



## RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

Key Decision



### **SUBJECT:**

Cynon Gateway – Energising the Region – Welsh Government Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being Grant

### **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, Planning and Housing as described below:

This report provides an overview of Welsh Governments Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being grant programme. It also provides outline detail of two applications that have been developed under theme 1 and theme 2 of the programme.

Awareness of the programme was raised in mid November 2018 and the deadline for submission of the application is 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018, an urgent decision is required.

### **DELEGATED DECISION (NOVEMBER 2018):**

It is agreed that:

The submission of applications to theme 1 and theme 2 of the Welsh Governments Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being grant programme is supported and applications are prepared and submitted to Welsh Government by 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018.

  
*Chief Officer Signature*

SIMON GALE  
*Print Name*

03/12/18  
*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



3.12.2018

CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

DATE



3/12/18.

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  NO

Reason for urgency: The deadline for submission of the application to Welsh Government is 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2018.

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)

3<sup>rd</sup> December 18.

.....  
(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:- 03/12/18

**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                       
**DATE**

**APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION :✓**

**Further Information**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
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| Contact Name: | Derek James                                  |
| Designation:  | Head of Regeneration, Housing and Prosperity |
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## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **KEY DELEGATED DECISION**

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

**NOVEMBER 2018**

#### **WELSH GOVERNMENT ENABLING NATURAL RESOURCES & WELL- BEING GRANT**

**AUTHOR: DEREK JAMES, HEAD OF REGENERATION, HOUSING AND  
PROSPERITY**

#### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The report provides details on the Welsh Governments Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being Grant Programme.
- 1.2 The purpose of the report is to seek approval for the submission of two separate applications to the Welsh Governments Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being Grant Programme.
- 1.3 Awareness of the programme was raised in mid November 2018 and the deadline for submission of the application is 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018, an urgent decision is required.

#### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 The submission of applications to theme 1 and theme 2 of the Welsh Governments Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being grant programme is supported and applications are prepared and submitted to Welsh Government by 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018.

#### **3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Both projects will make a positive contribution to the Cynon Gateway Strategic Area Opportunity Plan and form the basis of a suite of improvement activity that is intended over forthcoming years for the area.

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

4.1 Welsh Government is calling for proposals to be submitted for its Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being in Wales Grant Programme (ENRW). This Wales-wide Environment Grant utilises resources available through the Rural Development Programme (RDP).

4.2 The grant will support the development and delivery of projects involving co-operation and collaboration. This includes costs relating to act of co-operation and the delivery of a co-operative pilot and demonstration projects supporting the resilience of Wales's natural resources and utilising them to produce broader multiple benefits spanning economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being. This grant will provide support for the revenue and capital costs associated with such projects.

4.3 The projects submitted to the Programme will need to have a clear focus on one or more of the following three themes of action:

- Developing, regenerating and broadening access to sustainable green infrastructure;
- Improving the quality of the urban and rural built environment; and
- Developing resilient ecological networks;

4.4 The application round for funding invites proposals from a range of organisations co-operatively working together and seeking support to deliver specific projects from the financial year 2019-20 onwards. The grant will focus on:

- Delivering the cross cutting ambitions of Prosperity for All and the Natural Resources Policy.
- Encouraging collaboration from the outset with new partners outside of traditional areas (e.g. business, health, tourism etc.).
- Outcomes and multiple benefits across the well-being goals.
- Maximising the funding available now, combining revenue and capital and broadening future funding sources.
- Continuous improvement in light of the Well-being of Future Generations and Environment Acts.

4.5 Applications need to demonstrate a clear link between natural resources, their effective management and their contribution to the Natural Resources Policy (NRP) which sets out the following national priority areas:

- Delivering nature-based solutions.
- Increasing renewable energy and resource efficiency.

- Taking a place-based approach.

4.6 The programme comprises of three types of funding and focuses on pilot and demonstration projects at the right scale, promoting cooperation and collaboration to address three themes of action, these being:

**Theme 1 - Funding to support the development of collaboration**

Development of strategic, cross-sector delivery co-operations or collaborations to develop and deliver environmental enhancements - funding of up to £40,000 is available for a maximum duration of 12 months.

**Theme 2 - Funding for small scale capital investments**

The capital costs associated with the development of small scale and potentially stand alone environmental and recreational infrastructure including that associated with green infrastructure. The grant will provide up to a maximum contribution of £128,000 (80%) towards each capital investment, with an overall maximum cost of £160,000, with a minimum grant of £20,000 over a maximum period of three years.

**Theme 3 - Funding for larger scale pilot and demonstration projects**

Strategic pilot and demonstration projects focusing on delivering activity to support environmental enhancements - maximum duration of three years. Minimum funding available under this strand of funding is £50,000. Welsh Government anticipates that the majority of projects supported will fall within the range of £750,000 to £1,000,000, over a maximum three year period; excluding any match funding identified by the co-operation itself.

4.7 The Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being Grant programme will operate over a four year period in line with timescales for the current RDP. However, the length of individual grant awards will be dependent on the type of project.

**5.0 PROPOSED APPLICATIONS**

5.1 The regeneration service led on the development of two project proposals that are eligible under theme 1 and theme 2 of the Enabling Natural Resources and well-being grant programme.

5.2 **Under theme 1** the Council, working in partnership with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) have mutually agreed that the Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being in Wales grant programme presents an opportunity to develop a place based approach, working in collaboration with local businesses and stakeholders on the Hirwaun

Industrial Estate to come up with practical nature based solutions to the environmental problems that exist on the site. The site is blighted with several problems such as fly tipping, inadequate disposal of waste, surface water flooding and litter.

- 5.3 At present there is limited stakeholder engagement between the businesses and other interested parties on the estate (NRW, Welsh Water, and the Council) and no overarching masterplan.
- 5.4 Revenue funding will be sought from theme 1 of the programme with the intention of utilising it to undertake an environmental masterplan for the industrial estate which incorporates a place based approach, working in collaboration with local businesses and stakeholders to come up with practical nature based solutions to environmental problems.
- 5.5 There is no match funding requirement for this project application and the grant request is for £40,000.
- 5.6 In terms of project governance a Project Steering Group will be created between the project delivery lead, the Council, NRW and key private sector members, the group will meet on a monthly basis. The Regeneration Manager will provide overall management of the project with guidance from members of the project steering group.
- 5.7 Regeneration will manage activities at a local level, bringing all partners together (acting as project facilitators - engaging with all stakeholders at all levels), project liaison, financial monitoring, submission of claims, preparations of financial reports, payments to project partners and project monitoring and evaluation activity.
- 5.8 **Under theme 2** of the programme an application has been developed in partnership with the organisation Welcome to Our Woods to develop walking and cycling routes across the Rhondda Fawr and Fach, and Cynon Valleys.
- 5.9 Feasibility and development studies will be undertaken to determine exact routes, which will seek to connect our towns and villages with our key attractions and places of interest (i.e. Dare Valley Country Park), wider travel networks (i.e. Taff Trail) and improved public transport services (being developed under the South Wales Metro).
- 5.10 The project will establish routes which will utilise current infrastructure on Rhigos Mountain (i.e. Pen Y Cymoedd wind farm tracks) and link to prospective developments such as the Rhondda and Abernant Tunnels to hopefully create direct access to Neath Port Talbot and Merthyr Tydfil.



- 5:11 The project total request for funding is £160k which consists of capital and revenue over a 3 year period. RCTCBC will be providing match funding that constitutes 20% of the total project cost (£32,000). This contribution will be covered by the Regeneration Investment Budget (P099).

## **6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full report is not required at this time.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 None required at the application stage.

## **8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 8.1 There is a match funding requirement of 20% for project submitted under theme 2 which will be up to £32,000 over 3 years. This amount will be accommodated from within the approved Regeneration Investment budget.

## **9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 There are no legal implications or legislation to be considered at the application stage.

## **10.0 LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT**

- 10.1 Both project proposals contribute heavily towards the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, in particular the economic well-being of Wales - supporting the delivery of a prosperous Wales and a more resilient Wales.
- 10.2 Both project proposals make a positive contribution towards the Council 2016-2020 Corporate Plan priorities – Economy – Building a strong economy, People – Promoting Independence and positive lives for everyone, Place – Creating Neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work.

## **11.0 CONCLUSION**

- 11.1 The Enabling Natural Resources And Well-being in Wales Grant Programme provides an opportunity to bring forward development in the Hirwaun area and its successful delivery will make a positive contribution towards realising the ambitions outlined in the Strategic Area Opportunity Plan - Cynon Gateway – Energising the Region.

### **Other Information:-**

***Relevant Scrutiny Committee***

Public Services Delivery, Communities and Prosperity

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