



**REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

**10.00 am FRIDAY, 12 APRIL 2019**

**COMMITTEE ROOMS A/B - NEATH CIVIC CENTRE**

**Part 1**

1. Declarations of interest
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (*Pages 5 - 8*)
3. Forward Work Programme 18/19 (*Pages 9 - 10*)
4. To scrutinise information and monitoring issues being reported by:

**Report of the Head Of Property And Regeneration**

5. Strategic Funding Update (*Pages 11 - 18*)
6. To select appropriate items from the Cabinet Board Agenda for pre-scrutiny (Cabinet Board reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members).
7. Any urgent items (whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Chairman pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972
8. Access to Meetings to resolve to exclude the public for the following item(s) pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the relevant exempt paragraphs of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

**PART 2**

9. To select appropriate private items from the Cabinet Board Agenda for pre-scrutiny (Cabinet Board Reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members).

**S.Phillips**  
**Chief Executive**

**Civic Centre**  
**Port Talbot**

**Date Not Specified**

**Committee Membership:**

**Chairperson:**      **Councillor S.K.Hunt**

**Vice**                      **Councillor R.L.Taylor**  
**Chairperson:**

**Councillors:**      J.Evans, D.Cawsey, C.J.Jones, S.Rahaman,  
H.Jones, S.M.Penry, S.Bamsey, J.Jones,  
S.Pursesey and A.McGrath

**Notes:**

- (1) If Committee Members or non-Committee Members wish to have relevant items put on the agenda for future meetings, then please notify the Chief Executive/Chair eight days before the meeting.*
- (2) If non-Committee Members wish to attend for an item of interest, then prior notification needs to be given (by 12.00 noon on the day before the meeting). Non-Committee Members may speak but not vote, or move or second any motion.*
- (3) For pre scrutiny arrangements, the Chair will normally recommend forthcoming executive items for discussion/challenge. It is also open to Committee Members to request items to be raised - though Members are asked to be selective here in regard to important issues.*

- (4) *The relevant Cabinet Board Members will also be invited to be present at the meeting for Scrutiny/ Consultation purposes.*
- (5) *Would the Scrutiny Committee Members please bring the Cabinet Board papers with them to the meeting.*

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## REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Committee Rooms A/B - Neath Civic Centre)

**Members Present:**

**1 March, 2019**

**Chairperson:** Councillor S.K.Hunt

**Councillors:** J.Evans, C.J.Jones, R.L.Taylor, S.M.Penry,  
S.Bamsey and S.Pursey

**Officers In  
Attendance:** S.Brennan, N.Pearce, K.Davies, N. Jones,  
J.Woodman-Ralph

**Cabinet Invitees:** Councillors A.Wingrave and D.Jones

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### 1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

It was with great sadness that the Chair announced the passing of Councillor D.W.Davies Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Sustainable Development, and Community Safety and Public Protection. As a mark of respect Members stood for a two minute silence.

The following Members made a Declaration of Interest at the agenda item.

Councillor S.Pursey: Re: Tourism report – appendix 2 as he is a Member of the Plaza group.

Councillor R.Taylor: Re: Tourism report, her spouse is a trustee of the YMCA who will be responsible for running of the Plaza.

### 2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Committee approved the minutes for accuracy.

### 3. PRE-SCRUTINY

The Committee chose to scrutinise the following Cabinet Board items:

#### Cabinet Board Proposals

##### 3.1 Tourism Update

The Committee received information in relation to Tourism as contained within the circulated report.

Members asked how the new Destination Management Plan was to be complied. Officers explained that at the plan would be in line with the agreed remit for the tourism team and consultation would be undertaken with the tourism industry to identify industry priorities. Members suggested a workshop specifically for members to put forward suggested actions. Once consultation was complete a draft of the new Destination Management Plan would be presented to cabinet board for approval.

Members asked in relation to the redevelopment of the Plaza, and queried when would work start to take place. Officers explained that it would take approximately 14 months. Members stated officers were doing an excellent job and it was great to see efforts to increase tourism in the area.

Members queried whether there could be a mobile phone app for cyclists which would provide more information in relation to the cycle routes. Officers informed the committee that it might be possible to develop an app at some point in the future, but officers were currently prioritising the development and updating of the new destination website to as a base for future marketing campaigns.

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by Cabinet Board.

##### 3.2 Key Performance Indicators 2018/2019 – Quarter 3 Performance (1 April 2018 – 31 December 2018)

The Committee received information in relation to the Key Performance Indicators 2018/2019 – Quarter 3 Performance as contained within the circulated report.

Members asked what the progress was in acquiring the former Carnaud/Metal Box premises in Neath, as it would have a positive impact on employment in the area. Officers explained that they were due to sign the contract soon, and the committee would be informed as soon as practicable.

Members queried the Performance Indicators and questioned if there would be a change to the way they were monitored. Officers informed the Committee that the Red Amber Green status system was a part of the programme. Officers explained that the red indicators might turn green throughout the year and would not show the true reflection. Officers explained that the narratives were very important and the committee should note them for information.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that the report be noted.

4. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19**

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme for 2018/19.

5. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED:** that pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following item of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

6. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee chose to scrutinise the following item:

Cabinet Board Proposals

6.1 Harbourside Strategic Employment Site Port Talbot

The Committee received information in relation to the Harbourside Strategic Employment Site, Port Talbot as contained within the circulated report.

Members asked was there an approved application for workshop training centre and was there a demand issue in terms of development of the site. Officers explained there was demand, but the issue was around funding and making development available.

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by Cabinet Board.

## **CHAIRPERSON**



**(DRAFT)**  
**Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee**  
**Forward Work Programme 2018/19**

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Officer
22 June 2018		
23 July 2018		
14 September 2018		
26 October 2018		
7 December 2018		

18 January 2019	Swansea Bay City Region – Verbal Update	Chief Executive/Leader
1 March 2019		
12 April 2019	Strategic Funding Update	Simon Brennan
31 May 2019	City Deal Project Monitoring	Gareth Nutt
	Problematic empty houses (private dwellings)	Nicola Pearce/ Mark Thomas
	Environmental Health and Trading Standards Charge for Business Advice Update	Nicola Pearce/Mark Thomas

## NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Regeneration & Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee

12<sup>th</sup> April 2019

#### Report of the Head of Property & Regeneration Simon Brennan

#### **Matter for Information**

**Wards Affected:** All wards

#### **Strategic Funding Update**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on how Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council is maximising strategic funding opportunities, including European Structural and Investment Funds, to deliver Council priorities.

#### **Executive Summary**

This reports provides an update on how Neath Port Talbot Council is maximising strategic funding opportunities to deliver Council priorities.

The main focus of the report is on how the Council has successfully secured a significant amount of European funding to deliver regeneration activities and supporting people into training and employment.

The report provides the latest position in relation to Brexit and funding opportunities post Brexit.

It also provides an update on other strategic funding programmes in which the Council is involved, including the Swansea Bay City Deal projects led by Neath Port Talbot.

## Background

### European funding

Neath Port Talbot currently qualifies for the highest level of European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds as it is one of fifteen local authorities in the West Wales and the Valleys (WWV) programme area.

Approximately £1.2 billion of European funding has been ring-fenced for the programme area for the period 2014 – 2020. The entire county borough is eligible for this funding. The funding allocation is based on need as the programme area's Gross Domestic Product<sup>1</sup> (GDP) is less than 75% of the European Union average. The programme area is considered to be a 'Less Developed Area' in comparison to the rest of Europe.

European Structural and Investment Funds need to be spent in line with agreed priority areas such as supporting people into work and training, youth employment, research and innovation, business (SMEs) competitiveness, renewable energy and energy efficiency, and connectivity and urban development.

### Progress to date

Neath Port Talbot CBC continues to maximise European funding to support Council priorities. The Council has secured approximately £18 million of European funding since 2015, with an additional £6 million worth of projects in the pipeline. It needs to be noted that this is a competitive bidding process open to all sectors and organisations and the Council has been very successful in securing European funding.

The European & Strategic Funding team works with all Directorates to identify funding opportunities, support the business plan development process and ensure the compliant delivery of projects. Since 2015, European funding has been secured for the following projects:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>
Workways+	Adult employability programme
Communities for Work	Adult employability programme (former Communities First postcode areas)

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<sup>1</sup> Gross domestic product or GDP is a measure of the size and health of a region's economy over a period of time (usually one quarter or one year). It is also used to compare the size of different economies at a different point in time.

Cynnydd	Supporting young people aged 11 – 24 year old who are risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)
Cam Nesa	To support young people aged 16 – 24 year old into training and employment who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)
Port Talbot Integrated Transport Hub	Centralising main transport links in Port Talbot
Harbourside Strategic Employment Site	Programme of works to create a strategic employment area on Harbourside
Swansea Bay Technology Centre	Provision of a 'building as a power station' business premises facility to support the diversification of the economy

The European & Strategic Funding team works closely with the Council's regeneration team to maximise the Welsh Government's Building for the Future regeneration programme, which is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Approximately £1 million has been secured to re-develop the former Magistrates Court in Port Talbot and a number of projects in Neath and Port Talbot are close to full approval totalling approximately £6million.

### Brexit

The current European Structural Investment funds programme is due to run until 2020, with some approved projects continuing until 2023.

The latest draft Withdrawal Agreement (March 2018) between the EU and the UK includes the provision for the UK continuing to participate in European funding programmes until their closure in 2023.

In the event that the UK leaves the European Union in March 2019 without a deal, the UK Treasury has provided full lifetime expenditure guarantee for projects approved before the end of December 2020.

### Successor Funding

It is not yet clear what will replace European funding programmes post – Brexit. The UK Government proposes introducing a ‘Shared Prosperity Fund’, however few details are known about this Fund. It is likely to be designed and administered by the UK Government, and aligned to City and Growth deals, and local / regional industrial strategies.

Neath Port Talbot Council has responded to a number of consultations relating to regional investment in Wales post Brexit.

In 2018, the Welsh Government held a consultation on future regional policy. The Welsh Government proposes that any future funding for Wales will be aligned to the Welsh Government’s Economic Action Plan.

The First Minister has established an EU Advisory Group. Cllr Rob Stewart (Leader of City & County of Swansea) attends in his role as the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) spokesperson for Europe.

The Welsh Government has established a ‘Regional Investment in Wales after Brexit’ steering group which is focusing on priorities and implementation arrangements for any successor funding.

### Other Strategic Funding

To date the Council has focused on maximising the opportunity of European funding, however there is the need to secure alternative funding sources post Brexit and the European & Strategic Funding team is proactively seeking alternative funding sources to deliver Council priorities.

### Welsh Government funding

The European & Strategic Funding team works with the Council’s regeneration team to maximise Welsh Government funding such as the Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Programme.

## Swansea Bay City Deal

The European & Strategic Funding team is coordinating the development of the business cases to secure City Deal funding for the projects led by Neath Port Talbot Council i.e. Homes as Power Stations and Swansea Bay Technology Centre / Centre of Excellence for Next Generation Services (CENGS).

### **Financial Impact**

There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

There are no equality impacts associated with this report

### **Workforce Impacts**

There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

### **Legal Impacts**

There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

### **Risk Management**

There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

### **Consultation**

There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

### **Recommendations**

To note the contents of the Strategic Funding update report.

### **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

Matter for information. No decision required.

### **Appendices**

None.

## **List of Background Papers**

None.

## **Officer Contact**

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