

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Cabinet
23rd October 2024**

Report of the Chief Executive – Mrs Karen Jones

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: Port Talbot, Briton Ferry West, Margam and Taibach

Celtic Freeport

Purpose of the Report

To report the outcome of the Outline Business Case assessment by Welsh Government and UK Government.

Summary

On the 22nd March 2023, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (“the Council”) received notification that, following a joint decision between the UK and Welsh Governments, Celtic Freeport and Anglesey Freeport had been selected as the successful bids in the Welsh Freeport competition.

At the meeting of Cabinet of the 10th May 2023, delegated authority was granted to the Chief Executive to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Pembrokeshire County Council, Associated British Ports and Milford Haven Port Authority for the preparation of an Outline Business Case (“OBC) for submission to Welsh and UK governments.

The Outline Business Case was submitted to the governments in December 2023 with all queries resolved in April 2024 but assessment has been somewhat disrupted by the General Election.

I am pleased to report to Members that we have now received confirmation from the governments that the Outline Business Case has

been approved. As a consequence, the Statutory Instrument for bringing the first two tax sites into effect has been laid on 17th October 2024 and it is anticipated that the tax sites will, subject to parliamentary processes, become live in November 2024.

Members will be aware that we were asked to progress the submission of the Full Business Case in parallel with the assessment of the OBC and this was submitted in October 2024. We hope to receive an early decision on the FBC and are currently in discussion with the governments to clarify any points within the documentation.

Financial Implications

There are no financial impacts associated with this report which is for information only.

Integrated Impact Assessment

There is no requirement for an IIA as this is for information only.

Workforce Impacts

There are no workforce impacts that arise directly from this report.

Legal Powers

There are no legal matters that require consideration given that this item is for information only.

Risk Management

The approval of the OBC has a positive impact on the overall risk profile of the project as it brings more elements of the project to a point of certainty.

Consultation

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendation

That members note the approval of the OBC and that the Statutory Instrument to bring the first two tax sites into operation has been laid.

Reason for Decision

To keep members informed of progress with this matter.

Implementation of Decision

Not applicable as this is an information item.

Officer Contact

Mrs Karen Jones

Chief Executive

Mrs Nicola Pearce

Director of Environment and Regeneration

Mr Huw Jones

Chief Finance Officer

Mr Simon Brennan

Head of Property and Regeneration

Mr Craig Griffiths

Head of Legal and Democratic Services