



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION CABINET BOARD

Immediately Following Scrutiny Committee on FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2015

COMMITTEE ROOMS A/B - NEATH CIVIC CENTRE

<u>PART 1</u>

- 1. To agree the Chairman for this Meeting
- 2. To receive any declarations of interests from Members
- 3. To receive the Minutes of the previous Economic and Community Regeneration Cabinet Board held on the 31st July 2015 (*Pages 5 - 8*)

To receive the Reports of the Head of Property and Regeneration

- 4. Aberavon Seafront Regeneration Update Report (Pages 9 18)
- 5. Aberavon Leisure and Fitness Centre (*Pages 19 28*)

<u>To receive the Joint Report of the Head of Planning and the Head of</u> <u>Property and Regeneration</u>

6. Economic and Community Regeneration Performance Indicators Quarter 1 2015-2016 (*Pages 29 - 40*)

To receive the Report of the Head of Planning

7. Community Fund Policy for Renewable Energy Generating Developments (*Pages 41 - 70*)

To receive the Report of the Head of Participation

- 8. Performance Indicator Monitoring Report 1st Quarter 2015-2016 (*Pages* 71 76)
- 9. To receive the Economic and Community Regeneration Forward Work Programme 2015-2016 (*Pages* 77 - 80)
- 10. Any urgent items (whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Chairman pursuant to Statutory Instrument 2001 No 2290 (as amended)
- Access to Meetings to resolve to exclude the public for the following items pursuant to Regulation 4 (3) and (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2290 and the relevant exempt paragraphs of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Lcoal Government Act 1972.

<u>PART 2</u>

<u>To receive the Private Report of the Head of Participation (Exempt</u> <u>under Paragraph 14)</u>

12. First Quarter Performance Review - Celtic Leisure (*Pages 81 - 84*)

<u>To receive the Private Report of the Head of Property and</u> <u>Regeneration (Exempt under Paragraph 14)</u>

13. Industrial Starter Units Portfolio Performance Report 2014-2015 (*Pages* 85 - 112)

S.Phillips Chief Executive

Civic Centre Port Talbot

Friday 4th September 2015

Cabinet Board Members:

Councillors: A.J.Taylor and M.L.James

Notes:

- (1) If any Cabinet Board Member is unable to attend, any other Cabinet Member may substitute as a voting Member on the Committee. Members are asked to make these arrangements direct and then to advise the committee Section.
- (2) The views of the earlier Scrutiny Committee are to be taken into account in arriving at decisions (pre decision scrutiny process).

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Agenda Item 3.

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION CABINET BOARD

31 JULY, 2015

Cabinet Members:

Councillors: A.J.Taylor and M.L.James (Chairman)

Officers in Attendance:

S.Brennan, Ms. C.Gadd and Miss G. Cirillo

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Agreed that Cllr. M.L. James be appointed Chairman for the meeting.

2. <u>MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION</u> <u>CABINET BOARD HELD ON THE 19TH JUNE, 2015</u>

Decision:

Noted by the Committee

3. **BUSINESS PLAN 2015-16**

Decision:

That the Property and Regeneration Business Plan 2015-2016, as detailed within the circulated report, be endorsed and that the following proposed additional recommendation made by the earlier Scrutiny Committee, be approved:

"That the Local Authority expresses its concerns to Barclays Bank regarding the proposal to close the Glynneath Branch due to the impact on the town as it undermines the investment and work undertaken to develop the area."

Reason for Decision:

In order to implement the Council's Performance Management Framework.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call-in period.

4. **<u>BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT IN NEATH</u>**

Decision:

That the report be noted.

5. <u>ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION PERFORMANCE</u> <u>INDICATORS - QUARTER 4 2014-15</u>

Decision:

That the report be noted.

6. <u>PERFORMANCE INDICATOR MONITORING REPORT - QUARTER 4</u> 2014-15

Decision:

That the report be noted.

7. <u>SALE OF FORMER STABLE BLOCK LOCATED AT BAGLAN PARK,</u> <u>BAGLAN</u>

Decision:

That following discussions, having considered the objections as detailed within the circulated report, and a verbal update given by the Head of Property and Regeneration, Members endorsed the original recommendation made at the Economic and Community Regeneration Cabinet Board meeting on 14th January 2015, to accept the recommended offer made by Coastal Housing regarding the disposal of the land, subject to planning permission.

Reason for Decision:

To comply with the Council's obligation under Section 123 (2A) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call-in period.

8. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2015/2016

Decision:

That the report be noted.

9. ACCESS TO MEETINGS

Decision:

That pursuant to Regulation 4(3) and (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2290, the public be excluded for the following items of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

10. LAND AT WAUN STERW, PONTARDAWE

Decision:

That the offer made by Hale Construction, as detailed in the private circulated report, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

To enable the sale of surplus land and to attain capital receipt.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call-in period.

11. DISPOSAL OF 32 - 34 VICTORIA GARDENS, NEATH

Decision:

Following a verbal update by the Head of Property and Regeneration whereby the bids received were deemed not acceptable, Members approved the proposed amended recommendation that the property be remarketed.

Reason for Proposed Decision:

To enable the disposal of surplus property and to attain a capital receipt.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call-in period.

CHAIRMAN

Agenda Item 4.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION CABINET BOARD

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PROPERTY AND REGENERATION SIMON BRENNAN

11th September 2015

SECTION B – MATTER FOR INFORMATION

WARD(S) AFFECTED - Port Talbot, Aberavon, Sandfields East, Sandfields West, Margam

ABERAVON SEAFRONT REGENERATION- UPDATE REPORT

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the various regeneration schemes at Aberavon Seafront.

Background

Since 2001, the Council has been undertaking an extensive programme of Regeneration on the Seafront. Some £5.2million has been spent on enhancing the Seafront and upgrading public facilities with almost £4million of this being funded from external sources.

These improvements have truly transformed the attractiveness of the Seafront and contributed to its increased popularity for visitors and local users. The programme has included the following projects:

Projects Update

Sunken Gardens Redesign

Opened in June 2012, the redesigned sunken gardens incorporate timber step features, new site furniture including benches, seats and bins and soft landscaping. Within the scheme, features include grass terracing and a shingle beach garden with seaside timber groynes to the west side of the garden and maritime themed plantings to the east.



Shelter and Signage

A timber beach canopy was constructed within the redesigned sunken garden in order to provide much needed shelter from the elements. The shelter forms the central feature within the gardens and is themed upon the idea of beach groynes that form a wall with an overhead canopy.

Three new information panels were also installed along the promenade which includes a plan of the seafront, safety information, and details on local facilities and activities.



Toddlers Play Area

A new play area designed for children aged between two and five was completed in September 2012. The new facility includes a play area designed around a seaside theme along with new fencing, bins, seating and a picnic area.



Skatepark

Built on the site of the existing skate park the works involved removing the existing steel construction skate elements and constructing a new concrete design skate park producing an exciting, challenging and durable skate facility. The scheme was completed in April 2015 and has already proved extremely popular.



Scarlet Avenue Car Park

A new 111 space (inclusive of disabled provision) car park built on the site of a temporary un-surfaced car park adjacent to the Trem-Y-Mor development.



Fort Play Area

Opened in May 2012 a revamped seaside themed play area replaced the previous wooden fort playground.



Refreshment kiosk and public toilets

Located at the Western end of the promenade this high quality modular building incorporates a refreshment kiosk along with unisex toilets, a disabled toilet and baby changing facilities.



Trem-y-Mor, Respite Care and Day Centre

Opened in April 2014, this 16 Bed facility built in a stimulating and dramatic location, is split into 4 separate 'pod' units where each pod is clustered around its own Courtyard, Kitchen and Lounge. They are designed for a particular user need and encourage personal development where staff are able to maintain and develop social, emotional, communication and independent living skills.

There is also a Communal Dining Room, Lounge and Games Room, Sensory Room, Soft play Room, Assisted Bathrooms, Commercial Kitchen, Staff Areas, Offices, Reception and other ancillary areas all serviced with extensive assistive technology provision.



Coastal Defence Work

As part of the Trem-y-Mor Project enabling works, coastal defence works were carried out as there was concern that storms and high seas had the potential to undercut the building's foundations. The work involved the remodelling of the existing blockstone revetment and the importing of new stone forming an apron to protect the western end of the promenade.

Current Projects

New Aberavon Fitness & Leisure Centre

The beachfront leisure centre development incorporates a 'wave' concept design roof and features a 25m pool (with rising boom and a moveable floor to adjust pool depth), 17m Learner Pool, Gym & Fitness Suite, Dance Studio, Spin Room, 4 Court Sports Hall, various Community Rooms, Café, Reception and extensive Changing facilities. Works commenced June 2014 with an anticipated completion date of December 2015



New fish and chip restaurant (Franco's)

A new seafront restaurant with outdoor dining area is currently underway on land next to Franco's restaurant and is due to open this autumn, creating 40 new jobs. Upon completion of the new restaurant the existing Franco's restaurant will be demolished.

Adventure Golf Course

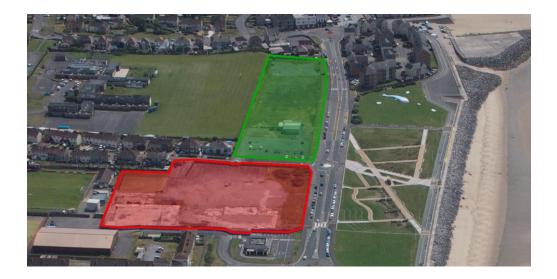
The Authority has recently been successful in securing funding from The Big Lottery for a Coastal Communities Grant to construct an adventure golf course on the promenade on a vacant site between the aquasplash and fort play area. Visitor research has recently been completed and it is anticipated that construction will start on site early in 2016 and the facility will be open ready for the 2016 holiday season.



Future projects

Old Afan Lido site

The authority is preparing to embark on a procurement exercise that will invite developers to bid for a development opportunity at the former Afan Lido Leisure Centre and overflow car park sites. The 7.5 acre site presents an opportunity for a high quality (residential led) mixed use scheme.



Restaurants

The Authority will be taking to the market a piece of land between the sunken gardens and whale site along the promenade, for the development of a restaurant.



Equalities Impact Assessment

Screening Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public sector Duty under the Equality Act 2010. Screening of individual projects have been undertaken and Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken for each project.

Financial Implications

The ongoing regeneration of the seafront is being delivered in partnership with a number of organisations and with funding from various sources. There is an allocation for match funding within the Council's capital programme to contribute to the delivery of the programme.

Consultation Outcome

There has been no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item. Consultations have been held with key stakeholders on the development of individual projects.

Background Papers

Aberavon Seafront Strategy, August 2003 Aberavon Seafront Strategy Review, August 2005 Neath Port Talbot Waterfront Regeneration Strategy, 2011

Officer Contact

Andrew Collins, Regeneration and Strategic Development Manager Email <u>a.collins@npt.gov.uk</u> Tel. No. 01639 686416 This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 5.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION CABINET BOARD

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PROPERTY AND REGENERATION SIMON BRENNAN

11th September 2015

SECTION A – MATTER FOR DECISION

WARD(S) AFFECTED - ALL

ABERAVON LEISURE AND FITNESS CENTRE

Purpose of Report

To update Members in respect of progress on the Aberavon Leisure and Fitness Centre being developed at Aberavon Seafront, and to consider the proposed recommendation to approve an additional budget.

Background

The authority has entered into a development contract with Corban Investments, who in turn have appointed Heron Brothers Limited as their main contractor to construct the new leisure facility.

Site works commenced in June 2014 and after overcoming some initial difficulties the development team has reported that the site work is progressing well and that the project is on target to be completed by the end of 2015.

A Members Task and Finish Group was set up to oversee the initial stages of the project and this group together with representatives of local sports clubs and Celtic Leisure were given a presentation at the Aberavon Beach Hotel on the 30th January 2015, followed by a site visit.

Progress

Site works are now well established. The main structure is complete and the building is watertight, which has enabled significant internal works to progress.

The internal partitions are erected and Mechanical, Electrical and Pool Filtration Installations are progressing well in all areas.

The swimming pool tanks have been tested to ensure they are watertight and they are now being tiled with the moving floor being fitted.

Externally the contractors have installed the main site drainage and incoming gas, water and electricity supplies which has enabled the external areas to be cleaned and levelled and prepared for work to be progressed on the external paved areas to the front car park.

Attached for information are a series of photographs taken to inform Members of progress.

Consultation and communication with Celtic Leisure.

Officers from Environment are regularly meeting with Leisure officers and the Celtic Leisure Team to agree FF&E requirements, commissioning, training, handover, operating procedures and the opening date and these meetings will continue until the project is complete. Celtic Leisure is keen to commence the marketing of the new facility and a series of tri partite meeting have been arranged to agree protocols for this.

Celtic Leisure has also established a marketing suite in the Reel Cinema Car Park and the public are being encouraged to purchase membership packages.

Matters for Information and Decision.

Pool Barrier

During the design brief stage, it was determined that a barrier between the learner pool and main pool would not be required. However, following discussions with more recently appointed managers, it has been confirmed that a barrier will be required due to Health and Safety concerns of children crossing from the learner pool into the adjacent deep (2m) water of the main

pool. The cost for the barrier including gates is estimated to be in the region of $\pounds 12k$.

External Signage

Due to uncertainties in the proposed name for the building and operational management of the facility, no external signage to the building was included in the development contract. Proposals are now in place to provide 2 No. illuminated bilingual signs to the front and side elevation of the building. Costs associated with these signs are estimated to be circa £10k.

Following discussions at Corporate Management Group it is proposed to vary the Development Contract to include the above items.

Youth Club Kitchen Facility

The Youth Service have requested that a Tuck Shop/Kitchen facility to include counter tops, cupboards, white goods (including cooking provision), is incorporated in the conversion of a gym into an Arts and Crafts Room and the installation of additional power and data supplies. The additional costs associated with these variations are estimated to be in the region of £15k.

In terms of the additional kitchen facility it is proposed that this is not to proceed as there are catering facilities within the building.

Loose furniture to Manager's Office, Staff Room and Meeting Rooms

The contractor has not allowed for the provision of loose items of furniture to the Manager's Office, Staff Room or Meeting Rooms.

Costs for such furniture are estimated to be circa £10k but it is anticipated that furniture for these areas can be sourced from the Councils corporate stock.

Guaranteed Maximum Price

The development contract between the Council and the Developer limits our financial liability for the project to the development cost of $\pounds 13,327m$, plus a further sum of $\pounds 232k$ agreed for the cost of fitness equipment.

The developer continually reports that the project cost is anticipated to exceed the development cost by circa $\pounds 334k$ and whilst the developers acknowledge our liability is limited they may still wish to meet the Council at the end of the project to discuss the additional cost.

Environment Officers do not accept that the Council should be asked to meet any of the additional cost but it is noted within the report to advise members' that this may develop into a contractual debate if the developer does not resolve this cost issue with his contractor.

Recommendation

Members note the progress made on the New Leisure Centre and the proposal to complete by the end of 2015.

Members are also asked to approve an additional budget of £22k to fund the additional external signage and a stainless steel barrier between the learner pool and the main pool.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

To progress the development of the Aberavon Leisure and Fitness Centre.

List of Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Progress Photographs

Officer Contact

Clive Barnard, Architectural Design & Project Management Manager Property and Regeneration Tel. No. 01639 686569 Email: c.barnard@npt.gov.uk

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

ABERAVON LEISURE AND FITNESS CENTRE

(a) Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call-in period.

(b) Sustainability Appraisal

Community Plan Impacts

	No impact
	No impact
	No impact
	No impact
••	No impact

Other Impacts

Welsh Language		No impact
Sustainable Development	••	No impact
Equalities	••	No impact
Social Inclusion		No impact

(c) Consultation

This item is not subject to external consultation.







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Agenda Item 6. ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION CABINET BOARD

JOINT REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING – N. PEARCE AND THE HEAD OF PROPERTY AND REGENERATION – S. BRENNAN

11th September 2015

SECTION C – MATTER FOR MONITORING

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY REGENERATION PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR QUARTER 1 OF 2015/16

Purpose of Report

To advise Members of the actual performance achieved for the first quarter of the current financial year i.e. 1st April 2015 to 30th June 2015

Appendices

Quarterly Performance Management Data 2014-2015 – Quarter 1 Performance (1st April 2015–30th June 2015) – APPENDIX 1

List of Background Papers:

The Neath Port Talbot Corporate Plan - 2015/2018 "Rising to the Challenge";

Policy & Resources Committee report date 30th July 2010 – Securing continuous improvement and scrutiny work programme.

Officer Contact:

Carole Thomas, Senior Resources Officer Tel. 686794 Email- c.g.thomas@npt.gov.uk



Quarterly Performance Management Data 2015-2016 – Quarter 1 Performance (1st April 2015– 30th June 2015)

Report Contents:

Section 1: Summary of Performance

Section 2: Quarterly Performance Management Data and Performance Key

Section 3: Compliments and Complaints Φ

ω Section 1: Summary of Performance

Economic Development

It is now evident that confidence within the local business community is on the increase and this is reflected in the number of enquiries that the Business Development Team has serviced during the first quarter. Although slightly lower when compared with quarter 1 in 2014/15, the team is still receiving a significant number of enquires which are, in general, of a more positive nature, i.e. financial assistance to support expansion and investment plans. The higher than forecast figures for the number of jobs created can be explained by a number of factors. Firstly, there is an increase in the level of confidence amongst businesses and this is resulting in more jobs being created by project investments and secondly the availability of schemes such as the Enhanced Local Needs Support has enabled businesses to bring forward job creation opportunities.

The Business Development Team has had great success in setting up monthly Enterprise Clubs to fill a gap in the support market for individuals thinking about starting a business and this has had a positive effect on the number of business start-up enquiries received. In addition, continuing changes to the welfare system is also leading individuals to consider becoming self-employed, and this again is resulting in the team receiving more requests for support and advice in setting up new businesses.

<u>Planning</u>

Planning performance has varied during the period, although the overall level of performance for applications determined within the statutory 8 week period remains consistent with the same quarter in 2014/15. There were improvements to the householder planning applications and minor applications determined within 8 weeks. However, some indicators saw a drop in performance including the average time taken from receipt to validation and the average time taken from receipt to date of decision. The increase in average time taken to process applications is largely due to staff investing time contacting applicants to progress 'older' or 'stalled' applications to determination.

Affordable Housing Units Provided (PLA/006) is an annual indicator and will be reported during the quarter 4 period of 2015/16.

Building Control

Page 3

There has been a drop of nearly 8% on one of the indicators which was unavoidable due to staffing levels and workloads within the section. We are currently dealing with numerous high profile developments, all of which are at a very demanding stage, taking up staff time.

Corporate Health & Asset Management

Local Authority buildings conditions and maintenance are annual indicators and will be reported during the quarter4 period of 2015/16.

There is a new Indicator (CAM/037 - percentage change in the average Display Energy Certificate (DEC) score within local authority public buildings over 1,000 square metres) which will be reported annually in the Quarter 4 report.

Section 2: Quarterly Performance Management Data and Performance Key

<u>2015-2016 – Quarter 1 Performance (1st April 2015 – 30th June 2015)</u>

Note: The following references are included in the table. Explanations for these are as follows:

(NSI) National Strategic Indicators (NSIs) - are used to measure the performance of local authorities at a national level and focus on key strategic priorities. Local authorities are under a legal duty to collect & report on these measures.

(PAM) Public Accountability Measures - consist of a small set of "outcome focussed" indicators, selected initially from within the existing Performance Measurement Framework. They will reflect those aspects of local authority work which local authorities agree are considered to be important in terms of public accountability. For example, recycling, educational attainment, sustainable development, etc. This information is required and reported nationally, validated, and published annually.

 $\bigotimes_{n \to \infty} (SID)$ Service Improvement Data - can be used by local authority services and their regulators as they plan, deliver and improve services.

All Wales The data shown in this column is the figure calculated using the base data supplied by all authorities for 2014/2015 i.e. an overall performance indicator value for Wales.

(L) Local Performance Indicator set by the Council.

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	Performance Key
Ü	Maximum Performance
1	Performance has improved
\leftrightarrow	Performance has been maintained
v	Performance is within 5% of previous years performance
↓	Performance has declined by 5% or more on previous year's performance - Where performance has declined by 5% or more for the period in comparison to the previous year, an explanation is provided directly below the relevant performance indicator.
—	No comparable data (data not suitable for comparison / no data available for comparison)
	No All Wales data available for comparison.

No	PI Reference	PI Description	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Actual	All Wales 2014/15	Quarter 1 2014/15	Quarter 1 2015/16	Direction of Improvement
	1. Planning and Regulatory Services – Planning							
1	PLA/004b (SID)	The percentage of minor planning applications determined during the year within 8 weeks.	71.3%	63.5%		67.5%	67.9%	1
2	PLA/004c (SID)	The percentage of householder planning applications determined during the year within 8 weeks.	94%	87.4%		86.25%	95.4%	1
3	PLA/002 (SID)	The percentage of applications for development determined during the year that were approved.	95.5%	96.4%		97.24%	96.2%	v
₽ag	PLA/004d (SID)	The percentage of all other planning applications determined during the year within 8 weeks.	73.9%	79%		78.65%	74.1%	v
e 34	PLA/M002 (Local)	Average time taken from receipt of application to date decision is issued - days	87.6 days	82.7 days		68.83 days	115.2 days	↓
6	PLA/M004 (Local)	The percentage of major planning applications determined during the year within 8 weeks.	23.1%	30.4%		37.5%	25%	\downarrow
7	PLA/M001 (Local)	Average time taken from receipt of application to validation of application -days	30.1 days	30.6 days		23.2 days	31.5 days	\downarrow

	1. Planning and Regulatory Services – Planning - continued							
No	PI Reference	PI Description	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Actual	All Wales 2014/15	Quarter 1 2014/15	Quarter 1 2015/16	Direction of Improvement
8	PLA/006(b) (NSI)	The number of additional affordable housing units provided during the year as a percentage of all additional housing units provided during the year.	69%	42%	41% *See note	Collected Annually		

* note – National Strategic Indicator (NSI) 2014/15 –NPT position 10th of 22 Authorities across Wales.

	2. Planning and Regulatory Services – Building Control							
No	PI Reference	PI Description	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Actual	All Wales 2014/15	Quarter 1 2014/15	Quarter 1 2015/16	Direction of Improvement
9	BCT/007 (SID)	The percentage of 'full plan' applications approved first time.	99%	96.6%	Data not available at present	100%	100%	©
10	BCT/004 (SID)	Percentage of Building Control 'full plan' applications checked within 15 working days during the year.	98.1%	100%	Data not available at present	100%	92.31%	\downarrow
	There has been a drop of nearly 8% on one of the indicators which was unavoidable due to staffing levels and workloads within the section. We are currently dealing with numerous high profile developments, all of which are at a very demanding stage, taking up staff time.							
P	3. Econon	nic Development						
age <u>⊣</u> 36	L(ED) 1 (Local)	Number of jobs created as a result of financial support by the Local Authority.	255	187		30	53	↑
12	L(ED) 2 (Local)	Number of new business start-up enquiries assisted through Business Services	429	361		75	87	↑
13	L(ED) 3 (Local)	Number of business enquiries resulting in advice, information or financial support being given to existing companies through Business Services.	682	686		182	181	v

No	PI Reference	PI Description	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Actual	All Wales 2014/15	Quarter 1 2014/15	Quarter 1 2015/16	Direction of Improvement	
	4. Corporate Health – Asset Management								
14	CAM/001ai (SID)	The percentage of the gross internal area of the local authority's buildings in condition categories: A – Good	7.15%	7.21%	Data not available at present	Reported Annually		—	
15	CAM/001aii (SID)	The percentage of the gross internal area of the local authority's buildings in condition categories: B – Satisfactory	41.17%	43.33%	Data not available at present			—	
16	CAM/001aii i (SID)	The percentage of the gross internal area of the local authority's buildings in condition categories: C – Poor	42.23%	39.79%	Data not available at present			—	
17 D	CAM//001b i (SID)	The percentage of the total value of required maintenance for the local authority's buildings assigned to works of priority level: 1 – Urgent work	15.16%	15.11%	Data not available at present			_	
ag <u>æ</u> 3	CAM/001bi i (SID)	The percentage of the total value of required maintenance for the local authority's buildings assigned to works of priority level: 2 – Essential work	60.61%	56.7 2%	Data not available at present			_	
7 19	CAM/001 biii (SID)	The percentage of the total value of required maintenance for the local authority's buildings assigned to works of priority level: 3 – Desirable work	24.23%	28.17%	Data not available at present			_	
20	CAM/001ai v (SID)	The percentage of the gross internal area of the local authority's buildings in condition categories: D-Bad	9.45%	9.67%	Data not available at present			_	
21	CAM/037 (PAM)	The percentage change in the average Display Energy Certificate (DEC) score within local authority public buildings over 1,000 square metres		New PI				_	

Section 3: Compliments and Complaints

<u>2015-2016 – Quarter 1 (1st April 2015 – 30th June 2015) – Cumulative Data</u>

	Performance Key
1	Improvement : Reduction in Complaints/ Increase in Compliments
\leftrightarrow	No change in the number of Complaints/Compliments
v	Increase in Complaints but within 5%/ Reduction in Compliments but within 5% of previous year.
\downarrow	Increase in Complaints by 5% or more/ Reduction in Compliments by 5% or more of previous year.

₽age	PI Description	Quarter 1 2014/15	Quarter 1 2015/16	Direction of Improvement
e 38	<u>Total Complaints - Stage 1</u>	3	0	ſ
1	a - Complaints - Stage 1 upheld	0	0	
	b -Complaints - Stage 1 not upheld	3	0	
	c -Complaints - Stage 1 partially upheld	0	0	

No	PI Description	Quarter 1 2014/15	Quarter 1 2015/16	Direction of Improvement				
	<u>Total Complaints - Stage 2</u>	1	2	v				
2	a - Complaints - Stage 2 upheld	0	0					
2	b - Complaints - Stage 2 not upheld	1	2					
	c- Complaints - Stage 2 partially upheld	0	0					
	<u>Total - Ombudsman Investigations</u>	0	0	\leftrightarrow				
Page	a - Complaints - Ombudsman investigations upheld	0	0					
ge 39	b - Complaints - Ombudsman investigations <u>not</u> upheld	0	0					
4	Number of Compliments	1	2	¢				
	Summary							
5	Stage 1 complaints have been reduced to zero compared with three Stage 1 complaints in the same quarter last year. Stage 2 complaints have increased from 1 to 2 and dealt with matters relating to the illegal demolition of a wall at Glynneath and the lack of progress of a land reclamation scheme in Cwmllynfell.							
	The number of compliments is also up one this quarter compared to the same quarter last year.							

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Agenda Item 7.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION CABINET BOARD

REPORT OF HEAD OF PLANNING – NICOLA PEARCE

11TH SEPTEMBER 2015

SECTION A – MATTER FOR DECISION

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

<u>COMMUNITY FUND POLICY FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY</u> <u>GENERATING DEVELOPMENTS</u>

Purpose of Report

To consider responses received following consultation on the draft Community Fund Policy for Renewable Energy Generating Developments and to approve the revised version of the Policy document.

Background

Neath Port Talbot Council's draft policy sets out the Council's aspirations to secure future community funds in a consistent manner and to ensure that the funds are spent to maximise the benefits and outcomes for the community. Existing funds which are already in operation and funds which were agreed through negotiation with the council prior to adoption of this policy but are not yet operational will be unaffected by this policy.

The policy identifies what is expected from each type of development together with the governance arrangements associated with the management and distribution of funds.

A report was presented to this Board on the 2nd April 2015 introducing the draft policy and addressing concerns which were raised as a consequence of an All Members Seminar. The report also sought authorisation to consult upon the draft policy. A 6 week consultation was subsequently undertaken which included a public notice within the local newspaper, publicity on the home page of the Council's website and direct consultation letters to energy companies registered on the Council's Consultation database.

Consultation Responses

The consultation period ran from the 22^{nd} May 2015 to the 6th July 2015 for a total of 6 weeks. As a consequence of this process the Council received a total of 3 representations, which are summarised and addressed as follows:

RWE Innogy UK Limited: RWE is committed to supporting communities in association with the renewable energy projects they already operate. £1.3 million has already been invested into welsh communities from 2011 to 2014. A further £66million of funds has also been committed over the lifetime of other consented developments for the lifetime of the developments throughout Wales.

The policy document is welcomed in principle subject to the following:

That existing projects which are already operational remain unaffected by the policy

The level of funds associated with wind farm projects is reconsidered. £6000 per MW is not compatible with best practice standards throughout England and Scotland, where £5000 is an appropriate level. At a time when the UK Government is driving cost reductions in renewable energy generation, this is not an appropriate time to be increasing costs in any area of projects, including community contributions.

The policy should reference the "Declaration for Community Benefits by Onshore wind farm developers and operators in Wales." Both the Welsh Government and many of the major players in the onshore wind sector have signed up to this. This includes a number of key commitments particularly around early engagement and consultation which are not referenced in your draft policy.

In response to the above it is recognised that the £6000 per MW proposed within the draft policy was based on a contribution secured from the Pen y Cymoedd scheme, whereas the majority of other windfarm developments have secured in the region of £5000 per MW. Given that best practice also suggests £5000 per MW it is considered appropriate to reduce our expected contributions accordingly.

It is also considered appropriate to refer to the declaration document referenced above within the policy.

Both of the above amendments have been included within the revised document which is appended to this report.

Savills on behalf of St Modwen Developments: The response is based on experience with solar developments rather than any other form of renewable energy generation.

The first concern is that contributions should be made on a voluntary basis as referred to within Planning Policy Wales which refers to 'voluntary agreements' Welsh Government's practice note also refers to contributions for the benefit of the community as being 'not mandatory' in the UK. There are two types of obligation, one which is required to offset an impact and the other, which is the focus of the draft document are voluntary offers which are not related to the planning process. There is therefore a concern that the draft will install a policy which generates wrong and challengeable decisions.

The second reason is that solar schemes are sensitive and do not have the same profiles or implications as those associated with other forms of renewable energy generation and as such does not warrant a blanket set of payments.

Each scheme must be considered on its merit as some developments are proposed on previously developed sites, in remote locations and have no noticeable impact upon the surrounding communities. In such circumstances a community benefit is unwarranted. Flexibility should therefore be written into the policy.

In response to the above it should be noted that this is not a planning document. Should the policy be adopted, it will be managed and administered by officers within the Property and Regeneration section in terms of securing the benefits, whilst the governance arrangements will be managed by Education and Lifelong Learning who have specialist officers who manage existing community funds throughout the County Borough.

When community funds have been secured in the past, the officer's report has clearly outlined that they do not form part of the planning application and their provision is not material to the determination of the planning application. The reference to planning decisions being challengeable as a consequence of the adoption of a community benefits policy is not therefore accepted.

Furthermore the document doesn't indicate that community benefits are mandatory. It is acknowledged that a developer is not required to provide a community benefit; however this policy spells out that there is an expectation from the Council that developers should provide a community benefit. To ensure that this is more explicit within the policy, amendments have been made to the draft policy to clarify the position.

Turning to the final issue regarding impact and flexibility, the objective of the policy is to ensure transparency and consistency across the board. The payment schedules have therefore been introduced to ensure such consistency. Should a development be unviable due as a consequence of community benefit expectations then this would be a matter for each developer to demonstrate on a case by case basis. However to date, there is no evidence of a developer failing to make a community contribution when asked.

Gwenda Thomas AM: The 2 km zone is too small and it is unfair that the proportion of the fund should be dependent upon the number of turbines visible from the community. The principles used for the landfill tax which has a ten mile zone should be used.

Turbines are visible as you approach communities and as such affect the landscape which will in turn affect the community. This needs to be reflected in the policy.

What mechanisms will exist for communities to access strategic funds and will priority be given to those communities most affected.

In response to the above, the issue of the size of the buffer was assessed in great detail prior to the draft being distributed for consultation purposes where it was considered that the extension of the buffer beyond 2KM would result in a dilution of the funds and as a consequence a dilution of the potential outcomes for each community. It is also acknowledged that turbines can be seem outside communities however given the existence of two Strategic Search Areas within Neath Port Talbot there are very few areas where turbines cannot be seen. It is not therefore practicable to extend benefits to these areas.

The draft policy which was consulted upon does not propose the distribution of the funds dependent upon the number of turbines visible from a community. This was in an earlier version but was removed for practical and logistical reasons.

The distribution of strategic funds will be the decision of the Economic and Community Regeneration Board and decisions will be made having regard to evidence based priorities at that time.

In view of all of the above it is recommended that a number of changes are made to the document; as follows:

Reference shall be made to the document entitled "Declaration for Community Benefits by Onshore wind farm developers and operators in Wales."

The expected payments for wind energy will be reduced from £6000 per MW to £5000 per MW.

Greater emphasis will be placed on the fact that this is not a mandatory requirement.

Reference shall be made to the fact that if a scheme is unviable as a consequence of a contribution, then the onus is on each developer to demonstrate why that is the case and why they are unable to provide all or any of the expected voluntary contribution.

The above changes have been incorporated into the revised document appended to this report.

Financial Implications

The policy will result in the generation of funds for local communities which will have a positive financial impact upon the County Borough. It is anticipated that the cost of administration will be funded through top slicing 5% off each fund and as such will have no financial impacts upon the Council.

Consultation Outcome

The proposed policy has been the subject of both internal and external consultations and its final form reflects the outcome of that process.

Sustainability Appraisal

The securing of community funds for projects highlighted within the policy document will ensure the delivery of sustainable projects within the County Borough in accordance with national and local policies.

Equality Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Screening Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010 and, after completing this assessment, it has been determined that this policy does not require an Equality Impact Assessment.

Recommendations

That the revised Community Fund Policy for Renewable Energy Generating Developments be approved.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

To ensure that future contributions are secured and managed in a transparent and consistent manner.

List of Background Papers

Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note 8 – Renewable Energy Community Fund Policy for Renewable Energy Generating Developments

Equality Impact Screening Assessment

Wards Affected

All

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Appendix A

COMMUNITY FUNDS POLICY RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATING DEVELOPMENTS

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1.0 Background

The UK Government is committed to delivering the requirements of the EU Renewable Energy Directive which includes a UK target of 15% of energy from renewable energy by 2020. The Welsh Government is committed to playing its part by delivering an energy programme which contributes to reducing carbon emissions in order to tackle climate change whilst enhancing the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the people and communities of Wales in order to achieve a better quality of life for our own and future generations. This is outlined in the Welsh Government's Energy Policy Statement *Energy Wales:* "A Low Carbon Revolution" which identifies Wales' sustainable renewable energy potential to 2020/2025.

This commitment is reinforced within Planning Policy Wales (February 2014) (PPW) together with a number of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), the most notable of which is TAN 8 Planning for Renewable Energy (2005). TAN 8 incorporates the land use planning considerations of renewable energy, in the context of National and European legislation. The Welsh Government has a target of 4TWh of electricity per year covering a number of energy developments including Wind power, Solar power, Biomass and others in addition to small scale micro generation using technology such as ground source and air source heat pumps.

In addition to securing sufficient and appropriate energy generation to meet the targets, PPW acknowledges the need to mitigate against the impact of such developments. This is not only in an environmental sense but there is an acknowledgement that energy generating developments should contribute towards the communities which are affected by the development. Both issues are covered as follows:

"The Welsh Government supports the principle of securing sustainable community benefits for host communities through voluntary arrangements. Such arrangements must not impact on the decision making process and should not be treated as a material consideration unless it meets the tests set out in Circular 13/9729." Paragraph 12.10.5 PPW

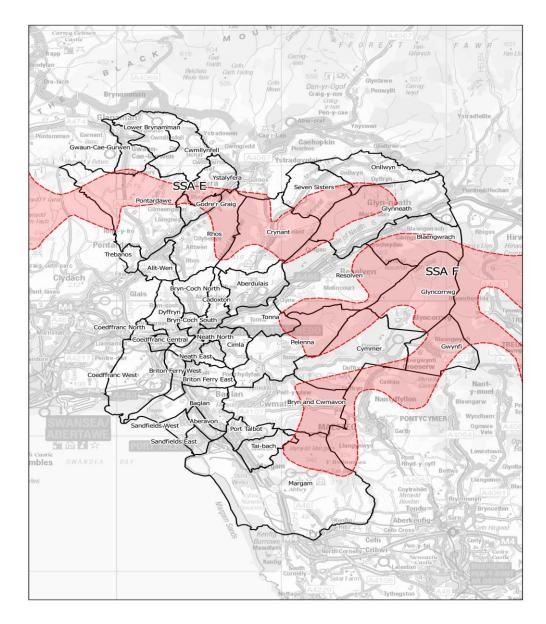
This is reinforced within 'TAN 8 - Planning for Renewable Energy' which states : "2.16 Experience has shown that there are opportunities to achieve community benefits through major wind farm development. Some benefits can be justified as mitigation of development impacts through the planning process. In addition, developers may offer benefits not directly related to the planning process." An annex attached to the TAN indicates a number of examples of where community benefits have successfully operated.

As a consequence of the above, the Welsh Government and a number of major energy generating companies have signed a document entitled 'Declaration for Community Benefits by Onshore wind farm developers and operators in Wales.' The declaration makes a promise to ensure that communities are fully engaged and that they receive long term positive benefits.

2.0 Need for policy

2.1 Relevant Energy Developments within Neath Port Talbot

As a consequence of the identification of two Strategic Search Areas (Areas E & F) within Neath Port Talbot as defined within TAN 8, a large number of wind farm developments have been proposed within this County Borough. Due to the grid connection potential and associated capacity within NPT, we have also received considerable interest in relation to other renewable energy developments, including solar farms, Biomass, tidal power and hydro power. The geographical extent of Areas E and F are shown on the following map.



Map 1 Areas E & F as defined within TAN 8

The impacts associated with such developments are considered in great detail via the planning process. However it is acknowledged that in addition to having an impact upon the environment, such developments can also have an impact upon the communities which host and/or are situated close to the developments. Shorter term impacts are also experienced by those communities located on the construction route of larger scale projects. Despite mitigation against environmental impacts being secured through the planning process via the imposition of a combination of conditions and legal agreements, this is not often perceived to be a benefit to the communities affected by the development. This has been acknowledged by this Council for some time and as a consequence we have a proven track record of securing funds for the communities who are most affected by energy generating developments. The following table indicates funds secured as of the 31st March 2014 in relation to wind farm developments.

Planning	Development	Operational	Benefits	Paid to date
Арр			secured	
P2002/1322	Ffynon Oer	Yes	£32,000 per	£228,000
	Wind farm		annum	
P2008/1484	Maesgwyn	Yes	£175,000 per	£350,000
	Wind farm		annum	
P2010/1148	Llynfi Afan	No *1	£72,000 per	/
	Wind Farm		annum	
P2009/1053	Penycymoedd	No *2	£1.8 £million	/
	Wind farm		per annum	
P2007/1413	Mynydd y	No	£24,000 per	/
	Gwrhyd		annum	
P2013/0300	Newlands	Yes	£3000 per	/
	Farm		annum	

 Table 1 - Consented wind farm developments with associated community funds

(*1 At the time of writing, the applicants were discharging conditions with a view to commence development.

*2 At the time of writing all pre-commencement conditions had been discharged and work had commenced on site)

On the 3rd April 2014, the Welsh Government launched a register of community Funds associated with major wind farm developments. This register identifies the number and location of funds secured, the developments to which they relate, the amount secured and the amount of money spent to date. It is a voluntary register and as such only a restricted number of energy developers have registered so far. The registered sites are linked to the registered address of the development rather than the geographical spread of the development. As a consequence, large developments such as Pen y Cymoedd which is registered to Rhondda Cynon Taff (RCT) does not acknowledge the potentially significant contributions such a development will make to the communities within Neath Port Talbot, which

will host approximately ²/₃ of the consented turbines. Nevertheless the launch of such a register acknowledges the increased emphasis given to the need for developers to contribute towards the community in the form of a community fund by the Welsh Government. This register has also been reinforced by 'The Declaration for community Benefits by Onshore wind farm developers and operators in Wales' which is signed by the major windfarm operators and the Welsh Government and confirms their intention to support communities by a variety of different means. This greater emphasis on community funds follows in the footsteps of the planning system in Scotland which has been securing such contributions for many years.

Whilst TAN 8 specifically refers to community benefits associated with major wind farm developments, PPW does not restrict the type of development which should contribute a community benefit package. This is considered to be fundamental given that the impact upon communities from renewable energy is not only as a consequence of wind farm development. As a result, community funds have been secured from other types of energy generating developments from both renewable and non renewable sources within this authority. Table 2 outlines the funds secured to date.

Planning App	Development	Operational	Benefits secured	Paid to date
P2009/0805	Maesgwyn Biomass Power station (3 – 5MW per year)	No	£600 per MW Per annum for first 10 years, £300 per MW per year for the remainder of the operational life of development	£0.00
P2006/1455	Prenergy Biomass Power station	No	£500,000 per annum for the first 10 years. £250,000 per annum for the following 15 years	£ 0.00
P2010/1263	Maesgwyn Solar Farm	No	£6,000 per annum for 25 years	£0.00
P2011/0054	Baglan Energy Park Solar Farm	yes	£30,000 per annum for five years	First payment imminent
P2008/1227	Abernedd Gas Fired Power Station	No	£4 million upon commencement of work on site	£0.00
P2013/1087 Still Under consideration	Tyler Fedwen Solar Farm	No	£10,400 per annum for 25 years	£0.00
P2013/0635	Hendre Fawr	No	£10,000 per MW	£0.00

 Table 2 – Other Energy Generating Developments and associated secured community funds

Still	Under	Solar Farm	(one off payment)	
consideration				

Whilst this Council has been fairly successful in securing community funds associated with energy generating developments, these funds have been secured on an ad-hoc basis having regard to what has been secured elsewhere. Furthermore, despite a huge number of applications being submitted to this authority for energy developments, there does not seem to be a reduction in such applications coming forward, despite the fact that both SSA's are nearing capacity in terms of reaching the Government identified targets (these targets apply to major wind farm developments), and despite the fact that subsidies are reducing in relation to most forms of renewable energy. In addition to this, a significant interest is being expressed by developers to submit smaller scale wind farms ie 5 or less turbines in addition to a continued pipeline of solar development.

It is therefore considered to be essential to adopt a policy to ensure that future funds are negotiated and secured in a consistent manner and the geographical areas of spend identified are reasonable and appropriate to the development. It is also important to ensure that the funds are spent to ensure maximum benefit and outcomes for the community. Existing funds which are already in operation and funds which were agreed through negotiation with the council prior to adoption of this policy but are not yet operational will be unaffected by this policy.

Notwithstanding the above, It should however be noted that community funds are not a mandatory requirement of developers and cannot be secured to mitigate any potential harm which could be caused as a consequence of a development. Nevertheless this policy sets out the Council's **expectations** in relation to these voluntary contributions and also outlines the approach which will be taken with developers to secure a consistent and transparent approach to the securing of such funds. It is also acknowledged that as subsidies from the Government reduce, the viability of such schemes will also reduce. This will be taken into account, however evidence has shown that the costs of the plant have also reduced in line with the reduction in subsidies, and as such most if not all energy generating developments can make some contribution towards a community fund. If this is not the case, then a developer can demonstrate to the Council why they are unable to provide the expected contribution.

3.0 Scale of Contributions

It is acknowledged that different types of development have different impacts upon the local communities. Moreover, it is also acknowledged that the financial returns to developers differs between developments. i.e. wind farms are more profitable than solar farms and the impacts are also significantly different. As a result the following scale of fees reflects these differences. The scale of contribution relates to the approved generating capacity as specified on the associated planning permission.

3.1 Wind Farms

The scale of contribution has increased over time but most contributions which are secured for wind farms are in the region of £5000 per megawatt per annum for the life time of the project (on average this is in the region of 25 years). The payments should be made on an annual basis with the first payment being made on the first anniversary after energy is first generated from the associated wind farm, and every year thereafter.

3.2 Solar Farms

Again the scale of fee which has been secured in the past has been based upon the energy output associated with development. Based on previous negotiations it is not unreasonable to secure £30,000 per megawatt for the whole development as a single payment. This single payment can be paid over a period of five years from the first generation of power. An example of such a contribution is as follows:

Solar Farm with a capacity of 10 MW

• Community Benefit Contribution to be secured £300,000

To be paid over five years as follows:

- Year 1 Upon commencement of energy generation = £60,000
- Years 2 to 5– First anniversary after commencement of work on site and each year thereafter up until year 5 of the project = £60,000 for each of the four years.

Total contribution = \pounds 300,000 over the full five years.

3.3 Biomass Power Stations and other large scale energy generating projects including Anaerobic Digestion and Tidal Power

As above, the scale of fees are based on the energy generated ie a contribution per megawatt as a one off payment upon first generation of electricity. The fees are based upon developments which have been secured both in NPT and elsewhere. A contribution of £9000 Per megawatt over the life time of the project will be expected (normally over a period of 25 years). However if this contribution is calculated to be less than £250,000, then it will be expected to be submitted in payments over a period of 5 years rather than spread over the length of the life time of the project. This is on the grounds that the annual payments must be large enough to ensure that they are able to make positive outcomes within the community. Small annual payments are unlikely to secure such benefits.

3.4 Hydro power

These developments have historically provided only small levels of power and as such will be treated in the same way as solar farms. It is therefore expected that such developments will contribute £30,000 per megawatt. However these payments due to the expected reduced outputs when compared to solar farms are likely to result in lower community contributions. It is therefore expected that a community fund which is calculated to be less than £20,000 will be payable over the first two years of the project with the first payment received on the day of first generation of electricity and the second payment being made on the first anniversary following first generation of electricity.

4.0 Cost of administering the funds

An increasing number of funds are being generated within Neath Port Talbot associated with the large number of renewable developments in operation within the County Borough. These funds take a significant amount of time and resources to administer. Whilst it is acknowledged that a proportion of such funds are currently being administered on an individual basis by the community councils operating within the area, this is not a sustainable solution going forward.

As more funds come on stream, there is an increasing need to ensure consistent operating principles, governance and allocation of funds. Furthermore, not all parts of the County Borough have Community or Town Councils in operation, and as such there is a need to establish a central administration system to ensure that the operation of the funds across the County Borough is transparent, accountable and consistent. This has been acknowledged in Scotland where there is a more advanced system of collecting and distributing community funds in operation.

Organisations such as Foundation Scotland have been set up to administer a number of individual funds which have been established. They also provide support and advice to the communities in terms of maximising the benefits and outcomes of community funds. Whilst such a system is not in operation within Wales, the principles can be transferred so that a County Borough Council system can be established. Such a system, due to economies of scale should also reduce the burden upon existing Community Councils who are currently managing such funds. In order to properly resource such a system it is recommended that 5% of each fund should be used to pay for the administration of that fund and for the provision of associated advice to the communities benefiting from that fund.

5.0 Geographical area of spend associated with individual community funds

As specified above, different forms of renewable energy will have different impacts upon the surrounding area and as such the communities within those areas. For these reasons the geographical area of spend for each development will differ. These, together with the associated reasons are set out below:

5.1 Wind farms

Given the visual prominence of wind farms as a consequence of their elevated siting and the height of the individual turbines, there is a likelihood that wind farms will impact upon areas beyond the wards within which they are hosted. There are a number of examples across the country where the impact of a wind farm is greater upon areas beyond the ward within which the wind farm is located. This can be for reasons associated with topography or proximity to ward boundaries. As a result, the distribution of such funds needs to take account of the impact of the development in a scientific way rather than dedicating it solely to the ward community which hosts the wind farm. Acknowledgement must also be made to the disruption caused to communities during the construction of the project. This is associated with the location of haul routes, although it must also be accepted that this disruption will be time restricted.

5.11 Payments to compensate for disruption associated with the construction and decommissioning of the wind farm

Whilst the main impact associated with most wind farm developments is as a consequence of the visual impact upon nearby communities, it must be acknowledged that the scale of the turbine components can result in disruption to communities sited along the length of the haul roads. When abnormal loads are being transported to and from wind farm sites it can lead to congestion and an associated increase in noise and disruption to the communities through which those haul routes extend. This is more so on the minor roads rather than the 'A' classified roads. This is however a short term inconvenience and as such those communities cannot expect to enjoy the same access to a community fund as communities affected over the life time of the project. As a result it is considered that 5% of the fund or £100,000 whichever is the lowest should be distributed to the communities sited along the length of the haul route. (This relates only to the communities within the boundaries of Neath Port Talbot and does not relate to communities sited along 'A' classified roads) Given the potentially small sums of money involved and the prohibitive costs of administering a separate panel for such sums, the contribution shall be paid as a lump sum to the relevant Community Councils within one year of the first anniversary of the first generation of electricity. In the absence of a Community Council, the relevant Ward Members will determine the distribution of funds within their community in accordance with a list of eligible projects first agreed in writing with the Council.

5.12 Wind farms generating 40MW or less

As stated above, the impact associated with wind farms can be far reaching. The justification for establishing a community fund is to off-set the impact of the wind farm upon the communities affected. Whilst historically access to community funds has been restricted to the ward or wards which host the turbines, ie the ward or wards within which the turbine's tower is sited, it must be acknowledged that the impacts of a wind farm go beyond the boundaries of the wind farm itself.

In order to assess the impact a development has upon the visual amenity of the surrounding area as part of the planning application process, a developer will submit a plan identifying the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV). This is a contour plan and through the use of different colours identifies the number of turbines that are visible from any given area within an identified radius of the development, which can be up to 35Km. An example of a ZTV is illustrated as Figure 1.

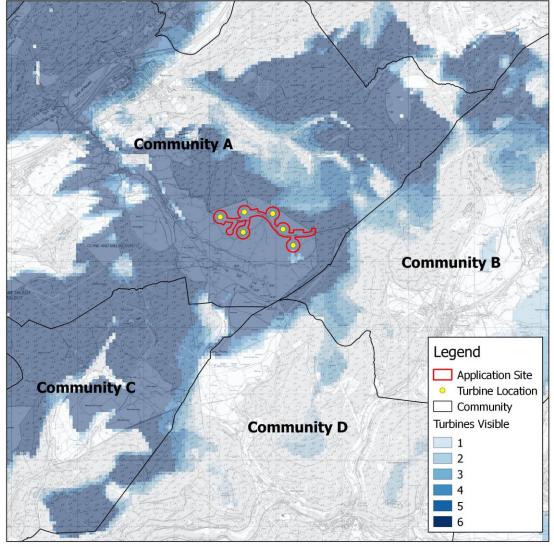


Figure 1 – Example of a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

There are many areas within the County Borough where wind turbines can be seen, either from wind farms within the boundaries of Neath Port Talbot or from outside. However it must be acknowledged that the further away a community is sited from a wind farm the less that community is impacted upon by the turbines as they are then seen as part of a wider landscape. As a result it is reasonable to define that only communities sited within 2 Km of a wind farm should benefit from a community fund associated with that wind farm. All communities within the 2Km buffer zone will benefit equally from the fund regardless of how many turbines can be seen from each community within that buffer zone.

For the purposes of this document, a community or part thereof is defined as a group of ten or more houses either in isolation or which are closely linked to a larger settlement.

There may be circumstances where there are no communities located within 2 Km of a proposed wind farm, or alternatively, due to the topography of the surrounding area, a wind farm will not be visible to any communities within the 2 Km zone. In such circumstances, it is difficult to demonstrate direct impact upon the surrounding communities and as such the money generated from the development will be deposited into a strategic fund, which will be used to achieve the strategic objectives of the County Borough.

The spending of money held within the Strategic Fund will be determined on a quarterly basis by the Economic and Community Regeneration Board having considered a report and recommendation from the Head of Property and Regeneration.

5.13 Large Scale Wind farms (those exceeding 40MW)

It must also be acknowledged that some larger scale wind farms will generate considerable community funds. As a result it will be expected that wind farms which generate more than £250,000 per year towards a community fund (wind farms which will generate in excess of 40 MW of power per year) will contribute towards the strategic fund and a community fund. The split will be 35% towards the strategic fund with the remaining 55% being paid into the community fund. (This is after the deduction of the haul route and administration payments as referred to above). The remainder of the fund (55%) will be distributed using the same methodology as that described above for wind farms of 40MW or less.

5.2 Solar farms

The impact associated with solar farms, will be considered at the planning application stage, where the size and design will be negotiated to minimise visual impact whilst having regard to National and Local Planning Policy and Guidance. Whilst it is acknowledged that solar farms are not as visually prominent as wind farms, they can still be difficult to screen and as such will more often than not, be seen from the immediate surrounding area. As a result it is proposed that the ward within which the solar farm is located should benefit from 95% of the community fund, with the remaining 5% covering the above referred to administration fee.

Where solar farms straddle multiple wards, the community fund associated with the development will be distributed between each of the wards in proportion to the area of the site which is accommodated within each of those wards.

5.31 Biomass and other large scale energy generating projects including Anaerobic Digestion and Tidal Power generating less than £250,000 per year

The impact of Biomass in terms of visual impact upon a geographical area is difficult to calculate, given that Biomass plants are not dissimilar to industrial type developments. Given the scale of funds which could be generated towards a community fund from Biomass generated power stations it is reasonable to allow for the spending of that money over a wider area than just the ward within which the plant is sited. This will ensure that the benefits can be more widely appreciated. The Single Integrated Plan splits the County Borough into 8 spatial areas. This division is also reflected within the emerging Local Development Plan. The use of spatial areas for the allocation of a community fund associated with a Biomass project is a reasonable form of distribution. Therefore 95% of the fund associated with a Biomass plant is located. The remaining 5% will cover the costs associated with the administration of the fund. A plan indicating the spatial areas is illustrated within Appendix A of this policy.

5.32 Biomass and other large scale energy generating projects including Anaerobic Digestion and Tidal Power generating community funds of more than £250,000 per year.

It must also be acknowledged that some larger scale Biomass and other electricity generating developments including tidal power will generate considerable community funds which could also contribute towards the achievement of strategic objectives of the County Borough. As a result it will be expected that such developments which generate more than £250,000 per year towards a community fund, will allow for a proportion of the fund to be dedicated towards a strategic fund (as described under section 5.12) and a community fund. The split will be 35% towards the strategic fund with the remaining 60% being paid into the community fund. (The remaining 5% will contribute towards administration of the fund)

The spending of money held within the Strategic Fund will be determined on a quarterly basis by the Economic and Community Regeneration Board having considered a report and recommendation from the Head of Estates and Regeneration.

The remainder of the fund (60%) will be distributed using the same methodology as that described above for Biomass and other large scale energy developments which generate a fund of £250,000 or less.

5.4 Hydro power

The impact associated with Hydro Power schemes will be very localised as most of the equipment which generates the power will be within and immediately adjacent to a water course. As a result 95% of the funds generated towards a community fund will be allocated to the ward within which the Hydro power scheme is accommodated.

A table outlining the scale of fees for each form of development together with the geographical area within which the fund can be spent is outlined within Appendix B of this policy.

5.5 Cross boundary developments

It should be noted that some energy generating developments are sited on the boundary between Neath Port Talbot and neighbouring Authorities. In such cases, community funds can only be secured for the proportion of the energy generating development which is located within the boundaries of Neath Port Talbot. Neighbouring Authorities will be required to secure their own funds.

6.0 Governance arrangements

6.1 Small Funds

In certain small scale developments where the electricity output is restricted, the funds generated from those developments will themselves be restricted. There is a careful balance to be struck between maximising the financial benefit to communities against the cost of administering the scheme. As a result a tiered approach to the management of funds will be adopted.

For funds which amount to £1000 or less as a one off payment, the cost of the legal agreements and the administration outweigh the financial return. It is therefore proposed to have a threshold that only developments which generate funds of £1000 or more will be required to contribute towards a fund.

Turning to funds which generate a one off payment of between £1000 and $\pounds 25,000$, it is not considered cost effective to establish a steering panel for the distribution of such funds. Instead the relevant ward Member(s) in consultation with the administrator will identify the preferred distribution of the funds within the identified area of spend. In cases where only one ward is affected and this is a single Member ward, a second elected Member will act as an observer to ensure transparency in relation to the distribution of the fund.

All other funds will be managed by a steering panel although the scale of the fund will dictate how many times per year the steering group will meet. This is discussed in greater detail under section 6.3.

6.1 Role of Administrator

As referred to earlier within this policy document, given the increasing number of funds across the County Borough (associated with developments in addition to energy developments) and the lack of full coverage of community/town councils throughout the county borough, the administration of the funds will be centralised to maximise economies of scale and to enable support to be given to the various funds.

The Council in its administrative role will be responsible for processing applications, taking minutes, circulating agendas and papers and tabling applications. The administrator will also be responsible for all financial functions of the fund, including the deposit of the annual contribution from the associated development in a specific bank account opened for the exclusive use of the community fund, maintaining auditable records of payments in and out of the account, providing monies to successful applicants and annual reporting to the relevant developers who contributed towards the fund. The administrator will also be responsible for providing basic training in grant assessment for members of the individual steering panels. Advice will also be provided in relation to the accessibility of other funding to be used as match funding for projects within the fund area, thus maximising the potential benefits to the area. Lastly the administrator will prepare outcome reports for each project which has benefitted from payments from the fund to demonstrate the impact of the support within the associated community.

It is important to note that whilst the administration of the fund, as outlined above, will be the responsibility of the council as administrator, this will not undermine the governance arrangements associated with individual funds, which will be controlled via a steering panel.

The administrator role is currently undertaken by staff within the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate, with delegated powers granted to that Head of Service to issue monies associated with successful grant applications. This role will continue and will benefit from the 5% administration fees to be top sliced off all funds.

6.2 Role of Steering Panel

Each fund will have a steering panel which will assess submitted fund applications within their specified area and make recommendations to the Head of Service who has delegated authority to allocate and distribute those funds having regard to the recommendations of the panel. The responsibilities of each member of a steering panel will include:

• Promotion of the community fund within their communities;

- Enable access to the fund to all those eligible within the fund area;
- To assess and then score all applications in line with the agreed criteria and make recommendations to the Head of Service who has delegated responsibility to allocate the funds;
- To be responsible for monitoring and evaluating end of project reports;
- To help in developing the Fund in a professional, consistent and honest manner, giving due regard to confidentiality; and
- To participate in PR activities to actively promote the fund in the local community.

6.3 Membership of Steering Panel

6.31. Membership will need to be flexible given the following;

Some funds will have differing areas of geographical coverage, some areas affected will only have one or two wards, which may be single Member wards, while others will have a greater number of wards which could have up to three Members and, not all areas have Town/Community Councils. As a result panels should have between 6 and 10 Representatives who will be elected to the panel, with the Chair having a casting vote. They will be supported by 2 non-voting representatives who will provide support and advice to the panel (one officer from the Environment Directorate and one from the Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning Directorate). The panel will also accommodate one representative from any of the applicants from the energy generating organisations (developer) who made financial contributions to the Fund. The latter will only incorporate an observational role on the panel.

The elected representatives on the steering panel will include:

- 50% Elected Members from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and if relevant, Community/Town Councils .
- 50% To be equally split (where possible) between representatives resident within the fund area and representatives from within the third sector *

The steering Panel will be elected every three years, as will the Chair of the steering panel. Appropriate training will be given to all members. The panel will meet once a year to assess the performance of the fund the previous year, and to assess potentially identified priorities for the forthcoming year having regard to community needs within the fund area.

Panel meetings will take place on a six monthly basis in relation to annual funds of between £1000 and £25000 and on a quarterly basis for larger funds. These steering panels will consider all applications for funding. Quorum levels associated with such meetings require the attendance of 70% of the Steering Panel. Members of the Steering Panel will not be able to sit on a panel which is considering an application to which they have a personal or pecuniary interest. Notwithstanding the fact that the panel is only responsible for making a recommendation to the Head of service who has delegated authority to allocate and distribute the funds having regard to the recommendations of the panel.

Should a member of a steering panel resign from that panel, an election of a replacement representative will take place within three months of notice being given. This election will be organised by the administrator.

Any money held within a particular fund which remains unspent and is uncommitted after a period of three years, will be transferred to the strategic fund as referred to earlier within this document.

7.0 Types of project eligible for funding

The fund will benefit the areas identified depending on the development project which has created that fund. This is specified within section 5 of this report but examples include solar farms for the ward hosting the development, whereas biomass is distributed on a spatial area.

The money held within each fund will be used to fund projects and initiatives that will create vibrant and sustainable communities, but which also address locally identified needs. These may fall under the following themes:

- Recreation
- Education
- Health

- Energy efficiency/sustainability
- Culture
- Economic regeneration

Environment

Applications under the above themes will also need to comply with the guiding principles associated with each fund. These need to be consistently applied and as such they are outlined in detail within Appendix C of this policy, which also outlines the requirements associated with each application for funding.

7.1. Eligible Applicants

7.11. An organisation or individual seeking to apply towards the fund will need to meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Constituted voluntary and community groups
- Registered charities
- Not for profit organisations/social enterprises
- Local branches of local organisations can bid using the parent body constitution but must have their own local bank account
- Town and Community Councils where they apply for community projects that are additional to normal statutory responsibilities and for projects that are not normally supported by the existing precept arrangements and which in the view of the steering panel will benefit the community as a whole.

Appendix A



Map of Spatial Areas in Neath – Port Talbot

Appendix B

Table illustrating scale and distribution of funds

Project Type	Amount of contribution	Geographical area of spend
Wind farms (40Mw or less)	£5,000 per Mw per annum for 25 years	 5% administration fee 5% towards communities associated with the Haul Road Remaining 90% proportionate to the number of turbines identified within the ZTV within a 2 KM radius of the application site.
Wind farms (41 Mw or more)	£5,000 per Mw per annum for 25 years	 5% administration fee 5% towards communities associated with the Haul Road 35% towards a strategic fund Remaining 55% proportionate to the number of turbines identified within the ZTV within a 2 Km radius of the application site.
Solar Farms	£30,000 per MW as a single payment or spread as phased payments over the first five years of the development.	 5% administration fee 95% within the ward hosting the development
Biomass and other large scale developments including tidal power less than £250,000 per year	£9,000 per MW as a one off payment	 5% administration fee 95% within the spatial area hosting the development
Biomass and other large scale developments including tidal power more than £250,000 per year	£9,000 per MW as a one off payment	 5% administration fee 35% towards a strategic fund 60% within the spatial area hosting the development
Hydropower	£30,000 per MW per year for the first five years of the development.	 5% administration fee 95% within the ward hosting the development.

Guiding Principles associated with the fund

The following are guiding principles associated with the management and distribution of all funds. These principles will be used to prioritise community projects and are as follows:

- Community projects will directly address identified issues, needs and opportunities in a particular community or group of communities.
- Community projects will demonstrate added value to the local communities through clear objectives and outcomes.
- Community projects will be well thought out and have robust financial and delivery proposals.
- Community projects will demonstrate synergy and complementary activities with other projects and initiatives in the area.
- Community projects will demonstrate support from the local community and partner organisations.
- Community projects will integrate social, economic and environmental components of the community.
- Community projects will meet the needs of existing and future generations.
- Community projects will respect the needs of other communities in the wider region, contributing to the sustainability of these communities.
- Community projects will recognise and respond to the diversity and uniqueness of the community.

Applications for funding

Applications for funding can be submitted no later than one month before the quarterly meeting at which the application will be considered. Submissions can be made online and via hard copies. Upon request an application pack will be sent to any interested and eligible party. The pack will include:

- An Application Form
- Application Guidelines
- Eligible Areas
- Grant amounts available
- Deadline dates
- Details of further information and support details required.

Examples of eligible projects

- Community facilities, playgrounds, multi sports games areas, improvement to sporting facilities, festivals of sport, multi generational health and wellbeing events; cycling trails and footpath creation and enhancement.
- Out of hours schools clubs, non statutory youth projects, one off materials, staging an exhibition, environmental education projects, community education facilities;
- Food co-ops, healthy activities, fitness trails, outdoor gyms;
- Environmental enhancements, community landscaping projects, nature trails, local interpretation, recycling initiatives, community gardens; allotments;
- Water harvesters, pellet boilers, insulation, double glazing, energy efficiency campaigns;
- Creation of credit unions, contributions towards the start up costs of a community transport scheme, establishment of not for profit start up units for new businesses;
- Enhancement of existing projects or community run services to improve and expand availability of the service to the associated community.

The above list is not exhaustive and is an example of the type of projects which could benefit from a fund.

Examples of ineligible projects

- Statutory activity
- Any project that has already started cannot be considered, however a separate stage of a project can apply to a fund
- Any project where contracts have been signed or orders placed before approval
- The promotion of religious faith activities (although applications from religious organisations are allowed if the proposed project benefits the wider community)
- Applications for activity which is already being delivered through another source of funding
- Projects that impact upon or adversely affect the sustainability of existing provision perhaps elsewhere in the area of benefit
- Projects that could access the funding from more appropriate available funding Eg, small capital sports equipment from Sport Wales
- Applications from private sector organisations
- Applications on behalf of other organisations or in the name of a professional fundraiser. Exception may be made for Town and Community Council applications on behalf of a community group.

- Funding for normal operating costs or costs incurred in daily operation / routine repairs and maintenance costs / equipment, including replacement and renewal of any existing equipment.
- Funding for core staff
- Feasibility studies
- Trips and visits outside the project area.
- The funding of recoverable VAT costs.
- Insurance.
- Projects that conflict or adversely affect the aim, objectives or Policy of the Council or Company who have contributed financially to the fund.
- Fundraising campaigns.
- Party political activities or fundraising.
- Duplication of other projects being delivered locally.
- Individual beneficiaries.
- Food
- Refreshments
- Fireworks

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Agenda Item 8.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION CABINET BOARD

11th September 2015

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PARTICIPATION CHRIS MILLIS

SECTION C – MATTER FOR MONITORING

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR MONITORING REPORT 1st QUARTER 2015/16

Purpose of Report

To advise Members of the actual performance achieved, the complaints and compliments for the first quarter of the current financial year i.e. 1st April 2015 to 30th June 2015.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Quarterly Performance Management Data (for information only) Appendix 2 – Compliments and Complaints Data (for information only)

List of Background Papers

Monitoring Forms/spreadsheets The Neath Port Talbot Corporate Plan - 2014/2017 "Rising to the Challenge"

Contact Officer

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Appendix 1



Quarterly Performance Management Data 2015-2016 – Quarter 1 Performance (1st April 2015– 30th June 2015)

Report Contents:

Section 1: Summary of performance.

Section 2: Quarterly Performance Management Data and performance key

Section 1:

Summary of performance.

There has been a slight increase in the number of people using Public Libraries during the year but a decrease in the materials issued. This could be attributed to a cut in the mobile library service by one vehicle and an amendment of the remaining service from a two weekly to a three weekly schedule. Also there was no service for 4 days in May due to a driver shortage. The increased use of the internet could also be playing a part in the decrease of the materials issued.

Section 2: Quarterly Performance Management Data and Performance key

<u>2015-2016 – Quarter 1 Performance (1st April 2015 – 30th June 2015)</u>

Note: The following references are included in the table. Explanations for these are as follows:

(NSI) National Strategic Indicators (NSIs) - are used to measure the performance of local authorities at a national level and focus on key strategic priorities. Local authorities are under a legal duty to collect & report on these measures.

(SID) Service Improvement Data - can be used by local authority services and their regulators as they plan, deliver and improve services.

All Wales The data shown in this column is the figure calculated using the base data supplied by all authorities for 2013/2014 i.e. an overall performance indicator value for Wales.

	Performance Key
	Maximum Performance
\uparrow	Performance has improved
\leftrightarrow	Performance has been maintained
v	Performance is within 5% of previous years performance
\downarrow	Performance has declined by 5% or more on previous years performance - Where performance has declined by 5% or more for the period in comparison to the previous year, an explanation is provided directly below the relevant performance indicator.
—	No comparable data (data not suitable for comparison / no data available for comparison)
	No All Wales data available for comparison.

Leis	Leisure and Libraries						
No	PI Reference	PI Description	2014/15 Actual	All Wales 2013/14	Quarter 1 2014/15	Quarter 1 2015/16	Direction of Improvement
1	LCL/001(b) (NSI)	The number of people using Public Libraries during the year, per 1,000 population.	5,709 (798,609 visits)	5,851 NPT 4 th	1,327 (185,641 visits)	1,380 (193,892 visits)	↑
6	LCL/004 (SID)	The number of library materials issued, during the year, per 1,000 population.	3,219 (450,318 issued)	4,424	834 (116,898 issued)	780 (109,642 issued)	\downarrow
	The decrease in issues can be attributed to a cut in the mobile library service by one vehicle and an amendment of the remaining service from a two weekly to a three weekly schedule. Also there was no service for 4 days in May due to a driver shortage.						
Page 74	LCS/002(b) (NSI)	The number of visits to local authority sport and leisure centres during the year, per 1,000 population where the visitor will be participating in physical activity.	5,775 (807,892 visits)	8,954 NPT 22 nd	_	Reported 2nd Qtr	_
5	LCL/003 (SID)	The percentage of library material requests supplied within 7 calendar days.	81%	69%		Reported 3rd Qtr	—
3	LCL/002a (SID)	The number of publicly accessible computers per 10,000 population.	6	9	_	Reported 4th Qtr	_
4	LCL/002b (SID)	The percentage of available computer hours, in use.	46%	39%	_	Reported 4th Qtr	



Section 3: Compliments and Complaints

<u>2015-2016 – Quarter 1 (1st April 2015 – 30th June 2015) – Cumulative data</u>

	Performance Key
1	Reduction in Complaints/ Increase in Compliments
\leftrightarrow	No change in the number of Complaints/Compliments
v u	Increase in Complaints but within 5%/ Reduction in Compliments but within 5% of previous year.
→	Increase in Complaints by 5% or more/ Reduction in Compliments by 5% or more of previous year.

75 No	PI Description	Quarter 1 2014/15	Quarter 1 2015/16	Direction of Improvement
	<u>Total Complaints - Stage 1</u>	2	535	\downarrow
1	a - Complaints - Stage 1 upheld	0	481	
	b -Complaints - Stage 1 <u>not</u> upheld	2	54	
	c -Complaints - Stage 1 partially upheld	0	0	

No	PI Description	Full Year 2013/14	Full Year 2014/15	Direction of Improvement
2	<u>Total Complaints - Stage 2</u>	2	0	↑
	a - Complaints - Stage 2 upheld	0	0	
	b - Complaints - Stage 2 not upheld	1	0	
	c- Complaints - Stage 2 partially upheld	1	0	
	Total - Ombudsman investigations	0	0	\leftrightarrow
Page	a - Complaints - Ombudsman investigations upheld	0	0	
976	b - Complaints - Ombudsman investigations <u>not</u> upheld	0	0	
4	Number of compliments	0	0	\leftrightarrow
	Narrative There were 535 stage 1 complaints of which 481 were upheld. All complaints centered around the 'Super Hero Family Fun Day' at Margam Park.			

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION PROPOSED FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2015-2016

Meeting Date and Time	Agenda Items	Type (Decision, Monitoring or Information)	Rotation (Topical, ,Annual, Biannual, Quarterly, Monthly)	Contact Officer/ Head of Service
11 th Sept 15	Environment			
	Quarter 1 – 2015/16 Performance Report	Monitoring	Quarterly	Alison Headon
	Complaints Report	Monitoring	Quarterly	
	Sale/Lease of Land Reports	Decision	Topical	David Phillips
	Community Fund Policy (Back from Consultation)	Decision	Topical	Nicola Pearce
	Industrial Estates Economic Development and Regeneration Annual Performance Report	Monitoring	Annual	S Brennan
	Education			
	Celtic Leisure (1 st Quarter Report 2015/16) Presented by NPT	Monitoring	Quarterly	Chris Millis?
	Quarter 1 – 2015/16 Performance Report	Monitoring	Quarterly	Carl Glover/Chris Millis ?

• Local Development Plan - a special meeting to be arranged for this item.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION PROPOSED FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2015-2016

Meeting Date and Time	Agenda Items	Type (Decision, Monitoring or Information)	Rotation (Topical, ,Annual, Biannual, Quarterly, Monthly)	Contact Officer/ Head of Service
23 rd Oct 15	Environment			
	Property Performance Report	Information	Annual	Simon Brennan
	Sale/Lease of Land Reports	Decision	Topical	David Phillips
	Corporate Property Asset Management Plan	Information	Annual	Simon Brennan
	Reservoirs – Margam Park (Joint Report with Education)	Decision	Topical	David Griffiths
	Fabian Way SPG			Nicola Pearce
	Education			
	Celtic Leisure Annual Report 14 – 15 (presented by Celtic Leisure)	Monitoring	Annual	Celtic Leisure/ Chris Millis
	Welsh Public Libraries Standards Annual Report 14/15	Decision	Annual	Wayne John/ADT
	Xmas Opening Times – Theatres etc	Decision	Annual	Chris Millis
	NPT BusinessPlan	Decision		Wayne John
	Afan Argoed – Update Report	Information		C. Millis

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION PROPOSED FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2015-2016

Meeting Date and Time	Agenda Items	Type (Decision, Monitoring or Information)	Rotation (Topical, ,Annual, Biannual, Quarterly, Monthly)	Contact Officer/ Head of Service
4 th Dec 15	Environment			
	Quarter 2 – 2015/16 Performance Report	Monitoring	Quarterly	Alison Headon
	Complaints Report	Monitoring	Quarterly	
	Sale/Lease of Land Reports	Decision	Topical	David Phillips
	Neath Business Improvement Bid	Decision		S. Brennan
	Education			
	Celtic Leisure Half Year Report 2015/16 (Presented by NPT)	Monitoring	6 Monthly	Chris Millis
	Quarter 2 – 2015/16 Performance Report	Monitoring	Quarterly	Carl Glover/Chris Millis

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