

**COFNOD O BENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO GAN SWYDDOG**  
**RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION**

**Penderfyniad Allweddol | Key Decision** ✓

**PWNC | SUBJECT: WELSH GOVERNMENT'S NORTHERN VALLEYS STRATEGIC SITES AND PREMISES SEED FUND**

**DIBEN YR ADRODDIAD | PURPOSE OF THE 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 Prosperity and Development as below.

The purpose of the report is to:

1. Seek approval for Rhondda Cynon Taf Council to accept Welsh Government's (WG) offer letter in relation to the Northern Valleys Strategic Sites and Premises SEED Fund ("the Fund") dated 28 January 2022. The funding is up to £800,000 (*eight hundred thousand pounds*) including VAT. The funding is 100% funding, with no match requirement.
2. Provide details on the Fund and its operation across the six local authorities of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC; Merthyr Tydfil CBC; Caerphilly CBC; Torfaen CBC; Blaenau Gwent CBC; and Bridgend CBC.
3. Propose that Rhondda Cynon Taf Council act as the Lead Body for the coordination and monitoring of the scheme on behalf of the other above stated local authorities.

**PENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO | DELEGATED DECISION:**

It is AGREED that:

- The Council accepts Welsh Government's Offer Letter in relation to the Fund for Northern Valleys Strategic Sites & Premises Seed Fund.
- The Council acts as Lead Body and that additional costs to the Council in this role are included within the total grant.
- The Council procure a contractor to undertake a range of desk based studies, investigations and site works on a number of strategic employment sites in the northern valleys area, on behalf of the six local authorities in line with the agreed criteria of the Fund.

 <b>Llofnod y Prif Swyddog</b> Chief Officer Signature	Simon Gale  <b>Enw (priflythrennau)</b> Name (Print Name)	9 <sup>th</sup> February 2022  <b>Dyddiad</b> Date
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------

**Mae'r penderfyniad yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag Adran 15 o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 2000 (Swyddogaethau'r Corff Gweithredol) ac yn y cylch gorchwyl sy wedi'i nodi yn Adran 5 o Ran 3 o Gyfansoddiad y Cyngor.**

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.

<b>YMGYNGHORI   CONSULTATION</b>	
 <hr/>	<hr/> 09.02.2022
<b>LLOFNOD YR AELOD YMGYNGHOROL O'R CABINET</b> CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE	<b>DYDDIAD   DATE</b>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>LLOFNOD SWYDDOG YMGYNGHOROL</b> CONSULTEE OFFICER SIGNATURE	<b>DYDDIAD   DATE</b>

**RHEOLAU'R WEITHDREFN GALW-I-MEWN | CALL IN PROCEDURE RULES.**

**A YW'R PENDERFYNIAD YN UN BRYN A HEB FOD YN DESTUN PROSES GALW-I-MEWN GAN Y PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU?:**

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

**NAC YDY | NO**

**Rheswm dros fod yn fater brys | Reason for Urgency:**

***Os yw'n cael ei ystyried yn fater brys - llofnod y Llywydd, y Dirprwy Lywydd neu Bennaeth y Gwasanaeth Cyflogedig yn cadarnhau cytundeb fod y penderfyniad arfaethedig yn rhesymol yn yr holl amgylchiadau iddo gael ei drin fel mater brys, yn unol â rheol gweithdrefn trosolwg a chraffu 17.2:***

*If deemed urgent - signature of Presiding Member or Deputy Presiding Member 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:*

.....  
**(Llywydd | Presiding Member)**                      **(Dyddiad | Date)**

**DS - Os yw hwn yn benderfyniad sy'n cael ei ail-ystyried yna does dim modd galw'r penderfyniad i mewn a bydd y penderfyniad yn dod i rym o'r dyddiad mae'r penderfyniad wedi'i lofnodi.**

**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.**

**AT DDEFNYDD Y SWYDDFA YN UNIG | FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

**DYDDIADAU CYHOEDDI A GWEITHREDU | PUBLICATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATES**

**CYHOEDDI | PUBLICATION**

**Cyhoeddi ar Wefan y Cyngor | Publication on the Councils Website:-** 10.02.2022

**DYDDIAD | DATE**

**GWEITHREDU'R PENDERFYNIAD | IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION**

**Nodwch: Fydd y penderfyniad hwn ddim yn dod i rym nac yn cael ei weithredu'n llawn nes cyn pen 3 diwrnod gwaith ar ôl ei gyhoeddi. Nod hyn yw ei alluogi i gael ei "Alw i Mewn" yn unol â Rheol 17.1, Rheolau Gweithdrefn Trosolwg a Chraffu.**

**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.

**Yn amodol ar y drefn "Galw i Mewn", caiff y penderfyniad ei roi ar waith ar / Subject to Call In the implementation date will be**

16.02.2022  
**DYDDIAD / DATE**

**WEDI'I GYMERADWYO I'W GYHOEDDI: ✓ | APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION :✓**

**Rhagor o wybodaeth | Further Information:**

Cyfadran   Directorate:	Prosperity and Development
Enw'r Person Cyswllt   Contact Name:	Simon Gale
Swydd   Designation:	Director of Prosperity and Development
Rhif Ffôn   Telephone Number:	01443 281114

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**KEY DELEGATED DECISION**

**A REPORT TO ACCOMPANY A DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF  
PROSPERITY AND DEVELOPMENT**

**JANUARY 2022**

**WELSH GOVERNMENT'S NORTHERN VALLEYS STRATEGIC SITES AND  
PREMISES SEED FUND**

**AUTHOR: Derek James - Service Director for Prosperity and Development**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek approval for Rhondda Cynon Taf Council to accept Welsh Government's (WG) offer letter in relation to the Northern Valleys Strategic Sites and Premises SEED Fund ("the Fund") dated 28 January 2022. The funding is up to £800,000 (*eight hundred thousand pounds*) including VAT. The funding is 100% funding, with no match requirement.
- 1.2 Provide details on the Fund and its operation across the six local authorities of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC; Merthyr Tydfil CBC; Caerphilly CBC; Torfaen CBC; Blaenau Gwent CBC; and Bridgend CBC.
- 1.3 To propose that Rhondda Cynon Taf Council act as the Lead Body for the coordination and monitoring of the scheme on behalf of the other above stated local authorities.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 The Council accepts Welsh Government's Offer Letter in relation to the Fund.
- 2.2 The Council acts as Lead Body and that additional costs to the Council in this role are included within the total grant.
- 2.3 The Council procure a contractor to undertake a range of desk based studies, investigations and site works on a number of strategic employment sites in the northern valleys area, on behalf of the six local authorities in line with the agreed criteria of the Fund.

**3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Welsh Government with the agreement of the other participating local authorities has invited the Council to act as Lead Body for this offer. The funding is up to £800,000 (*eight hundred thousand pounds*) including VAT. The funding is 100% funding, with no match requirement.
- 3.2 To enable Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, acting on behalf of the six local authorities of Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC; Merthyr Tydfil CBC; Caerphilly CBC; Torfaen CBC; Blaenau Gwent CBC; and Bridgend CBC, to project manage and procure a contractor to undertake a range of desk based studies, investigations and site works on a number of strategic employment sites in the northern valleys area.
- 3.3 The project will complement the regional approach to regeneration, business support and investment in South East Wales and will operate within the framework of existing regional structures including those established by the CCR through collaborative working arrangements between local authorities.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

##### **DETAILS OF THE SEED FUND**

- 4.1 The Northern Valleys / Heads of the Valleys have been the focus of numerous economic development and regeneration plans over recent decades, and most recently the dualling of the A465, Tech Valleys programme, and the Valleys Task Force. It has also been a significant beneficiary of EU funds over the passed two decades.
- 4.2 With the Valleys Taskforce ending, there is a real need to assemble key partners to ensure the focus is maintained on this part of the region for the development of appropriate business sites and premises. Effective collaborative working between each of the overlapping delivery programmes presents the opportunity to address the common socio-economic challenges faced by these communities, resulting in a sustained impact being felt more widely and equally across the northern valleys area.
- 4.3 The offer letter outlines five priority areas for the Fund, which are listed below:
1. Confirmation of final list of priority sites *in the northern valleys area, previously defined and agreed by the Northern Valleys Sites & Premises Working Group*, for each Local Authority.
  2. The commission of a suitable contractor to undertake an initial sift of priority sites, categorising each one as red, amber and green and a next phase recommendation for each priority site.
  3. The commission of a suitable contractor to deliver the recommendations of phase 2 above, delivering the appropriate desk based studies,

investigations, site works and any other work deemed appropriate.

4. Production of a deliverability report for each of the priority sites, clearly stating the next stages required to bring to full planning permission to include *estimated timescales and cost plans*. Where a site is not deemed deliverable, a full justification must be provided.
5. The commission of a suitable contractor to advise of the market demand for units on the above sites and provide a high level indicative layout plan for each of the preferred sites i.e. the size of plots, type of units and the best road / infrastructure layout.

The funding is up to £800,000 (*eight hundred thousand pounds*) including VAT. The funding is 100% funding, with no match requirement.

- 4.4 The other local authorities and Welsh Government have requested that Rhondda Cynon Taf act as Lead Body to manage and coordinate the Fund. This is because of the knowledge and experience the Council has of managing similar projects and programmes. The Council will monitor delivery across the six local authorities to ensure it is delivering to targets and provide reports and financial claims to Welsh Government.
- 4.5 The Lead body role will be led by the Regeneration Service supported by colleagues in Strategic Projects, Finance, Legal and Procurement. A management fee of up to 5% is available from the overall fund to cover Project Management costs borne by the Council in administering the project.

## **5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

- 5.1 There is no requirement for an Equality Impact Assessment or Socio-Economic Analysis for the purposes of this report but on a project basis the requirements for assessments will be met at the appropriate stages of project development.

## **6 WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There is no requirement for a Welsh Language Impact Assessment with this report although on a project basis Welsh Language Impact Assessments will take place as part of the project development process.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Relevant service areas within the Council have been consulted, in particular, Procurement and Finance.

## **8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no new financial resource requirements as a result of the proposals set out in this report as all additional expenditure will be 100% grant funded.

## 9 **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

9.1 Discussions have taken place with Legal Services and Finance to consider the legal implications. It is still considered that the arrangements and terms and conditions of this funding may be administered under the Council's lawful powers.

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

10.1 The successful delivery of the project will contribute to the Enabling Prosperity priority within the 2020-2024 Corporate Plan. The project also contributes toward the Well-being goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, in particular 'A Prosperous Wales' - an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work. Also, a Wales of Cohesive Communities – supporting connected communities, allowing them to be well-connected and safe.

## 11 **CONCLUSION**

11.1 There is a need now more than ever, in a post COVID and Brexit economic landscape, that key delivery partners collaborate to bring about meaningful economic change in the Northern Valleys / Heads of the Valleys. The communities of the northern valleys have long been the focus of numerous economic development and regeneration plans, and it is important that this focus is maintained over the coming years. The considerable effort and work of the Valleys Taskforce should lead to initiatives such as this.

11.2 Working in partnership will ensure an economic recovery that is stronger, fairer and greener. This proposal will take advantage of a significant resource commitment from Welsh Government to support the collaborative efforts of the participating organisations in moving the northern valleys economy forward based on a targeted intervention across a shared set of priorities.

### **Other Information:-**

#### ***Relevant Scrutiny Committee***

Public Services Delivery, Communities and Prosperity

**Contact Office:** Tel: 01443 281114