

SWANSEA BAY CITY REGION JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE 28th February 2023

Supporting Innovation & Low Carbon Growth Progress Update

RECOMMENDATIONS/KEY DECISIONS

To inform Joint Scrutiny Committee of the progress made and status of the SBCD Supporting Innovation and Low Carbon Growth Programme

REASONS

1. Introduction

Programme vision: ***to deliver low carbon, sustainable and inclusive economic growth for the region.***

The Supporting Innovation and Low Carbon Growth programme aims to deliver sustainable jobs and growth in the Swansea Bay City Region by creating the right environment for innovation and new technologies to support the creation of a decarbonised and innovative economy.

The programme's Investment Objectives include:

1. To build resilience, diversify and grow the regional economy
2. To support innovation and new product development in science, technology and manufacturing sectors - strengthening industry, academia and government collaboration
3. To support innovation to influence a shift in the use of high CO₂ energy usage to low CO₂ energy usage in economic activities (industry, commercial buildings and transport)
4. To demonstrate the link between GHGs from economic activities and air quality improvements in the targeted area.

The £57.7m programme funds the following seven interlinked projects:

- Bay Technology Centre
- South Wales Industrial Transition from Carbon Hub (SWITCH)
- Hydrogen Stimulus Project
- Air Quality Monitoring Project
- Low Emission Vehicle Charging Routemap
- Advanced Manufacturing Production Facility (AMPF), including open access equipment for industry
- Property Development Fund

2. SILCG Programme Status

Business Case

The SILCG programme underwent a Peer Review in January / February 2020, a Gateway Review Project Assessment Review (PAR) in June 2020, followed by a Gateway Review Critical Friend Review (CFR) in October 2020. An internal audit was also undertaken in October/November 2022.

Governance

- The SILCG Programme Governance is fully established and functioning. The governance structure ensures robust, effective decision making and accountability.
- A SILCG Programme Board has been fully established. Membership of the Board comprises senior representation from the Programme's key partners with the opportunity to co-opt representation from additional key stakeholders as and when required. Terms of reference are in place, agreed upon and reviewed monthly.
- A Senior Responsible Officer for the Programme is in place.
- The Programme Risk Register is fully operational and scrutinised regularly by the SILCG Programme Board.
- The Programme has a comprehensive Integrated Assurance and Approval Plan (IAAP) and Risk Potential Assurance (RPA) Matrix in place which follows regional and national formats and requirements. Both the IAAP and RPA are regularly reviewed in consultation with the City Deal PoMO.

Funding

- The SILCG Programme Business Case was approved in August 2021
- The primary funding agreement for the SILCG Programme has been signed under seal.

3. SILCG Programme Delivery Summary

The seven interlinked projects are at various stages of delivery.

1. Bay Technology Centre (BTC) – completed



- Construction complete and handed over to Neath Port Talbot Council July 2022
- First commercial energy positive building in Wales (according to contractors)
- Won three prestigious awards to date, which includes:
 - i. Net Zero Award in this year's Constructing Excellence Wales (CEW) Awards (June 2022)
 - ii. Sustainability Award in the Insider Wales Property Awards (June 2022)
 - iii. Commercial Property Project of the Year, British Construction Industry Awards 2022, presented at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London (October 2022)



- Two tenants currently in place, pipeline of interested parties being progressed.



2. South Wales Industrial Transition from Carbon Hub (SWITCH)
 - Two stage Design & Build tender issued via South West Wales Regional Contractors Framework 16th September, deadline for responses 25th November 2022
 - Open day organised in October 2022 at Swansea University (SU) to view new building technologies and legacy equipment
 - 3 excellent tenders received which have been assessed, announcement due soon once Heads of Terms is signed by SU
 - Heads of Terms created and currently with SU for approval
3. Hydrogen Stimulus Programme
 - Funding Agreement being reviewed by University of South Wales
 - Preparatory works undertaken
4. Air Quality Monitoring Project
 - Air Quality Data Analyst and Scientific Officer in place
 - Ricardo undertaken review of Year 1 data
 - Presentation given to interested parties
5. Low Emission Vehicle Route Map
 - Development of the Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan specification consulting with various external stakeholders
6. Advanced Manufacturing Production Facility
 - Regular meetings with Industry Wales to support pre market engagement activities to develop the scope aligned to the needs of industry and engage potential operators. The pre-market engagement will engage with industry, FE and HE, Schools etc.
7. Property Development Fund
 - Expression of Interest stage - 14 applications received (heavily oversubscribed) – 13 invited through to Stage 1 formal application process
 - Stage 1 deadline 9 applications received
 - Stage 1 applications currently being reviewed
 - Invitation to Stage 2 to be issued in February

InnovateUK Launchpad

NPTCBC is leading on a recent InnovateUK submission to identify interested parties around an innovation cluster entitled NOW SWITCH (Net Zero Wales Sustainable Wales Innovation to Transition from Carbon Hub) a consortium of SW Wales Local Authorities, Net Zero Industry Wales and Welsh Universities. InnovateUK plan to establish 10 launchpads across the UK with two already established in the Tees Valley area and Liverpool region. Each launchpad will have £7.5M funding to distribute in future funding calls. Decision was expected on 5th December however, this has been delayed by InnovateUK.

NPTCBC Internal Audit of SILCG Programme

During October and November 2022 the SILCG Programme was subject to an internal audit. This involved a series of interviews and analysis of programme documentation, claims, governance, procurement etc. The outcome from the audit published on 15th November was the project demonstrated '**Substantial Assurance**' which is the highest rating available, which is rarely given. The whole team is very proud of this achievement.

Forward Plan

- Additional tenants to be secured for BTC
- Signing HoT between Neath Port Talbot and Swansea University and appointment of contractors
- Signing Hydrogen Funding Agreement and purchase of specialist equipment
- EV - Early 2023 focus will turn to progressing the regional LZEV Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan ensuring alignment to all other existing activity across the region
- AQMP activities to continue with additional sensors deployed
- Pre-market engagement stakeholder event for AMPF
- Assessment of PDF Stage 1 applications, invitations to Stage 2 to be issued

4. SILCG Programme Risks

The SILCG Programme has a comprehensive risk register which is used to identify, record, monitor and mitigate against all Programme and individual Project risks. There are currently 15 live risks being managed across the Programme, of which the following 2 are classified as red:

Title	Risk description	Control actions
TAN 15 Revised Flood Maps	Revised TAN 15 flood maps could potentially affect SWITCH, AMPF, and any PDF projects.	Potential impact is currently being assessed and will need to be closely monitored.
Increasing capital costs	Further funding could be required i.e unforeseen costs, changing requirements, COVID etc.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Effective programme management / budget monitoring 2. Capital costs around construction - if build costs increase could impact on fittings which

		could impact on outputs.
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