



CABINET – 27TH NOVEMBER 2019

SUBJECT: REGENERATION BOARD – PROJECT PROPOSALS

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend the allocation of £370k Regeneration Project Board Development Funds towards two previously endorsed and re-evaluated projects, namely Llanbradach and Ystrad Mynach Park & Ride schemes.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 At the meeting on 30th May 2018, Cabinet agreed that a Regeneration Project Board would be set up with a cross party political representation of Councillors plus key officers. This group is supported by a Regeneration Assessment Panel consisting of officers from a range of service areas.
- 2.2 The Regeneration Assessment Panel have met on numerous occasions to consider the prioritised list of capital projects, which have been identified by the Board to move to the Assessment Stage. Following subsequent Cabinet Approvals, on the 13th February 2019, 29th May 2019, 10th July 2019 and most recently 2nd October 2019 numerous projects have been endorsed with financial assistance provided (where necessary) from the Regeneration Project Board Development Funds.
- 2.3 During January 2019 Cabinet resolved to release £1.2m of reserves for the Regeneration Board prioritised projects, bringing the Total Development Fund budget allocation to £1.5m. To date, £492,500 has been allocated towards prioritised capital regeneration schemes, across the County Borough.
- 2.4 This report seeks Cabinet approval for the allocation of a further **£370k** Development Funds towards two previously endorsed and re-evaluated projects, namely Llanbradach and Ystrad Mynach Park & Ride schemes.
- 2.5 The above request would leave an active Development Fund of **£637,500**.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Cabinet:
- i) Endorse the recommendations of the Regeneration Project Board towards the review of both the Llanbradach and Ystrad Mynach Park and Ride projects.

- ii) Agree that **£370,000** of the remaining Regeneration Project Board Development Fund of £1,007,500 be allocated to these revisited priority schemes, as approved by the Regeneration Project Board.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 On the 30th May 2018, Cabinet agreed that a Regeneration Project Board be set up. The Terms of Reference of the Board were approved by Cabinet at the same meeting.
- 5.2 At the subsequent June 2018 Board meeting a Project Prioritisation Toolkit was approved for the Board to prioritise projects and this was subsequently agreed by Council on 17th July 2018. An Assessment Panel has been set up to assess each of the projects using this toolkit. The Assessment Panel is an internal officer panel from a wide range of service areas set up specifically to assess prioritised strategic regeneration schemes.
- 5.3 The Assessment Panel has met several times to consider a list of previously prioritised capital projects (Tranche 1 - Tranche 3). These, for the most part, have been evaluated and considered by the Regeneration Project Board before being presented to Cabinet for endorsement and funding (where required) from the available Development Funds.
- 5.4 Additional funding has been secured to enhance and supplement the Regeneration Project Board Development Fund. On the 30th January 2019 Cabinet resolved to release £1.2m of reserves for Regeneration Board Projects bringing the Total Development Fund budget allocation to **£1.5m**. This has allowed additional projects to be considered for development support, prioritisation and funding.
- 5.5 Those that have currently been assessed by the Panel and considered by the Regeneration Project Board, and subsequently Cabinet are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Schemes with an Agreed Funding Allocation:

Capital Project	Tranche	Agreed Funding Allocation
Llanbradach Park & Ride	1	£150,000
Caerphilly Interchange	1	£0
Oakdale Business Park	1	£100,000
Park Lane, Caerphilly	1	£40,000
	Sub Total	£290,000
Ystrad Mynach Park & Ride	2	£0
Cwmcarn Forest Drive	2	£75,000
Pentrebane Street, Caerphilly	2	£37,500*
	Sub Total	£112,500
Masterplan for Public Sector Land in Ystrad Mynach	3	£0 (£30K requested but project deferred)

Ty Du, Nelson (design of additional)	3	£40,000
Penallta Colliery - Former Powerhall Building	3	£0 (£20K requested but project deferred)
Coach Facilities – Caerphilly Town Centre/Castle	3	£50K
	Sub Total	£90,000
	Grand Total Allocated	£492,500
	Regen Project Board Development Funds	£1,500,000
	<i>Residual Balance</i>	<i>£1,007,500</i>

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

- 5.6 On the 6th August 2019 two projects from Tranche 1 & Tranche 2 were re-evaluated by the Regeneration Assessment Panel and subsequently re-considered by the Regeneration Project Board on 24th September 2019. These projects are as follows:
- Llanbradach Park & Ride; and
 - Ystrad Mynach Park & Ride.

- 5.7 Details of each project and the Regeneration Project Board's recommendations are set out below.

5.8 **(A) Llanbradach Park & Ride:**

- Total Project Cost Estimate (£): To be determined. Development Stage Cost Estimate: £550K
- Regen Project Board Development Funds (Secured): £150K
- Request for further funding from the Development Fund (£): £400k

- 5.9 As previously reported this project proposes a new Park and Ride (P&R) facility in Llanbradach that could accommodate up to 500 spaces. The existing station only has 10 P&R spaces which is considered unsuitable for the introduction of a much better and frequent rail service under Transport for Wales.

- 5.10 The availability of an accessible public transport network is critical to fully service areas within the County Borough and a P&R at this location would remove traffic and reduce congestion on the strategic highway network. The new park and ride would be located some distance from the existing rail station and as such the scheme would require a new rail halt to be constructed. Residual land at this location could also potentially accommodate employment growth. The provision of a strategic park and ride facility at Llanbradach will help to absorb the excess park and ride demand and also create new demand at a station that does not currently benefit from a notable park and ride facility. It will encourage greater use of the rail service on the Rhymney Valley line for those in the Mid Valleys area, particularly Llanbradach and its surrounding area and offer a more accessible rail network that will enable car users to switch to rail for their everyday journeys. The proposed scheme will increase levels

of public transport use, reduce levels of car use, and improve modal interchange by providing a new strategic park and ride facility.

- 5.11 The original bid to the Regeneration Board sought £150k to match fund a Regional Transport Bid, for resources to undertake further feasibility/design work on this project during 2019/20. Unfortunately this regional bid was unsuccessful and in order to develop the prioritised project, a revised request of £550,000 in total was made to the Regeneration Project Board. This additional request will allow officers to produce a robustly costed project, which will prove invaluable when seeking funding to implement the designed scheme.
- 5.12 **Comments:** The project was re-assessed and was again successful in respect of Strategic Fit and Deliverability, achieving a 60% eligibility score for each. However, the request for an additional £400K from the Development Fund (total £550K) was not totally palatable to the Regeneration Project Board. It was agreed that a staged approach should be taken on this complex project.
- 5.13 **RPB Decision: Project Approved. It was agreed to stage gate the feasibility and design by allocating an additional £200K from the Development Fund. The total funding allocated towards the scheme would therefore be £350K.**
- 5.14 **(B) Ystrad Mynach Park & Ride:**
- Total Project Cost Estimate (£): To be determined. Development Stage Cost Estimate: £170K
 - Regen Project Board Development Funds (Secured): £0K
 - Request for further funding from the Development Fund (£): £170k
- 5.15 There is an opportunity to provide an additional 113 car parking spaces and facilities to encourage active travel at Ystrad Mynach railway station. The scheme is identified in the Local Transport Plan and the approved (April 2019) Ystrad Mynach Masterplan. The land required to progress the scheme is either in CCBC or Transport for Wales (TfW) ownership.
- 5.16 The existing P&R is over-subscribed and as a consequence the surrounding streets often experience overflow parking. The expansion of the existing park and ride facility will help alleviate this pressure and bring additional benefits to the station and the town. The improved connectivity delivered through this project will have a positive effect on the ongoing development of Ystrad Mynach which has recently been identified by WG as a key economic corridor. The provision of an extended, strategic park and ride facility at Ystrad Mynach will help to absorb the excess park and ride demand and also cater for latent and future demand at this busy station.
- 5.17 As reported at 5.10 above, the Ystrad Mynach P&R will also encourage greater use of the rail service on the Rhymney Valley line for those in the Mid Valleys area and offer a more accessible rail network that will enable car users to switch to rail for their everyday journeys.
- 5.18 The original submission to the Regeneration Project Board did not request any financial assistance from the Development Fund budget. However, unfortunately a subsequent bid to the Welsh Government Local Transport Fund to carry out the necessary detailed design works was unsuccessful. Therefore, in order to take this prioritised project forward a re-assessment was undertaken with a revised request of £170,000 made to the Regeneration Project Board.

- 5.19 **Comments:** The project was re-assessed and was again successful in respect of Strategic Fit and Deliverability, achieving a 51.3% and 67.5% eligibility score respectively. It was recommended that the financial support requested be approved, as the bid to WG Local Transport Fund was unsuccessful.
- 5.20 **RPB Decision:** Project Approved. It was agreed to allocate the requested £170K from the Development Fund towards the detailed design stage of this prioritised project.

Conclusion

- 5.21 In light of the above, this report seeks Cabinet approval for the allocation of £370k Development Funds and endorsement to progress development stage works in respect of the two previously prioritised capital transport projects at Llanbradach and Ystrad Mynach.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 This report assumes that the two identified projects, once supported by Cabinet, will be developed to a stage where they are robust enough to bid for and secure external funding and be implemented.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

Corporate Plan (2018-2023):

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

Objective 2 - Enabling employment.

Objective 3 - Addressing the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough.

Objective 4 - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system.

Objective 5 - Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle.

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

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

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

- 7.3 The proposals further contribute towards a number of key priorities of the Council's Regeneration strategy (A Foundation for Success):

Priority SP1: Increasing employability

Priority SP3: Reducing worklessness

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

Priority SP11: Tackle in-work poverty

Priority SB1: Building a more resilient and diversified economy

Priority SB2: Supporting economic growth and innovation

Priority SB3: Creating an environment that nurtures business

Priority SB4: Key sites and infrastructure for employment opportunities

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

Priority CPP2: Promote public transport integration and connectivity

Priority CPP4: Actively promote rail improvements and the reinstatement of new links

Priority CPP5: Reduce the level of out commuting

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

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

- A globally responsible Wales
- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

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

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

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no specific equalities implications associated with this report for any specific groups or individuals therefore a full equalities impact assessment has not been carried out.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 An overall project development fund of £1.5m has been approved and will allow a

project team of officers to develop projects ready for implementation once funding becomes available.

- 10.2 As shown in Section 5.5 above Development Funds of £492,500 have previously been approved and allocated to Tranche 1, 2 & 3 projects. Leaving a residual balance of £1,007,500 from the total budget allocation.
- 10.3 The re-visited project request is **£370,000** in total (£200K for Llanbradach P&R and & £170K for Ystrad Mynach P&R).
- 10.4 The above request would leave an active Development Fund of **£637,500**.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no direct personnel implications associated with this report.

12. CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 All consultation responses are reflected in the report.

13. STATUTORY POWER

- 13.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 13.2 Local Government Acts.

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Consultees: Cllr Sean Morgan, Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure, Sustainability & Wellbeing of Future Generations Champion (*and Chair of the Regeneration Project Board*)
Cllr John Ridgewell, Chairperson, Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Cllr Christine Forehead, Vice Chairperson, Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Mark S. Williams, Interim Corporate Director Communities
Stephen Harris, Interim Head of Business Improvement Services and Section 151 Officer
Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration and Planning
Marcus Lloyd, Head of Infrastructure
Allan Dallimore, Regeneration Services Manager
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Cllr Rob Gough, Llanbradach ward
Cllr Colin Mann, Llanbradach ward
Cllr Alan Angel, Ystrad Mynach ward
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