climate change)

The decisions contained in the report will not make a contribution, however, when schemes progress in the future, the schemes would potentially make a major contribution as it will be required to provide a net gain in biodiversity impact.

A Healthier Wales

A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood

The decisions contained in the report will allow more people and organisations to enjoy the facilities and will reduce the need for an on street parking on adjacent roads, which will make access to the facility safer for all users.

Additional car parking spaces will improve accessibility to the facilities and encourage greater participation from the local community and community groups.

A More Equal Wales

A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances)

The decisions contained in the report will benefit people with protected characteristics, in particular Age, Disability and Pregnancy and Maternity (See Section 2). They may have been deterred from using the facility in the past due to lack of parking and accessibility to the site.

A Wales of Cohesive Communities

Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities

The decisions contained in the report will allow more people and organisations to enjoy the facilities and will reduce the need for on street parking on adjacent roads which will make access to the facility safer for all users.

A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation

The decisions contained in the report will allow more people and organisations to enjoy the facilities and will reduce the need for on street parking on adjacent roads which will make access to the facility safer for all users.



A Globally Responsible Wales

A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being

The decisions contained in the report will allow more people and organisations to enjoy the facilities and will reduce the need for on street parking on adjacent roads, which will make access to the facility safer for all users.

7. Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and Welsh Language Standards

(The Welsh Language Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards require the Council to have 'due regard' for the positive or negative impact a proposal may have on opportunities to use the Welsh language and ensuring the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language) Policy Making Standards - Good Practice Advice Document

7a. Links with Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy and CCBC's Five Year Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022 and the Language Profile

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive – Any associated signage and road markings will be bilingual and in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view? e.g. the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Annual School Census

7b. Compliance with the Welsh Language Standards. *Specifically Standards 88–93*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive - Any associated signage and road markings will be bilingual and in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view? e.g. the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Annual School Census

7c. Opportunities to promote the Welsh language e.g. status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life in work / community

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive - Any associated signage and road markings will be bilingual and in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view? *e.g. the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Annual School Census*

7d. Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language *e.g. staff, residents and visitors*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive - Any associated signage and road markings will be bilingual and in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?
e.g. the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Annual School Census

7e. Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive - Any associated signage and road markings will be bilingual and in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view? *e.g. the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Annual School Census*

- 7f. **Having considered the impacts above, how has the proposal been developed so that there are positive effects, or increased positive effects on (a) opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and (b) treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.**

Any associated signage and road markings will be bilingual and in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards.

8. Data and Information

(What data or other evidence has been used to inform the development of the proposal? Evidence may include the outcome of previous consultations, existing databases, pilot projects, review of customer complaints and compliments and or other service user feedback, national and regional data, academic publications and consultants' reports etc.)

Data/evidence *(Please provide link to report if appropriate)*

The facilities provided at Oakdale Pavilion are well used by local residents and sports and social clubs. The facility is that well used that the original car park installed is no longer sufficient to support the usage this facility offers and a proposal was put forward to extend/increase the capacity of the car park by 16 spaces.

Increasing the capacity will allow more people to enjoy the facilities and will reduce the need for on street parking on adjacent roads which will make access to the facility safer for all users.

Key relevant findings

The project does bring additionality to the current provision at the centre and would allow more people to access it. It was felt however that maybe some active travel elements could be introduced such as a secure bike rack.

How has the data/evidence informed this proposal?

Evidenced based proposal.

Were there any gaps identified in the evidence and data used to develop this proposal and how will these gaps be filled? *Details of further consultation can be included in Section 9.*

No

9. Consultation

(In some instances, there is a legal requirement to consult. In others, even where there is no legal obligation, there may be a legitimate expectation from people that a consultation will take place. Where it has been determined that consultation is required, The Gunning Principles must be adhered to. Consider the Consultation and Engagement Framework. Please note that this may need to be updated as the proposal develops and to strengthen the assessment.

Briefly describe any recent or planned consultations paying particular attention to evidencing the Gunning Principles.

The CIL has been the subject of extensive consultation and independent Examination by the Planning Inspectorate.

All Regeneration Scheme proposals supported through the Regeneration Board are subject of the relevant statutory consultation processes

Consultation - As set out in legislation and guidance.

Sufficient information was provided to consultees to allow them to make an informed decision on the proposal.

With regard to key findings, the proposal was not at a detailed stage.

While no planning permission is required, SuDS/SAB approval will be necessary for any developed area. A preliminary design has been put together and permeability testing is now required to confirm proposals meet the SuDS regulations. Checks will be undertaken to ensure there are no statutory undertakers services affected by the proposals.

10. Monitoring and Review

How will the implementation and the impact of the proposal be monitored, including implementation of any amendments?

The Highway proposal will be progressed by the Head of Infrastructure and progress will be monitored by the Regeneration Project Board and Cabinet

The Regeneration Project Board reports to Cabinet

What are the practical arrangements for monitoring?

Prince 2 Management principles apply to all Regeneration Scheme Proposals and each scheme as a Project Lead.

How will the results of the monitoring be used to develop future proposals?

When is the proposal due to be reviewed?

Quarterly reporting to Board

Who is responsible for ensuring this happens?

Head of Infrastructure/ Head of Regeneration & Planning /Director of Communities

11. Recommendation and Reasoning (delete as applicable)

- Implement proposal taking account of the mitigating actions outlined

Have you contacted relevant officers for advice and guidance? (delete as applicable)

- Yes
-

12. Reason(s) for Recommendations

(Provide below a summary of the Integrated Impact Assessment. This summary should be included in the “Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment” section of the Corporate Report Template. The Integrated Impact Assessment should be published alongside the Report proposal).

The recommendations contained in the report have a positive overall impact.

13. Version Control

(The IIA should be used in the early stages of the proposal development process. The IIA can be strengthened as time progresses to help shape the proposal. The Version Control section will act as an audit trail to evidence how the IIA has been developed over time) (Add or delete versions as applicable)

➤ **Version 1**

Author:-Rhian Kyte

Brief description of the amendments/update:-

Revision Date:-

➤ **Version 2**

Author:-

Brief description of the amendments/update:-

Revision Date:-



Integrated Impact Assessment Author

Name:-Rhian Kyte

Job Title:-Head of Regeneration and Planning

Date:-1st June 2022

Head of Service Approval

Name:-Rhian Kyte

Job Title:- Head of Regeneration and Planning

Signature:-

Date:- 1st June 2022

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CABINET – 29TH JUNE 2022

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST – EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS PARAGRAPH 14 OF SCHEDULE 12A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

SUBJECT: OAKDALE BUSINESS PARK

REPORT BY: HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

I have considered grounds for exemption of information contained in the report referred to above and make the following recommendations to the Proper Officer:-

EXEMPTIONS APPLYING TO THE REPORT:

Paragraph 14 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person.

FACTORS IN FAVOUR OF DISCLOSURE:

There is public interest in the how the council deals with its property portfolio.

PREJUDICE WHICH WOULD RESULT IF THE INFORMATION WERE DISCLOSED:

The report contains confidential business information about the prospective purchaser.

MY VIEW ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST IS AS FOLLOWS:

That paragraph 14 should apply. The report contains confidential information about the business plans of the prospective purchaser which at this stage should remain confidential. On that basis I feel that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Members are asked to consider these factors when determining the public interest test, which they must decide when considering excluding the public from this part of the meeting.

RECOMMENDED DECISION ON EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE:

On the basis set out above I feel that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, and that the report should be exempt.

Signed: 

Dated: 16 June 2022

Post: Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

I accept/~~do not accept~~ the recommendation made above.

Signed: 

Proper Officer

Date: 17th June 2022

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Agenda Item 9

By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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