



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

**SUBJECT: WELSH GOVERNMENT VIBRANT AND VIABLE PLACES REGENERATION
FRAMEWORK : PIPELINE PROJECT PROPOSALS**

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PURPOSE OF ATTACHED REPORT:


- 1) To consider the request from Welsh Government for a list of projects that could be considered for VVP investment should additional funding become available.
- 2) To agree the proposed list of projects for submission to Welsh Government.

DELEGATED DECISION:

- 1) It is agreed that the proposed list of pipeline projects is approved for submission to Welsh Government by 14th July.
- 2) It is agreed that the Director of Regeneration and Planning is authorised to make revisions to the proposed list providing that it does not fundamentally alter its composition or impact in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning.


Chief Officer Signature


Print Name


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

Ben

CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

24/06/15

DATE

Jane Cook

OFFICER CONSULTEE SIGNATURE

24/6/15

DATE

Directorate:	REGENERATION AND PLANNING
Contact Name:	JANE COOK
Designation:	DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND PLANNING
Tel.No.	01443 490406

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015-2016 REPORT TO ACCOMPANY DECISION OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**Part 1
(Non-Confidential)**

WELSH GOVERNMENT VIBRANT AND VIABLE PLACES REGENERATION FRAMEWORK : PIPELINE PROJECT PROPOSALS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides details of the request from Welsh Government for a list of project proposals for existing VVP settlement areas that could be considered should additional funding become available.
- 1.2 It outlines a proposed list of projects in Appendix 1 for submission to Welsh Government by the deadline of 14th July 2015.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Welsh Government's Regeneration Framework 'Vibrant and Viable Places' (VVP) was launched in March 2013 as a result of a review of approaches to regeneration in Wales and further afield.
- 2.2 Tackling Poverty is a priority for the Welsh Government and the VVP framework supports this agenda, setting out its vision is that everyone in Wales should live in well-connected vibrant, viable and sustainable communities with a strong local economy and good quality of life.
- 2.3 The main aims of the VVP investment are:
- To revitalise and promote the sustainable development of settlement areas, making the most of their green infrastructure, heritage and historic character;
 - To build sustainable and vibrant communities that are more prosperous, better educated and healthier;
 - To tackle poverty by creating jobs, encouraging skills development and helping people into work;

- To encourage wider investment in housing; and
- To deliver strategic, regionally important projects of significant scale.

2.4 In July 2013, Cabinet approved that the settlement area of Pontypridd should be the focus of regeneration investment due to the role that the area can fulfil in terms of economic growth and as a catalyst for future prosperity.

2.5 Welsh Government approval of £6.480million for the Pontypridd Settlement area for the period April 2014 to March 2017 has been received to date.

3. PIPELINE PROJECT PROCESS

3.1 In February 2015, Welsh Government were successful in obtaining extra funding for the VVP Programme which enabled an additional £2million to be allocated to new projects.

3.2 The Council benefitted from this with a contribution of £500k towards the cost of acquiring the long leasehold interest on the Taff Vale Precinct site.

3.3 Welsh Government have recently requested that Local Authorities submit details of additional projects for their settlement areas which could be considered should additional funding become available again.

3.4 It is unknown at this stage when additional funding may be announced and if it follows the same pattern as in 2014/15 the requirement will be for quick win projects at year end.

3.5 However as the timing and value of any additional funding is currently unclear, it may be advantageous to submit longer term regeneration priorities including those where development work can commence in 2015/16, as well as potential quick win projects.

3.6 The deadline for submission of outline information on potential projects is 14th July. Welsh Government Officials have however indicated that there may be the opportunity to add/remove projects from the pipeline list of projects on a quarterly basis.

4. PROPOSED PIPELINE PROJECTS

4.1 The proposed pipeline projects, include some existing VVP schemes which require additional investment in order to achieve maximum impact and a range of proposals that contribute to the aims and objectives of the VVP Programme that were previously unable to be progressed due to limited funding.

4.2 Welsh Government has only requested outline project information at this stage which will need to be expanded on should funding become available. Work will however continue to identify anticipated costs and delivery timescales for all proposals before submission of the list of pipeline projects to Welsh Government.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

5.1 The proposed list of pipeline projects is approved for submission to Welsh Government by 14th July.

5.2 The Director of Regeneration and Planning is authorised to make revisions to the proposed list providing that it does not fundamentally alter its composition or impact in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning.

Appendix 1

PROJECT	COMMENT
Regeneration of Taff Vale Site	This project is part of the current VVP Programme and is of strategic significance to the town. Additional VVP funding will assist in removing barriers and constraints in securing future investment and allow development of the site and surrounding infrastructure including access to the War Memorial Park and Lido and improved parking facilities.
Townscape Enhancement Programme (TEP+)	This project is part of the current VVP Programme and supports commercial building improvements by providing financial support for renovation and improvement works to the frontage and envelope of buildings. Additional funding is required to meet the generated demand in the town centre.
Regeneration of Lady Windsor Colliery Site	This project is part of the current VVP Programme and additional funding is required for the provision of onsite and off-site infrastructure improvements to assist in removing constraints to the delivery of a future housing development in line with the site masterplan.
The Pontypridd Hub	This project is part of the current VVP Programme and aims to create a state of the art multi-purpose facility making the YMCA fully accessible, rationalising the use of internal spaces, creating new and improved facilities and a suite of dedicated arts facilities. Additional VVP will assist in reducing the current funding gap of £1.7m.
Lido Brown Tourism Signs	The aim of the project is to provide way finding visitor information, to the already erected brown tourism signs, on roads approaching Pontypridd, for the regional visitor attraction "Lido Ponty".
Ynysangharad Park / Taff St Sign	The town centre and Ynysangharad War Memorial Park must be seen as one destination if they are to become co-dependent and a new, more visible gateway to the Park is needed, which is clearly evident and attention grabbing, but also in keeping with the design ethos of the town centre.
Restoration of Ynysangharad Memorial Park	The aim of the project is to make improvements to the natural environment and key features within the park adding value to the restoration of the lido. The project will improve public perception and increase visitor satisfaction in the combined offer of the park, lido, and wider town.
Pontypridd Public Realm	Provision of high quality public realm to complement the existing public realm improvements and complete the missing links within the town centre.
Electronic Passenger Information	To encourage more journeys by public transport, it is proposed that electronic information display panels are provided at Pontypridd Bus Station, which is an important interchange point between local and longer distance bus services, as well as at a central location in Pontypridd town centre. It is envisaged that these displays will show a 'look ahead' summary of the bus and rail departures from Pontypridd during the day.
Pontypridd THI	Development of a Townscape Heritage Initiative for Pontypridd Town Centre
Retail Collection Hub	Development of a town centre retail collection hub combining online shopping with the traditional high street experience.
Market Hall Development	Development of a planning strategy to aid and encourage development of the prominent Grade II listed building.
Stardust Bingo Hall	Re-development of the former Clarence Housing Theatre to provide a mixed use development that could accommodate retail, residential and commercial purposes