

Impact Assessment - First Stage
Proposed future use of the old Neath Library building

1. Details of the initiative

<p>Initiative description and summary: To proceed with a preferred option for the future use of the vacant Library building in Neath as a creative hub and to proceed with a procurement exercise to tender for an organisation to lease and operate the building.</p>
<p>Service Area: Property & Regeneration</p>
<p>Directorate: Environment</p>

2. Does the initiative affect:

	Yes	No
Service users		X
Staff		X
Wider community	X	
Internal administrative process only		X

3. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't Know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)/How might it impact?
Age		X				<p>The proposed recommended end use as a Creative Hub will support the delivery of the Council's regeneration of Neath town centre and allow access for all to this vacant, prominent building.</p> <p>This will benefit all future users of the former Neath Library without discrimination.</p>

Disability		X				As above
Gender Reassignment		X				As above
Marriage/Civil Partnership		X				As above
Pregnancy/Maternity		X				As above
Race		X				As above
Religion/Belief		X				As above
Sex		X				As above
Sexual orientation		X				As above

4. Does the initiative impact on:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language	X					All signage and public information will be in both Welsh and English
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English		X				As above

5. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
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To maintain and enhance biodiversity	X					At the earliest opportunity, the Council and its consultants will undertake all necessary ecological surveys and ensure that the impact on Biodiversity is positive.
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.	X					As above

6. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people	X		The proposal will deliver a solution to the ongoing pressure of a prominent, Listed building in Neath town centre being vacant and falling further in to a state of disrepair. It will also provide an enhanced experience for visitors to Neath Town Centre.
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	X		The proposal supports the 2022-27 Corporate Plan, Recover, Reset, Renew's Objective 2 <i>All Communities are thriving and sustainable</i> & Objective 3 <i>Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations.</i>
Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative	X		Counter Culture has carried out consultation with key stakeholders and NPTC officers have held discussions with Regeneration colleagues in Welsh Government whilst developing the initiative.

Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions	X		As above.
Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse	X		The proposal will deliver a solution to the ongoing pressure of a prominent, vacant, Listed building in Neath town centre falling further into a state of disrepair.

7. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	√
Reasons for this conclusion	
The proposal will enhance the Regeneration and Visitor experience in Neath town centre, improving the environment and amenities. The initiative does not have a significant impact on any specific group of people so a full impact assessment is not required.	

A full impact assessment (second stage) is required	
Reasons for this conclusion	

	Name	Position	Date
Completed by	Lindsey Williams	Regeneration Officer	13 th June 2024
Signed off by	Simon Brennan	Head of Property & Regeneration	