

Future Actions in the Valleys

Priority	Action	Reporting Officer	Progress
<p>Transport</p>	<p>Ensure applications are made for funding to implement the Integrated Network Map proposals</p>	<p>Dave Griffiths</p>	<p>During 2019/2020 financial year the Council has been awarded a grant of £319K from Welsh Governments Active Travel Fund. A portion of the funding has been used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pontardawe Active Travel Route (phase 1) Improvements to the active travel route between Pontardawe and Ystalyfera. • Pre-work – Design, Feasibility & Land Negotiations • Active Travel Route Sign Audit and Design • Audit of Access Control Measures – to determine if barriers are appropriate and are DDA compliant. Barrier removal will be prioritised • Removal/replacement of Access Control Measures (phase 1) – the top ranking barriers will be removed/replaced. • Promotion of schemes, routes and networks, engagement; and monitoring and evaluation. <p>The Council has been successful in obtaining additional £420K in year grant funding from Welsh Government’s Active Travel Fund. The additional funding is for:</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pontardawe Active Travel Route (phase 2)_Improvements to the active travel route between Pontardawe and Trebanos (Phase 3 Trebanos to County boundary would complete the route) • A study into the feasibility of providing a cycle hire scheme.
	Formally endorse the Welsh Government's proposal to develop Joint Passenger Transport arrangements	Dave Griffiths	<p>The consultation on the Welsh Government's White Paper on Improving Public Transport closed on the 27th March 2019. The Council submitted a response to the Consultation.</p> <p>Two Joint Transport Authority (JTA) options were outlined in the consultation document, and there was the opportunity to put forward suggestions on how alternative structures could work.</p> <p>The City Deal Joint Committee has recently established a Transport Sub-Committee in shadow form with the agreement of the Welsh Government to address priorities going forward. NPT Council are currently the lead Authority responsible for steering this sub-committee. Terms of Reference for the committee are currently being developed for sign-off.</p>

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	Ensure good take up of the youth card by young people resident in valley communities	Dave Griffiths	The Welsh Government youth card is promoted on the Councils web site. It will also be promoted on the interactive screens at Neath, Port Talbot and the Hub at Port Talbot railway station. The age of eligibility for the scheme has increased to 21.
Access to health and well-being services	Issue an invitation to the Director of Primary Care, Swansea Bay University Health Board, early 2019, to address elected members on future health service provision for residents of valley communities	Karen Jones	The Chief Executive, Director of Primary Care and the Chair of Swansea Bay University Health Board addressed the Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 10 th June 2019. Thereafter, the Chair and Chief Executive will address Council on an annual basis.
	Bring forward a report on the development of the Safe and Resilient Communities work in Briton Ferry, Melin and Amman Valley areas, making clear recommendations for the further development of the asset based approach	Andrew Jarrett	CVS submitted a successful bid to fund a pilot of the Safe and Resilient work and are in the process of taking this forward.
	Ensure elected Members have an opportunity to comment on the draft mental health strategy for the county borough before it is formally	Andrew Jarrett	The regional Mental Health strategy went to Social Care, Health and Well-being Cabinet Board on 10 th June. After scrutiny it was agreed as a high level document, an update

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	signed off by the Regional Partnership Board		on progress is scheduled to be reported to Scrutiny in six months.
A sustainable voluntary sector	Build on the work done through the revision of the Third Sector Grant Scheme to clarify the Council's approach to community anchor organisations/community hubs, with specific reference to the emerging work on asset-based community development	Karen Jones	The Council has taken decisions for the period 2020-2022 to protect investment to key community anchor organisations and this is reflected in revised grant agreements with those bodies.
	Continue to roll-out the Welsh Government's Childcare Offer, working closely with existing child care providers in the valley communities	Chris Millis	<p>In September 2018 delivery of the scheme was piloted in 14 wards in NPT. All wards throughout NPT were included from January 2019.</p> <p>There are currently 1,107 active (approved) applications for the offer (Sept 2018 – Jan 2020). The number of active applications broken down by electoral Ward is attached. <i>See Appendix 1&2*</i>.</p> <p>We continue to analyse postcode data from applications and this highlights areas with lower uptake, which helps target additional promotion and engagement. Those with uptake below 35% will be targeted to make attempts to improve uptake. See appendix 1.</p>

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			<p>A map outlining numbers per ward is included as appendix 2.</p> <p>Following promotion and engagement since the last report, all wards have seen an increase in active applications. On average, wards have seen an increase of 8 applications.</p> <p>A total of £1,715,713 has been paid to childcare providers for 381,280 funded childcare hours. A total of £27,686 has been paid for 1:1 support for children with an additional need or disability to access the Childcare Offer from Sept 18 to Dec 19.</p> <p>135 Childcare Providers have registered to provide the Childcare Offer. Of those, 107 are based within NPT.</p> <p><u>Capital Funding</u> NPT has been awarded £4,255,000 in capital funding from the Welsh Government Childcare Offer Capital Grant Programme for 9 projects to develop Childcare throughout Neath Port Talbot with the aim of co-locating childcare with Foundation Phase Nursery. This includes £610,000 for a small grants pot to improve and develop childcare.</p>

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			<p>Developments around the new childcare settings has been slow, with build costs being higher than initially expected.</p> <p>A total of £207,977.40 has been paid from the allocated £610k to Childcare providers for minor developments and adaptations to improve their setting between June 2019 and December 2019.</p>
	<p>Complete the review of community benefits fund criteria, explicitly considering whether fund criteria can be modified to allow bids for maintenance/replacement/core costs</p>	<p>Andrew Thomas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any modification to the Guiding Principles that underpin the governance of the Community Benefit Funds must be carried out with the Developer. • The Community Funds generated from Wind, Solar, Biomass and Mineral Deposit are administered through a raft of Developers and there is no 'one size fits all' – sensitive negotiations will need to be had with separate Developers and what is agreed with one may not sit well with another. • The Third Sector Liaison Forum is to investigate Community Funds that yield in excess of £50,000 per annum as Funds that yield less tend not to be worth the pursuit in terms of trying to make wholesale changes to funding criteria.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the Community Funds are not managed by NPTCBC and fall to NPTCVS (Ffynnon Oer) or Pen y Cymoedd Board of Directors (based in Aberdare with 'Vattenfall') or with 'Gamesa' in the Upper Afan Valley. NPTCBC has no jurisdiction on some of the Funds. • The Maes Gwyn Wind Farm Community Fund in Onllwyn and Glynneath does yield in excess of £50,000 per annum and is managed by DELL. This is the only Community Fund that falls into the category that allows further interrogation. Negotiations were held with Company Directors on the 26.02.19. <p>The Company Directors agreed to a pilot study where Glynneath Training Centre in Glynneath and DOVE in Onllwyn benefit from annual core funding valued at £7,500 each. This will be awarded each year for three years, not as a precedent, but more of an experiment. The only caveat or Condition was that the two Organisations give' the sponsors sufficient exposure or PR on literature, letterheads, flyers, promotional material, etc. to recognise the 'Partnership Working' and the true value of the company in the community (they feel that residents do</p>

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			<p>not generally understand that many of the built projects and the activities in those communities owe their existence to the funding that has come off the back of the Maes Gwyn Wind Farm which serves Glynneath and Onllwyn).</p> <p>There will be Monitoring Reports produced quarterly for 'Pennant Walters' as part of the Award process and that will form part of the work currently performed with the Maes Gwyn Panellists.</p> <p>This matter was tabled in Voluntary Sector Liaison Forum on 15th April 2019 and was reported to the Glynneath Maes Gwyn Panel on the 22nd May 2019 and the Onllwyn Maes Gwyn Panel on the 12th June 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are caveats associated with modifying Guiding Principles and these need to be fully evaluated before they can be agreed both by the Grant Management Organisation (the GMO/NPTCBC) and the Developer. Legal Advice is being taken to ensure the integrity of the Grant giving process remains and Internal Audit has been contacted to that affect.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sphere of influence does not extend to all Community Benefit Funds – there is no ‘quick win’ to be had but efforts are being made to relax some of the grant giving criteria that has been in place for 6+years. <p>Information relating to the Members Community Fund Grant spend in the Valleys is attached at Appendix 4.</p>
Employment and Employment sites	Explore funding opportunities with Welsh Government to develop additional industrial units in valley areas	Simon Brennan	Regular discussions ongoing with Welsh Government colleagues over the development of business units in valley areas. Additional allocation made in the regeneration capital programme to take advantage of potential funding opportunities. Potential use of PEDG grant to fund new and refurbished business floor space – feasibility work progressing.
	Continue to encourage Members to engage in the process for reviewing the Local Development Plan	Ceri Morris	The review of the LDP will commence in January 2020 and is likely to take approximately 4 years to complete. The first stage of the process is to prepare and publish a ‘Review Report’ (RR) which identifies the key issues to be considered when taking the existing LDP forward, setting out areas where the current LDP is delivering and performing well, in addition to those areas where changes may be required. In determining the future direction of the Replacement Plan

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			<p>therefore, the review will focus on those areas where the policies are not currently achieving their objectives; this may well necessitate us changing some of our policies and introducing new ones. Many elements and components of the current Plan will however not require anything other than minor amendments to reflect contextual changes and updates to national policy. The second initial stage of the review will be to prepare a Delivery Agreement (DA) which will identify a timetable for the various stages of plan preparation and a Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) which will set out the scope of engagement with stakeholders and the wider community. Both the RR and DA will need to be considered by Council prior to publication and submission to the Welsh Government respectively.</p>
	<p>Deliver the Destination Management Plan and create a Destination Marketing Plan to support the work</p>	<p>Simon Brennan</p>	<p>The Tourism Team has secured £93,000 from Visit Wales to deliver a destination marketing campaign which will showcase key product in both the valleys and urban areas in line with Visit Wales Year of Discovery 2020 and Year of the Outdoors 2021. The campaign will form the majority of our destination marketing activity until December 2020.</p>

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			<p>Procurement exercises have been completed for the above campaign and an open call has been undertaken whereby tourism businesses/ organisations from across the area were asked to cluster together to deliver a series of six experiences identified within the project.</p> <p>A new destination website for Neath Port Talbot is nearing completion.</p> <p>The Tourism Team is due to publish a destination guide to promote the area to potential visitors. It is anticipated that destination guide will be available during February.</p> <p>The new Neath Port Talbot Place Brand has been agreed by Cabinet, a staff workshop was held on 11th July 2019 and Tourism Stakeholder workshop was held on 15th October 2019. The new place brand has have very positive feedback from our tourism industry partners.</p> <p>The planning application for the Vale of Neath Hub at Resolven Canal Car Park has been approved and expressions of interest have been received from potential leaseholders for</p>

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			<p>the café element of the development. Funding of £160,000 has been secured via Visit Wales to deliver a café, refurbished toilet facilities and improvements to landscaping at the site.</p> <p>£1.8 million has been secured via Welsh Government's Valleys Regional Park initiative to invest in Cefn Coed Colliery Museum and establish the site as a Valleys Regional Park.</p> <p>The Rural Development Plan funded Tourism Development in Neath Port Talbot project which is delivered by the Tourism Team is now complete. The project has contributed positively to the tourism sector and all outputs have been met or exceeded. The project enabled us to deliver a series of videos and photography which showcase our area to visitors, in addition to this the project undertook visitor research and arranged a series of Sense of Place events aimed at increasing familiarity of the area among tourism stakeholders. The project also undertook a visitor information feasibility study which will inform future working in delivering visitor information in partnership with the tourism sector.</p>

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			<p>In late 2019/2020 financial year a new Destination Management Plan will be prepared and a consultation exercise will be undertaken towards the end of 2019/2020 in readiness for launching a new DMP in early 2020/2021 financial year.</p>
	<p>Ensure the current review of the corporate procurement policy explicitly considers how the Council's expenditure can benefit valley communities, basing the approach on the Bevan Foundation 1 in £1 million model or similar</p>	<p>Craig Griffiths</p>	<p>To date we have prepared updated versions of our Contract Procedure Rules, which include reference to compliance with Council related policies and procedures, including the Valley Plan, <i>Our Valleys, Our Future</i>. In April Directorate Management teams were asked to consider these before the official sign off process began.</p> <p>These Contract Procedure Rules were approved by Cabinet and Council in October and November 2019. A training programme has now been prepared for officers with the aim of implementation in March 2020.</p> <p>As facilitated by the Procurement Regulations, provision is built into the New Contract Procedure Rules to assist in engaging local suppliers in Council run tenders. This addresses the commitment given by this Council in our Valleys Strategy and as part of the work undertaken with the voluntary sector and takes into account</p>

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			<p>Welsh Government Guidance and also the approaches by organisations such as the Bevan Foundation as part of their Building Economic Resilience Programme.</p> <p>A local procurement or community wealth building approach encourages the use of local suppliers in order to generate local business growth and keep money spent within the area. This approach also incorporates the principles of sustainability and ethical employment. The desired outcome is to create strong local supply chains and to build wealth in local communities.</p> <p>This approach can be developed in line with the Regulations and can incorporate the statutory goals set by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.</p> <p>In particular the Regulations enable the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Linking procurement to wider corporate strategies * Working with local business to test markets (pre-procurement)

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Engagement work with business networks (pre-procurement) * Capacity building of social economy organisations * Developing accessible portals (i.e. e-procurement) * Packaging contracts to make them more accessible, for examples, dividing contracts into lots * Streamlining procurement documentation as far as possible * Using social and environmental criteria and awarding contracts in a way which is not just dependent solely on price * Excluding tenders if they do not comply with social or labour law obligations * Restricting some tenders to “sheltered workshops” and “social enterprises” (to participate in such tenders 30% of the organisation’s work force must be “disadvantaged”) * Continuous spend analysis and outcome monitoring <p>As facilitated by the Regulations, community wealth building principles are built into the</p>

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			<p>Council's new Contract procedure Rules to enable a local procurement approach to be utilised through the Council's procurement activities. In particular the following provisions are included in the Contract Procedure Rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Consideration of reserved contracts and sustainability at the procurement planning stage (set out in the tender strategy document). * Consideration of the 5 ways of working under the Well-being of Future Generations Act at the procurement planning stage (as set out in the tender strategy document). * Increased emphasis on community benefits at the procurement planning stage (as set out in the tender strategy document with sign posting to the Community Benefits Team). * Inclusion of environmental benefits in the community benefits section of the proposed Contract Procedure Rules. * Emphasis on pre-engagement with local suppliers under the market testing provisions of the proposed Contract Procedure Rules so

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			as to make local suppliers aware of upcoming opportunities.
	Explore the feasibility of a local employment/training offer for valley residents	Sheenagh Rees	This will be considered but may prove difficult due to the low number of jobs that are currently available.
	Identify a suitable model for providing advice to organisations who wish to set-up as social enterprises	Simon Brennan	<p>Deliver a programme of “Business Bootcamps” within our valley communities to support potential new business start-ups and to provide advice guidance and funding to existing valley located businesses is continuing.</p> <p>Two Bootcamps held to date in the Afan and Dulais Valleys. Planning is underway for the third Bootcamp for delivery in the Swansea Valley.</p> <p>Support the delivery of youth entrepreneurship activity in partnership with Big Ideas Wales using “home grown” business role models to deliver inspirational sessions with a focus of encouraging young people to convert their ideas into action.</p> <p>Planning is underway for two events to be held in Neath and Port Talbot.</p>
	We will develop a scheme to identify, attract, train and	Andrew Jarrett	Across Neath Port Talbot and Swansea we have driven forward a recruitment campaign

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	<p>recruit more local people to work in the local care sector within valley communities, piloting the approach initially in the Amman Valley</p>		<p>to raise the profile of care staff within the whole sector.</p> <p>Alongside this Western Bay Regional Partnership Board commissioned a scoping exercise to develop an alternative to Domiciliary Care. In essence, this was to assess the viability of setting up a Social Enterprise in difficult to reach areas of the market. The exercise found that any direct competition with existing Domiciliary Care agencies was likely to destabilise an already fragile market. However, the finding of the scoping was that there was a benefit in setting up a local 'home help scheme' with local people supporting vulnerable people within their local community. It is now intended to pilot such a scheme in the Amman Valley.</p>
<p>Community Regeneration</p>	<p>Continue to work with the Welsh Government and wider partners to develop a range of propositions for developing jobs and services within valley communities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing a share of the £25 million of capital investment announced in the Welsh Government for 	<p>Simon Brennan</p>	<p>Regular discussions ongoing with Welsh Government colleagues to develop strategic projects to be funded through the Neath Strategic Hub designation. Funding proposal</p>

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	<p>the Neath Strategic hubs to link with the priorities of the Ministerial Taskforce for the valleys focused on attracting investment and job creation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="640 986 1066 1129">• Bid for further development of Cefn Coed as part Of the Valleys Landscape Park <li data-bbox="640 1246 1066 1313">• Progress of work with Friends of Pontardawe Arts 	<p>Simon Brennan</p> <p>Andrew Thomas</p>	<p>submitted to Welsh Government for the Neath Town Centre Redevelopment.</p> <p>Funding also approved for 2 projects to promote the development of the Foundational Economy in the valleys and to promote local procurement.</p> <p>Formal approval received for Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) funding for the Crown Strategic Site. Contract work commenced in October 2019.</p> <p>Welsh Government In Principle Approval of £1.45m for the development of a Transport Hub for Neath. Funding will help secure property acquisitions required for the delivery of the project.</p> <p>£1.8 m awarded by Welsh Government to establish Cefn Coed Colliery Museum as one of the Valleys Regional Gateway sites. Discussions ongoing with Welsh Government over the transfer of the site to NPT.</p> <p>The business case prepared by the consultant funded by the Arts Council of Wales (ACW), indicates strongly the financial</p>

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	<p>Centre and the Arts Council for Wales to secure the future of the venue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning application received for the Afan Valley Adventure Park 	Ceri Morris	<p>benefits of the introduction of a cinema facility at Pontardawe Arts Centre.</p> <p>The next step is to appoint an architect to design and cost the construction of the facility. There is additional ACW funding available for this. At this juncture it is still intended to open the cinema facility within the 2020/2021 financial year.</p> <p>Members have approved capital funding up to £500,000 to support this development. Additional capital funding is expected from the ACW and the Friends of Pontardawe Arts Centre will continue to support this venture.</p> <p>This was an outline planning application for a proposed adventure resort comprising 600 no. lodges/apartments, 100-bed hotel with associated spa, central plaza containing restaurants, leisure activities and shops, adventure activities and associated buildings (including X-sports, alpine/ski, forest activities and Trax & Trail), restaurants and associated administration and maintenance buildings and parking for approx. 850 cars, plus associated landscaping, drainage and engineering operations including re-profiling of land, boundary treatment, retaining structures,</p>

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			<p>external lighting and CCTV, and diversion of public rights of way (App Ref: P2018/0493). It was reported to Planning Committee on the 19th March 2019 where Members resolved to grant planning permission subject to conditions and upon the signing of a legal agreement. Unfortunately, due to an investigation into the actions of the applicant, the company is now within the control of the administrators. Nevertheless, one of the partners involved in the project and the founder of the Center Parcs concept still wishes to progress this project, has secured commitment from many of the partner organisations and is in the process of securing alternative funding arrangements. Members at a meeting of the Planning Committee on the 24th September 2019 agreed to a further 6 month extension of time to secure the signing of the S106. Discussions with the developer have continued, and work will now commence on drawing up the legal agreement and, should it be signed by all parties, the permission will be issued. The developers would then have three years from the grant of outline planning permission to submit their reserved matters (these are the details relating to the outline planning permission).</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="636 320 1057 576">• Work to restore East Pit – Is there is potential for the site to be used for tourism led regeneration in due course and the support of Celtic Energy will be needed to progress this <li data-bbox="636 1098 1057 1209">• Work with RCT Council on the possible reopening of the Rhondda Tunnel 	<p data-bbox="1173 320 1339 352">Ceri Morris</p> <p data-bbox="1144 1098 1368 1129">Simon Brennan</p>	<p data-bbox="1447 320 2103 1018">Coaling at East Pit is now complete and the restoration is underway. It is anticipated that restoration will be complete in March 2020. The operators of the site have made a number of approaches to potential tourism led developers but due to the scale of the restoration required and the fact that up until recently it was a working site, they have had difficulty in explaining/illustrating how a tourism scheme could be delivered on the landscape that was present at the time. Despite this, there is currently still interest in developing tourism led projects on this site, with one organisation having had a number of productive meetings with the Council and Celtic. It is hoped that as restoration progresses and an appropriate platform for future uses is created, future developers will be attracted to the site.</p> <p data-bbox="1447 1098 2103 1315">Consultants, Planning Solutions Consultancy Limited have been appointed to undertake stakeholder consultations and develop a business case for the re-opening of the Rhondda Tunnel as a cycling and walking based visitor attraction. A stakeholder</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rheola – continued work with Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Welsh Government and private sector to resolve complex land issues and pursue a leisure based development 	Ceri Morris	<p>Powys and Neath Port Talbot Councils, with NPT having agreed to take the lead on behalf of both Authorities in respect of the provision of information and professional support at all stages of the process.</p> <p>The Draft Joint Venture Agreement, Project Status Report and supporting information were reported to Cabinet on 8th May 2019. This site is allocated within the LDP for Tourism Led Regeneration. A planning application has also received a resolution to grant permission for such a development subject to the signing of a section 106 agreement. Unfortunately, since that resolution was made the land-owner sold part of the site and it has subsequently been identified that illegal tipping of waste has taken place. This is a matter which is being pursued by NRW against a number of parties who are responsible for illegally tipping material on the site. NPT have been in discussions with the current landowner and a number of potential developers, however it is difficult to progress things until further clarity is provided on the legal case and until funds are identified to remediate the impacts of the tipping. Despite this, a company who has a financial and potentially controlling interest in</p>

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			the Rheola House and associated historic park and gardens elements of the site has recently completed the purchase of the remainder of the site, and now that the two parts have returned to the control of one owner, the regeneration of the site is more likely to be secured.
Culture and Inclusion	Provide a regular update to the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee on the progress being made in implementing the Welsh Language Promotional Strategy and the development of the work to address digital inclusion, drawing out the benefits being delivered in valley communities.	Karen Jones	<p>The Welsh Language Promotion Strategy went to Corporate Director's Group in November 2019 and is scheduled to go to Cabinet Scrutiny in February 2020.</p> <p>A report on work to tackle digital inclusion was presented with the Public Services Board Annual Report to Cabinet and Council in July 2019.</p>
Impact Assessment/Monitoring	Update report templates to make impacts on valley communities clearer in reports	Karen Jones	The report template has been amended and training has been delivered to all report authors. The new template was rolled out during May 2019.
	Identify valley champions in each scrutiny committee	Karen Jones	<p>Valley Champions have been identified for each scrutiny committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet - Cllr Sonia Reynolds • Education - Cllr Dave Whitelock • Social Care, Health and Wellbeing - Cllr Arwyn Woolcock

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regeneration - Cllr Dean Cawsey • Street-scene - Cllr Charlotte Galsworthy

Appendix 1

Building Economic Resilience in the Valleys Project - Update from the Bevan Foundation

The Project Officer for the Building Economic Resilience came into post on 4th March. The initial focus has been to map the project landscape and partners that we will work with over the next two years. A project plan, milestones and monitoring framework have been developed. Much of the work on the concept of resilience has been reviewed and used to develop our own understanding of it and to convey why we believe it is the best framework to use for bringing change to the South Wales valleys. This has taken the form of a concept discussion paper, which has been shortened to a blog on resilience. The Welsh Government's Valleys taskforce has a new Minister leading it and it is now three years since its conception. An analysis of the work of the task force to date has been produced, along with where the project can add most value to it at this juncture and leading into 2021. Closely related to this, the Welsh Government has also opened a fund to develop foundational economy projects, which will be open for bids shortly. To coincide with this, a workshop will take place with partner organisations to help frame any bids that go in to the fund, to look at how they can ensure they contribute towards new ways of building economic resilience and are in line with its key principles.

The partnerships that the Bevan Foundation deliver in the first phase of the project will be on procurement and social business (procurement first as it is suspected it may require more than six months). The second phase partnerships will be on community assets and new financial instruments. Procurement is a particularly crowded discussion area at the moment, and as such the

research has proved extensive and remains ongoing. Nonetheless, this could also be advantageous. Welsh national policy and guidance is currently being overhauled and it is likely that government consultation in this field will co-inside with the procurement partnership activity, providing a good opportunity to influence and provide first hand input into government thinking.

In the process of getting out-and-about and making connections, representatives from the Bevan Foundation have attended workshops by Unltd, which are being delivered in the Valleys to current and prospective social entrepreneurs. They have written a blog on social business in the valleys, which can be accessed here: <https://www.bevanfoundation.org/commentary/social-business/>. The project was also quoted recently in the Western Mail in a piece they did on the UK Competitiveness index and in the Merthyr Express on the same topic.

Next steps are to complete the partnerships terms of reference, finalise the make-up and activity of the partnerships on procurement and social business, produce a briefing on procurement, continue meetings with all project partners and potential additional partners, and arrange the first thought leader / seminar of the project.

Appendix 2

***Active Childcare Offer Applications by Electoral Ward (as at 9th January 2020)**

Ward	Number of Active Applications	Number of eligible children	%
Aberavon	44	65	67%
Aberdulais	16	47	34%
Allt-Wen	31	41	75%
Baglan	70	108	65%
Blaengwrach	12	27	45%
Briton Ferry East	25	35	72%
Briton Ferry West	15	34	44%
Bryn and Cwmavon	46	85	54%
Bryn-Coch North	21	17	124%
Bryn-Coch South	59	104	57%
Cadoxton	5	23	22%

Ward	Number of Active Applications	Number of eligible children	%
Cimla	18	51	35%
Coedffranc Central	28	45	62%
Coedffranc North	18	51	36%
Coedffranc West	74	55	135%
Crynant	27	25	108%
Cwmllynfell	8	18	44%
Cymmer	18	27	68%
Dyffryn	14	43	32%
Glyncorwg	7	14	49%
Glynneath	31	53	58%
Godre'r Graig	34	30	114%
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen	22	34	64%
Gwynfi	11	11	101%
Lower Brynamman	10	14	71%
Margam	11	52	21%
Neath East	34	86	40%
Neath North	29	42	70%
Neath South	24	90	27%
Onllwyn	9	17	53%
Pelenna	6	13	46%
Pontardawe	55	79	70%
Port Talbot	44	82	53%
Resolven	25	37	67%
Rhos	8	39	21%
Sandfields East	41	80	51%

Ward	Number of Active Applications	Number of eligible children	%
Sandfields West	40	68	59%
Seven Sisters	17	35	49%
Tai-bach	51	56	91%
Tonna	20	30	66%
Trebanos	11	17	64%
Ystalyfera	18	35	51%
Total	1107	1915	

Appendix 3

Map of Active Childcare offer Applications



Appendix 4

Members Community Fund Grant Spend in the Valleys

Councillor	Ward(s)	Project Description	Amount Requested	Status
Cllr Carolyn Edwards	Blaengwrach	Redevelopment of Cwmgwrach Welfare Park.	£5,000.00	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 05.12.18
Cllr Carolyn Edwards	Blaengwrach	Installation of a roundabout at Vale of Neath Leisure Centre Play Area	£4,630.32	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 25.09.19
Cllr Martin Ellis (ME) Cllr Charlotte Galsworthy (CG) Cllr Rhidian Mizen (RM) Cllr David Whitelock (DW)	Pelenna, Bryn & Cwmavon	Pontrhydyfen RFC Pitch Drainage Project at Oakwood	£4,627.50 (ME) £2,000.00 (CG)	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 25.07.18

Councillor	Ward(s)	Project Description	Amount Requested	Status
			£2,000.00 (RM) £2,000.00 (DW)	
Cllr Rhidian Mizen (RM) Cllr David Whitelock (DW)	Bryn & Cwmafan	Pitch improvement/ drainage scheme for Parc Seincyn Powell (Parc y Llyn)	£1,812.75 (RM) £1,812.75 (DW)	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 20.02.19
Cllr Rhidian Mizen (RM) Cllr David Whitelock (DW)	Bryn & Cwmavon	Renew roof of Parc y Llyn Changing Pavilion.	£5,832.00 (RM) £5,832.00 (DW)	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 29.05.19
Cllr Rhidian Mizen (RM) Cllr David Whitelock (DW)	Bryn & Cwmavon	Rugby posts with sockets for Parc y Llyn.	£355.25 (RM) £355.25 (DW)	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 19.06.19
Cllr Sian Harris	Crynant	Essential items of camping equipment for the 8 th Neath Crynant Scouts.	£1,060.91	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 02.10.19
Cllr Sian Harris	Crynant	Installation of a self-closing safety gate at Crynant play area.	£1,004.00	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 30.10.19
Cllr Hugh Jones	Cwmllynfell	Floodlighting upgrade at Cwmllynfell RFC	£2,472.80	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 20.11.19
Cllr Scott Jones	Cymmer	Partition dividers for Cymmer Afan Fitness Suite.	£5,000.00	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 25.09.19
Cllr Del Morgan	Glynneath	Disabled Crossing provision at Park Avenue, Glynneath.	£10,000.00	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 31.07.19
Cllr Simon Knoyle	Glynneath	To provide and install park furniture to include benches, picnic tables and recycling units	£9,976.00	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 31.07.19

Councillor	Ward(s)	Project Description	Amount Requested	Status
		within the Welfare Park, Glynneath.		
Cllr Rosalyn Davies	Godre'rgraig	Improvements to provision at Hodgson's Road Play Area	£10,000.00	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 25.09.19
Cllr Sonia Reynolds	Gwaun Cae Gurwen	Community transport initiative in partnership with Dansa.	£10,000.00	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 05.12.18
Cllr Jane Jones	Gwynfi	Improvements to Gwynfi Miners Welfare Sports Hall – complete forced drainage system, redecorate and repair wooden floor	£5,322.00	Proposal to Cabinet Board 05.02.20
Cllr Jane Jones	Gwynfi	Improvements to Margaret's Terrace Play Area	£4,654.48	Proposal to Cabinet Board 05.02.20
Cllr Arwyn Woolcock	Lower Brynamman	Canolfan Maerdy Welfare Support - bid to extend the working hours (by 6 hours/week x £8/hour x 100 weeks, plus 20% on - costs) of a part time Community Development Coordinator to facilitate the operation of a locally based drop - in wellbeing and welfare support service.	£5,760.00	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 12.09.18
Cllr Arwyn Woolcock	Lower Brynamman	Extend and connect the public woodland walks and interpretative footpaths circumnavigating the Amman	£2,790.00	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 27.03.19

Councillor	Ward(s)	Project Description	Amount Requested	Status
		Valley Trotting Club in Tai'rgwaith, Lower Brynamman.		
Cllr Arwyn Woolcock	Lower Brynamman	Installation of 2 benches (Banwen Place and New Road).	£1,202.00	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 19.06.19
Cllr Dean Cawsey	Onllwyn	Environmental Community Ranger post for 3 years.	£10,000.00	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 30.10.19
Cllr Linet Purcell	Pontardawe	Develop a child friendly space in the courtyard at Pontardawe Heritage Centre.	£971.00	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 05.12.18
Cllr Linet Purcell	Pontardawe	Crowd control barriers for Pontardawe Arts Centre	£1,095.50	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 20.02.19
Cllr Linet Purcell	Pontardawe	Flatbed scanner for Swansea Valley History Society	£1,365.00	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 06.03.19
Cllr Linet Purcell	Pontardawe	Purchase of x3 metal 'Tommy' figures as part of the 'There But Not There' campaign.	£2,328.82	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 27.03.19
Cllr Anthony Richards	Pontardawe	Purchase of equipment in support of the Enterprise Programme for disengaged Comprehensive school pupils and adult volunteers.	£8,826.36	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 31.07.19
Cllr Linet Purcell	Pontardawe	Convert and adapt an underutilised room at Rhydyfro Primary School into a multi-functional space for wider community use.	£4,239.68	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 25.09.19
Cllr Dean Lewis	Resolven	Play area at Bryn Golwg additional play equipment.	£4,995.00	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 30.10.19

Councillor	Ward(s)	Project Description	Amount Requested	Status
Cllr Dean Lewis	Resolven	Establish a kitchen facility within the Resolven Miners Welfare Hall.	£4,000.00	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 30.10.19
Cllr Alex Thomas	Rhos	Restoration of a BMX pump track in Rhos Park	£9,990.00	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 10.07.19
Cllr Stephen Hunt	Seven Sisters	Supply and installation of an 'Ability Swing' with enclosure at Ynysdawley Playing Fields	£10,000.00	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 08.05.19
Cllr Alun Llewellyn	Ystalyfera	Supply and installation of a 25m zip wire for Parc y Farteg	£10,000.00	Awarded at Cabinet Board on 19.06.19