



CABINET – 11TH APRIL 2018

SUBJECT: FUTURE REGENERATION PROJECTS – USE OF DIRECTORATE RESERVES FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR (COMMUNITIES)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the agreement of Cabinet to earmark a sum of money from the Communities Directorate Reserve to facilitate regeneration project delivery.
- 1.2 To note that a further report will be presented to Cabinet seeking approval of a proposed governance structure which will facilitate the project delivery.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The advent of the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) and pending agreement of a joint business plan by the 10 CCR authorities presents significant opportunities for Caerphilly County Borough Council to lever in funding for regeneration projects.
- 2.2 In addition to the CCR opportunities there are a number of other Welsh Government regeneration initiatives such as the Valleys task force and Targeted Regeneration Investment Fund which may lead to significant capital funds being made available for local projects in the future.
- 2.3 In order to take advantage of funding that may become available it is necessary to develop a number of “shelf ready” projects which have been effectively planned and developed to a stage where they are ready to progress to an implementation stage.
- 2.4 At present the Authority does not have projects in a “Shelf Ready” position where delivery could be progressed. In this regard the key issues that need to be addressed include:-
 - The need for clear strategic direction on projects and identification of key projects to be progressed.
 - A development fund to develop, design and cost schemes so that they are ready for submission and delivery.
 - The lack of capacity in internal teams (Procurement, legal, property, engineering consultancy) that would be required to assist in project development.
 - The need for clear project management arrangements to be put in place.
- 2.5 This report therefore recommends the earmarking of a development fund to enable projects to be developed.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. It requires public bodies to think more about the long term, working with people and communities, looking to prevent problems and take a more joined up approach. This will create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future. The Act puts in place seven wellbeing goals and the contents of this report which will hopefully contribute to significant levels of community regeneration and infrastructure development potentially links into all seven wellbeing goals.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 In order for the Authority to develop “Shelf Ready” projects budgetary provision is required to provide officers with the ability to effectively plan projects and develop, design and cost schemes so that they are ready for funding/Planning submission and procurement where relevant.
- 4.2 This could include site investigations, surveys, design, economic impact assessments, estimating etc.
- 4.3 In this regard it is suggested that an initial development fund of £300,000 is earmarked from the Communities Directorate Reserve to enable officers to progress key strategic projects to a “Shelf Ready” stage.
- 4.4 The governance structure required in order to facilitate the regeneration project delivery is currently under consideration and a further report will be presented to Cabinet seeking approval.

5. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

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

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 As stated above, a project development fund of £300,000 will allow a project team of officers to develop projects ready for implementation once funding becomes available.
- 7.2 Designation of a £300,000 project development budget can be accommodated from the Communities Directorate reserve and will not therefore require any revenue budget growth for 2018/19.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 This report reflects the views of the listed Consultees.

10 RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 It is recommended that Cabinet agrees the earmarking of an initial project development fund of £300,000 from the Communities Directorate reserve.

10.2 To note that a further report will be presented to Cabinet seeking approval of the governance arrangements to facilitate the project delivery.

11. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 To enable the Authority to develop a suitable suite of regeneration projects that are ready for implementation in order that any externally sourced funds can be efficiently and effectively utilised.

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 Local Government Act 2000.

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Consultees: Steve Harris, Interim Head of Corporate Finance
Dave Whetter, Interim Head of Regeneration
Tim Stephens, Interim Head of Planning
Councillor Sean Morgan, Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure,
Sustainability & Wellbeing of Future Generations
Councillor Eluned Stenner, Cabinet Member for Environment & Public Protection