



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

CABINET

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION AND HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

22nd February 2023

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: Cymer and Glyncorrwg and Gwynfi and Croeserw

Establishment of a liaison forum in respect of Afan Valley Adventure Resort

Purpose of the Report:

To establish, at the request of Wildfox Resorts Afan Valley Limited, a liaison forum with representatives of Wildfox Resorts Afan Valley Limited in respect of the development of the Afan Valley Adventure Resort, whilst ensuring the objective of the partners is the delivery of the resort, the main purpose of this forum is to ensure the maximisation of the social, environmental and economic benefits of the Afan Valley Adventure Resort for the local communities, ensuring a strategic and balanced approach, whilst also driving opportunity in the wider region and Wales as a whole.

Executive Summary:

Wildfox Resorts Afan Valley Limited have determined to engage with a number of organisations and associations in respect of the Afan Valley Adventure Resort and have proposed an Advisory Group with representatives of Wildfox Resorts Afan Valley Limited be established in respect of the development of the Afan Valley Adventure Resort. They have accordingly offered representatives of the Council the opportunity to sit on such an Advisory Group. Whilst ensuring the objective of the partners is the delivery of the resort, the main purpose of this forum is to ensure the maximisation of the social, environmental and economic benefits of the Afan Valley Adventure Resort for the local communities, ensuring a strategic and

balanced approach, whilst also driving opportunity in the wider region and Wales as a whole.

Background:

In November 2022, members of Neath Port Talbot Council's Planning Committee, which had already granted the project outline planning permission, approved a reserved matters application from developers Wildfox Resorts Afan Valley Limited.

This is a transformational project for the Afan Valley and this region as a whole as it will provide a large number of jobs in the construction phase and when it is finished local people will have many jobs available to them. It promises to make the Afan Valley the go-to place for adventure tourists and will also have a spa and wellness offering with many spin-off benefits for Neath Port Talbot

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The predominant aims of the liaison forum will be to allow the Council and Wildfox Resorts Afan Valley Limited to:

- (a) Work collaboratively to champion the vision of the Afan Valley Adventure Resort as a project in its own right but also as a catalyst to stimulate and leverage wider economic regeneration and distribution of opportunities and benefits to Neath Port Talbot and its public and private sector partners thus contributing to economic growth and prosperity within the region and in line with the Welsh Government Economic Contract;
- (b) Develop a shared understanding of programme, risk, challenges and opportunities, and working to achieve the Purpose;
- (c) Exploring avenues for the partners to facilitate outcomes aligned with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015;
- (d) Champion the vision of the Afan Valley Adventure Resort as a project for Neath Port Talbot and Wales, working to achieve a new destination and

- adventure hub to provide a catalyst to simulate wider economic regeneration and distribution of opportunities and benefits to Neath Port Talbot and Welsh tourism partners and producers/suppliers aligned with Welsh Government policies;
- (e) Ensure that Partners work towards creating social value, inspiring young people and promoting new opportunities;
 - (f) Promote sustainability and net zero carbon initiatives including an energy strategy founded on the use of renewables;
 - (g) Manage and enhance bio diversity aligned with delivery;
 - (h) Enable partners to consider off-site regeneration opportunities to advance resort construction and delivery and maximise local benefits;
 - (i) Ensure the Partners support community cohesion and wellbeing, and are a considerate neighbour to adjacent and other nearby communities reducing anti-social behaviour during construction and operation;
 - (j) Oversee the Welsh Language Strategy for the resort;
 - (k) Oversee the local labour and recruitment strategy which will drive the creation of jobs in direct employment in tourism and promote indirect job creation in the Welsh supply chain, whilst promoting job opportunities to the local community during construction and operation. This will involve providing training and apprenticeship opportunities, building partnerships with local FE providers and other partners to maximise opportunities to communities.

It should be noted however that even though a liaison forum is proposed to be established, nothing in these terms of reference shall fetter or prejudice NPT's statutory rights, powers, directions and responsibilities under all statutes, bylaws, statutory instruments, orders and regulations in the exercise of their functions as a local authority. This will ensure that the Council retains its important role as a regulatory body in respect of the planning and environmental functions that it holds.

The proposed membership of the Liaison Forum shall be:

- (l) The Leader of the Council
- (m) The Deputy Leader of the Council
- (n) The Cabinet Member for Economic and Community Regeneration
- (o) The elected member for Cymer and Glyncoerrwg
- (p) The elected member for Gwynfi and Croeserw
- (q) The Chief Executive of the Council
- (r) The Council's Director of Environment and Regeneration
- (s) The Council's Tourism/ destination management officer

- (t) The Chief Executive of Wildfox
- (u) The Director of Group Strategy of Wildfox
- (v) The Director of Sustainability and Economic Development of Wildfox
- (w) The Director of Construction of Wildfox
- (x) The Wildfox Board Senior Advisor
- (y) Any other individuals at the invite of the Chair of the liaison forum

It is proposed that the liaison forum be chaired by the Leader of the Council and administration and organisation of the meetings shall be undertaken by the Council, who will arrange secretariat for the liaison forum.

Save for approving its terms of reference, this liaison forum has no decision making powers and any such decision making will be within the sole purview of the Council and Wildfox Resorts Afan Valley Limited via their decision making processes.

A copy of the proposed terms of reference are included at Appendix 1

Financial Impacts:

No implications.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

An Integrated Impact Assessment is not requirement for this report.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

No implications

Workforce Impacts:

No implications

Legal Impacts:

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 includes a general power of competence which would allow the Council to establish a liaison forum.

It should be noted however that even though a liaison forum is proposed to be established, nothing in these terms of reference shall fetter or prejudice NPT's statutory rights, powers, directions and responsibilities under all statutes, bylaws,

statutory instruments, orders and regulations in the exercise of their functions as a local authority. This will ensure that the Council retains its important role as a regulatory body in respect of the planning and environmental functions that it holds.

Save for approving its terms of reference, this liaison forum has no decision making powers and any such decision making will be within the sole purview of the Council and Wildfox Resorts Afan Valley Limited via their decision making processes.

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item

Recommendations:

It is recommended that

- (a) Members approve the participation of the Council in a liaison forum for the Afan Valley Adventure Resort and note the terms of reference set out in Appendix 1 of this report; and
- (b) Members appoint the members and officers detailed in Appendix 1 of this report to the liaison forum for the Afan Valley Adventure Resort

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference

List of Background Papers:

None

Officer Contact:

Mrs Nicola Pearce
Director of Environment and Regeneration

Mr Craig Griffiths
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Appendix 1

AFAN VALLEY ADVENTURE RESORT NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL AND WILDFOX RESORTS AFAN VALLEY LIMITED LIAISON FORUM

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (“NPT”) and Wildfox Resorts Afan Valley Limited (“Wildfox”) (collectively referred to as “the Partners”) wish to form a liaison forum in respect of the development of the Afan Valley Adventure Resort, whilst ensuring the objective of the partners is the delivery of the resort, the main purpose of this forum is to ensure the maximisation of the social, environmental and economic benefits of the Afan Valley Adventure Resort for the local communities, ensuring a strategic and balanced approach, whilst also driving opportunity in the wider region and Wales as a whole (“the Purpose”).

In order to achieve this, the Partners shall aim to:

- (a) Work collaboratively to champion the vision of the Afan Valley Adventure Resort as a project in its own right but also as a catalyst to stimulate and leverage wider economic regeneration and distribution of opportunities and benefits to Neath Port Talbot and its public and private sector partners thus contributing to economic growth and prosperity within the region and in line with the Welsh Government Economic Contract;
- (b) Develop a shared understanding of programme, risk, challenges and opportunities, and working to achieve the Purpose;
- (c) Exploring avenues for the partners to facilitate outcomes aligned with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015;
- (d) Champion the vision of the Afan Valley Adventure Resort as a project for Neath Port Talbot and Wales, working to achieve a new destination and adventure hub to provide a catalyst to simulate wider economic regeneration and distribution of opportunities and benefits to Neath Port Talbot and Welsh tourism partners and producers/suppliers aligned with Welsh Government policies;
- (e) Ensure that Partners work towards creating social value, inspiring young people and promoting new opportunities;
- (f) Promote sustainability and net zero carbon initiatives including an energy strategy founded on the use of renewables;
- (g) Manage and enhance bio diversity aligned with delivery;
- (h) Enable partners to consider off-site regeneration opportunities to advance resort construction and delivery and maximise local benefits;

- (i) Ensure the Partners support community cohesion and wellbeing, and are a considerate neighbour to adjacent and other nearby communities reducing anti-social behaviour during construction and operation;
- (j) Oversee the Welsh Language Strategy for the resort;
- (k) Oversee the local labour and recruitment strategy which will drive the creation of jobs in direct employment in tourism and promote indirect job creation in the Welsh supply chain, whilst promoting job opportunities to the local community during construction and operation. This will involve providing training and apprenticeship opportunities, building partnerships with local FE providers and other partners to maximise opportunities to communities.

For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in these terms of reference shall fetter or prejudice NPT's statutory rights, powers, directions and responsibilities under all statutes, bylaws, statutory instruments, orders and regulations in the exercise of their functions as a local authority.

Save for approving its terms of reference, this Liaison Forum has no decision making powers and any such decision making will be within the sole purview of the Partners via their decision making processes.

The membership of the Liaison Forum shall be:

- (a) The Leader of NPT
- (b) The Deputy Leader of NPT
- (c) The NPT Cabinet Member for Economic and Community Regeneration
- (d) The local authority member for Cymer and Glyncoirwg
- (e) The local authority member for Gwynfi and Croeserw
- (f) The Chief Executive of NPT
- (g) The NPT Director of Environment and Regeneration
- (h) The NPT Tourism/ destination management officer
- (i) The Chief Executive of Wildfox
- (j) The Director of Group Strategy of Wildfox
- (k) The Director of Sustainability and Economic Development of Wildfox
- (l) The Director of Construction of Wildfox
- (m) The Wildfox Board Senior Advisor
- (n) Any other individuals at the invite of the Chair of the Liaison Forum

Partners may wish to bring support staff or specialists should specific matters arise.

The Chair of the Liaison Forum will be the Leader of NPT, or in their absence the Deputy Leader of NPT. In the event both are not in attendance, the remaining members shall elect one of their number to chair that meeting.

It is proposed that the Liaison Forum meet quarterly or as appropriate at an agreed location either in person or via teleconferencing facilities.

An urgent meeting may be requested and held virtually should it be required. A quorum for the Liaison Forum shall be at least two (2) representatives from each Partner.

Administration and organisation of the meetings shall be undertaken by NPT, who will arrange secretariat for the Liaison Forum. An agenda shall be circulated at least two (2) working days prior to the meeting and minutes will be prepared and forwarded to all parties following each Liaison Forum meeting.

These terms of reference will be agreed at the first meeting of the Liaison Forum and shall be subject to review with any changes being at the unanimous agreement of all parties.