

## Appendix 1

### FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS: DELIVERING PROSPERITY after COVID (Approved 8 December 2021)

#### Monitoring Report – 31 March 2023

The Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit caused unprecedented disruption to our communities and the local economy, which has been further compounded by the inflationary pressures in the economy as a consequence of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.


'Delivering Prosperity after Covid' was formally approved by Cabinet on 8 December 2021 in response to the pandemic and this Annual Monitoring Report sets out what progress has been made over the first 18 months against each Priority Theme to deliver on the strategic objective of Supporting Business.

The progress in the first 18 months of the plan against each of the theme has been afforded a **RAG** status as follows:

	Very Good or Excellent progress
	Good Progress but more to be done
	Very Little or No progress

The AMR provides an interesting insight into the implementation of the Economic Recovery Framework over the monitoring period which clearly illustrates that considerable progress has been made during its implementation in the first 18 months.

**PRIORITY THEME: IMPROVE RESILIENCE THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOUNDATIONAL ECONOMY**

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
<p><b>Strengthening local supply chains through cultivational procurement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use Business Support to help local SMEs register with procurement.</li> <li>• Map supply chain voids to ensure that local companies are used where practicable.</li> <li>• Develop the capabilities of indigenous business to compete for contracts and fill supply chain voids.</li> <li>• Work with partners to support local jobs through the use of procurement measures that support local supply chains.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supplier Relationship Officer has supported 48 contractors/suppliers via weekly Procurement Clinic appointments providing information, advice and guidance on registering on the Council's e-Sourcing platform to access procurement opportunities.</li> <li>• Supply chain mapping and void identification is progressing, an interactive interface using PowerBI is being developed which will facilitate the interrogation of data and ensure long term value.</li> <li>• Working in conjunction with Simply Do to leverage their expertise and to enrich the background data and widen the scope of the interrogable data. The aim of this is to increase the scope of capturing local micro-businesses within the database to glean a more holistic view of potential local supply chains.</li> <li>• To identify the challenges we are facing in relation to Covid Recovery, and embedding decarbonisation initiatives, we have adopted a challenge-based procurement approach.</li> <li>• Working with SimplyDo, we are undertaking a series of Challenge Hacks to identify problems that could be resolved through supply chain innovation or reengineering.</li> <li>• Working with WLGA and WG with the development of a forward work programme of collaborative procurement opportunities on an all Wales National and Southeast Wales delivery group basis. This information is available on the Sell2wales website.</li> <li>• Representation at Centre for Local Economies Strategies (CLES) Gwent Cluster working groups for Construction &amp; retrofit, Simplifying and sharing best practice; and Food</li> </ul>	

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
		<p>procurement. Key focus areas include Increasing knowledge of the potential local supplier base, standardisation of documentation and processes and developing better relationships between procurement and business support functions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procurement team continue to work in-conjunction the Business Enterprise &amp; Renewal team to support local supply chains in delivering social value commitments including creation and retention of jobs.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Improve support for business</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider bespoke support for services targeted at micro and small businesses, business start-up and self-employment within the County Borough by reinvigorating and resourcing local business support to coordinate and maximise the opportunities arising at the regional level through City Deal.</li> <li>Work with partners to provide training and support for citizens to become self-employed.</li> <li>Re-configure grant spend to ensure that it is more effective and targeted more closely at supporting economic outputs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business Enterprise &amp; Renewal Team have supported 12 new start-ups thereby assisting the creation of 23 Jobs.</li> <li>Business Support Clinics held bimonthly to offer 30-minute sessions of face to face (via Teams at present) support to businesses and their specific requirements, held with Business Wales and Development Bank Wales.</li> <li>Revived the Account Manager’s Meeting bringing together representatives from WG, Development Bank of Wales, Business Wales, Business in Focus, Business Associates, DWP, Careers Wales, Princes Trust and others to share knowledge and intel for business around the borough.</li> <li>Meetings with other support agencies re: support and grants funding available e.g. Welsh Government COVID and other grant support.</li> <li>International Trade Officer supporting with new export import requirements post Brexit -over 100+ SMEs contacted to date provide support.</li> <li>Caerphilly Enterprise Fund Grants reconfigured. 89 (23 CEF and 66 CEF UKSPF) business Supported – creating 269</li> </ul>	

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
		jobs, safeguarding 640 Jobs with a Capital Investment by businesses supported of £2,360,609.76	
<p><b>Exploit funding opportunities to ensure premises are available for business development and growth for SMEs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target key premises within the strategic hubs of Caerphilly and Ystrad Mynach in addition to Principal Town Centres throughout the County Borough in order to ensure that there are suitable premises available to facilitate commercial growth (retail &amp; business).</li> <li>• Work with the ICE Regional Enterprise Hub to identify new opportunities for business hubs in other parts of the County Borough.</li> <li>• Exploit opportunities to bring employment back to the centre of our towns as part of a wider offer of activities and uses and re-purpose buildings to create co-working spaces and encouraging new green skills and opportunities such as repair cafes, reuse and refill retail and remanufacturing innovation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £1m WG Transforming Towns fund targeting businesses / premises in Caerphilly in 2021/22 was approved (schemes need to be supported by placemaking plans).</li> <li>• 114 businesses supported with £1,130,094.76 investment via the Caerphilly Enterprise Fund, Caerphilly Start Up Fund and Caerphilly Development Fund.</li> <li>• Opportunity for redevelopment of Pentrebane Street through Caerphilly Town 2035 plan to provide commercial space.</li> <li>• Support for 2 businesses equating to £30,000 each relocating from the Caerphilly Indoor Market provided through CEF SPF (£25,000 each) and SPF start up (£5,000 each) to enable redevelopment of Pentrebane Street.</li> <li>• CCBC business team meet regularly with the Welsh Ice Community manager to support their outreach service to the wider Caerphilly borough business community. WG currently fund the Enterprise Hub and we have suggested further growth through a review of the offer they provide. Satellite hubs has been suggested and Officers are working with Welsh Ice to identify key locations around the Caerphilly County borough.</li> <li>• Levelling Up Fund bid prepared, submitted and £20m awarded by UK Government to support the development of a new Well Being Centre in Caerphilly Town adjacent to the proposed new transport Interchange.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Work with local Businesses to progress innovation in</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work in partnership with the private sector to develop foundational economy challenge bid schemes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cardiff Capital Region, with support from economic development consultancy Steer Economic Development, are developing a forward-looking Challenge Strategy for the region.</li> </ul>	

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
the Foundational Economy.			

**PRIORITY THEME: ZERO CARBON HOMES FOR THE FUTURE**

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
<b>Welsh Housing Quality Standard Investment to upgrade 10,822 homes.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Currently 10448 properties out of our total stock of 10654 have been upgraded and are fully compliant with WHQS standard. It is anticipated that the majority of those remaining will be upgraded within the next 12 months with many only awaiting external works. Target to complete all internal and external works by December 2021.</li> <li>▪ Explore opportunities to work with other housing partners on a Challenge Fund to retrofit existing dwellings to facilitate decarbonisation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All of the current housing stock of 10,672 properties are fully compliant with WHQS standard as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.</li> <li>• Working to explore the opportunities by following the Pathways Ratings System to discover the full costs of bringing policy voids up to Standard Assessment Procedure rating of "A" whilst helping to facilitate decarbonisation moving forward.</li> </ul>	
<b>Unlocking public sector land for self-build development,</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify plots of land in Council ownership that are suitable for self-build development; apply for outline planning permission and ensure infrastructure is in place (where appropriate) to ensure sites are 'oven</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several sites in Council ownership were initially identified as being potentially suitable for inclusion in the Self Build Wales scheme. However, upon undertaking further investigation it was determined that the costs of bringing plots forward on single plot or very small sites would exceed any likely capital receipt.</li> </ul>	

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
<b>through a 'Plot Shop' initiative</b>	ready.' Facilitate the sale of plots to eligible applicants.		
<b>Construction of new council housing stock</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Explore and develop energy efficient housing that reduces energy costs significantly and / or generates energy that can be supplied into the grid.</li> <li>▪ Secure planning permission on Council owned sites identified within the Council's Programme Development Plan (PDP).</li> <li>▪ Seek opportunities to secure additional Council stock through Section 106 agreements.</li> <li>▪ Set up partnership agreements with developer partners including where appropriate RSLs for the delivery of Council units.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caerphilly Homes have commenced work on the Council's development programme. 18 new energy efficient homes have been delivered and certified to Passivhaus Standard using the Calendan steel primaframe solution which is manufactured locally on Penallta Industrial Estate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Llanfabon Drive Trethomas, 12 homes complete.</li> <li>• Former 49 Club, Trecenydd, 6 homes complete.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Outline consent secured for Oakdale Comprehensive and Ty Darren, Risca (126 new homes likely to be delivered)</li> <li>• S106: A number of S106 homes have been secured via local developer, Llanmoor Homes. 6 in the first phase (including 2 LCHO homes) and 7 will be secured in the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of their development.</li> <li>• A report seeking approval that a PCSA (Pre-Construction services Agreement) be signed with Construction Partners Willmott Dixon to begin the enabling and demolition works on Ty Darran is scheduled to be considered by Cabinet shortly. A PCSA has already been signed in relation to the development of the former Oakdale School Site.</li> <li>• The Council signed an MOU with partner HA's in October 2021 which promotes collaboration between the organisations in relation to all housing services.</li> </ul>	

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress being made towards delivering the 400 new home ambition that was agreed by Cabinet in January 202. Cabinet agreement to move to the next stage of the development process thereby undertaking detailed site investigation work to determine whether 5 identified sites are deliverable and viable.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Examine the potential to pilot initiatives through the Housing Investment Fund as part of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal workstream.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Secure funding to unlock 2 problematic stalled sites at Maesycwmmmer and Abertridwr through the City Deal Housing Investment Fund.</li> <li>▪ Secure funding to unlock 1 problematic site in the Heads of the Valleys through the City Deal Housing Investment Fund.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Bids Submitted to Cardiff Capital Region City Deal for Housing Investment Fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Windsor Colliery, Abertridwr – Funding Secured, planning permission secured, scheme progressing with RSL partner for 109 homes.</li> <li>○ Gellideg Heights, Maesycwmmmer – Funding approved but not being taken up by the RSL partner, who is funding the site through an alternative mechanism, scheme to progress; and</li> <li>○ Land at Heol Ddu Grove, Bargoed - Reserve site.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Utilise Welsh Government loans / funding to bring vacant properties and sites back into beneficial use.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Facilitate and assist owner occupiers and landlords to access Welsh Government loans to upgrade and bring properties back into beneficial use.</li> <li>▪ Secure Welsh Government Land to bring 1 brownfield site back into beneficial use for a mixed-use development including mixed tenure housing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £1m Transforming Towns allocation – pipeline of projects awaiting funding.</li> <li>• Due Diligence proceeding to determine the risks associated with progressing a significant brownfield site in Caerphilly Basin for development.</li> </ul>	

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
<p><b>Secure money to deliver innovative homes suitable for the future (i.e., carbon neutral, zero carbon)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pentrebane Street Caerphilly, funding secured for the development of a mixed-use scheme on this site.</li> <li>▪ Ty Pontllanfraith, funding secured from the Innovative Housing Fund for the redevelopment of this site and the creation of a 'Garden Village'.</li> <li>▪ Ty Du, funding secured from the Innovative Housing Fund for the development of this site.</li> <li>▪ Work with our RSL partners to deliver new carbon neutral homes to meet housing need across the county borough.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pentrebane Street, Funding secured, site assembly progressing.</li> <li>• Land at Former Pontllanfraith House, Pontllanfraith being developed by Pobl, 123 homes under construction.</li> <li>• Ty Du, site acquired by United Welsh Housing. Layout and design being progressed.</li> <li>• Work with RSL Partners to deliver new carbon neutral homes is ongoing through the Development Management Process.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Set up empty homes team to target empty town centre properties and empty residential properties to bring them back in to beneficial use.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prepare an Enforcement Action Plan for Vacant Town Centre Properties and act using relevant statutory powers to bring premises back into beneficial use.</li> <li>▪ Provide grant support via the Transforming Towns Initiative to bring town centre properties back into beneficial use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empty Property Action Plan prepared with a list of targeted properties supported to be brought back into beneficial use.</li> <li>• £1m WG Transforming Towns allocation obtained – good pipeline of projects awaiting funding which seek to bring a number of prominent empty buildings back into beneficial use.</li> </ul>	



## PRIORITY THEME: DEVELOP CLUSTER AND INNOVATION OPPORTUNITIES

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
<p><b>Develop cluster opportunities.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with City Deal/Welsh Government to deliver key sites including Capital Valley, Rhymney, Ty Du Nelson, Caerphilly Business Park and Oakdale Business Park (plateau 1,2 and 4).</li> <li>• Work with WG to secure £3m investment for the provision of infrastructure at Oakdale Business Park.</li> <li>• Work with the private sector to facilitate their growth plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whitebeam Court, Ty Du Nelson - comprises 11 new high quality business units ranging from 105 sq m (1,130 sq ft) to 338 sq m (3,637 sq ft). Complete and near to being fully let.</li> <li>• Silverbirch Court - this is a new development comprising 15 high quality business units in Rhymney ranging from 50m2 to 98m2, all have WC, IT outlet (fibre broadband accessible) associated parking and easy access. Complete and near to being fully let.</li> <li>• Caerphilly Business Park – Levelling Up Fund Bid Submitted to UK Government for the provision of a new Well-being Centre.</li> <li>• Oakdale Business Park Plateau 1 – Cabinet approval obtained to sell residual land to Welsh Government. Ongoing dialogue with Welsh Government and the solicitors acting for IG Doors to resolve various legal issues.</li> <li>• Oakdale Plateau 2 – Working with CCR and WG to prepare relevant site investigation reports to facilitate development of the residual land. RIBA Stage 2. Discussion underway with prospective developers.</li> <li>• Oakdale Plateau 4 - Relevant site investigation reports prepared to facilitate development of the residual land. Discussion ongoing with WG and prospective developer.</li> </ul>	

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
<p><b>Create and strengthen official lines of communication.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Caerphilly Business Club to programme business networking opportunities at a local level and make connections to enhance local supply chain activity.</li> <li>• Continue to work closely with businesses in the county borough to address their training needs in association with Further and higher Education partners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly Networking events being held by Caerphilly Business Club supported by BERT staff.</li> <li>• Officers work continuously with the local colleges through the Caerphilly Business Club and link businesses with the CCBC employability teams to provide training, work trials and upskilling opportunities for the unemployed and employed members of staff across the borough. Each business is made aware of the full range of training services made available through CCBC and further and higher education partners.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Target innovation and business set up.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gain a better understanding of the skills requirements in respect of the compound semiconductor, life sciences sectors and electric automotive sectors.</li> <li>• Continue to roll out the Caerphilly Business Productivity Enhancement Programme to encourage SMEs with more than 10 employees to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Future proof business through becoming more efficient,</li> <li>○ Introduce new technology, Diversify and broaden the customer base,</li> <li>○ Develop new products.</li> </ul> <p>Following a productivity diagnostic of the company, a comprehensive support package will provide implementation support, skills development, research &amp;</p> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caerphilly Business and Productivity Enhancement Programme. This provides a free productivity diagnostic for companies with a support package which ranges from hands on implementation support, skills development, research &amp; development, export and GRANT SUPPORT for capital expenditure and any other specialist interventions that are required. 11 companies supported to date through the programme.</li> <li>• Cardiff Capital Region, with support from economic development consultancy Steer Economic Development, are developing a forward-looking Challenge Strategy for the region.</li> </ul>	

<b>Project</b>	<b>18 Months</b>	<b>Progress (Up to April 2023)</b>	<b>RAG</b>
	<p>development, export, GRANT SUPPORT for capital expenditure and any other specialist interventions that are required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring together public, private and third sector organisations in the County Borough to respond to societal challenges and drive positive change through innovation via the CCR Challenge Fund Programme and Innovate UK.</li> </ul>		

### **PRIORITY THEME: DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY**

<b>Project</b>	<b>18 Months</b>	<b>Progress (Up to April 2023)</b>	<b>RAG</b>
<b>Work with Partners to Increase broadband speed.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote initiatives to increase the availability of SFBB (Super-Fast Broad Band) and UFBB (Ultra-Fast Broadband).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progressing work with a number of Broadband providers.</li> </ul>	
<b>Provide digital support and advice to business.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with WG to offer digital infrastructure support services to local businesses / enhance digital connectivity / promote the role of artificial intelligence in business.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Officers are working alongside WG and Ogi Pro Services to offer businesses in historically poor broadband areas of the borough the chance to connect to high-speed broadband - Hengoed &amp; Blackwood exchanges scheduled for upgrades. Officers also regularly work with WG to promote their BPEP offer delivering new technologies to SME businesses and will continue to support them going forward.</li> </ul>	
<b>Promote the concept of Regional /</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roll out Free Wi Fi in all Principal Towns and Rhymney and Newbridge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risca, Ystrad Mynach, Bargoed and Rhymney Free Wi Fi implemented and available. Caerphilly, Blackwood and Newbridge pending.</li> </ul>	

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
<b>Community Wi-Fi as the potential for enabling a functional and connected future.</b>			
<b>Explore the opportunity to roll-out a 5G Network across the CCR.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the work of the CCR Digital Strategy.</li> <li>• Continue to work with private sector providers engaged in rolling out their 5G network across the CCR and County Borough.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCR have released a digital series magazine, an apprentice scheme and an appointment has been made to the Digital Lead.</li> <li>• Ongoing.</li> </ul>	
<b>Ensure innovative technologies through the use of broadband are incorporated within new housing developments.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with developers to ensure the incorporation of innovative technologies within new housing developments in line with national planning policy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A condition is now attached to all planning consents for major housing development requiring provision of 1gigabyte of broadband connectivity for each dwelling.</li> </ul>	
<b>Improve Broadband Speeds in Schools.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of SuperFast Broadband Installations in Schools in line with the Learning in Digital Wales Programme</li> <li>• Seek funding opportunities through WG and work with schools to improve network infrastructure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the Edtech project, an independent review and health check of the school's network has taken place. The findings of the independent review are being discussed and an action plan will follow</li> <li>• Funding secured and procurement underway for review of corporate infrastructure in preparedness for analogue switch off.</li> </ul>	

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
<p><b>Coding for Younger People to enable young people to have the relevant skills for the future.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with partners in WG &amp; Consortia to promote the use of coding in line with the Digital Competence Framework</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coding sessions are currently run at the following public libraries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Caerphilly Library</u> Code Club every Wednesday during term-time Advanced Code Club every Friday during term-time Library staff teach/facilitate all sessions</li> <li><u>Risca Library</u> Weekly sessions will resume after October 2022 Half-Term Library staff teach/facilitate all sessions</li> <li><u>Bargoed Library</u> Weekly sessions for 8-14 year old. Library staff teach/facilitate all sessions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Yellow</p>
<p><b>Assess the potential development of Wi-Fi analytics and digital towns.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilise Wi Fi analytics to inform Town Centre Strategies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risca, Ystrad Mynach, Bargoed and Rhymney Free Wi Fi available, Caerphilly, Blackwood and Newbridge pending. The new wi fi will provide the data for the analytics to inform Town Centre Strategies in future.</li> </ul>	<p>Green</p>
<p><b>Assess the ability of town centre traders to offer increasingly popular digital services such as click and collect and look to share best</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with 'NearMeNow' to pilot a new digital platform for use by business in Principal Towns throughout the County Borough.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NearMeNow with the support of Welsh Government, Caerphilly, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire and Carmarthenshire Local Authorities and the Treorchy town and business community have played an active part over the last two years in helping to build this software. The new digital platform VZTA launched in October 2022 and gives high streets and the organisations that support them the tools they need to help them in the fight-back against high street chains and</li> </ul>	<p>Yellow</p>

<b>Project</b>	<b>18 Months</b>	<b>Progress (Up to April 2023)</b>	<b>RAG</b>
<b>practice where this has worked well.</b>		online giants, by bringing them together as one community of small businesses.	

**PRIORITY THEME: IMPROVING RESILIENCE THROUGH EDUCATION, TRAINING & CAREERS ADVICE**

<b>Project</b>	<b>18 Months</b>	<b>Progress (Up to April 2023)</b>	<b>RAG</b>
<b>Develop a skilled workforce and tackle unemployment to respond to the needs of business both locally and regionally.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to deliver the Caerphilly Academy - training, work placement and apprenticeship programme to support the needs of business.</li> <li>Assist the CCR project team in the delivery of its "graduate" programme by working with the Caerphilly Business Club to identify opportunities for business to take part and benefit.</li> <li>Engage with the DWP Kickstart scheme and Restart Scheme at an authority-wide level, with a commitment to host 10 Kickstart work placements across various service areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With the support of the Caerphilly Academy, the Kickstart scheme supported 8 (out of possible 10 placements). Intensive support at all stages was provided, including liaison with managers to identify suitable placements and recruit, supporting individuals to complete new starter process, liaising with DWP, working with individuals and managers to resolve any issues once in employment. Out of these 8, 5 are likely to progress into employment with CCBC; 3 are being supported to find employment elsewhere.</li> <li>Academy mentor provides support to individuals at all stages of these paid placements within the Council 11 staff supported.</li> </ul>	
<b>Work with partners, in the private, public and third sector, utilising labour market intelligence to identify future</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Align skills and employment support provision to meet the needs of future employment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Skills and employability survey has been sent to local businesses via CCBC business team and CBC</li> <li>Links with local JCPs to access skills shortages data for county borough.</li> </ul>	

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
<b>growth demand and skill requirements.</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officers liaise with WG key account managers and CBC to promote cluster groups and industry specific recruitment drives through employability teams.</li> <li>• Continuation of our employability programmes covering all age ranges with unlimited access and support</li> <li>• Skills and Employability group to be formed with JCP, colleges, CCBC employability programmes to identify employment issues specific to the county borough.</li> <li>• Regular case studies are undertaken and submitted to WG to showcase their successes and provide evidence for project continuation.</li> </ul>	
<b>Explore opportunities for targeted career advice aligned to current and future job opportunities.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Welsh Government and CCR to pilot career advice initiatives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment Manager attends monthly CCR Regional Skills Partnership to discuss regional approach to priority areas (green energy, FinTech etc)</li> <li>• Acted on national understaffing of HGV drivers. Insights into sector provided, including driving a HGV vehicle. Linked with local employers providing targeted recruitment. 10 individuals have attended sessions. 1 has completed the process and gained employment. Remaining participants still undertaking training owing to national delay with DVLA and testing centres.</li> <li>• Focussed recruitment supporting Caerphilly CBC priority recruitment, including sector specific recruitment days collaboratively working with the local Job Centres. Insight/recruitment sessions provided in cleaning and</li> </ul>	

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
		<p>catering. 11 individuals engaged with 7 receiving direct support into these roles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pathways delivered included training, work placements and employment. Construction event supported 12 individuals - 11 so far have found.</li> <li>• Senior Business Liaison Officer attends regular regional meetings with counterparts. Best practice and targeted regional recruitment initiatives identified</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Formalise links between businesses, schools, FE and HE establishments.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek funding opportunities through WG and work with schools to improve network infrastructure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partners from each sector attend twice yearly live vacancy events. Schools are supported to attend via Welsh Government grant funding for transport. The sectors all also attend schools regularly via formal links with the Careers Wales business engagement team. Funding is also being used to provide work experience opportunities for year 11 pupils.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Ensure training and skills provision enables those currently in employment to upskill.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with local business and training providers to support those in employment to have access to in work training and progression opportunities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officers work continuously with the local colleges through the Caerphilly Business Club and link businesses with the CCBC employability teams to provide training, work trials and upskilling opportunities for the unemployed and employed members of staff across the borough. Each business is made aware of the full range of training services made available through CCBC and further and higher education partners.</li> <li>• Through the Shared Prosperity Fund the Council is using the Regional Employment Programme to jointly commission FE, ACL and locally procured bespoke courses which address skills gaps, address recruitment issues linked to skills gaps, and focus on growth areas in the local labour market for those in employment to develop</li> </ul>	



Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
		and progress in their careers. Digital, creative, manufacturing sector skills targeted.	
<p><b>Work with partners to upskill the workforce and expand the workforce in green sectors. Investment in low carbon housing at scale and upgrading housing stock particularly Council housing, is likely to be a central plank of recovery to increase energy efficiency of Council homes, reduce fuel poverty and create jobs in the green economy.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with local business and training providers and developers to support those in the construction sector to have the necessary training and skills to meet the decarbonisation ambitions of the Council and Welsh Government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officers work continuously with the local colleges through the Caerphilly Business Club and link businesses with the CCBC employability teams to provide training, work trials and upskilling opportunities for the unemployed and employed members of staff across the borough. Each business is made aware of the full range of training services made available through CCBC and further and higher education partners.</li> <li>• Through the Shared Prosperity Fund the Council is using the Regional Employment Programme to jointly commission FE, ACL and locally procured bespoke courses which address skills gaps and recruitment needs in relation to 'green' skills and green industries. Supporting those who are both unemployed and employed.</li> <li>• Caerphilly Homes have commenced work on their own zero net carbon housebuilding programme as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Llanfabon Drive Trethomas, 12 homes complete.</li> <li>○ Former 49 Club, Treceenydd, 6 homes complete.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Outline consent secured for Oakdale Comprehensive and Ty Darren Risca, potential for 145 homes.</li> <li>• Working with RSLs on multiple zero carbon homes developments at Pentrebanne Street Caerphilly, Windsor</li> </ul>	

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
		<p>Colliery Abertridwr, Former Police Station Caerphilly, Gellideg Heights, Maesycwmmmer, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Links formed with Nearly Zero Centres of Excellence in Ireland alongside Coleg Y Cymoedd in order to share best practice in order to facilitate the development of a centre which can be utilised by establishments delivering construction skills training in South East Wales.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Continue to provide crucial assistance to people who might have lost their job or training opportunity because of the pandemic or Brexit, and help people develop new skills fit for the future and to find new employment opportunities.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with individuals to provide appropriate employment support through the existing employment support programmes including CfW, CfW+, CfW++, Inspire 2 Work, Inspire 2 achieve, Bridges into Work and Nurture Equip and Thrive to ensure participants are given the support that is required to support them into employment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CfW, CfW+, CfW++ have undertaken 379 engagements which have resulted in 142 job outcomes for participants.</li> <li>Inspire 2 Work, Inspire 2 achieve, Bridges into Work and Nurture Equip and supported 218 participants, 77 of which gained a qualification as a result, 38 participants have been supported into work, and a further 33 participants have been supported to improve their employment situation.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Upskilling residents' Essential Skills (Literacy Numeracy,</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to deliver Essential Skills courses through Caerphilly Adult Community Learning (through Coleg Gwent Franchise)</li> </ul>	<p>Courses delivered Pan-Caerphilly including Oxford House AEC (Risca), Libraries (Abercarn, Bargoed, Blackwood, Caerphilly, Nelson, New Tredegar, Newbridge, Rhymney, Risca), Schools (Graig-Y-Rhacca/Markham), Blackwood Job Centre, Blackwood</p>	

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
<p><b>Digital Skills, ESOL</b></p> <p><i>'(Essential Skills) support the development of skills needed for education, work and life...'</i></p>		<p>Miners' Institute, Cefn Fforest Community Centre, Caerphilly Miners (The Beeches), White Rose Resource Centre, St. Teilo's (high dependency inpatient rehabilitation centre for women).</p> <p>Total courses: Literacy (24), Numeracy (8), Digital Skills (30), ESOL - English for Speakers of Other Languages (21)</p>	
<p><b>Continue to deliver Adult Community Learning provision (Employability, ILS, Hobby &amp; Interests)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure opportunities are available for resident to take part in Adult Community Learning provision (mainly funded through Welsh Government Community Learning Grant)</li> </ul>	<p>Courses delivered:</p> <p>ICDL x 4 (International Computer Driving Licence)</p> <p>20+ courses for ESF Employability team (including Customer Service, Food Safety, Health and Safety, Emergency First Aid at Work, Basic Life Saving/AED, Teamwork, Customer Service, Confidence Building)</p> <p>30+ courses for other groups such as Youth Service, Early Years, Penallta RFC, New Tredegar Rugby Club, POBL, Parent Network (including Food Safety, Basic Safeguarding, Emergency First Aid at Work, Basic Life Support/AED, Paediatric First Aid, Confidence Building,</p> <p>Other courses (open to the general public) include: Safeguarding Children &amp; Young People, Award in Education &amp; Training, Managing Conflict, Introduction to Classroom Assistant x 1</p> <p>Engagement/Hobby activities include – Pottery, Cake Decorating, Music Therapy, Junk to Joy, Art, Print Making, Spanish, Willow</p>	

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
		<p>craft, Seasonal Wreath Making (some sessions funded by Welsh Government Engagement Grant)</p> <p>ILS provision (Courses for adults with additional learning needs funded by Coleg Y Cymoedd) includes – Pottery, Art &amp; Craft, Cooking, Drama, Singing, Employability, Gardening, Sewing, Relationships, Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Clubs (run independently of Caerphilly ACL) include Crochet, Wood carving and Patchwork.</p>	
<p><b>Develop and Deliver Multiply Programme</b></p> <p>(Initial funding £5.9 million)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up an appropriate Multiply numeracy programme to ensure the hardest-to-reach resident have access to numeracy learning opportunities.</li> </ul>	<p>Staff recruitment to date x 2 project officers, 1 x communications</p> <p>Ongoing staff recruitment (tutors, admin &amp; accreditation officer, monitoring and compliance officer, engagement officers)</p> <p>Various groups/projects attended e.g. schools, Parent Network groups, Employability teams, Careers Wales, Job Centre Plus.</p> <p>Various events attended and marketing materials purchased.</p> <p>1 course started – Cooking on a Budget (as a follow on from CCBCs Cooking Champion programme)</p>	

## PRIORITY THEME: TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE & CONNECTIVITY

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
<p>Improve the resilience of the strategic highway network of the A469 to Rhymney.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress Design and Feasibility stage in preparedness for Levelling Up Fund Submission in 2022</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No LUF bid submitted.</li> <li>Awaiting the outcome of Welsh Governments Roads Funding Review (expected Autumn 2022) for CCBC's Resilient Roads Fund bid.</li> <li>WeITAG Stage 1 report being finalised.</li> <li>Leader issued a position statement and arranged a site meeting with the WG Minister, MP, MS &amp; Cabinet Member(s).</li> </ul>	
<p>Improvement to the strategic highway network.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake initial feasibility and design for Bedwas Bridge Highway Improvements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WeITAG Stage 1 study undertaken. Draft report to be reviewed.</li> </ul>	
<p>Implementation of METRO proposals in relation to Capital Valley, the wider Rhymney area and the A465.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake Options appraisal and feasibility work to establish the optimum location for a new A465 interchange.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Central Rhymney WeITAG Stage 2 study looked at this and ruled this out (i.e., no strong business case).</li> <li>Awaiting progress on the TfW led commission for the mid valleys Metro Study.</li> </ul>	
<p>Implement further key transport improvements including park and ride.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and prepare a business case for a park and ride in Twyn Carno ward for 100 spaces.</li> <li>Design and prepare a business case for a new park and ride in Llanbradach ward for 250/500 spaces (Phase 1).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Progress to date.</li> <li>The Central Rhymney Strategic P&amp;R WeITAG Stage 2 study completed. Final report awaited. No funding awarded to progress this in 2022/23.</li> </ul>	

Improve connectivity along the A472 Corridor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure funding for a feasibility study to identify how connectivity can be enhanced along the A472 Corridor.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Being undertaken by Transport for Wales as part of the ongoing work on Metro.</li> </ul>	
Caerphilly Metro Transport and Investment Hub.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress the Caerphilly Interchange to Weltag stage 2.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed and Levelling Up Bid submitted to UK Government. Awaiting funding announcement.</li> <li>Stakeholder engagement in respect of the WelTAG2 Study and emerging designs prepared by Grimshaws Architects has started with meetings held with various groups.</li> <li>Digital Stakeholder Engagement on the design of the Interchange has started which has provided support to the LUF application.</li> </ul>	
Electric hub.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roll out Electric Vehicle Charge Points at key locations across the County Borough.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 Twin 7kW chargers at Tir y Berth old Meals on Wheels site; 15 Twin 7kW Chargers at Ty Penallta; 2 Twin 7kW chargers and 2 x 50kW chargers at Tir y Berth Housing Offices.</li> <li>On Street Charging facilities being rolled out when funding allows.</li> </ul>	
Implementation of key infrastructure projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of cycle facilities at all transport hubs together with key employment and retail destinations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing as part of Metro improvements.</li> </ul>	

## PRIORITY THEME: TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION AND DIVERSIFICATION

<b>Project</b>	<b>18 Months</b>	<b>Progress (Up to April 2023)</b>	<b>RAG</b>
<b>Assess the suitability of Local Development Orders / Town Centre Enterprise zones in South East area towns.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake initial Assessment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial assessment of the suitability undertaken for pilot initiative in Risca. Needs updating post Covid.</li> </ul>	
<b>Consider the Strategic Acquisition of key sites and premises in our prioritised town centres.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure Funding to acquire key sites and premises.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquisition Fund agreed for Caerphilly Town.</li> </ul>	
<b>Prepare an enforcement action plan for town centres - targeting statutory action on target properties where necessary.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target problematic premises with statutory action to encourage property owners to invest in their premises.</li> <li>Take action in default if necessary. Initial focus on Bargoed Town Centre.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enforced first enforced sale of a significant listed property (Tabor Chapel) utilising the Council Approved Enforced Sale Policy. Working with new owner to bring premises back into beneficial use.</li> </ul>	
<b>Investigate and encourage all opportunities to locate public sector/ third sector commercial occupation in town</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liaise with Health Board to establish their requirements for facilities in town centres.</li> <li>Work with other public sector and third sector bodies to locate in town centres.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing as part of the preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Replacement Local Development Plan.</li> <li>A new Health and Well Being centre is proposed for Caerphilly Town Centre.</li> </ul>	

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
centres. To include service hubs, health and well-being provision etc.			
Undertake a review of the current town centre offer for incubation space, start up space, managed space, live workspace and graded office space and an assessment of future demand in light of changing ways of working accelerated by the Covid pandemic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feasibility Assessment for offices for Park &amp; Ride Site in Caerphilly Town prepared.</li> <li>• Assessment of future demand underway as part of the preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Replacement Local Development Plan.</li> </ul>	
Assess need and potential for housing provision in town centres, to include standards, tenure mix, access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress the Acquisition of Pentrebane Street, Caerphilly for mixed use development including mixed tenure housing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pentrebane Street, Funding secured, site assembly progressing.</li> <li>• Transforming Towns funding grant criteria supports mixed schemes that include residential development above ground floor commercial space. An example of support under this scheme includes the former 'Store 21' outlet in Blackwood where grant support enabled</li> </ul>	



<b>Project</b>	<b>18 Months</b>	<b>Progress (Up to April 2023)</b>	<b>RAG</b>
<b>arrangements, client groups etc.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the private sector to secure new residential accommodation above retail units in town centres.</li> </ul>	the development of an empty building to accommodate 5 retail units on the ground floor below 9 residential flats on the upper floors. A pipeline of similar scheme is being promoted for further funds to support similar development in Bargoed Town Centre.	
<b>Establish a meanwhile use programme to encourage community use and pop-up provision.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify town centre premises suitable for meanwhile uses and pop-up provision.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SPF allocation to progress meanwhile use opportunities established.</li> </ul>	

## **PRIORITY THEME: TOURISM RECOVERY**

<b>Project</b>	<b>18 Months</b>	<b>Progress (Up to April 2023)</b>	<b>RAG</b>
<b>Develop a positive narrative/reputation for tourism in Caerphilly County Borough as a go to destination for Activity and Heritage holidays focusing on those areas of competitive advantage such as mountain biking,</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with virtual and digital travel trade to identify opportunities for Activity and Heritage trips/holidays in Caerphilly with UK and international tour operators.</li> <li>Develop a marketing plan to reinvigorate and reinforce the attractiveness of the county borough to domestic tourism and increase awareness of what is on offer in the county</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity and heritage promotions are ongoing, using social media, printed word and attendance at national events. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Articles included in The Voice magazine periodically.</li> <li>Attendance at national tourism shows, such as the Birmingham event in autumn 2021 and Twickenham in January 2022.</li> <li>Inclusion in regional promotions organised by the Southern Wales group and by Visit Wales.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
<p><b>cycling, walking, heritage and activity tourism all of which are particular strengths in Caerphilly.</b></p>	<p>borough to encourage visitors to Visit Caerphilly when they are visiting other attractions in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Update the Visit Caerphilly Webpage and utilise social media platforms to ensure that the Visit Caerphilly Brand is effective and recognised by prospective visitors to the region.</li> <li>▪ Promote the Valleys Regional Park Discovery Gateways at Caerphilly Castle, Cwmcarn Forest and Penallta Parc in partnership with the VRP/WG and CCR.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Social media coverage, including the incredibly successful visit from Youtubers Sam and Colby, which has achieved 4 million hits to date.</li> <li>• A marketing plan will be developed by the Marketing Officer, early in 2023.</li> <li>• The Marketing Officer is working with destination managers to update the websites regularly and ensure consistent and regular social media content.</li> <li>• The VRP initiative reinvigorated by the project leads and the first meeting in several years took place on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Work with partners to develop new high-quality attractions and activity products, particularly those providing distinctive and unique experiences that can</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage – Work with Cadw on proposals to elevate Caerphilly Castle from a Tier 1 tourism attraction to a Tier 2 tourism attraction.</li> <li>• Heritage – Expand the events and tourism offer at Llancaiach Fawr Manor and explore the feasibility of developing accommodation at the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work has commenced on Cadw's £5million project to transform Caerphilly Castle. The plans include improved visitor facilities in a new reception building at the entrance, refurbishment of the current shop, and access improvements to paths throughout the castle to ensure visitors of all abilities can enjoy the site.</li> </ul>	

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
<p><b>attract visitors all year round.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage – Expand the cultural events on offer at the New Tredegar Winding House.</li> <li>• Activity – Work with NRW to promote and develop Cwmcarn Forest Drive as a destination activity and explore opportunities to expand the network of legal bike trails within the Forest.</li> <li>• Activity – Work with Tomorrow Tourism to prepare a long-term plan to develop Cwmcarn as a national visitor attraction through the provision of new activities and attractions to complement the existing offer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Central to the project is a £1million overhaul of site interpretation including new state-of-the-art digital techniques, presenting the stories of the men and women who built and lived in Caerphilly Castle. The plans also include proposals to re-dress the Great Hall, the largest of its period in the country, to recreate the ambience and grandeur of its medieval heyday.</li> <li>▪ Llancaiach Fawr Manor Accommodation Feasibility Study prepared by PSL 2022 which concluded that the site is suitable for accommodation and provided a recommended way forward on the scale and type of accommodation which should be sought. Funding has not been secured to date for this £0.5m project.</li> <li>▪ The installation of the park at Llancaiach Fawr Manor has increased the number of families onsite and also increased the duration of their visit.</li> <li>• Work is ongoing to develop the offer at the Winding House, including regular exhibitions in the gallery and an art competition involving local schools in autumn and winter 2022-23.</li> <li>• The Winding House has put on a range of themed children’s craft activities throughout the last twelve months. Art photographic exhibitions have run throughout the year with the gallery space booked up until the end of 2023</li> <li>• Cwmcarn Forest Masterplan has been prepared and was approved by Cabinet in June 2022. The long-term plan for the</li> </ul>	

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
		<p>destination has therefore been developed and is now being progressed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MACE – chosen consultant have developed the scheme for Cwmcarn and the Council have submitted a bid for £12 million to the UK Government levelling up fund. This is supported by over £1 million match fund from CCBC. The scheme includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree top coaster</li> <li>• Raised walkways</li> <li>• Wrap around extension</li> <li>• Art trail</li> <li>• Bungee jump</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Levelling Up Bid submitted to UK Government.</li> <li>• An ongoing working relationship is in place with NRW at both operational and strategic levels to ensure that visitors continue to receive an enjoyable, high quality and safe experience.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Work with accommodation providers to diversify the range and type of accommodation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work with the Council's preferred developer partner to develop proposals for a new boutique hotel in Park Lane, Caerphilly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work is progressing to secure Planning Permission for a new hotel in Caerphilly as part of the Leisure Quarter Proposal.</li> </ul>	

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
<p><b>provided in the county borough.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Undertake a feasibility study to ascertain what type of accommodation should be provided at Llancaiach Fawr Manor.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Llancaiach Fawr Manor Accommodation Feasibility Study prepared by PSL 2022 which concluded that the site is suitable for accommodation and provided a recommended way forward on the scale and type of accommodation which should be sought. Funding has not been secured to date for this £0.5m project.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Work with partners to maximise existing assets and further develop new leisure establishments to drive the night-time economy and increase dwell time in the Principal Town Centres to encourage visitors to take weekend breaks in the county borough.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Blackwood Miners' Institute and the Caerphilly Workmen's Hall are both important historic assets in their respective town centres. Vibrant and successful theatres play an important role as an economic driver for developing employment and for the night-time economy. Officers will work with the management of both venues to build on their existing offer and encourage both venues to harness opportunities for greater networking with, and involvement of local businesses in their activities particularly those that operate in the 'experience' and evening and night-time economy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackwood Town Council meetings with BMI team have resumed.</li> <li>• Blackwood Miners' Institute is working with the Town Council to rethink the 'History of Blackwood' event that was postponed due to the pandemic this is now scheduled to be delivered in 2023.</li> <li>• Theatre and Arts Service Manager and Marketing Officer have been meeting with local businesses to discuss opportunities for collaboration.</li> <li>• The BMI Advisory Group, comprised of people from a diverse range of backgrounds, including the private sector, has been established and held its first meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022. This group will provide advice and guidance to the management team on key operational and strategic issues.</li> </ul>	

<b>Project</b>	<b>18 Months</b>	<b>Progress (Up to April 2023)</b>	<b>RAG</b>
<p><b>Ensure that there is a sufficient variety of quality food and drink, leisure, entertainment, cultural activities and accommodation in our Principal Towns to attract and hold visitor/customers in town centres to develop their Night-time economy and make them more successful.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work with the Council's preferred developer partner to develop proposals for a new boutique hotel in Park Lane, Caerphilly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Caerphilly Town 2035, funding has been secured from WG to acquire properties along Pentrebane Street, including the current Indoor Market, to facilitate development of up to 64 new Net Zero Carbon apartments by Linc Cymru, 50% of which will be affordable. To mitigate the loss of the current Indoor Market, plans have been prepared for the creation of a new Market on land owned by the Council on Park Lane, which means in the short to medium term this site could not accommodate a hotel.</li> <li>▪ In parallel with this work CBRE have been looking at the options for a hotel in the Town Centre and they have concluded that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The town should and would support a 60-80 Bed 3-4* Hotel with associated function space (weddings, Business etc) and F&amp;B provision.</li> <li>○ The Castle is key and provides the USP for the proposal.</li> <li>○ It is essential that the Hotel has to be close and have good views of the Castle.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ CBRE considered 8 Town Centre sites with the two best sites being Cardiff Road (LQ Devt) and Park Lane. Their recommended site for the hotel is now Cardiff Road as they consider Park Lane is too constrained as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Initial plans for the Park Lane site (prepared by Strides) indicates the site cannot accommodate the scale of development required</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide financial support (Transforming Towns Grant) to businesses looking to locate in Caerphilly and Blackwood Town Centres.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It has poor access and wouldn't provide adequate on-site parking</li> <li>○ Half the Hotel rooms would have views (albeit limited) of the Castle, with the remainder having views of Park Lane &amp; the rear of Peacocks</li> <li>▪ Cardiff Road (LQ site) could accommodate the scale and quality of development required and would provide the best view of the Castle. Work is progressing to secure Planning Permission for a new hotel in Caerphilly as part of the Leisure Quarter Proposal.</li> <li>▪ Transforming Towns Secured for Caerphilly for 2021/22 equates to £166,507. A further £550,000 for 2023/24 and £200,000 for 2024/25 has been offered that can include projects in Blackwood and Bargoed upon the development of specific placemaking plans in relation to the additional towns.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Reintroduce local and major events when restrictions permit to encourage people to visit town centres and to showcase and encourage the development of the towns' night-time economy and</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prepare and agree a programme of Covid safe events for the Autumn of 2021.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The events staff work extremely hard to deliver on the current programme, which includes 2 major events which are deemed to be of regional significance in terms of attracting tourism to the County Borough (The Big/Little Cheese Summer event and the Caerphilly Food Festival). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Big Cheese usually attracts between 50,000 and 100,000 visitors from a wider catchment area and has a social media reach of circa 500,000. In 2022 the scaled down Little Cheese attracted approximately 44,000 visitors.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
<p><b>encourage visitors to experience the towns' food, drink, entertainment and accommodation businesses alongside each event.</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Caerphilly Food Festival which is held in the Spring attracts between 8,000 and 12,000 visitors to the town.</li> </ul> <p>In addition to these regionally significant events, the Council's events staff organise and help to support many other town centre events. In summary for 22/23 these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bargoed Winter Food and Craft Fair</li> <li>• Bargoed Roller Skating Rink</li> <li>• Blackwood Winter Food and Craft Fair</li> <li>• Blackwood Spring Fair (TBC)</li> <li>• *Caerphilly Big/Little Cheese</li> <li>• *Caerphilly Food Festival</li> <li>• Caerphilly 10k</li> <li>• Lantern Parade and associated workshops</li> <li>• Ystrad Mynach Spring Fair</li> <li>• Ystrad Mynach Food and Craft Fair</li> <li>• Risca Beach Party (TBC)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Develop the leisure offer in Town Centres to bridge the transition from the day into the evening economy and help retain daytime visitors, shop workers and employees in town into the evening.</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identification of new sites for development through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Replacement Local Development Plan preparation process.</li> <li>▪ Work progressing to develop the leisure offer in Caerphilly Town as part of Caerphilly Town 2035.</li> <li>▪ Good progress being made in Blackwood via Programme of diverse events planned for Autumn in BMI.</li> </ul>	



## RE-CONFIGURATION OF EXISTING EMPLOYMENT SITES & IDENTIFICATION OF NEW EMPLOYMENT SITES

Project	18 Months	Progress (Up to April 2023)	RAG
<p><b>Establish sites with scope for redevelopment.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify a key list of sites that offer an opportunity for redevelopment / reconfiguration, having regard to vacancy rate trends, quality/type of existing premises, size and location e.g. Capital Valley, Rhymney.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employment Land Review completed October 2021.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Establish more robust links with industrial property agents, landowners and existing occupiers to ensure redevelopment meets the needs of business and other stakeholders.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify willing partners and funding opportunities to take forward sites for redevelopment e.g., Capital Valley, Rhymney.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited progress made with WG and Private sector in respect of the Heads of the Valleys Industrial Estate residual land. The owner of Capital Valley has his own plans for Capital Valley.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Prioritise the redevelopment of sites that would be beneficial in terms of promoting the growth of key sectors within the County Borough.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with CCR on a pipeline of strategic sites and premises to attract funding to facilitate employment growth.</li> <li>Work with WG to unlock employment land at Oakdale Business Park through the provision on the necessary infrastructure to access the land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A465 sites and premises group established chaired by CCR and including WG to build on CCR market assessment reports to establish funding for strategic site development. Work has been focussed on the heads of the valleys and proximity to the A465.</li> <li>Initial work of the group includes developing a masterplan for the undeveloped land on plateau 2 at the business park in anticipation of leveraging funding from WG and the region.</li> </ul>	

<b>Project</b>	<b>18 Months</b>	<b>Progress (Up to April 2023)</b>	<b>RAG</b>
<b>Oakdale Plateaus' 2 and 4.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oakdale Plateaus' 2 and 4 – secure a private sector partner to redevelop vacant land for private sector-led employment use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oakdale Plateau 2 – Working with CCR and WG to prepare relevant site investigation reports to facilitate development of the residual land. RIBA Stage 2. Discussion underway with prospective developers.</li> <li>Oakdale Plateau 4 - Relevant site investigation reports prepared to facilitate development of the residual land. Discussion ongoing with WG and prospective developer.</li> </ul>	
<b>Identify new sites for Business and Employment use.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a robust assessment of land availability to inform the type and location of employment land and premises to be provided.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employment Land Review completed October 2021.</li> </ul>	
<b>Invest in new Council owned start up units.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify willing partners and funding opportunities to take forward sites for redevelopment for start-units.</li> <li>Prepare up to date Masterplan to guide the provision of new units at Caerphilly Business Park.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with prospective partners to deliver new starter units at Oakdale.</li> <li>Residual land at Caerphilly Business Park – is now proposed for the new Well-Being Centre.</li> </ul>	