

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3rd March 2017

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PROPERTY AND REGENERATION – SIMON BRENNAN

MATTER FOR MONITORING

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVE – PROSPERITY FOR ALL - REGENERATION - HIGHLIGHT REPORT – QUARTER 1 (1ST APRIL – 31ST DECEMBER) 2016/17

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Members with the Priority for All Highlight Report – Quarter Three 2016-17 for **Regeneration** which provides a progress update for the first six months of 2016-17 for one of the Corporate Improvement Plan objectives which fall within the remit of the Economic and Community Regeneration Scrutiny Committee. This will enable the Economic and Community Regeneration Scrutiny Members to discharge their functions in relation to performance management.
- 2 The Prosperity for All improvement Objective covers three areas, Regeneration, Anti-poverty and Housing. Anti-poverty and Housing progress will be reported to their relevant scrutiny committees.

Executive Summary

- 3 Despite on-going challenging circumstances surrounding the economy, the Regeneration and Economic Development Team are on track to deliver all activities planned for 2016-17.

- 4 Secured funding to deliver regeneration projects that bring significant economic benefits to Neath Port Talbot.
- 5 Delivered the Vibrant & Viable Places programme including the completion of a number of projects with several more about to commence.
- 6 Progressing with second phase of Neath Town Centre redevelopment which is due on site shortly.
- 7 Been at the forefront of attracting new private investment to Aberavon Seafront which is helping to attract more visitors to the area. For example, supporting the redevelopment and expansion of a number of food outlets and the renovation of the Reel Cinema, and securing funding for the Adventure Golf Course.
- 8 Focused on achieving economic growth through the creation of new employment opportunities and the safeguarding of local jobs through attracting Inward Investment to the area and supporting local business expansions.
- 9 Played a major role in ensuring Enterprise Zone status for Port Talbot Waterfront which is already providing financial benefit to local businesses through Business Rates Relief. Continued partnership working with Welsh Government will encourage further economic growth and job creation for the area.
- 10 Responded to the continued uncertainties about the future of Tata by working closely with Careers Wales, Department of Works and Pensions and Welsh Government to help those facing redundancy and by providing support to the many local businesses within the supply chain that have to deal with staff losses or look to new markets. This has led to an increase in the number of people attending the Council's Enterprise Club seeking advice and guidance on self-employment.

- 11 Continued to deliver community benefits on key regeneration projects to improve the economic prospects of local people, businesses and communities achieving over 3900 training weeks and supporting 60 local contractors to secure contracts valued in excess of £11.5m. Further large scale construction projects planned for 2017 and beyond via 21st Century Schools investment will ensure more employment and training opportunities for local people and potential contracts for local contractors.
- 12 Secured European funding to re-establish the Workways+ project to provide work opportunities to those experiencing difficulties in doing so.
- 13 Played key role in supporting the strategic aims of the Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy and in the development of the £500m City Deal bid for the region to Welsh and UK Governments. Continues to support the Regional Marketing Suite at the Bay Campus and the new 'invest' website used by the regional inward investment team to attract new investment to the region.

Financial Impact

- 14 The performance described in the attached highlight report is being delivered against a challenging financial situation.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 15 Implementing the Prosperity for All priorities will assist the Council in delivering part of its Strategic Equality Plan. For example, by working in partnership with appointed contractors and their supply chain in delivering community benefits on major developments within the County Borough such as the new Bae Baglan School, we can help disadvantaged individuals overcome barriers to employment by utilising the services provided through initiatives such as Workways+, LIFT, Communities First, etc.

Workforce Impacts

- 16 There are no workforce impacts.

Legal Impacts

- 17 To support the discharge of duty placed on the Council, as contained within:
- The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, to ‘make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions’.
 - The Well-being of Future Generations Act in terms of “improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales”.

Risk Management

- 18 Failure to have robust performance monitoring arrangements could result in poor performance going undetected.

Relevant corporate risks associated with the delivery of this improvement objective are contained within the appendix.

Consultation

- 19 There is no requirement to on this item consult.

Recommendation

- 20 For Members to note the progress report for the Prosperity for All corporate improvement objectives for Regeneration as contained within the attached highlight report.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

- 21 Matter for monitoring. No decision required.

Implementation of Decision

- 22 Matter for monitoring. No decision required.

APPENDICES

- 23 Appendix 1 - Prosperity for All Highlight Report for Regeneration—Quarter 3 2016-17

List of Background Papers

- 24 The Neath Port Talbot Corporate Improvement Plan – 2016/2019
“Rising to the Challenge”.

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Highlight Report – 1st April to 31st December 2016

Corporate Improvement Priority: To support and invest in our town centres and communities to promote economic growth, regeneration and sustainability, maximise job opportunities and improve access to employment.

RAG Status	Summary of Progress
Green	<p>Regeneration</p> <p>The Regeneration & Economic Development Team is committed to improving the economic prospects of our communities and our citizens. Overall, despite on-going challenging circumstances surrounding the economy, we are on track to deliver all activities planned for 2016-17.</p> <p>The Team continue to deliver significant outputs including the completion of a number of the Vibrant & Viable Places projects with several more to come on-line shortly and the second phase of the Neath Town Centre redevelopment will soon be on site.</p> <p>We continue to provide the infrastructure and facilities to further grow the visitor economy in the Borough, including the recently completed Adventure Golf Course on Aberavon Seafront and the forthcoming Camping & Caravanning Club site at Margam Park.</p> <p>The Economic Development Team is focused on growing our indigenous companies, as well as attracting Inward Investment to the area, and has achieved unprecedented results in terms of Community Benefits with over 3900 training weeks already achieved this year. We have helped establish the Port Talbot Waterfront Enterprise Zone and have recently supported Welsh Government to promote and administer Business Rates Relief to more than 31 local companies located within the Enterprise Zone.</p> <p>Our Employment Services remit has been given a massive boost now that Workways+ has been re-established to provide work opportunities to those experiencing difficulties in finding them.</p>

Highlight Report – 1st April to 31st December 2016

What will be different? (Outcomes)	Lead Officer	RAG Status	Progress
<u>Regeneration</u>			
1. We will encourage inward investment and bring forward a range of opportunities, including residential, retail and commercial developments.	S. Brennan	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are progressing and seeking a range of funding opportunities including Buildings for the Future, amongst others. • Supported the establishment of a Regional Marketing Suite for Swansea Bay City Region including a Regional 3D Map and new 'invest' website to support a newly established regional inward investment team endorsed by the Swansea Bay City Region Board. • To date, progressing with 6 inward investment enquiries and 5 expansion projects which have the potential to support economic growth through the creation of nearly 100 new employment opportunities and the safeguarding of more than 140 local jobs.
2. The next phase of Neath Town Centre redevelopment will be completed.	S. Brennan	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Application submitted for next phase of the scheme to include a parade of smaller retail units and apartments, improved linkages between the town centre and key facilities such as the Gwyn Hall and the bus



Prosperity for All

promoting economic growth

Highlight Report – 1st April to 31st December 2016

			<p>station. The aim of the project is to improve the attractiveness of Neath as a shopping destination and a place to visit and provide additional living space to help further improve the vibrancy of the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme for demolition of old car parking has now been agreed.
<p>3. The development of leisure and commercial opportunities at Aberavon Seafront will continue and will include a new adventure golf course.</p>	S. Brennan	Green	<p>The Team are working with existing businesses and potential new investors to further develop leisure and commercial opportunities at Aberavon Seafront.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New 12-hole adventure family golf course, opened in July 2016, is supporting the on-going regeneration of the seafront. • To date supported the development of 2 existing businesses. Potential to create 2 new jobs safeguard a further 19 and attract up to £45k of additional investment in these companies.
<p>4. Caravan and camping facilities at Margam Park will be developed.</p>	S. Brennan	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is progressing towards providing the enabling infrastructure to bring forward a scheme to improve tourism and visitor numbers to Margam Park and the area as a whole.

Highlight Report – 1st April to 31st December 2016

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed start on site for caravan and camping facilities – autumn 2017.
5. We will access funding to refurbish, repair and maintain locally important buildings and structures.	S. Brennan	Green	<p>The Regeneration Team continue to source funding and identify potential partners to deliver commercial, retail, residential and leisure projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To date, applications made under the Building for the Future programme for The Plaza, Port Talbot Magistrates Court and 8 Wind Street. Awaiting further details and submission criteria for the programme.
6. We will drive forward regeneration projects in the valleys, to encourage tourism and improve employment opportunities.	S. Brennan	Green	<p>Driving forward regeneration projects in the valleys to encourage tourism and improve employment opportunities is another key objective of the Regeneration and Economic Development Team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Development Team has taken on the management of the Neath Port Talbot Destination Management Plan. Action plans are being developed for Margam Park, Afan Valley, Aberavon Seafront and Swansea, Amman, Dulais and Neath valleys. The Rural Development Plan funded Business Development Officer has been appointed and is working to encourage and promote activities within the rural



Prosperity for All

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Highlight Report – 1st April to 31st December 2016

			<p>wards of Neath Port Talbot that increase the contribution that the tourism industry makes to the local economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To date, supported 13 companies within the valley areas of Neath Port Talbot to deliver investment projects valued in excess of £114,000. These projects have supported the creation and/or safeguarding of 37 jobs. • The Rural Development Programme has provided funding for 10 projects in NPT's rural communities to date. These projects are aimed at a variety of interventions based on evidenced need. Project types include: skills development, promoting business partnerships, increasing volunteering opportunities and enhancing natural and cultural heritage.
7. We will continue to deliver the Vibrant and Viable Places Programme to combine support for people and places whilst encouraging partnership working	S. Brennan	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vibrant and Viable Places Programme consists of 12 projects to be delivered over a 3 year period. The Employability Centre and Green Park Riverside Phase 1 projects have been completed so far this financial year. • The Integrated Transport Hub, a key VVP project in terms of improving connectivity and economic growth is now progressing with local contractor Andrew Scott Ltd on-site. • The Aberafan House and Glanafan School housing



Highlight Report – 1st April to 31st December 2016

			developments have now received planning approval and will be commencing shortly.
8. We will identify supply chain opportunities for local companies within major developments in the county borough by working in partnership with developers/organisations who are delivering substantial investment programmes.	S. Brennan	Green	<p>The Team continue to deliver community benefits on key regeneration projects to improve the economic prospects of local people, businesses and communities. To date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of local people helped to get back into work (1st April 2016 – 31st December 2016: 42). <i>In 2015-16 we supported 75 people so are well on track to exceed last year's performance.</i> • Number of completed apprenticeship training weeks, traineeships and work experience opportunities (1st April 2016 – 31st December 2016: completed over 3909 weeks). <i>This has already exceeded the 270 weeks achieved in 2015-16.</i> • Number and value of contract opportunities secured by local businesses (1st April 16 – 31st December 2016: Number of companies securing contracts (60) valued in excess of £11.5m. <i>In 2015-16, 90 companies were supported so again we are on track to exceed this output. Value of contract is a new output introduced to measure performance so there are no historical figures to benchmark against.</i>



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promoting economic growth

Highlight Report – 1st April to 31st December 2016

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To date, 3 projects completed achieving more than 98% spend with contractors in Wales. <i>% spend is also a new output introduced this year so there are no historical figures to benchmark against.</i>
9. We will continue to support local businesses to help them prosper; create more jobs and business start-ups.	S. Brennan	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of business enquiries resulting in advice, information or financial support given to existing companies. (1st April 2016 – 31st December 2016: 367). <i>Throughout 2016/17, the Team has received a high volume of enquiries from existing businesses looking for support on issues such as property, rates relief, local contract opportunities, tendering, events, etc. Although outputs are down in comparison to the same period last year (435), there are events and other activities planned during the next quarter that will have a positive impact on performance during this financial year.</i> The number of new business start-up enquiries assisted. (1st April 2016 -30th December 2016: 222) <i>The Team working in partnership with Careers Wales and the Department of Works & Pensions to support individuals affected by the Tata redundancies, the number of referrals to attend the Council's Enterprise Club looking for advice and guidance on self-employment has substantially increased in comparison</i>



Highlight Report – 1st April to 31st December 2016

			<p>to the same period in 2015-16 (187).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The number of new start-ups assisted through Innov8 programme - (1st April 2016 -31st December 2016: 23) <i>This output is slightly down on the same period last year (29) but the Team are currently in the process of administering a number of applications from people looking to start up in business so it is anticipated that performance will increase significantly by the end of this financial year.</i>• The number of jobs created as a result of financial support by the Council (1st April 2016 -31st December 2016: 85) <i>Although lower than the first quarter last year (150), the Team are currently in the process of administering a number of applications from local businesses for funding to support investments in areas such as capital equipment, website development, accreditations, training and general marketing activities. It is anticipated therefore that performance will increase significantly by the end of this financial year.</i> <p>In addition, as result of investment to date, 176 local jobs have been safeguarded.</p>
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Highlight Report – 1st April to 31st December 2016

Corporate Risks as reported to Cabinet 19th October 2016:

Ref	Section	Risk Description	Mitigating Action	Latest L'hood score Sept 16	Latest L'hood impact Sept 16	Latest Total score at Sept 16	Latest Proximity at Sept 16	Target Date	Risk owner
ENV 14	Property & Regeneration	Difficulties in securing public and private investment necessary to deliver town centre regeneration	Continue to develop town centre proposals to provide investment opportunities	4	5	20 H	1-4	Ongoing	Head of Property & Regeneration
NPT 02	All	Increase in demand for council services created by loss of jobs in local businesses (e.g. TATA)	Involvement in task group; early contingency planning through partnership working	4	4	16 H	1	Ongoing	Director of Environment
ENV 13	Property & Regeneration	Abortive maintenance / construction costs as a consequence of changing service delivery strategies	Clear visibility from services on changes in future service delivery; impact statements <i>regarding property management planning included in business plans for 2016/17 – updated Sept 16</i>	4	3	12 H	1-4	Ongoing	Head of Property & Regeneration

Highlight Report – 1st April to 31st December 2016

Ref	Section	Risk Description	Mitigating Action	Latest L'hood score Sept 16	Latest L'hood impact Sept 16	Latest Total score at Sept 16	Latest Proximity at Sept 16	Target Date	Risk owner
NPT 07	All	EU – the result of the referendum could lead to the inability to access European funding in the future	Contingency plan to be developed. UK Government to develop / negotiate new relationship with EU within 2 years. <i>Updated Sept 16 – will monitor the UK Government announcement to invoke Article 50 notice. This is not expected until March 2017. Chancellor's Autumn Statement due 23 Nov 16 may provide more information in relation to funding commitment.</i>	3	4	12 H	1	Review 31/03/ 2017	Director of Finance and Corporate Services

Proximity - risks are assessed in terms of proximity i.e. when the risk would occur. Estimating when a risk would occur helps prioritise the risk.



Highlight Report – 1st April to 31st December 2016

The proximity scale used is:

1. Zero to one year
2. One year to two years
3. Two years to three years
4. Three years plus

5x5 Risk Matrix below:		Likelihood						
Key								
Likelihood	Impact							
1. Very Unlikely	1. Low		5	M	M	H	H	H
2. Unlikely	2. Low/Medium		4	L	M	H	H	H
3. Likely	3. Medium		3	L	L	M	H	H
4. Very Likely	4. Medium/High		2	L	L	M	M	M
5. Certainty	5. High		1	L	L	L	L	L
			0	1	2	3	4	5
L	Low Risk							