

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regeneration & Sustainable Development Cabinet Board

7 December 2018

Report of the Head of Property & Regeneration Simon Brennan

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

Delivery of Community Benefits in Relation to the Strategic School Improvement Programme and the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools initiative.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Members with a report on outputs and results from the delivery of community benefits throughout the construction phases of Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera Phase 2, Ysgol Carreg Hir, Ysgol Bro Dur and Ysgol Cwm Brombil.

Executive Summary

- 2 Between March 2017 and July 2017 four schools began the construction phase following a tender process carried out through the South West Wales Regional Contractors Framework (SWWRCF). The framework is a collaborative agreement by the local authorities of Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire to tender contracts linked mainly to Wales' 21st Century Schools Programme.

Background

- 3 Neath Port Talbot County Borough awarded contracts totalling almost £60m for the construction of the four schools. Contracts were awarded for Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera Phase 2 to Dawnus Construction Ltd (£3.6m), Ysgol Cwm Brombil to Bouygues UK Ltd (£30m), Ysgol Bro Dur also to Bouygues UK Ltd (£19.3m) and Ysgol Carreg Hir to Kier Construction (£7m). The developments were jointly funded from the Welsh Government's 21st Century

Schools and Education Initiative and from Neath Port Talbot Council's Strategic School Improvement Programme.

- 4 As part of the conditions of the South West Wales Regional Construction Framework, local authorities include "targeted recruitment and training" outputs as a "core" requirement of the tenders issued to support the delivery of social, economic and environmental activities and to promote the well-being of the local and wider economy
- 5 The builds were managed by the in-house Architectural Services Project Management Team of Neath Port Talbot Council's Property and Regeneration section and the contracts were completed on time and within budget.
- 6 The Council's Community Benefits Officer, the Economic Development Team and Workways+ project worked closely with all four contractors throughout the construction phase to engage local businesses in the opportunities afforded by such major projects and to identify recruitment, training and work experience opportunities for local people
- 7 Contracts totalling just under £25m were awarded to businesses based in the South West Wales area. In addition to this, companies based elsewhere in Wales secured just over £22m worth of work, meaning 87% of the contracts were awarded to businesses in Wales.



Image: Ysgol Bro Dur and Ysgol Cwm Brombil Meet the Buyer Event

In line with the Council's Well Being Objectives and the National Well Being Goals the following outputs were achieved:

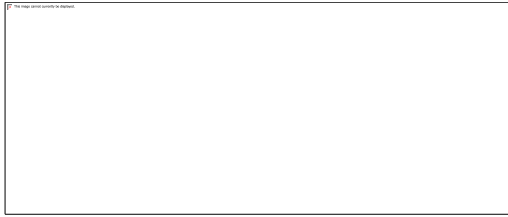
- 420 people from Neath Port Talbot worked on the projects of which 127 were helped to get back into work
- 78% of staff working on site came from the South West Wales Region
- 1612 completed training weeks for local apprentices, trainees and work experience opportunities
- 51 Work Experience Placements – 32 in education and 19 not in education
- Over 550 hours of STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) school engagement with 3500 pupil interactions

Case Studies

Steffan who lives locally was studying for his BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Civil Engineering at Neath College, and started working for Dawnus during his summer break in 2017 on a paid 6 week work placement. His placement involved working as a labourer on the Ystalyfera School site, working closely with the site and plant operatives. As a result of his hard work and enthusiasm he was offered a permanent role on the Ystalyfera project and worked as part of the site operative team, attending college two days a week to complete his BTEC course. Dawnus were so impressed with his work they put him forward for the Dawnus Engineering Apprenticeship Scheme, which he will start when he completes his current course.

Jozef who lives in Neath Port Talbot and was not in education, employment or training (NEET) had a work trial with Kier labouring on the Ysgol Carreg Hir site. The painting and decorator contractor on site noticed how hard he was working and offered him a painting and decorating apprenticeship. Jozef is now enrolled in college and enjoying learning new skills.

Mike was on a Workways+ paid work placement on Ysgol Bro Dur and Jamie was on a Workways+ work experience course on Ysgol Cwm Brombil, both were subsequently taken on by contractors working on site.



Port Talbot Women's Aid Social Enterprise arm set up a canteen on the Ysgol Cwm Brombil site creating 3 jobs a catering assistant, cook and cleaner. They also provided cleaning staff for Ysgol Bro Dur and Ysgol Carreg Hir.



Kier carried out concrete works to local dementia charity Me, Myself and I in Briton Ferry as part of their Ysgol Carreg Hir community initiatives. The existing path leading to the main entrance of the centre was uneven and weathered causing problems for people who use the centre especially in the evening. Repair works were carried out to the path and all who attend the charity are very happy with the result.

Financial Impact

8 There are no financial impacts associated with this report

Equality Impact Assessment

9 The Council's Architectural Services Project Management Team and Economic Development Teams work in partnership with appointed contractors and their supply chain to deliver community benefits on major developments within Neath Port Talbot. In addition, on some occasions, this work occurs on projects located within the wider Swansea Bay City Region

- 10 The Neath Port Talbot Employer Support Group, a collaboration of local employment support organisations and projects, is used to coordinate the delivery of community benefits. This leads to initiatives such as Workways+, the Cynnydd and Cam Nesa Projects and Communities For Work being used to support disadvantaged individuals to help them tackle barriers to employment.
- 11 This approach to delivering community benefits has been successfully developed by the Regeneration & Economic Development Unit over the past few years. It has proved to be beneficial by securing work for local contractors and identifying employment opportunities for local people

Workforce Impacts

- 12 There are no workforce impacts associated with this report

Legal Impacts

- 13 To support the discharge of duty placed on the Council, as contained within the Well-Being of Future Generations Act in terms of “improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales”.

Risk Management

- 14 There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

Consultation

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

Recommendations

- 16 That the report be noted

Reasons for Proposed Decision

- 17 Matter for monitoring, no decision required

Implementation of Decision

18 Matter for monitoring, no decision required

Appendices

19 21st Century Schools Community Benefits Infographic

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