



## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020/21

**PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY,  
COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2021**

**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR OF  
PROSPERITY, DEVELOPMENT AND  
FRONTLINE SERVICES.**

**Agenda Item No: 4**

**REPORT ON BRYN PICA ECO PARK**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on the potential new development at Bryn Pica and present the Proposed Strategic Business Case.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the content of the presentation:
- 2.2 Consider whether they wish to scrutinise in greater depth any further matters.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf Council has continued to expand the range of waste management services at Bryn Pica Waste site, Aberdare. The site is the home of the Tomorrows Valley Food Waste Treatment Plant (AD Plant) and a Materials Recycling Facility (among other services). It's location on the junction of the A470

and A465 (Heads of Valley) is strategically important for waste management services throughout South East Wales and as such it is designated within RCT's Local Development Plan.

- 3.2 Working with a number of partners, including various department of Welsh Government (Waste and Resource Efficiency Division, Innovation Team and Better Jobs Team) RCT Council has continued to support the development of the Eco Park on a large vacant plot adjacent to the site. The strategic aim of the project is to attract and develop commercial activities that can assist Welsh Councils in delivering high quality materials to the circular economy. The site benefits from access to renewable energy in the form of electricity and waste heat from biogas. Utilisation of this energy at the site provides cost saving opportunities for waste processing and has the potential to encourage the development of resilient business models in the sector.

#### **4. CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 Outline planning permission for the Eco Park was granted by RCT Council in Dec-18 and works are progressing to clear the site ready for development.
- 4.2 Outline plans for the Eco Park include:
  - 4.2.1 Development 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> of commercial / industrial indoor floor space within 4 light industrial units.
  - 4.2.2 Options for expansion of a 5th Industrial unit as the scheme develops.
  - 4.2.3 Provision of an external operational / storage space.
  - 4.2.4 Electrical and Heat Off-Take connections to Tomorrows Valley Waste Treatment Plant.
  - 4.2.5 Offices, welfare and educational facilities.
  - 4.2.6 Targeting 60 new jobs in the circular economy across the Eco Park Scheme.
- 4.3 The presentation will set out the strategic case for the proposed investment associated with the proposed Bryn Pica Eco Park. The scheme is strongly aligned with the requirement of Welsh Government's Future Generation Act 2015, particularly in respect of the emphasis on sustainable living and the provision of good quality local employment opportunities.

#### **5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no Equality or Diversity implications aligned to this report

## **6. CONSULTATION**

6.1 There are no Consultation implications aligned to this report

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

7.1 At this stage, the Council or Cabinet is not being asked to make any new financial decisions in respect of the Eco Park. The financial modelling assumptions are part of the Strategic Business Plan submission to Welsh Government and further reports will follow if this scheme progresses

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

8.1 There are no Legal Implications aligned to this report

## **9. LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/SIP**

9.1 The Strategic Business Case aligns itself to the Corporate Plan and Corporate Priorities.

9.2 This clearly is linked with the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, helping to create a resilient Wales and a Wales of cohesive communities.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

10.1 RCT Council are proud of its recycling services and prides itself being at the forefront of continuous improvement in this area.

10.2 This is highlighted with the Eco Park plans and the development of the new Material Recycling Facility at Bryn Pica.