

Appendix B – LA Project / Programme Highlights

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	UPDATE
Swansea		
Blue Eden	The multi-faceted infrastructure project will deliver an electric battery manufacturing plant and battery storage facility, a tidal lagoon in Swansea Bay and floating solar farm within it, a data storage centre, a green hydrogen production facility, an oceanic and climate change research centre, and hundreds of waterfront homes as part of future phases.	<p>Blue Eden is a collaboration between a consortium, led by Bridgend-based Batri Ltd, DST Innovations and Swansea Council. The project is being fully funded by the private sector.</p> <p>A Feasibility Study funded by CRF has been undertaken to advance plans further. Previously announced were a battery factory, storage, data centre, floating solar array, hydrogen production and residential property. Further opportunities have been investigated. These include the potential for a District Heating System and an integrated renewable transport hub.</p>
SW Wales Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Programme	Programme of support to drive business density, start-up rates and entrepreneurship and resilience and adaptability to change across the SME base.	All four local authorities are working together to develop complementary Supporting Business 'anchor' projects for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. These will provide locally tailored programmes of business support activities and business grants to March 2025, including start up grants, growth grants and carbon reduction grants.
Swansea Central North	Delivery of an office hub as the next phase of a comprehensive programme to regenerate Swansea city centre (building on the completion of the first phase at Copr Bay).	<p>Arena, car park and bridge complete on south side, still some work left to complete on north side.</p> <p>Phase 2, Swansea Central North: Urban Splash appointed as development partner. Early design stage for Public Sector Hub, Residential and Retail space.</p>
Smaller Towns and Coastal Zones	Targeted investment to support the leisure, visitor and town centre offer in smaller centres in the county of Swansea.	Investment is already underway through the Welsh Government Transforming Towns programme and Council business improvement grants. This will be complemented by the proposals being developed for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Transforming County place anchor in Swansea to invest in small scale town and village enhancements, heritage buildings and further business improvement grants across the county.
Lower Swansea Valley Heritage and Destination	Series of investments opening up the heritage offer at the Hafod Morfa works, improving access along the Tawe and enhancing the museum and heritage assets in Swansea City Centre.	Successful funding bid for £20m UK Government Levelling Up Fund was announced in January 2023. This will enable investment in heritage structures at Hafod Copperworks, expansion of Swansea Museum and improving links between the copperworks site and the city centre including reuse of Victoria era railway arches. The project will be delivered by March 2025.

		<p>Skyline – Cable Car and Luge run to Kilvey Hill, entry in the Hafod Copperworks area. Public consultation and planning application due March 23.</p>
<p>Regional Waterways Project</p>	<p>Measures to open up the waterways across Swansea’s River Tawe, adding new routes, re-routing existing routes and developing new tourism infrastructure and access to the historic environment.</p>	<p>A new pontoon is being installed on the River Tawe at Hafod Copperworks that will link the Copperworks with the city centre. Additional funding has now been secured through the UK Government Levelling Up Fund for two further pontoons on the River Tawe. These will be completed by March 2025.</p>
<p>Swansea Shared Prosperity Fund Anchor Projects</p>	<p>Six anchor projects are being developed for the Shared Prosperity Fund in Swansea as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting Communities Anchor - Transforming County Place Anchor - Culture & Tourism Anchor - Rural Anchor - Supporting Business Anchor - Pathways to Work Employability Anchor 	<p>The activities that will be delivered under each anchor are as follows:</p> <p><u>Supporting Communities Anchor:</u> Grant funding for community/ third sector projects</p> <p><u>Transforming County Place Anchor:</u> Historic structures and conservation area feasibility and project funding; grant funding for village and town centre small scale enhancements; Business Improvement Grants; heritage led economic regeneration activities and trails to complement capital investments; commissioning Meanwhile spaces programme in city centre and district centres; strategic feasibility studies.</p> <p><u>Culture & Tourism Anchor:</u> Development of creative network, sector support, Fusion digital skills, strategy and feasibility.</p> <p><u>Rural Anchor:</u> Successor project to the Rural Development Programme providing funding for rural community development, climate change and net zero based activities and rural business activities.</p> <p><u>Supporting Business Anchor:</u> business grants comprising of startup grants, growth grants, website development grants, supplier development grants and carbon reduction grants; programme of business support activities including introduction to self-employment, networking and workshops, supplier development programme and local food producer events; Training to support businesses to move to NetZero by 2050; City Centre events linked to Swansea Market to drive footfall; Commercial Property Development Fund; Third Sector business development support.</p> <p><u>Pathways to Work Employability Anchor,</u> Council coordinated multi-agency employability provision to include: NEET Prevention (Cynnydd successor); Post-16 NEET support (Cam Nesa successor);</p>

		Enhanced Employability support for 16+ Economically Inactive and Long Term Unemployed; Paid Work Placements; City Centre Employment Hub; Prison leavers support Specialist and niche employability support fund of £2m to be launched as open call. To include provision for ESOL, support people with disabilities and work limiting health conditions.
Carmarthenshire		
Carmarthen Hwb	The redevelopment of the former Debenhams store in Carmarthen into a multi-agency public Sector Hwb.	The £20m project funded through the UK Government's Levelling up Programme and Carmarthenshire County Council is progressing well. The property has been purchased and contractors are currently working on the detailed designs and costings for the project. Hywel Dda and UWTSD are key partners and will jointly occupy the completed scheme. Subject to cost certainty we anticipate entering contract to commence works in summer 2023 with completion anticipated in Autumn 2024.
Tywi Valley Path	This scheme aims to provide a 19km off-road walking and cycling facility linking Llandeilo and Carmarthen through the Tywi Valley, linking numerous trip attractor and visitor sites along the way.	£16.7m Levelling Up Funding has been secured to deliver the project. Land acquisition for the route is progressing, and detailed design is nearing completion. Planning consent has been secured for part of the route, with planning permission submitted in January for the remainder of the route.
Regional Circular Economy Hwb, Nantycaws	The aim is to create a circular economy hub to service the Southwest Wales region. The site is located approximately halfway between Cross Hands and Carmarthen, with direct access to the A48 dual carriageway. The project expects to include the following components: Waste management, processing and recycling; Energy production and distribution; Commercial units for general industrial use; Commercial fleet facility; ULEV Vehicle recharging/refuelling infrastructure.	The development feasibility and masterplan brief has been developed and discussions are currently ongoing to appoint consultants to develop the vision for the site. It is anticipated that a draft masterplan will be developed by early summer 2023.
Pentre Awel Wellness Village – Zone 1	Pentre Awel at Delta Lakes Llanelli will include the co-location of academic, public, business and health facilities to boost employment, education, leisure provision, health research and delivery, and skills and training.	Construction Update: Detailed designs and work packages are complete, and the Authority is now in contract development with the contractor Bouygues with the aim of entering full contract in February 2023. Zone 1 anticipated to be completed in autumn 2024.

	<p>City Deal will provide the requisite investment for business incubation and acceleration facilities, laboratory space, testbed capabilities, a well-being skills centre, clinical research centre and a clinical delivery centre to deliver multi-disciplinary care closer to home. Zone 1 will create an 'ecosystem' by facilitating joint working across traditional boundaries, integrating education and training programmes within a clinical setting and fostering interface between health and leisure for the benefit of population health. Zone 1 will further include a state-of-the-art leisure and aquatics centre funded by Carmarthenshire County Council.</p>	
<p>Cross Hands East Strategic Employment Site – Parc Gelli Werdd Office / Industrial Self Build</p>	<p>Construction of 32,000sqft of speculative carbon zero office and industrial units. Working with Swansea Universities Alternative Building Centre (ABC).</p>	<p>Construction works progressing well on site with completion anticipated summer 2023. is complete we will have the following units to let to businesses.</p> <p><u>Offices</u> - 12 x Office, Three approx. sizes between 225ft² and 430ft²</p> <p><u>Office Hybrid Units</u> - 4 x hybrid units Approx. 875ft² each with Approx. 250ft² office included in each</p> <p><u>Industrial Hybrid Units</u> - 6 x hybrid units, Ranging in sizes from approx. 650ft² to 1,000ft². Office in each ranging in size from approx. 210ft² to 330ft²</p> <p><u>Industrial Units</u> - 5 x industrial units, Approx 3,000ft² each Approx. 300ft² office included in each</p>
<p>Pendine Attractor Project</p>	<p>The development of new tourism attractor facilities in Pendine to assist in delivery of regeneration master-plan objectives of transforming resort into 'day and stay' event destination. Project includes: New Sands of Speed Museum, 42 bed 'Caban' hotel accommodation, Events area, exhibition esplanade, sand sports area, playground, overnight motorhome site and extended and improved parking provision.</p>	<p>Main building contract has reached practical completion in November 2022. Fit out works to Museum and Caban ongoing and due for completion end of February. Official opening 23 March 2023.</p>
<p>Llandeilo Market Hall</p>	<p>Redevelopment of former derelict listed building to provide: lettable office, storage, retail and café</p>	<p>Main building contract nearing completion in March 2023. Café tenant secured remainder of spaces to be marketed February 2023.</p>

	space alongside a multi-purpose events space.	
Carmarthenshire Shared Prosperity Anchor Programmes	<p>Carmarthenshire have developed 5 anchor projects under the shared Prosperity Fund as follows:</p> <p>Sustainable Communities Anchor</p> <p>Rural Anchor</p> <p>Place Anchor</p> <p>Supporting Local Business Anchor</p> <p>Employability & Skills Anchor</p>	<p>Work has been progressing on each of the anchors and the following provides an overview of the activities that will be delivered under each anchor:</p> <p>Sustainable Communities Anchor - will provide a third-party grant to support the development and creation of activities aligned to the following themes, Poverty, Circular Economy, Wellbeing / Leisure, Access to Services, Environment and Green, Tourism, Culture / Heritage, Community Engagement. The Anchor project will also include commissioning external expertise to provide strategic support.</p> <p>Rural Anchor - The Rural Anchor will consist of 3 elements: Ten towns initiative - Support will be delivered via a third-party grant scheme to support the realisation of projects identified within the economic growth plans for the respective areas. The Anchor project will include a budget to commission external expertise to provide strategic support. Rural Innovation fund – a targeted fund that will provide opportunity to pilot, scope and test new innovative ideas that could be further developed through mainstreaming opportunities. Hwb Fach y Wlad - Dedicated rural customer services officers will be available to support rural residents by developing provision across our rural market towns to support the needs of residents to access support, advice, and information.</p> <p>Place Anchor -The Place Anchor would look to support town centres through a Vacant Property Fund, a Town Centre Events Fund and a package of support to deliver key projects identified in our Town Centre Recovery Plans to address the ongoing challenges. Supporting</p> <p>Local Business Anchor - The Supporting Local Business Anchor will offer financial support to local businesses to support them in all stages of their development through Business start-up and Growth Grants, a Business Renewable Energy Fund and a Property Development Fund. In addition, a key focus will be supporting Carmarthenshire businesses to benefit from public procurement spend.</p> <p>Employability & Skills Anchor -New streamlined employability programme is being developed and there will be a focus on activity outside the remit</p>

		of the RLSP and the Swansea Bay City Deal Skills and Talent project.
EARTH Programme		
EARTH	<p>EARTH is an ESF Funded project that aims to build the required capacity and capability and administrative arrangements within the Region to enable the public sector to address functions at a regional level including:</p> <p>Energy</p> <p>Land use Planning</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>Economic Development</p>	<p>EARTH is delivering several regional projects currently, although the programme is due to come to an end in the summer 2023. Below is a summary of the work that EARTH is currently delivering:</p> <p>Energy</p> <p><u>Carbon Offsetting</u> – Procuring a consultant to understand the residual carbon that will remain post 2030 once Carbon Zero exercise has been completed.</p> <p><u>Carbon Training / Upskilling</u> - Working collaboratively across the region, the Energy officers are developing a carbon literacy training module with Learning & Development, with emphasis on energy, renewables, net carbon zero and transport.</p> <p>Land Use Planning</p> <p><u>National Growth Area</u> - The ‘Swansea Bay and Llanelli National Growth Area’ was identified under Future Wales Policy as one of the three National Growth Areas in Wales. This study focusses on adding further definition to the recommended spatial extent, including geographical boundaries, illustrative mapping to inform WG. This has now been completed.</p> <p><u>Nutrient Credit Trading Scheme and Toolkit Feasibility Study</u> - Feasibility study and toolkit being prepared to identify best practice and develop a proposal to successfully implement a Nutrient Credit Trading System which would facilitate transference of mitigation benefit to developers in a simple and effective way.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p><u>Hydrogen Feasibility Study & Local Authority Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Study</u> – Arcadis have been appointed to carry out these two studies and final reports are expected end of April 2023. The Hydrogen Feasibility Study will provide an overview of UK Hydrogen Strategy, fleet analysis and proposals to forecast future</p>

		<p>options for Hydrogen Project Mapping and Demand Forecasting within the Region. The LA EV Infrastructure will provide a comprehensive review of LA Depots across the SB & SW Wales Metro Region, stakeholder workshops, existing EV market, along with providing further best practice and a suite of options that accommodate home and public charging. Both studies are linked to the Swansea Bay and South West Metro project.</p> <p>Economic Development</p> <p><u>Regional Inward Investment</u> This proposal seeks to address the requirement to develop process/tools to promote the region for inward investment. The regional inward investment proposal for a landing page/webpage promoting the Swansea Bay City Region, in line with the Regional Delivery Plan.</p>
Pembrokeshire		
<p>Pembrokeshire Shared Prosperity Anchor Programmes</p>	<p>Pembrokeshire have developed 4 anchor projects under the shared Prosperity Fund as follows:</p> <p>Communities Anchor</p> <p>Place Anchor</p> <p>Business Support Anchor</p> <p>People & Skills Anchor</p>	<p>Work has been progressing on each of the anchors and the following provides an overview of the activities that will be delivered under each anchor:</p> <p>The Communities Anchor project will deliver elements of Pembrokeshire County Council’s Pembrokeshire Recovery and Regeneration Strategy 2020-2030. The project is split into three themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community-led Regeneration 2. Community Green Team 3. Community Grant Scheme (see below) <p>Community-led regeneration will focus on the county’s primary and secondary towns. It will stimulate regeneration through community initiatives and community ownership of local assets. The Community Green Team programme will engage with local communities and deliver green infrastructure micro-projects involving soft landscaping, community growing and planting, and macro-projects on a landscape scale.</p> <p>Rural Anchor - The Rural Anchor will consist of 3 elements: Ten towns initiative - Support will be delivered via a third-party grant scheme to support the realisation of projects identified within the economic growth plans for the respective areas. The Anchor project will include a budget to commission external expertise to</p>

provide strategic support. Rural Innovation fund – a targeted fund that will provide opportunity to pilot, scope and test new innovative ideas that could be further developed through mainstreaming opportunities. Hwb Fach y Wlad - Dedicated rural customer services officers will be available to support rural residents by developing provision across our rural market towns to support the needs of residents to access support, advice, and information.

Place Anchor -The Place Anchor would look to support town centres through a Vacant Property Fund, a Town Centre Events Fund and a package of support to deliver key projects identified in our Town Centre Recovery Plans to address the ongoing challenges.

Local Business Anchor - The Supporting Local Business Anchor will offer financial support to local businesses to support them in all stages of their development through Business start-up and Growth Grants, a Business Renewable Energy Fund and a Property Development Fund. In addition, a key focus will be supporting Carmarthenshire businesses to benefit from public procurement spend.

Employability & Skills Anchor -New streamlined employability programme is being developed and there will be a focus on activity outside the remit of the RLSP and the Swansea Bay City Deal Skills and Talent project.

The Communities Anchor project includes a grant scheme with no minimum award but a maximum award of £100,000. Grants will be offered at a maximum grant rate of 80%. The match funding may include in kind contributions such as volunteer time. The budget is £1m and so the scheme will fund at least ten grant awards assuming the budget is utilised in full.

Place Anchor Project

- Improvements to town centres & high streets
- Support for local arts, cultural, heritage, and creative activities
- Promotion and marketing campaigns
- Feasibility studies

A programme of Townscape Improvements to town centres & high streets will support post-Covid recovery and assist our historic town centres to adapt, whilst retaining their attraction for social and economic activity. Vacant town centre commercial properties identified in the six Pembrokeshire Placemaking plans will receive

capital investment through a grant programme to bring the properties back into use. This proposal also includes funds to offer a package of professional support and capacity building to potential developers of vacant property, to encourage long-term empty properties with challenging aspects to be brought forward for consideration. Guided by our Cultural Strategy, we shall support development of the heritage and cultural infrastructure within our towns. The Heritage Centre Development Programme will support the development of cultural and heritage related visitor facilities within heritage buildings. Complementary to this, a Heritage Skills Programme will promote the development of heritage building skills.

The Business Support Anchor Project includes:

- The provision of sectoral business support with officers to support aquaculture, youth enterprise, energy, transport, employment support, creative industries, food and new initiatives.
- Improvements and updating to the Bridge Innovation Centre.
- Feasibility studies to improve the viability of the Pembrokeshire Produce Mark and Pembrokeshire Fish Week.

The People and Skills Anchor project is a collaborative Council response to key themes in the regional Investment Plan; bringing together the Council's internal employment and skills services, youth outreach service, year 11 transition support and adult and community learning from the Council's Social Care, Education and Community Services directorates.

The project comprises the following elements:

Supporting Employability (delivered by Supported Employment, Social Care, Youth Services, Adult Learning) - This element of the project will provide employment support to economically inactive people furthest away from the training and labour market who are disengaged from main-stream services, this will include people of all ages (16+) including those with disability, learning disability or neuro-diverse conditions and young people who are NEET and care leavers.

Preparing for Employment Programme (PEPs) (delivered through Education Youth Transition team, Futureworks and procured delivery) - engagement and softer skills development for young people. Year 11 learners at risk of

		<p>becoming NEET will be provided with a range of vocational tasters by work based trainers to enable them to make informed decisions of their post 16 pathway.</p> <p><u>Skills for Success (Multiply)</u> (delivered by Futureworks) – numeracy skills advisers will support people to develop their confidence with numbers with delivery in a variety of employability support settings including local Jobcentres.</p> <p><u>Skills Futures</u> (delivered by Futureworks) - Intensive key sector focused skills initiatives to assist people who are out of work or in work on a low income to start their journey towards economic activity or improve their household income and future career prospects.</p>
Western Quayside	Redevelopment of the former Ocky Whites Department Store, developing a F&B offer.	Following a complex build, completion is expected in autumn 2023. Market engagement will commence shortly to identify occupiers. Outline designs under review for public realm.
Haverfordwest Transport Interchange	Redevelopment of Multi Story Car Park in Haverfordwest to develop a modern and fit for purpose transport interchange.	Demolition of car park underway.
Riverside redevelopment (Eastern Quayside)	Purchase and proposed redevelopment of Riverside Shopping Centre.	JV partnership procurement process reengaged. Signature bridge design proposal issued. Letting strategy under development.
Heart of Pembrokeshire	Redevelopment of Haverfordwest Castle as a Heritage Destination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work packages under review • RIBA 3 design work for Gaol is completed • Key construction issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Events space constraints ○ fire escape through the Governors House ○ Scope of archaeological investigation requirements ○ Scale of repairs to perimeter walls <p>site water runoff.</p>
South Quay Ph1 and 2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractor developing contract value. • Public consultation event held 30th January • Project completion date August 2024 <p><u>Phase 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital funding secured • Front third rebuild work commenced, with steelwork being progressed. <p><u>Phase 2</u></p> <p>Design agreed for progression to RIBA stage 3 detail design.</p>
Pembrokeshire Foodpark	Development of a foodpark north of Haverfordwest.	Incubator redesign and costings complete. Funding package secured.

		Poor EME response and interest. Market review underway.
Pembroke Dock Marine (PDM)	<p>PDM comprises four separate but interrelated elements run by partners and managed through Pembrokeshire County Council</p> <p>Pembroke Dock Infrastructure (PDI) – Port of Milford Haven</p> <p>Marine Energy Engineering Centre of Excellence (MEECE) – OREC</p> <p>Marine Energy Test Area (META) – Marine Energy Wales, (Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum)</p> <p>Pembrokeshire Demonstration Zone (PDZ) – Celtic Sea Power</p>	<p>Together, PDM will build on an existing energy cluster that has grown around the Pembroke Dock area to develop a world class centre for economic development with a renewable focus.</p> <p>PDI A reshaped port infrastructure to maximise operational efficiency for UK.</p> <p>MEECE A research and innovation centre.</p> <p>META Pre-consented and licensed zones within the Waterway for component and scaled device testing.</p> <p>PDZ Consents and securing of Grid for targeting both wave and floating wind technologies (180MW).</p> <p>Making strong links with other renewable sector activity in the area e.g. Hydrogen through MH:EK. Contributing to work to understand the emerging skills needs of the renewables sector. Both in terms of range of skills and volume required.</p>
Milford Haven: Energy Kingdom (MH:EK)	<p>The MH:EK detailed design project is about exploring a whole energy system approach and the potential for hydrogen alongside renewable electricity in supporting the decarbonisation of transport, heat, and electricity demand. It has developed a series of SLES propositions suitable for early investment aimed at kickstarting local decarbonisation across the energy system, and a long-term route map for the decarbonisation of Pembrokeshire. In doing so it has explored the synergies between regional SLES opportunities and decarbonisation of the large-scale national energy infrastructure including the UKs largest energy port and opportunities for offshore wind in the Celtic Sea. The project has also carried out technology demonstrations for the use of hydrogen in mobility and heat.</p> <p>Project partners: Pembrokeshire County Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The outputs from the MH:EK project can be viewed in immersive fashion in our virtual room: https://milford-haven-energy-kingdom.virtual-engage.com/ • An investment brochure detailing three propositions for short term SLES developments of which two have been identified as immediately investable. • Development of MH:EK long term pathways focused on decarbonising Pembrokeshire’s energy system by 2050 including wider renewable plans for the region and integration with plans for a GB-wide hydrogen transmission backbone. • A graphical representation of the Future Milford Haven Energy System with green hydrogen and renewable electricity integrated across the whole energy system. • Hydrogen infrastructure trials of two Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicles, a public hydrogen refueller and electrolyzers, and the world’s first smart hybrid heating system (air-source heat pump and a hydrogen boiler) retrofitted in a commercial setting. • Exploration and development of hydrogen focused system-architectures,

	<p>Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult Port of Milford Haven Wales and West Utilities Riversimple Arup Energy Systems Catapult</p> <p>Smart Local Energy System (SLES) components: Hydrogen Electricity Mobility Heat Trading platform</p>	<p>trading platforms and a SLES data ecosystem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing energy infrastructure and projected Floating Offshore Wind at Milford Haven is a tremendous platform for growth into green hydrogen. A proposed hydrogen pipeline ‘backbone’ for GB can be built out from Milford Haven. The MH:EK ‘Co-designing a switch to hydrogen with customers’ study shows the public’s acceptance of hydrogen is unusually high in Milford Haven, due to familiarity with having a major energy industry cluster on the Haven for decades. Development of freely available Key Stage 2/3 education resources Smart local energy systems have significant benefits in terms of costs and carbon emissions particularly where there is strong interplay between vectors. However where close integration of electricity and heat networks is not feasible hydrogen can play an important bridging role. The importance of standardisation and the development of interoperable infrastructure and technology cannot be overstated. A proposal to develop the “MH2K consortium” to develop plans for green hydrogen production at sea with a vision of achieving 8GW of production capacity for green hydrogen from offshore wind energy and transporting it to land by 2035.
<p>The Milford Haven Waterway Future Energy Cluster</p>	<p>The Milford Haven Waterway Future Energy Cluster brings together private and public sector operations to deliver UK and Welsh Governments’ energy ambitions.</p> <p>The Milford Haven Waterway is a critical national energy asset, attracting billions of pounds in investment for over sixty years and supplying 20% of the UK’s annual energy demand.</p> <p>The Waterway has a pivotal role to play in delivering the UK’s net zero ambitions, offering a whole energy cycle solution that will unlock accelerated transition, while stimulating economic growth. This is an opportunity that will</p>	<p>The Milford Haven Waterway Future Energy has been launched in both Westminster and the Senedd. The Cluster aims to achieve 20% of UK Government low carbon hydrogen production target by 2030 and at least 10% of UK Government FLOW target by 2035. The Cluster has detailed that Government is support needed to deliver accelerated transition to a Net Zero future in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grid capacity Consenting Green Freeport De-risking development FLOW infrastructure Hydrogen CCS and CO2 shipping Alternative fuels Green skill Supply chain.

	<p>repurpose existing assets, skills, rail connectivity, transmission and pipelines to deliver a future focused on low carbon hydrogen, floating offshore wind (FLOW), marine renewables, sustainable alternative fuels, CO2 shipping, and energy storage.</p> <p>The benefits are clear. Continued investment and support will create and stabilise thousands of jobs and supply chain opportunities, levelling up the coastal communities across South Wales.</p> <p>It will strengthen UK energy resilience while establishing new export opportunities. And, it will stimulate inward investment providing clear line of sight on returns for investors, ensuring the Milford Haven Waterway remains a major energy innovation hub capable of competing globally.</p>	
<p>Celtic Sea Cluster Strategic Board</p>	<p>The Celtic Sea Cluster was formally established on 28 September 2021. Its mission is to spearhead the creation of the Celtic Sea floating offshore wind market and maximise the benefits of this technology for all the regions involved.</p> <p>The floating offshore wind sector provides a significant economic and social opportunity to the south west of Wales and the wider Celtic Sea region. It could be a catalyst for regenerating coastal communities, help create high quality careers and unlock much-needed infrastructure development across south Wales.</p>	<p>Momentum around the floating offshore wind (FLOW) sector has grown significantly over the past couple of years and the Celtic Sea Cluster has been actively engaging with a wide range of stakeholders to develop an understanding of the ‘art of the possible’. The recently published strategy for the region sets out the thinking and highlights not only the potential but the challenges for delivery ahead.</p> <p>PCC Chief Executive is a member of the Celtic Sea Cluster Strategic Board.</p>
<p>Work with Wales and West Utilities (WWU)</p>	<p>PCC have engaged with WWU on the MH:EK project detailed above but also are currently supporting WWU with 3 further projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HyLine • Hydrogen Town • Hydrogen Transport Hubs 	<p>HyLine</p> <p>Wales & West Utilities has announced plans for a major hydrogen pipeline in South Wales, to accelerate decarbonisation plans for industry and gas customers in the region. HyLine Cymru will assess the feasibility of a pipeline network from Pembroke to the Swansea Bay area, connecting low carbon hydrogen production with industrial demand and providing options for other natural gas customers.</p>

		<p>If built, the pipeline will pave the way for commercial scale hydrogen production in Pembrokeshire, Port Talbot and in the Celtic Sea, whilst also providing infrastructure for energy intensive industrial customers to begin fuel-switching their processes to hydrogen in the 2030s or earlier.</p> <p>It could also facilitate the conversion of home heating to hydrogen; enabling south Wales towns to go green while keeping disruption to homes and communities to a minimum, and connect to National Grid’s Project Union, which will establish a National Hydrogen Transmission System to link the UK’s industrial clusters with a dedicated supply system.</p> <p>Changing the way we heat our homes and power businesses will be critical to reducing carbon emissions, and for Wales and the UK to meet its net zero targets. Hydrogen can replace natural gas in industrial processes, as well as for heating and cooking in homes. It provides energy in the same way, but does not produce carbon dioxide, meaning it is an environmentally friendly source of energy.</p> <p>HyLine Cymru is being led by Wales & West Utilities in collaboration with eight key organisations to explore the feasibility of transporting hydrogen to maximise the decarbonisation opportunity in south Wales.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated British Ports (ABP) • Dolphyn Celtic Sea Developments • LanzaTech • National Grid Gas Transmission (NGGT) • Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) • RWE • Shell • Tata Steel UK <p>Hydrogen Towns</p> <p>PCC have expressed support for WWU’s proposals for a Hydrogen Town Pilot in Pembrokeshire. A hydrogen pilot in the area is seen as a natural evolution of the innovative work already being undertaken in the green hydrogen arena in the region.</p> <p>Hydrogen Transport Hubs</p> <p>A Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) proposal led by Wales & West Utilities. This proposal looks to maximise the benefits of distributed electrolyser refuelling stations within the energy system by assessing the value of the waste heat generated as part of the hydrogen production process.</p>
<p>The Celtic Freeport bid (NPT & PEMBS)</p>	<p>See NPT narrative below</p>	

Joint Projects Pembrokeshire and Neath Port Talbot		
<p>The Celtic Freeport bid (NPT & PEMBS)</p>	<p>The Celtic Freeport Consortium comprises Associated British Ports (ABP), Neath Port Talbot Council, Pembrokeshire County Council and the Port of Milford Haven combined with support from private sector and other stakeholders.</p> <p>It covers the ports of Milford Haven and Port Talbot and includes clean energy developments and innovation assets; fuel terminals; a power station; heavy, light and advanced engineering; and the steel industry across South West Wales.</p> <p>It will create a green investment corridor, securing long-term commitments for major port infrastructure upgrades, skills development and innovation.</p> <p>The Celtic Freeport will accelerate significant inward investment in new manufacturing facilities to support the roll-out of floating offshore wind (FLOW) in the Celtic Sea, giving Wales’s global first-mover advantage in this new form of clean, reliable energy. It will also provide the backbone for a greener future, with strengthened export and supply chain opportunities based on the hydrogen economy, sustainable fuels, carbon capture, cleaner steel and low-carbon logistics.</p> <p>The bid also proposes an ambitious skills agenda through dedicated green skills programmes that will harness the skills-base, industrial assets and education providers of today, for the jobs of tomorrow.</p> <p>Roger Maggs MBE, has been appointed as Chair of the Celtic Freeport consortium.</p>	<p>Awaiting decision from UK and Welsh Government – expected in March 2023.</p> <p>On 24th November 2022, a public-private consortium lodged its bid for a Celtic Freeport with the UK and Welsh governments. Spanning 600 hectares of development land across sites in Neath Port Talbot and Pembrokeshire.</p> <p>The bid sets out a vision to deliver an accelerated pathway for Wales’ net zero economy.</p> <p>It is expected to support over 16,000 jobs and generate up to £5.5 billion of new investment.</p> <p>Over 100 organisations and politicians have backed the bid for a Celtic Freeport – including global industrial giants and Welsh engineering and construction businesses, green energy developers, decarbonisation groups and trade associations, universities, colleges and local politicians.</p> <p>Various pieces of scoping Freeports related work completed by NPT Council in 2021/22.</p>

Neath Port Talbot		
<p>Welsh Government acquisition of Baglan Energy Park</p>	<p>Welsh Government have now completed purchase of land from St Modwen, approx. 900 acres which includes Baglan Energy Park.</p>	<p>Purchase completed.</p> <p>Vision Document/Strategy being progressed by Welsh Government in collaboration with NPT Council.</p> <p>Further work is being commissioned to collate market intelligence and investment evidence to shape the future vision for Baglan Energy Park.</p> <p>Various feasibility studies have been completed on Hydrogen opportunities and Clean Growth Hub (development opportunities) that can link further potential investment opportunities for Baglan Energy Park by NPT Council.</p>
<p>Floating Offshore Wind (FLOW)</p>	<p>Crown Estate are to deliver a new leasing opportunity in the Celtic Sea for the first generation of commercial-scale floating offshore windfarms – unlocking up to 4GW of new clean energy capacity by 2035, kick-starting industry in the region, and providing power to almost four million homes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First contract awarded in what is anticipated to be a multi-million pound series of technical and environmental surveys around potential locations for new floating wind farms. By investing in these surveys at an early stage and making the data freely available to successful bidders, will help to accelerate the delivery of projects, make it easier for developers to take early decisions and manage risk, while supporting future project level Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) as part of the planning process. • As well as providing successful bidders with easy access to vital data and speeding up the development process, it is hoped the programme will avoid the need for developers to conduct additional surveys later in the process, while making best use of limited specialist survey resource. • Contracts have now been signed for the initial phase of metocean surveys, which look at wind, wave and current patterns, to begin in spring 2023. The Crown Estate is progressing the procurement of the remaining surveys over the coming weeks and months, subject to further commercial discussions. <p>Tender Process</p> <p>The Information Memorandum, which will provide further information to the market, will be published in Spring 2023; followed by a three-stage tender approach launched later that year.</p> <p>In mid-2023, the tender process of seabed leasing for floating wind in the Celtic Sea will begin. In order to participate in the tender, each developer</p>

		<p>will be expected to outline a plan for supporting early investment in an internationally competitive and end-to-end supply chain with its roots in the Celtic Sea region. Submission of these plans, alongside other legal, financial and technical elements, will determine whether participants qualify for proceeding to the final stage of the tender. The final award of an Agreement for Lease for each site will be based on price offered, meaning greatest value delivered for the nation from the tender process. RWE, Wales' biggest power producer, is partnering with the UK's largest port operator, Associated British Ports (ABP) and UK's largest energy port, the Port of Milford Haven, to investigate the scaling-up of port facilities in support of a pipeline of gigawatt-scale floating wind projects in the Celtic Sea.</p> <p>Working together under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) – to investigate the potential for transforming infrastructure at ABP Port Talbot and Pembroke Dock into hubs for the manufacture, assembly and loadout of high-tech floating wind turbines and foundations, bound for the Celtic Sea, as well as floating operation & maintenance capability. The collaboration demonstrates a major commitment from all three companies to share knowledge and expertise, in support of broader industrial growth and investment in Wales.</p>
<p>ABP Port Talbot Dock Redevelopment</p>	<p>The Port of Port Talbot is well positioned, has its deep-water benefits, brownfield land ready for development, good rail connections, proximity to steel, marine and aggregates and access to thousands of skilled workers.</p> <p>This links to the above item.</p> <p>The proposed project is a collaboration between ABP, industrial SWIC members and Wales and West Utilities to develop a green hydrogen supply to the Port of Port Talbot and neighbouring steelworks to support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>This is an ideal location for hydrogen production/distribution due to its tri-modal connectivity (combining road, rail and sea transport) providing potential</p>	<p>Various activities have been progressed to scope the development opportunities for the port at Port Talbot.</p> <p>Lanzatech, an inward investment development, will form part of the wider development at the Port Talbot ABP land.</p> <p>FLOWMISS funding bid has been submitted by ABP for the port at Port Talbot: The Floating Offshore Wind Manufacturing Investment Scheme (FLOWMIS) will provide £160 million in government funding to boost floating offshore wind capability around the UK at sites in Scotland, Wales and elsewhere by supporting manufacturers and giving private investors the confidence to back this emerging sector.</p> <p>Waiting on next steps to be released by UK Government for The Floating Offshore Wind Manufacturing Investment Scheme (FLOWMIS).</p>

	<p>transport sector demand as well as the means to distribute.</p> <p>There is potential proposal to develop capacity at the port for production (either by electrolysis or cracking of green ammonia), storage and distribution to end use.</p> <p>The supply of green hydrogen is envisaged as part of the base low-carbon infrastructure that would support the development of ABP's wider vision for the Port of Port Talbot. This includes the development of a world-leading manufacturing facility for the floating offshore wind industry, port-centric manufacturing, carbon-capture and storage as well as the production of low-carbon fuels. The combination of low-carbon infrastructure will be used to attract further inward investment and job creation for the area.</p>	
<p>NPT Supporting Innovation & Low Carbon Growth Programme</p> <p>Advanced Manufacturing Production Facility</p>	<p>Advanced Manufacturing Production Facility Land required = 0.81Ha Premises to be created = 4000m² Jobs accommodated = 281 Jobs created = 111 SMEs accommodated = 15</p> <p>Target companies: Innovation & Smart Manufacturing sectors.</p> <p>This project has been developed in response to the well evidenced need for business sites and premises, including industrial premises.</p> <p>The project is to develop a hybrid building providing a range of production units incorporating a pilot line with office space to support start-up companies and indigenous business growth in the innovation and manufacturing sectors. It is proposed that a Centre of Excellence for Net Zero Skills is incorporated into the facility.</p>	<p>Land plot indicatively identified on Baglan Energy Park.</p> <p>Planning permission not obtained, to be progressed.</p> <p>Design of building is being scoped.</p> <p>Initial work is being progressed with Industry Wales to scope facility needs and what it should focus on and deliver.</p>

<p>South Wales Industrial Transition from Carbon Hub (SWITCH)</p>	<p>Harbourside - South Wales Industrial Transition from Carbon Hub (SWITCH) part of NPT CBC Supporting Innovation Low Carbon Growth Programme</p> <p>This industrial research facility will provide collaborative space to enable research to support the decarbonisation of industrial processes including the steel industry and its supply chain to improve competitiveness by increasing product capability and reduce carbon emissions to meet legislative requirements. It will strengthen collaboration between industry and academia and increase the level of applied research to accelerate the adoption of improved products and processes.</p> <p>The specialist facility will include specialist equipment on an open access basis.</p> <p>The Council is working with Swansea University to deliver the facility.</p>	<p>Land area confirmed for this development at Harbourside.</p> <p>Two stage design and build tender exercise completed – successful contractor due to be announced.</p> <p>Due for completion 2024/2025.</p>
<p>GCRE – Global Centre of Rail Excellence</p>	<p>This project will deliver a world class train testing facility in the UK that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a vital service to UK and international train manufacturers, network operators, the wider industry and the supply chain. • Fast track improved services for passengers and freight operators. • Deliver significant efficiencies for the rail industry. • Be a key asset in achieving decarbonisation and sustainability targets. • Accelerate the throughput of innovation. Support Wales and UK exports. • Provide high quality jobs and training opportunities locally. • Be a significant attraction to private sector investors 	<p>Planning for phase 1 consented and granted summer 2021.</p> <p>£150m project cost with additional further investment made and attracted for the other developments onsite.</p> <p>Neath and Brecon branch line connection and signalling upgrade planned.</p> <p>a new company, GCRE Ltd, to deliver the project. The company is:</p> <p>Developed a detailed business plan and undertaking ground investigation work on site completed. These will inform government financial commitments to the project. Welsh Government has committed £50 million and UK Government £30 million.</p> <p>Site preparation / construction: 2022 to 2025 Phase 1 operational: 2023 Fully operational: 2025</p>

	<p>The world class rail testing centre will allow rolling stock and infrastructure testing and innovation.</p> <p>The site is located at the Nant Helen surface mine and Onllwyn Coal Washery at the head of the Dulais and Tawe valleys.</p> <p>The Nant Helen surface mine site will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrified high-speed outer rail testing track (6.9km) with testing speeds of up to 110mph. • Electrified low-speed infrastructure testing track (4.5km) allowing speeds of up to 40mph. • Dual platform station environment. • 25kv overhead line equipment (OLE) infrastructure. <p>The Onllwyn Washery site will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research, development, education and training/conference centre. • An operations and control centre/office. • Staff facilities. • Rolling stock storage/sidings. • Rolling stock maintenance facility. <p>25kv overhead line equipment (OLE) infrastructure.</p>	<p>Earthworks has begun (Walters Group have won that contract) and started on site in spring 2022 to prepare the land for rail infrastructure.</p> <p>Various Pins have been issued on Sell2Wales.</p> <p>Meet the buyer event delivered in Cardiff Nov 2022.</p> <p>Further events planned with NPT CBC March / April 2023.</p>
<p>Wildfox Development (Wildfox Resorts Afan Valley Ltd)</p>	<p>Plans for a £250m adventure resort in Port Talbot's Afan Valley. The resort will include a 50-bed hotel, spa, restaurant, viewing area, 570 lodges and biking and walking trails.</p>	<p>8th November 2022 - NPT's Planning Committee granted the project outline planning permission and approved a reserved matters application.</p> <p>The reserved matters involve outstanding details not covered in the original outline planning application relating to access, layout, landscaping, scale and appearance.</p> <p>The committee also approved a discharge of conditions application from Wildfox meaning the developers have detailed how they will meet planning conditions so work can start on the Afan Valley project.</p>

		<p>The planned resort in the Afan Valley will be the first of a series of new Wildfox resorts across the UK.</p> <p>The project is anticipated to bring significant economic benefits to the area and once completed, it is estimated that 1,000 new jobs will be created.</p> <p>Preparations for the next stage of project development have begun – the Council are working closely with Wildfox, alongside key partners such as Neath Port Talbot College, to ensure that local people, businesses and communities are at the heart of the plans for the project.</p> <p>Wildfox are currently refining resort designs and plan to finalise a procurement and construction programme, ahead of site preparation in Spring 2023.</p>
<p>Shared Prosperity Fund</p>	<p>The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK Government’s Levelling Up agenda. The fund provides funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition.</p> <p>The Fund is a mix of revenue and capital funding and will be aligned to a three year Investment Plan.</p> <p>The Neath Port Talbot UKSPF allocation over 3 years, from April 2022 to March 2025 is £27,310,363 core SPF and £5,700,708 Multiply allocation (Multiply is a UK programme to support adult numeracy skills).</p> <p>There are three UKSPF Investment Priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communities and place 2. Supporting local business 3. People and skills <p>The Funding will be allocated to five anchor projects led by Neath Port Talbot Council, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place • Valleys and Villages • Sustainable Communities 	<p>December 2022 – regional Investment Plan approved by UK Government.</p> <p>January 2023 – Neath Port Talbot anchor projects approved by NPT Cabinet.</p> <p>February 2023 – open call for Skills and Multiply projects.</p> <p>February 2023 – open call for strategic projects to address Investment Plan priorities.</p> <p>April 2023 – launch of Neath Port Talbot SPF grant fund schemes: Heritage, Culture & Tourism Fund; Valleys & Villages Fund; Sustainable Communities Growth Fund; Third Sector Growth Fund; Business Growth Grant Fund.</p> <p>December 2024 – project activity to end.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced Business Support for Growth & Innovation Employability <p>There will be a competitive call for projects to support the Skills and Multiply priorities and for stand-alone projects to address the challenges and opportunities identified in the Investment Plan which are not delivered by the 'anchor' projects.</p>	
<p>Shared Prosperity Fund (Supporting Local Business Anchor Project)</p>	<p>This is a £4.8m project to be delivered over 2 years focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting Indigenous Growth of Key Sectors, i.e. manufacturing; engineering; ICT; med-tech and renewables to deliver technological and transformational change, and encourage productivity, innovation and competitiveness across the economy. Develop the Foundational Economy, i.e. delivering tailored business support packages to social enterprises, and businesses supplying local goods and services within the Health & Social Care; Tourism; Hospitality and Retail sectors. Financial and Specialist Support, i.e. approx., £3m grant pot to support capital and revenue investment projects for new starts, social enterprises, existing businesses and inward investors, low carbon energy efficiency audits and specialist consultancy support to help businesses identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and plan for growth, development or diversification. Delivery of Feasibility Studies to provide a strategic position to leverage future funding and develop local supply chains to support new investment, technologies, markets, etc. Developing and implementing Social Value policies and activities to support the delivery of Community 	<p>Project approved.</p> <p>Internal processes being developed for grant funding and recording of business interactions.</p> <p>Job descriptions and person specifications being developed for Job Evaluation in preparation for recruitment of staff.</p> <p>Plan to launch project in April 2023.</p>

	<p>Benefits, i.e. to implement social value policies: and Increase the ability of local SMEs to secure contracts with the public sector.</p>	
<p>Levelling Up Fund R2</p>	<p>The Vale of Neath Heritage Corridor Visitor Attractor is a package bid based in the Vale of Neath in south west Wales which will deliver two transformational projects which form part of the 'Vale of Neath Heritage Corridor Masterplan'. The masterplan outlines key investment opportunities to establish the Vale of Neath as a heritage and natural environment led visitor destination. The LUF funding will be the catalyst for the delivery of the masterplan leading to the growth of the visitor economy in the Vale of Neath. The two interlinked projects are:</p> <p>The Waterfall Country Pontneddfechan visitor infrastructure scheme located to the north of the valley will address significant pressures being experienced by the host community by creating improved access to services in addition to supporting the visitor economy through the delivery of strategic visitor infrastructure, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · A visitor hub gateway building incorporating; public toilets, a farm / village shop for the benefit of local community and visitors · Bunkhouse style visitor accommodation, · A permanent parking solution to include formal and overflow parking, coach and minibus parking and EV charging facilities · Public realm/ visitor gateway improvements to enhance the sense of arrival in the village to include; a village square offering opportunities for small events such as pop-up markets, outdoor seating and safe pedestrian routes with a viewing platform. 	<p>February 2023 - Construction contract awarded.</p>

- Interpretation and signage.

The project will provide the necessary capacity to accommodate existing visitors during peak times in addition to attracting additional visitors during off peak times throughout the year, this will result in extending the visitor season and easing pressures during peak times of year.

The proposed bunk house style accommodation development will capture additional visitor spending within the local area and will create employment.

The Gnoll Estate Country Park Heritage and Visitor Infrastructure located to the south of the valley close to Neath town centre will improve and restore the heritage features as a key aspect of the visitor experience and will develop on site visitor accommodation.

The project will support the growth of the visitor economy, enhance the appeal of the park to attract additional visitors and will bring the heritage of the park to the forefront of the visitor experience. This project forms part of a phased approach to develop the Gnoll Estate Master Plan, LUF will invest in the following:

- Conserving and opening up access to important heritage features including Gnoll House cellars and cascades
- Diversifying the play offer
- Modernisation of the exiting visitor centre and café,
- Improved interpretation of the country park
- Enhanced biodiversity and nature conservation
- Enhanced physical linkages with the neighbouring Woodland Trust site to double the available land for outdoor leisure at this location

	· Enhanced car parking provision (incorporating EV charging facilities)	
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