

RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

Key Decision

✓

SUBJECT: WELSH GOVERNMENT'S TARGETED REGENERATION INVESTMENT PROGRAMME – DEVELOPMENT AND PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

This report has been prepared to accompany the intended officer decision of the Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning as described below.

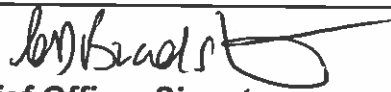
This report provides details on:

- Welsh Government's (WG) Targeted Regeneration Investment programme (TRI) and the development of a thematic project for town centre property improvements that will operate across South East Wales.
- Proposals for Rhondda Cynon Taf to act as Lead Body for the co-ordination and monitoring of the thematic project on behalf of the other local authorities in South East Wales and to submit an application to Welsh Government for approval.

DELEGATED DECISION:

It is **AGREED** that:

- The request by the other South East Wales local authorities and Welsh Government that the Council acts as Lead Body for the TRI Thematic Project is agreed and that additional costs to the Council in this role should be top sliced from the total grant.
- Arrangements are made to submit a project application to Welsh Government for approval so that the delivery of the project can begin early in 2019.
- A pipeline of projects in Pontypridd should be developed and brought forward to benefit from the thematic project to maximise the potential use of the grant in the area.


Chief Officer Signature

CDBLASHAW
Print Name:

30/10/18
Date

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution

CONSULTATION



30/10/18

CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

DATE



30th Oct 18

CONSULTEE OFFICER SIGNATURE

DATE

CALL IN PROCEDURE RULES.

IS THE DECISION DEEMED URGENT AND NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

YES NO

Reason for urgency:.....

If deemed urgent - signature of Mayor or Deputy Mayor or Head of Paid Service confirming agreement that the proposed decision is reasonable in all the circumstances for it being treated as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rule 17.2:

.....
(Mayor)

.....
(Dated)

NB - If this is a reconsidered decision then the decision Cannot be Called In and the decision will take effect from the date the decision is signed.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

PUBLICATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATES

PUBLICATION

Publication on the Councils Website:- 30th October 2018

DATE

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

Note: This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 3 clear working days after its publication to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Subject to Call In the implementation date will be 5th November 2018.

DATE

APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION :✓

Further Information

Directorate:	Regeneration, Planning and Housing
Contact Name:	Peter Mortimer
Designation:	Regeneration Manager
Tel.No.	01443 281120

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

KEY DELEGATED DECISION

REPORT TO ACCOMPANY A DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION, PLANNING AND HOUSING

October 2018

WELSH GOVERNMENT'S TARGETED REGENERATION INVESTMENT PROGRAMME – PROPOSAL TO LEAD AND DELIVER THE REGIONAL THEMATIC PROJECT

Author: Peter Mortimer, Regeneration Manager (Tel: 01443 490407)

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides details on:

- Welsh Government's (WG) Targeted Regeneration Investment programme (TRI) and the development of a thematic project for town centre property improvements that will operate across South East Wales
- Proposals for Rhondda Cynon Taf to act as Lead Body for the co-ordination and monitoring of the thematic project on behalf of the other local authorities in South East Wales and to submit an application to Welsh Government for approval.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 The request by the other South East Wales local authorities and Welsh Government that the Council acts as Lead Body for the TRI Thematic Project is agreed and that additional costs to the Council in this role should be top sliced from the total grant
- 2.2 Arrangements are made to submit a project application to Welsh Government for approval so that the delivery of the project can begin early in 2019.
- 2.3 A pipeline of projects in Pontypridd should be developed and brought forward to benefit from the thematic project to maximise the potential use of the grant in the area.

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The availability of TRI funding in South East Wales provides a significant opportunity to gain funding to deliver key priority regeneration projects which will provide a further boost to the economy of Rhondda Cynon Taf and provide job opportunities for local people.
- 3.2 The agreement of the draft Regional Regeneration Plan and initial project list provides a basis to bring forward projects for funding and manage the TRI Programme in South East Wales over the next three years.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In October 2017, Welsh Government (WG) announced their Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) programme with a three-year funding stream commencing in the 2018-19 financial year and completing in March 2021. TRI is the follow up programme to the Vibrant and Viable Places Programme which was completed in March 2017.
- 4.2 TRI will support the delivery of capital projects which will support economic regeneration and sustainable development. It will be managed on a regional basis which for Rhondda Cynon Taf will be South East Wales on the basis of the same area as the Cardiff Capital Region. The TRI budget for South East Wales for the next three years is £44 million.
- 4.3 WG TRI guidance requires that a Regional Regeneration Plan should be agreed at a regional level and submitted to WG for endorsement to provide a framework for individual projects to come forward for approval. The Plan should include the target areas for the delivery of TRI projects across the region.
- 4.4 The Regional Regeneration Plan for South East Wales was subject to a separate report and decision in July 2018 to support its submission to Welsh Government. Welsh Government have endorsed the Plan which now forms the basis for managing and delivering the TRI Programme in South East Wales. The Plan outlines details to bring forward a thematic project to be delivered in the ten South East Wales local authorities.

5.0 PROGRESS ON THE SOUTH EAST WALES THEMATIC TRI PROJECT

- 5.1 The Regional Plan sets out the principle of a thematic project in South East Wales which will operate in the ten designated and agreed target areas for the TRI Programme set out in the Regional Regeneration Plan.

There is one key town/urban centre in each of the ten local authority areas.

The project will support

- Urban Centre Property Enhancements which focuses on improving town centre commercial and business properties and bringing disused floorspace back into use.
- Urban Centre Living which focuses on improving town centre buildings and bringing back disused space to provide new homes

The project will be worth £10 million in grant and will run until March 2021. This will initially be split equally between the ten designated areas and will be subject to the ability to deliver eligible projects up to the allocation. Grants will be offered to business and property owners and Registered Social Landlords to a maximum of £250,000 per project. The detailed arrangements will be subject to Welsh Government terms and conditions. The advantage of the thematic project is that individual projects will be approved locally by the local authority rather than Welsh Government which is the case for larger TRI applications.

- 5.2 The other local authorities and Welsh Government have requested that Rhondda Cynon Taf should act as the Lead Body to manage and coordinate the thematic project in South East Wales. This is because of the knowledge and experience the Council has of managing similar projects and programmes. The Lead Body role will mean that the Council will monitor the delivery of the project across the ten areas to ensure it is delivering to targets and provide reports and make financial claims to Welsh Government and make payments to the other local authorities. The responsibility for approving and managing all aspects of projects and grants in the individual areas will sit with that local authority. Each local authority will be legally and financially accountable for all local delivery which will be enforced by a Service Level Agreement.
- 5.3 The Lead Body role will be led by the Regeneration Service supported by colleagues in Finance, Legal and Procurement . A management fee is available to be top sliced from the £10 million project cost to cover all additional costs borne by the Council in administering the project.
- 5.4 In Rhondda Cynon Taf the project will operate in the designated area for TRI projects which is Pontypridd as set out in the previous report and decision on the TRI Programme in July 2018. A pipeline of potential projects is currently being assembled which will support our ambitious plans for the regeneration of the area.
- 5.5 The next steps would be to submit a project application to Welsh Government for approval and to agree a Service Level Agreement with each of the South East Wales local authorities to formally establish the Council's role as Lead Body for this project. It is anticipated that the project will be operational early in 2019.

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment scoping exercise has been undertaken that indicates there would be no such implications at present. This will be reassessed for the delivery of individual projects to be supported by TRI funding.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 It is not considered that any further consultation is required prior to submitting an application to Welsh Government. The development and delivery of individual projects will be subject to the necessary consultation and other statutory arrangements. The project opportunities will be marketed to eligible organisations within the eligible areas when approval is received.

8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There will be a requirement for match funding to the value of 30% as part of the conditions of any application made under the WG TRI Programme. For this project the match funding will normally come from private sector or RSL applicants and there will be no additional match funding requirements from the Council. The additional costs to the Council incurred by acting as Lead Body for the TRI Thematic Project in South East Wales will be claimed from the total grant available for the duration of the project.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 Discussions have taken place with Legal Services and Finance to consider the legal implications and legislation and it is considered that the arrangements and terms and conditions of this funding can be administered under the Council's lawful powers. In addition, a Service Level Agreement will be put in place between the Council and each of the other participating local authorities in South East Wales. This will essentially pass on the accountability, risk and responsibility for the local delivery of projects to each of the participating local authorities and will also govern the grant monitoring and claim process. The SLA will pass on all relevant Welsh Government grant terms and conditions that sit with the overall grant approval.

10. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

- 10.1 The availability of WG TRI funding over the next three years for this Thematic Project will offer a significant opportunity to bring forward key priority regeneration projects which will further boost the local economy and provide job opportunities for local people. This approach will contribute to the achieving of the corporate priorities of 'Economy – *Building a strong economy*' and 'Place – *Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work*'
- 10.2 The delivery of priority regeneration projects will directly contribute to, the goals of the Well Being of Future Generations Act. In particular the economic and environmental well-being of Wales supporting the delivery of a prosperous Wales, a more resilient Wales and a Wales of cohesive communities.

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 The availability of WG TRI funding in South East Wales for this Thematic Project over the next three years provides a significant opportunity to fund and bring forward priority regeneration projects that will further boost the local economy and provide job opportunities for local people. The initial proposals presented in this report will be further developed for funding and a pipeline of potential projects is currently being assembled which will support our ambitious plans for the regeneration of the area that will maximise the use of this TRI grant opportunity.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Public Services Delivery, Communities & Prosperity

Contact Officer: Peter Mortimer Tel: (01443) 281120