



RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

Key Decision ✓

**SUBJECT: Coed Ely (South Plateau), Tonyrefail and Robertstown, Aberdare
- Submission of business plans to European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Priority 4, Specific Objective 4**

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended officer decision of the Director of Regeneration and Planning as described below;

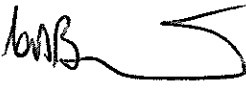

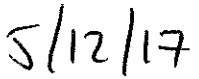
The purpose of this report is to seek a decision on the submission of business plans to the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) to bring forward two key employment sites with the development of new modern business units – on Coed Ely (South Plateau) Tonyrefail and Robertstown, Aberdare. The projects will create much needed modern new business units and create new jobs to support economic growth

DELEGATED DECISION:

It was **AGREED** that:

1. The Council submit project business plans for the development of modern business accommodation at the Coed Ely (South Plateau), Tonyrefail and Robertstown, Aberdare sites to the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) as bids for European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) support; and
2. Subject to approval of the project business plans submitted to WEFO, that a report is presented to Cabinet for consideration, in accordance with the Council's decision making processes. Cabinet can review the final costs identified, the Council's match funding contribution, along with potential funding options for this contribution, and consider if this is progressed.



 Chief Executives Signature <i>(In the absence of the Chief Officer)</i>	 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



CONSULTATION

RB

05-12-17

CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

DATE

CONSULTEE OFFICER SIGNATURE (if required)

DATE

CALL IN PROCEDURE RULES.

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

YES ✓

Reason for urgency: The need to submit the project business plans to the Welsh European Funding Office by Monday 11th December, 2017.

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:

du. J. G. G.
(Mayor)

05.12.2017
(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 CABINET OFFICE USE ONLY

PUBLICATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATES

PUBLICATION

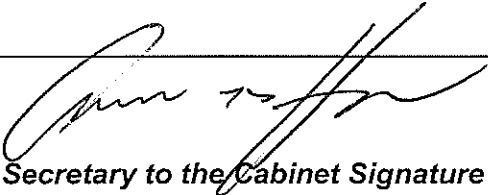
Publication on the Councils Website:- 5th December 2017.

DATE

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

Note: This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 5 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 N/A.
DATE


Secretary to the Cabinet Signature

CHRISTIAN SS HAWANAW,
Print Name

Date 5/12/17.



Further Information

Directorate:	Regeneration and Planning
Contact Name:	Karen Collings
Designation:	Team Leader
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DELEGATED DECISION

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO ACCOMPANY A DECISION OF DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND PLANNING

5 December 2017

**Coed Ely (South Plateau), Tonyrefail and Robertstown, Aberdare –
submission of business plans to European Regional Development Fund
(ERDF) Priority 4, Specific Objective 4**

AUTHOR(s): Karen Collings, Team Leader

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek a decision on whether the Council should submit project business plans to the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) to bring forward two key employment sites with the development of new modern business units – on Coed Ely (South Plateau) Tonyrefail and Robertstown, Aberdare. The projects will create much needed modern new business units and create new jobs to support economic growth.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 The Council submit project business plans for the development of modern business accommodation at the Coed Ely (South Plateau), Tonyrefail and Robertstown, Aberdare sites to the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) as bids for European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) support; and
- 2.1 Subject to approval of the project business plans submitted to WEFO, that a report is presented to Cabinet for consideration, in accordance with the Council's decision making processes. Cabinet can review the final costs identified, the Council's match funding contribution, along with potential funding options for this contribution, and consider if this is progressed.



3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2016-2020 "The Way Ahead" has building a strong economy as a priority. There is much work being progressed within the Council and partners which supports this priority right across RCT.
- 3.2 It is critical the Council identifies and works towards the delivery of economic growth in those regionally important areas where there is significant potential to create jobs and prosperity across RCT and the wider region.
- 3.3 The redevelopment of the Coed Ely and Robertstown sites will help to address the urgent need to provide modern business units across the region by developing on two key employment sites as identified in the Local Development Plan.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 £15.8M ERDF has been made available in South East Wales from the EU West Wales and the Valleys Programme under Priority 4, Specific Objective 4: to increase employment through investments in prioritised local or regional infrastructure supporting a regional or urban economic strategy. This investment is for projects where local authorities will play the lead role in delivery.
- 4.2 Of six projects invited to business plan in South East Wales, there are two projects in Rhondda Cynon Taf – Coed Ely and Robertstown. Outline information on these projects has been submitted to WEFO leading them to invite RCTCBC to submit detailed Business Plans.
- 4.3 The development of the Coed Ely site, in partnership with Welsh Government, has the potential for significant job growth and is a key component of the A4119 Corridor – Regional Rhondda Gateway Strategic Opportunity Area which was established in September 2017. The Robertstown site in Aberdare is in a key location close to the new Coleg Y Cymoedd Aberdare Campus, the railway station and Aberdare Town Centre and also has potential for significant job creation.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been established that a full EIA is not required at this time. Further information may be required during project implementation.



6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Detailed discussions have taken place with all relevant service areas within the Council. Finance, Legal Services, Corporate Estates and Procurement have been consulted as well as commercial advisors, the private sector and Welsh Government.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The two projects have been invited to Business Plan stage by WEFO on the basis that they have been allocated potential ERDF grant of £2.58 million per project as a contribution to project costs.
- 7.2 The total cost of the projects cannot currently be quantified with any accuracy but will be developed as part of the business plans. For the Coed Ely development, discussions with Welsh Government will also identify a potential joint venture and a partner for match funding. The Council's potential contribution to the match funding will therefore be determined as part of this process and a further report will be prepared, in accordance with the Council's decision making processes, once final costs have been identified for both projects.
- 7.3 It should be noted that development and submission of the business plans to WEFO does not commit the Council to any match funding obligations.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no legal implications arising from these proposals at this stage but there will be legal and contractual details that will need to be determined as the Business Plan development progresses and will be subject to a further Report. However, it will be necessary to ensure that the projects are developed in accordance with WEFO guidance.

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN AND OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 9.1 The successful redevelopment of the Coed Ely and Robertstown sites will contribute to the Building a Strong Economy priority within the Corporate Plan.



10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 This report has outlined the proposed projects and seeks approval to proceed to the business planning stage of the WEFO application process and to investigate appropriate match funding to support the projects.

