

Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

Initiative description and summary: The Riverside area in Port Talbot town centre stretches from outside the Post Office building at the top end of Station Road to the banks of the River Afan up to the Carmel Church. The area is currently a riverside garden that is underutilised and not aesthetically appealing. The proposed redevelopment of the area will include a combination of hard and soft landscaping along with a children's play area. Opening the area up and providing additional street furniture will create a welcoming space for residents and visitors to enjoy.

The recent completion of a number of housing led schemes in the town centre has resulted in the number of residential units increasing substantially. Despite the increase in the numbers of people living within the town centre, there is no children's play area provision within close proximity. This open area provides a perfect location to provide a range of play equipment with safety surfacing and a boundary fence for the children's safety.

The landscaping of the site would include hard and soft landscaping such as new paving and tree and shrub planting. This scheme will provide a much needed improvement to the appeal of the area that is in a key location between the main shopping street in Port Talbot and the Aberavon Shopping Centre.

The project aims to support our local businesses by increasing footfall in our town centre, making it a more attractive place in which to live, travel, work and enjoy recreational time.

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 improvements will have no impact on this characteristic.
Disability		x			L	The scheme will ensure inclusive access through design, which will maintain access for people with mobility issues.
Gender Reassignment		x			L	The nature of the improvements will have no impact on this characteristic.
Marriage/Civil Partnership		x			L	The nature of the improvements will have no impact on this characteristic.
Pregnancy/Maternity		x			L	The nature of the improvements will have no impact on this characteristic.
Race		x			L	The nature of the improvements will have no impact on this characteristic.
Religion/Belief		x			L	The nature of the improvements will have no impact on this characteristic.
Sex		x			L	The nature of the improvements will have no impact on this characteristic.
Sexual orientation		x			L	The nature of the improvements 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?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language		x			L	In line with the Council's Corporate Plan and Welsh Language policy, all signage at the site (temporary and permanent), public communications regarding the project, 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 addition of green planting and rain gardens as part of this project will enhance biodiversity within the town centre.
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
Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people	x		The overall aim of the project is to create a better place to work, live and enjoy recreational time. The project will improve the attractiveness of the town centre and will provide a play area for children, where there is no

			other such provision in the centre of the town. It is anticipated that the improvements will increase footfall in the town centre, thus supporting our local businesses and increasing economic prosperity for the town. It will also support the well-being of residents, as visiting the town will become a more pleasant and enjoyable experience.
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	x		The project will contribute to all three well-being objectives as follows: Objective 1: Improve the well-being of children and young people by providing a new play area in the town centre. Objective 2: to improve the well-being of all adults who live in the county borough, by providing a more attractive town centre to visit and; Objective 3: to develop the local economy and environment, so that the well-being of people can be improved – by increasing footfall, which will likely boost economic prosperity in the town.
Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative	x		During the development phase of the project, consultation was carried out with the following groups: <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 All feedback collated was positive and the Boards will each be providing a written letter of support.
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		In a post Covid-19 economy, it is believed that the project will lead to increased footfall in the town centre, which will support our local businesses and boost economic prosperity.

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

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	X
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	
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