



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee

Friday 3rd December 2021

Report of Simon Brennan Head of Property & Regeneration

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All Wards (but primarily Port Talbot, Briton Ferry, Neath, Glynneath, Pontardawe & Ystalyfera)

Transforming Towns Place Making Grant

Purpose of the Report

To update members on the funding received from the Welsh Government to deliver the Transforming Towns Programme, South West Wales, Place Making Grant (TTPM).

To inform members of the proposed settlement areas that the Council will be focusing on to deliver TTPM.

Executive Summary

The report summarises the main features of the Transforming Towns Programme, South West Wales, Place Making Grant (TTPM).

The report identifies the settlement areas within Neath Port Talbot County Borough that will be the focus for the grant.

The report also details the governance arrangements eligible project activities, intervention rates & commitments

Background

Transforming Towns Programme, South West Wales, Place Making Grant (TTPM) was launched by the Welsh Government in January 2021 to

address the decline in town centres and reduced demand for high street retail.

The focus of TTPM is sustainable growth of our towns, and their transformation into places of living, working, learning and leisure, with a focus on town centres and the built environment. The programme is initially for a one-year period but aims to be the basis for future regeneration activities beyond this time.

The programme replaces the Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme (TRIP) for the south West Wales Property Enhancement Grant programme and Sustainable Living Grant programme which supported the successful regeneration programme for Port Talbot, Neath and NPT Valleys.

The Welsh Government have allocated a grant allocation of £4.5m for South Wales over the one-year period with a maximum grant intervention rate of up to 70%.

Target Areas

To maximise the impact of TTPM the grant will be targeted at the following settlements: Port Talbot, Briton Ferry, Neath, Pontardawe, Glynneath and Ystalyfera. These town centres are of sufficient size and scale, which satisfies the Welsh Government requirements to demonstrate impact from the interventions.

The Welsh Government have confirmed what whilst the grant is to be targeted at the cores of the above town centres only, consideration will be given for all reasonable requests outside of these settlement areas, providing the project results in a significant positive impact for that particular community.

Governance

A Local Project Board, comprising public, private and third sector partners has been established for Neath Port Talbot and will be responsible for the assessment of every individual proposed project.

Eligible Projects

Eligible projects will follow on from the successful Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme and will include the following eligible activities:

- The conversion of vacant commercial floor space into residential accommodation.
- Enhancement and upgrade of vacant commercial floor space into beneficial business use.
- The provision of green infrastructure and biodiversity projects.
- The provision of small-scale public realm enhancement schemes.
- Small-scale acquisitions.
- The development and enabling of local markets.
- The establishment of temporary meanwhile or pop up uses in vacant premises.
- Collective external shop frontage enhancements.
- Digital towns to support Wi-Fi analytics and Lora Wan networks.
- Provisions supporting or facilitating active travel routes.

The purpose of the work is to boost the variety of services on offer in towns, create flexible working and living space; and increase access to services and leisure.

The summary of eligible project activities, eligible applications and maximum allocation of grant is available at Appendix A for information.

Intervention rates & commitments

Grants will be awarded at the discretion of the Council and the amount of any grant offered will be assessed on an individual project basis, taking account of the environmental and economic benefits arising. The grant rate will be set at the minimum level needed for the project to proceed.

As part of the Region's commitment to community benefits, all grants are required to generate community benefits and each grant applicant will be required to give information on how they will contribute to the Wellbeing of Future Generations and the Environment Acts, and improve wellbeing in Neath Port Talbot and enhance biodiversity and the resilience's of ecosystems.

Financial Impacts

There is a limited allocation of grant funding available for eligible target areas in South West Wales and funding will be awarded on a competitive basis. Match funding contributions will be required from all approved applicants and will have to be in the form of an actual financial contribution.

Intervention rates will be assessed on an individual basis and the grant rate will be set at the minimum level needed for the project to proceed and cannot exceed 70%

A project/programme management fee to the Council of up to 5% will be eligible.

Integrated Impact Assessment

An IIA is not required to accompany this report as the purpose of the report is for the information of Members rather than for decision.

Valleys Communities Impacts

There will be a continued positive impact on valleys communities such as Glynneath, Pontardawe and Ystalyfera, with a continued boost to the variety of services on offer

Workforce Impacts

There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Impacts

The Council are required to comply with the terms and conditions attached to the Transforming Towns Programme, South West Wales, Place Making Grant funding.

Risk Management Impacts

None.

Consultation

There is no requirement for external consultation on this matter.

Recommendations

That Members note the eligible activities and proposed settlement areas to deliver the grant.

Appendices

Appendix A – Summary of Eligible Activities

List of Background Papers

None

Officer Contact

Simon Brennan – Head of Property and Regeneration, Tel: 01639 686370