



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

## **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee**

**22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021**

**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:**

To provide Members with a report on outputs and results from the delivery of community benefits through the construction phase of Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School.

#### **Executive Summary:**

The Council's Strategic School Improvement and Welsh Government's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programmes aims to provide long-term social, environmental and economic benefits to schools and the wider community. To achieve these wider programme aims, appointed contractors are required to deliver on a range of

community benefits targets which include training and upskilling new workforce entrants, school STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) engagements, support of the local supply chain and wider community in-kind support.

### **Background:**

In 2019 Morgan Sindall were awarded the contract for Cefn Saeson Comprehensive to complete the new build English-medium school for 900 pupils to replace the existing secondary school as part of the Band B 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme. The project had a construction value of £27m and commenced in August 2019 for a duration of 151 weeks. Handover of the new school took place in March 2021 and demolition of the existing school and new sport pitches have followed on from that with completion expected in July 2022.

As with all the Council's construction projects, targets were set as part of the contract awarded and the Council's Community Benefits Officer and Project Management team worked closely with the contractor to deliver a range of community benefits. While the pandemic affected the achievement of some of the targets principally the School Engagement and STEM delivery, on all other requirements targets were exceeded. With ten months left on the project plans are being put in place to meet the school engagement and STEM targets and achieve even more outcomes on Targeted Recruitment & Training. Outcomes so far have included supporting into employment apprentices, the long term unemployed, trainees, work experience opportunities for people in education, supporting the local supply chain and local community initiatives.

### **Some project statistics so far include:**

- 29 new entrant jobs (previously unemployed)
- 19 new entrant apprentices

- 2153 person weeks of new entrant jobs
- 1657 weeks of new entrant training (graduates, work & pupil placements)
- 40% of labour force from SA postcodes
- 99% of labour force from Wales
- £23.5 million total value of contracts awarded so far with 61% of those contracts awarded to South West Wales businesses

The contractor has worked with Port Talbot Women's Aid social enterprise arm, Thrive, from the beginning, using their mobile catering unit to feed workers on site and as with the Council's other construction projects employ cleaners from their cleaning enterprise. They have also used local contractors on site for scaffolding, steelwork and office furniture and held a Meet the Buyer event at the Gwyn Hall to encourage local suppliers to tender.



The pandemic has affected levels of community engagement however the contractor has made a financial contribution to Neath Community Tennis Courts to assist with improvement works and have agreed to support Bspoked Enterprises, the Council's Adult Learning Disability Centre in converting offices into an independent living facility.



To see the whole range of community benefits achieved on the project and to read individual case studies Morgan Sindall produced a booklet on the social value story on Cefn Saeson so far which can be viewed in the appendix below.

The Council currently has nine major construction projects underway, including Neath Abbey Primary, YGG Ystalyfera, Harbourside Strategic Employment Site and The Technology Centre on Baglan Bay Energy Park and all are subject to community benefits outputs.

**Financial Impacts:** There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

**Integrated Impact Assessment:** There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for monitoring / information purposes.

**Valleys Communities Impacts:** There are no valley communities impacts associated with this report.

**Workforce Impacts:** There are no workforce impacts associated with this report

**Legal Impacts:** There are no legal impacts associated with this report

**Risk Management Impacts:** There are no risk management impacts associated with this report.

**Consultation:** There is no requirement for external consultation on this item

**Recommendations:** That Members note the content of this information report

**Appendices:** Cefn Saeson Social Value Story

**List of background papers:** None

**Officer Contact:**

Claire Roach  
Community Benefits Officer  
Regeneration & Economic Development  
Tel: 01639 686427  
[c.roach@npt.gov.uk](mailto:c.roach@npt.gov.uk)