

SWANSEA BAY CITY REGION JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Council Chamber Pembroke)

Members Present:

15 January 2020

Chairperson: Councillor R.James

Councillors: A.Llewelyn, P.Downing, J.Curtice, M.Evans,
J.Adams, G.Morgan and J.Jones

Officers In Attendance S.Curran, M.Shaw and A.Manchipp

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 28 October 2019 were approved, subject to the attendance being amended from Councillor Jones to Councillor J.Jones.

2. **PRESENTATIONS ON LOCAL PROJECTS FOR CARMARTHENSHIRE AND THE REGIONAL DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

Members received an update on the following local projects for Carmarthen and regional projects led by Carmarthen:

Life Science and Wellbeing Project in Delta Lakes, Llanelli

This was a large multi phased project with the City Deal being a part. The committee was advised that the City Deal was expected to contribute £40m of investment which would result in the projected economic benefit of 1800 jobs and bring a projected economic impact of £460m over the 15 years.

Members then received details of the City Deal elements of the project which included:

- business development based on life sciences

- education, skills and training facilities
- a clinical unit staffed by Hywel Dda University Health Board

The committee noted that outline planning permission had already been granted and that the branding of the site would be launched shortly. Completion of the first phase was anticipated by the end of 2022.

Yr Egin in Carmarthen

This was officially opened in October 2018 with S4C Headquarters occupying the first floor. Phase one is fully occupied and an assessment of the economic benefit to Carmarthenshire and the region would be undertaken shortly.

Two other buildings would be completed by 2023, as phase two and it was pleasing to note that there was already interest in this phase of development.

The Digital Infrastructure Project

The committee was advised that this was at present in the business planning stage with the 5 case business plan having been completed and passed to both the UK and Welsh Governments for approval.

This is a £50m project consisted of 3 elements:

- Traffic Corridor;
- Rural
- Connected Cities

A manager has been appointed to take this forward on a regional basis.

The Skills and Talent Project

This was in the late business plan stage and was a £30m project to provide skills and talents to support the other City Deal projects. Discussions with both UK and Welsh Government would commence shortly.

Following the presentations members raised the following:

- In relation to the Life Science and Wellbeing Project, members asked how the benefits had been estimated and what were the component elements? In response officers explained that the number of jobs in the construction of the project through to the healthcare and the business development jobs had been taken into account. Assurances were sought that the analysis of the economic benefit to the area was robust enough? The Programme Office would let members have details of how this was assessed including the numbers of jobs in each sector.
- In relation to the development of the land, the Programme Office confirmed that the £467m did not include the £200m development costs for each parcel of land (£40m was the City Deal contribution) and agreed to circulate additional papers to members in this regard.
- Members asked how interested higher education providers were in participating in the City Deal projects and were advised that there were six academic partners which were keen to be involved. A Memorandum of Understanding would be developed with each of those partners.
- The Programme Office was asked whether the projects outlined would benefit the shortage of clinical staff in Hywel Dda University Health Board and shortages in social services? This was confirmed. In relation to rehabilitation, joint working with the health board and the local authority would facilitate an enhanced service. Private sector investment would be sought and a Memorandum of Information had been developed and the Section 151 officer was at present in discussion with the private sector.
- Would the village enable Hywel Dda University Health Board's clinical staff to maintain its interface with the public in locally based areas? It was confirmed that this had been considered at the planning stage. Telehealth and telecare could also be used in rural areas particularly.
- Concern was expressed at the rolling out of the Digital Infrastructure in rural areas as this was an issue. The availability of 4G/5G would impact on the aspirations of the Delta Lakes project in utilising Telehealth and Telecare. Assurance was sought that City Deal would dovetail into national projects. The Programme Office advised that consultants had been employed in order to find a solution and that the Programme Office was working with both UK and Welsh Government to this end.

- Members asked whether social housing had been included and were advised that a working group had been established, however there was some social housing in the village.
- Members asked what were the tangible outcomes to measure the projects' successes and how would this be evaluated and monitored? The Programme Office advised that approval had been given by the Programme Board to tender for consultants to develop a monitoring and evaluation process and an integrated assurance action plan, including identifying how the projects linked together. This would be funded by Welsh Government and would cover all the City Deal projects.
- Members asked how the Wellness Centre project benefitted all the City Deal partners and were advised that the skills availability for direct health provision would increase and that work was ongoing with educational facilities across the City Deal region.

3. **UPDATE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR OF SWANSEA UNIVERSITY**

This item was deferred until the next meeting as the Vice Chancellor was unable to attend today's meeting.

4. **UPDATE FROM S.151 OFFICER**

In the absence of the Section151 officer, who was unable to attend today's meeting, members received a verbal update from R.Arnold and were pleased to note that the 1st phase of funding had been received on 23 December 2019, totalling £18m. This had been paid into the account in Carmarthenshire, as the accountable body, and in the short term, would be invested in line with the authority's treasury management strategy. Any interest would be ring fenced for the City Deal and its use would be decided in due course. The £18m would then be released in line with the funding agreements, which were in the process of being agreed. The 2 projects (the Swansea Waterfront scheme and Yr Egin) would then receive two fifteenths of the total grant.

A further £18m was expected before the end of the 2019/2020 financial year, subject to sufficient progress being made.

Members then queried the details of the funding agreement and were assured that the agreement allowed for only two fifteenths of the grant value to be released and that the remainder would be invested.

It was agreed that the Terms and Conditions of the Joint Committee Agreement be circulated to members of the joint scrutiny committee, for information.

5. **PROGRAMME MONITORING**

The Joint Scrutiny Committee received Version 22 of the Implementation Plan which included Neath Port Talbot's re worked projects. Members asked for an update on the appointment of the Programme Director and noted that an appointment had been made in December 2019, with the successful applicant taking up post in the spring.

In relation to the Project Issue Log, it was noted that there were two levels of risk. Details of the high level risks for the programme were contained in the circulated report, however the project level risks were at present being updated as a result of the changes in Neath Port Talbot's projects. It was noted that the risk register would be considered by the Joint Committee on a quarterly basis and it was agreed that this then be submitted to the Joint Scrutiny Committee.

Included within the action plan were details of the reviews undertaken together with the resultant recommendations. It was noted that only 2 recommendations remained outstanding.

6. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

Members noted the current Forward Work Programme and agreed the following changes:

- The next meeting be held at Carmarthenshire:
- Swansea University's Vice Chancellor be invited to the next meeting:
- The recently appointed programme director be invited to attend the next meeting, if available:
- That the correspondence received, on behalf of the Joint Committee, letter dated 20 November 2019, in relation to the

changes to the Joint Agreement requested by this committee be discussed at the next meeting, including a legal update:

- That consideration be given to holding all future meetings of the joint scrutiny committee in Carmarthenshire.

CHAIRPERSON