

Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

Initiative description and summary: Commercial Property Development Grant (Levelling Up Fund Project Proposal). The project proposes an extension of the County Borough wide Commercial Property Grant offer, which came into being in January 2004. The scheme is targeted at commercial buildings throughout the County Borough and its purpose is to enhance existing commercial premises and also to bring vacant, commercial floor space back into beneficial business use.

The CPDG would fund a maximum amount of 45% of eligible costs, which could include building acquisition, internal and external building refurbishments of a high quality and is aimed at assisting businesses and encouraging expansions and job creation. This project would benefit the economy and provide essential provisions and facilities for many communities in the borough.

The project provides an opportunity to improve the physical environment and the aesthetic quality of our towns and contribute to the preservation of some of our important, traditional and key buildings.

Service Area: Property & Regeneration

Directorate: Environment

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 CPDG will have no impact on this characteristic.
Disability		X			L	CPDG schemes will be DDA compliant and will ensure inclusive access through design. Monitoring checks will be put in place by the Council to ensure compliance.
Gender Reassignment		X			L	The nature of the CPDG will have no impact on this characteristic.
Marriage/Civil Partnership		X			L	The nature of the CPDG will have no impact on this characteristic.
Pregnancy/Maternity		X			L	The nature of the CPDG will have no impact on this characteristic.
Race		X			L	The nature of the CPDG will have no impact on this characteristic.
Religion/Belief		X			L	The nature of the CPDG will have no impact on this characteristic.
Sex		X			L	The nature of the CPDG will have no impact on this characteristic.
Sexual orientation		X			L	The nature of the CPDG 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?
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People's opportunities to use the Welsh language		x			L	In line with the Council's Corporate Plan and Welsh Language policy, any public communications regarding any CPDG projects, 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 project is focused on buildings and there will be little or no impact on biodiversity. Appropriate surveys will be carried out on any empty / dilapidated buildings.
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.

6. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
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Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people	x		The CPDG provides the opportunity to create and safeguard jobs for every property improved. This project would benefit the local economy and provide essential provisions and facilities for many communities in the borough.
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	x		Following on from above, the project will contribute to Well-being Objective 2: to improve the well-being of all adults who live in the county borough, as well as, Well-being Objective 3: to develop the local economy and environment, so that the well-being of people can be improved, as outlined in the Corporate Plan (2017-2022).
Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative	x		<p>During the development phase of the project, consultation was carried out with the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Strategy Board for the Swansea Bay City Region • South Wales Public Services Board • Port Talbot Business Improvement District / Viva Port Talbot <p>All feedback collated was positive and the Boards will each be providing a written letter of support.</p>
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		The CPDG will assist in preventing degradation to commercial properties throughout the borough and will also support the safeguarding of associated local jobs.

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

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reasons for this conclusion	

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Completed by	Claire Williams	European & Strategic Funding Officer	C Williams	28/05/2021
Signed off by	Lisa Willis	European & Strategic Funding Manager	L Willis	01/06/2021