

Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

Initiative description and summary:

Refurbishment of the Princess Royal Theatre

The Princess Royal Theatre is situated at the heart of Port Talbot town centre, in the right-hand wing of the Council's Civic Offices. Constructed in 1987, the theatre has a capacity of 800 and is very much of its era, having seen little in the way of modernisation.

The project will focus on improving customer experience by creating a stronger identity, improving facilities and accessibility, as well as diversifying and expanding its commercial offer to appeal to a wider audience. A combination of remodelling, refurbishment and extension will enable these aspirations and proposed outputs will include 1240m² cultural space improved and 525m² new cultural space created.

The project will see a combination of refurbishment, remodelling and extension to vastly improve its hospitality offer, with the inclusion of a café / bar to the front of the building and reconfiguration of the backstage area, which will allow the venue to host larger shows and performances that were previously difficult to accommodate. The project will enable the venue to tap into the day market, attracting more footfall through the town centre, which will help to support other businesses in the town centre and the recovery of the local economy.

The Theatre is located within feet of the Civic Square and Riverside areas, in fact it opens out onto the Civic Square, with potential to host outdoor performances following redevelopment of the Square.

The project is a key elements of a master plan that has been developed for the Port Talbot town centre area.

This coherent set of interventions will restore community pride in the town centre by vastly improving its visitor offer. This will lead to an increase in footfall and will support our local businesses as they recover from the pandemic.

Delivering directly towards the Council's Corporate Plan and Economic Recovery Strategy, the project aims to support our local businesses by increasing footfall in our town centre, making it a more attractive place in which to live, travel, work and enjoy recreational time.

Service Area: Property & Regeneration

Directorate: Environment & Regeneration

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			L	The nature of the improvements will have no impact on this characteristic.
Disability		x			L	The scheme will ensure inclusive access through design, which will maintain access for people with mobility issues.
Gender Reassignment		x			L	The nature of the improvements will have no impact on this characteristic.
Marriage/Civil Partnership		x			L	The nature of the improvements will have no impact on this characteristic.
Pregnancy/Maternity		x			L	The nature of the improvements will have no impact on this characteristic.

Race		x			L	The nature of the improvements will have no impact on this characteristic.
Religion/Belief		x			L	The nature of the improvements will have no impact on this characteristic.
Sex		x			L	The nature of the improvements will have no impact on this characteristic.
Sexual orientation		x			L	The nature of the improvements will have no impact on this characteristic.

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			L	In line with the Council's Corporate Plan and Welsh Language policy, any signage at the site (temporary and permanent), any public communications regarding the project, to include press releases, social media posts, site hoardings etc. will be translated into Welsh and will be released with no time delay.
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English		x			L	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?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity	x				L	The addition of green infrastructure as part of this project will enhance biodiversity within the town centre.

To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.	x				L	As above
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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 proposed project will support the Council's Corporate Plan to Recover, Reset, Renew, by delivering directly towards the following Well Being Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children get the best start in life • All communities are thriving and sustainable • Our local environment, heritage and culture can be enjoyed by future generations.
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	x		As above.
Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative	x		As above.

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		As above.

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

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	X
Reasons for this conclusion	
In line with Neath Port Talbot IIA screening form guidance, it has been determined that a full assessment is not appropriate in this instance, as the scheme will have a low impact on protected characteristics.	

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

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	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Completed by	Lisa Willis	Strategic Funding Programmes Manager	L Willis	24/01/2025
Signed off by	Simon Brennan	Head of Property & Regeneration	S Brennan	24/01/2025