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Bridgend County Borough Council



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Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 / 643147 / 643694

Gofynnwch am / Ask for:

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Tuesday, 20 September 2022

Dear Councillor,

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3

A meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 will be held remotely - via Microsoft Teams on **Monday, 26 September 2022 at 16:00**.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008 (including whipping declarations)
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 14
To receive for approval the minutes of the meeting of the 16 02 2022 and 18 07 2022
4. The United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund 15 - 40

Invitees

Councillor John Spanswick - Cabinet Member Communities
Councillor Neelo Farr – Cabinet Member Regeneration
Councillor Rhys Goode – Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations

Janine Nightingale - Corporate Director, Communities
Ieuan Sherwood – Group Manager – Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability

5. Levelling Up Fund Priority Projects 41 - 48

Invitees

Councillor John Spanswick - Cabinet Member Communities
Councillor Neelo Farr – Cabinet Member Regeneration

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Janine Nightingale - Corporate Director, Communities
Ieuan Sherwood – Group Manager, Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability
Delyth Webb – Group Manager Strategic Regeneration
Jonathan Parsons – Group Manager Planning & Development Services
Richard Hughes – Chief Executive, Awen

6. Conclusion/Recommendations

7. Forward Work Programme Update

49 - 58

8. Urgent Items

To consider any item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Part 4 (paragraph 4) of the Council Procedure Rules and which the person presiding at the meeting is of the opinion should by reason of special circumstances be transacted at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Note: Please note: Due to the current health and safety requirements this meeting will not be held at its usual location. This will be a virtual meeting and Members and Officers will be attending remotely. The meeting will be recorded for subsequent transmission via the Council's internet site which will be available as soon as practicable after the meeting. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk or tel. 01656 643147 / 643148.

Yours faithfully

K Watson

Chief Officer, Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy

Councillors:

S J Bletsoe
N Clarke
C Davies
P Davies

Councillors

M J Evans
P W Jenkins
MJ Kearn
W J Kendall

Councillors

J E Pratt
G Walter
I Williams
MJ Williams

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3
HELD REMOTELY - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2022 AT
09:30

Present

Councillor JPD Blundell – Chairperson

N Clarke
RMI Shaw
JE Williams

P Davies
JC Spanswick

DG Howells
G Thomas

JR McCarthy
MC Voisey

Apologies for Absence

LM Walters

Officers:

Joseph Cassinelli	Principal Planning Officer - Strategic Transportation
Janine Nightingale	Corporate Director - Communities
Kwaku Opoku-Addo	Policy, Development and Transport Team Leader
Jonathan Parsons	Group Manager Development

Invitees:

Councillor Stuart Baldwin
Councillor Huw David

146. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

147. STRATEGIC TRANSPORT SCHEMES

The Corporate Director - Communities introduced the report that provided an overview of the current and potential future strategic transport projects and schemes, which had been reported and endorsed by Cabinet in December 2021. She advised that they had been discussed at length with Welsh Government, Transport for Wales, and Network Rail before they had been put forward, so they were in line with national policies, plans and objectives as well as being key to being part of their local transport plan.

The Group Manager Planning and Development Services presented a summary of the projects listed in the report, which included:

- the Active Travel Programme;
- Brackla Halt Railway Station;
- Bridgend Railway Station Enhancement;
- Ewenny Road (Maesteg) Interchange;
- Ford Branch Line;
- Garw and Ogmere Valleys Rapid Bus Infrastructure;
- Junction 36 (M4);
- Penprysg Road bridge;
- Porthcawl Metrolink;
- Porthcawl to Pyle/Bridgend Bus Priority Enhancements;
- Pyle Railway Station Relocation and Park and Ride.

The Chairperson thanked the Officers for the presentation of the report, following which Members of the Committee asked the following:

A Member referred to Brackla Park and Ride and the length of time it had been on the agenda and expressed that it was positive that there was movement on the active travel footbridge, however disagreed with the car park element being completed first due to the Section 106 agreement funding. He had also understood there was funding for the Singleton Junction. He commented that if Brackla station was to happen it would be 10-15 years away and the car park would have disintegrated or would not be fit for purpose. He felt that there were many good schemes but when it came to active travel, Brackla still appeared to be cut off from Bridgend Industrial Estate, there being no clear routes.

The Cabinet Member for Communities offered to discuss these matters with the Member outside of the meeting, as this report was regarding strategic transport projects.

The Group Manager Planning and Development Services advised that the Singleton junction had not fallen off the radar and they were potentially looking at it as an active travel scheme. He explained it was not on the list of projects as it was mainly a road project but had not escaped their attention in terms of active travel.

A Member referred to the proposed Brackla Halt Railway Station and asked about Network Rail's attitude to it, as they had previously opposed the setting up of a station there. He referred to the former arsenal and munitions factory located there previously and that the Cardiff to Swansea line had a passing loop, but the Swansea to Cardiff line hadn't and whether there was possibility of a feasibility study to look at this.

The Group Manager Planning and Development Services advised that he was aware of the passing loop and the history of the area and that they could certainly look at that as part of any feasibility, but that funding was needed to start that process and hopefully they could draw down funding to look into it in more detail. He advised that Network Rail, Transport for Wales, and Welsh Government were all part of this transport, although Network Rail's priorities may be slightly different as they were fundamentally involved with rail bed, rail track and infrastructure and they needed to keep the service running. He advised that the Schemes needed to be pushed up the political agenda so they were recognised at Welsh Government level so the appropriate Ministers in Welsh Government could prioritise them. He advised that priorities nationally had changed significantly over 22 years, and they now had planning guidance and transport plans that they hadn't had prior, with more emphasis on sustainability, carbon reduction and ecological enhancement, so those national changes needed to be reflected in the schemes that went forward.

A Member stated that it was fundamental for the prosperity of the County that strategic transport was taken a view of, and they had to bear in mind that of the three valleys in the county only one had a railway line, but there were several restraints on valley communities that needed to be looked at considering that strategic view. He referred to paragraph 4.3 in the report regarding active travel, and that there was a tarmacked stretch of 4.5 miles that only needed to be linked to Route 4 to make it a viable active travel route and for leisure travel, that hadn't progressed. He also referred to paragraph 4.8 regarding the rapid bus system, as the Garw Valley had only one route in and out so there were no places where they could have bus priorities, so there were problems getting transport into the Garw and Ogmore Valleys and they also didn't have trains. He also added that the frequency of public transport services in the valley meant that people could not travel to employment based on the bus timetable. Lastly, he referred to Tondy Railway Station which he said was meant to be a station to link the valleys but there was no bus link to it, as the valleys bus went through Bryncethin and across Junction 36 of the motorway.

The Group Manager Planning and Development Services advised that they needed to investigate what could be done but needed more resources and funding to do that which was why they had raised it as a priority. He advised they were aware of the constraints but where they could make enhancements and priorities, even if only for short stretches of those roads, that would certainly improve the network. He advised that there was no resource at that time but bidding to fund this as a project could hopefully draw down a resource in the future, and that that part of that project would be to look at the railway stations in the Valleys Gateway area and improve connectivity to those stations. This would be the start of a project which hoped to see some improvement and it needed to be moved up the Regional and National agenda.

The Member responded that they needed keep these issues and agendas on the strategic level so they don't disappear due to not being part of any strategic plan, and that perhaps there may be a possibility of immediacy for the active travel route identified to open up 4.5 miles of community route.

A Member asked where in the Levelling Up Fund would the Penprysg Road Bridge be, as she suspected that some projects would not materialise depending on where they were on that list. She also queried whether the moratorium that existed west of the line in Hendre would remain in place should the crossing be closed, and new road bridge provided.

The Corporate Director - Communities explained that they had monthly meetings regarding the Levelling Up Fund, which was a UK Government fund, with the Welsh team who had been put together to undertake and assist with the grant funding. The Authority could submit a bid for each MP that it had, so there were two bids for schemes around Bridgend, but they were also allowed to submit one strategic transport scheme for up to £50M, which was for Penprysg Bridge Scheme. She advised that the Levelling Up Team had advised that this was highly regarded as a transport scheme that would make a significant difference regionally and not just in the Borough but in the adjoining areas around due to the importance of that rail line that went through Pencoed. She advised that they were being encouraged to submit where they get to with the design this summer, and that an infrastructure scheme such as this one would take at least eighteen months to design out which was underway, and it would also take time to implement as it was on a live railway, which they had asked to be taken into consideration, to enable funding timescales to go further than the timescales for the Levelling Up fund.

The Group Manager Planning and Development Services explained that the moratorium had been in place for quite some time and had been in numerous iterations of the Authority's Development Plan including the current one and would be likely to be in the next replacement development plan and the reason for that was due to the traffic issues in Pencoed. He explained if the bridge was replaced, and the level crossing closed it was then possible they would look at the evidence to lift the moratorium, but they would need to review when the infrastructure was complete.

It was clarified that the projects had been included in alphabetical order rather than in priority status as funding would be taken from whichever avenues, they were able to access to deliver those projects.

A Member referred to paragraph 4.13 of the report regarding Pyle Railway Station Relocation and Park and Ride, which she believed fed into paragraph 4.11 the Porthcawl Metrolink, and asked whether they would be investing in point B before they had sorted out point A and also asked how the cost had gone up from £850k to £2M.

The Cabinet Member for Communities replied that that £2M was being invested into a new Metrolink for Porthcawl which would provide enhanced bus service which would still connect to other trains at the bus stations therefore still providing the link. He advised that the enhancement that had been planned for Pyle would not have delivered the required additional parking spaces at the current train station, which was why the money had been redirected to provide an enhanced provision in Porthcawl. The original project had been an open structure and had not been fitting of the regeneration it was part of, so it had been re-evaluated and the facility was going to be closed in and have green roof, so a conscious decision was made to invest more money into the Metrolink in Porthcawl by diverting it from the Pyle Park and Ride scheme. He advised they would still have that connectivity to come through the bus routes and hopefully in the future could deliver on a more effective and better Park and Ride in Pyle that would improve the connectivity as well to Porthcawl.

The Member queried whether residents in the redeveloped Salt Lake area in Porthcawl would want to live by a bus terminus and also asked if there was any guarantee that the Park and Ride facility would take place at all.

The Cabinet Member for Communities explained that transport links go through and around residential areas to make it easier for people to travel and this would improve their ability to move around Porthcawl and the surrounding communities. Additional funding to deliver Pyle Park and Ride would continue to be looked for, and the strategic transport projects included in the report showed the intention and ambition.

The Leader advised there was a perception that the Metro was just about rail, but it was an integrated public transport infrastructure system for South East Wales. He explained they knew from all the evidence and studies that having high quality waiting facilities would impact in terms of encouraging more people to use public transport.

The Member asked whether bus shelters in John Street would be removed from the street scene once the new facility was in operation rather than being left to deteriorate.

The Group Manager Planning and Development Services responded that he was not sure what would happen to the bus infrastructure once the facility went into operation. He knew that the bus operators had worked with the service quite closely when they had designed the facility and they were fully on board with what they saw as an improvement and enhancement to the current situation. He advised they did not see any fundamental impact on the routes that they operated on and whether they would put on any extra services was outside their control.

The Strategic Transportation Planning Team Leader advised that no firm decision had been taken yet on whether the John Street stops would be retained as a layover, as they would need to consider the maintenance implications.

A Member asked if they looked holistically at which projects would have the greatest impact and socioeconomic benefits, what were the priorities and if they could choose one project to get over the line, which one would it be.

The Cabinet Member for Communities advised there was no priority amongst them as they were looking at all of them as strategic transport authorities. He explained they could not put them in order as they had to consider the whole County to make sure they were addressing the needs of everybody that lived there. He advised that all of the schemes could provide socioeconomic and environmental improvements and benefits to the whole of the County.

A Member asked how they saw the integrated bus and train station developing as a transport hub. He referred to there being no bus links to Ogmere and Garw Valleys to Tondy Railway Station and suggested that they could look at the potential feasibility of an integrated hub there for buses linking to the train and exploring an option of using the Ogmere Vale extension line from Tondy Station to Pyle via Cefn Cribwr and a potential link to Pyle station. The Member advised he knew Welsh Government had talked about having more control over bus companies and directing them with how they provide bus routes, but he wished to know what work they were doing through Welsh Government or through colleagues in the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal in relation to getting more support and influence on bus companies.

The Group Manager Planning and Development Services asked which project the Member was referring to regarding the integrated hub.

The Member explained that there was land near Tondy Railway Station and thought they should be exploring as a feasibility study a transport hub there which would link in if they had any integration of public transport whether it was active travel, buses, or trains. Looking at an integrated approach across the County Borough.

The Group Manager Planning and Development Services advised they could look at that as part of the study into bus priority and enhancements in the valleys and how they could enhance the facilities of their gateway stations.

The Strategic Transportation Planning Team Leader advised it would be raised as part of the stage two study taking place on the Maesteg line. He explained the stakeholder engagement had been postponed but work was still taking place as information had been requested in terms of location of land users and future component proof to fit into the whole study.

The Leader agreed it was a good point around the capacity as it was an operational railway line that was used infrequently and had been since the end of coaling operations at the former Margam opencast mine. He advised it had been something they had raised with Transport to Wales and asked for it to be explored. He thought there were some exciting opportunities around Bridgend Railway Station as a hub and that there were more opportunities to encourage park and ride and create more vibrancy at the railway station in terms of alternative commercial uses. He concluded that the distance between the bus station and the railway station in Bridgend could be a barrier for people, so they were keen to re-establish direct bus links to the railway station. The aspiration of Transport for Wales being to establish integrated single tickets so people could be traveling from all over the County Borough using a Metro ticket as they were keen on recognising the strategic importance of Bridgend Railway Station.

The Cabinet Member for Communities advised in relation to the connectivity between bus and rail it was not just their region, less than 10% of bus routes visited train stations across the Southeast Wales region, so there was a lot of work to be done. He explained they needed to make sure all their bus routes were getting their residents to the train station so that they could create that better connectivity which Welsh Government and City Deal were looking at.

A Member commented on the possibility of a more frequent rail service to and from Maesteg, not just to Bridgend but to Cardiff and exploring the possibility of links to travel west towards Pyle which linked to his earlier suggestion of having an integrated hub at Tondy. He also stressed the importance of public transport for valleys communities to have sufficiently frequent reliable services for people to travel to work.

A Member commented that if a hub was to be set up in the Ewenny Road site, due to the lack of buses it would lead to more cars being used around the area. He asked had there been any contact with Welsh Government as they had made a manifesto commitment to take control of buses and routes.

The Group Manager Planning and Development Services advised that work through the Regional Transport Authority and the Regional Transport Officer Group was looking at bus enhancements and proposals for having greater control over buses. He advised they were aware in the Region that there were issues with bus services and knew that the pandemic had also had a major influence on bus services and operations. He explained that as a strategic organisation they had to start looking to build those facilities and allow the operations then to make their own enhancements.

A Member referred to Junction 36 and an Inquiry around 2003 regarding infrastructure there and discussions about a potential bypass for Bryncethin due to congestion there over the years.

The Cabinet Member for Communities advised that although a bypass may have been mentioned years ago, infrastructure and road planning had moved on and Welsh Government would not necessarily issue funding for a new road build now and due to change in policy it was now about how they could improve the infrastructure through train and bus but recognised that there were issues with Junction 36.

The Member replied that there was no money in the Council for the bypass previously or then and he felt it was a bottle neck with congestion and pollution.

The Leader explained that one of the projects they were looking at with Welsh Government was the Well Tag Assessment of motorway junctions in Bridgend, inevitably as part of that review it would include junction 36 and a consideration of the immediate highway network which would include the main arterial roads to the junction. He advised other places had introduced bus priority measures which they would consider but also looking at effective active travel routes, as junction 36 was often congested by people undertaking very short journeys and there were no safe walking routes there, so establishing an active travel route would be important as well.

The Chairperson advised that there were no further questions from Members of the Committee for the Invitees for this report, thanked the Invitees for their attendance and advised that they may leave the meeting.

RESOLVED: That having regard to consideration of the content of the report and the responses to the questions asked, the Committee made the following recommendations:

1. The Committee recognised the importance of a strategic themed meeting and ensuring they continue strategic discussion on this topic, across the County requested that a future report be considered for inclusion in the Forward Work Programme for the following year on transport throughout the whole County, embracing all forms of transport, including active travel, public transport, and the road network
2. Having regard to the aspiration with the South Wales Metro integrated transport system, the Committee recommended that the Authority be requested to press the Welsh Government in relation to more direction with Bus companies on bus routes.

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 - WEDNESDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2022

The Committee recommended that the possibility of a Transport Hub for the Valleys at Tondu Railway Station be explored to see what can be done to improve accessibility for people from the valleys to wider public transport, and also whether there could be potential for light rail coming down the part of the line that remained in the Garw and Ogmore Valleys.

148. **URGENT ITEMS**

None

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SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 - MONDAY, 18 JULY 2022

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3
HELD REMOTELY - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY, 18 JULY 2022 AT 09:30**

Present

Councillor P Davies – Chairperson

S J Bletsoe
MJ Kearn
I Williams

N Clarke
W J Kendall
MJ Williams

C Davies
J E Pratt

M J Evans
G Walter

Apologies for Absence

P W Jenkins

Officers:

Lucy Beard	Scrutiny Officer
Meryl Lawrence	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Jessica Mclellan	Scrutiny Officer

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of a meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 dated 24 January 2022 be approved as a true and accurate record.

3. CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPION NOMINATION

The Scrutiny Officer presented the report which requested the Committee to nominate one Member as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.

The Chairperson invited nominations, following which it was

RESOLVED: That Councillor Jonathan Pratt be nominated to represent Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 as an invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.

4. NOMINATION TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD SCRUTINY PANEL

The Scrutiny Officer presented the report, which requested the Committee to nominate one Member to sit on the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel.

The Chairperson invited nominations, following which it was

RESOLVED: That Councillor Colin Davies be nominated by Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 to sit on the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel.

5. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Senior Democratic Services Officer – Scrutiny presented the Committee with the proposed draft outline Forward Work Programme (FWP) in Appendix A for discussion and consideration, requested any specific information the Committee identified to be included in the items for the next two meetings, including invitees they wished to attend, requested the Committee to identify any further items for consideration on the Forward Work Programme having regard to the selection criteria in paragraph 4.6 and asked the Committee to note that the Forward Work Programme for the Committee would be reported to a meeting of COSC, following the July cycle of SOSC meetings.

Councillor Norah Clarke declared a personal interest as a former volunteer in Credu, which was no longer in existence.

The Committee requested the following reports be added to the Forward Work Programme and requested the representatives listed below each report, be requested to attend when scheduled:

- a) A report upon accessible playground equipment in play areas and access to play areas, parks and playing field pavilions, for the disabled community across the County Borough, and the latest Assessment and Action Plan in accordance with Equalities legislation.

Requested representatives:

- Disability Wales - Miranda Evans
- Officers responsible for BCBC Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan
- Service / Organisation users of some facilities
- Y Bont - Julia Shaw

- b) A report upon Porthcawl Regeneration to include Porthcawl Regeneration projects, the Porthcawl Resort Investment Forecast (PRIF), Cosy Corner and the Grand Pavilion.

Requested representatives:

- External stakeholders and partners e.g. Credu / former representatives involved in the PRIF.
- Visit Wales representative (in relation to their PRIF involvement)
- Awen Cultural Trust – as management of the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl

The Committee requested the following representatives be invited for the following reports scheduled for the September meeting:

- For the Shared Prosperity Fund report, the appropriate lead Officers.
- For the Levelling Up Fund report, the appropriate lead Officers and a representative of Awen Cultural Trust, as management of the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

RESOLVED: That the Committee considered and agreed the proposed draft outline Forward Work Programme in Appendix A, subject to the inclusion of the above requested reports and invitees and noted that the Forward Work Programmes for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees would be reported to a meeting of the COSC, following the next cycle of SOSC meetings.

6. **URGENT ITEMS**

None

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3

26 SEPTEMBER 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

THE UNITED KINGDOM SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 on the United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and to provide an overview of proposals that may go forward via the UKSPF.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:
- **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
 - **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** – taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
 - **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 Following the withdrawal of the UK from the European Union on 31 January 2020, the UKSPF is the UK government's replacement for the European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF).
- 3.2 The UKSPF is a key part of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda, forming part of complementary funding, including the Levelling Up Fund and Community Ownership Fund.
- 3.3 The UKSPF will support the UK government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives to:
- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging

- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency

3.4 The primary aim of the fund is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. Underpinning this aim are three investment Priorities: communities and place; supporting local business and people and skills.

- The **Communities and Place** investment priority will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place.
- The **Supporting Local Business** investment priority will enable places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow.
- The **People and Skills** investment priority will help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. Places can also target funding into skills for local areas to support employment and local growth.

As part of the People and Skills priority there is a dedicated and ringfenced element of the UKSPF called Multiply which seeks to improve adult numeracy skills.

3.5 Within the context of the Fund's primary aim there is the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. The balance of priorities should reflect local need and opportunity.

4. **Current situation/proposal**

4.1 Local authorities within the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) have been invited to collaborate and feed into one regional Local Investment Plan for CCR that sets out proposals to deliver the UKSPF to March 2025. As part of this process there is a need to appoint one local authority to assume the role of the 'Lead Local Authority' for the region for the UKSPF, and at its meeting in July 2022 Bridgend County Borough Council's Cabinet agreed to support Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (RCTCBC) to assume the role of the 'Lead Local Authority' for the UKSPF for the Cardiff Capital Region.

4.2 BCBC is not therefore required to develop its own Local Investment Plan to submit to UK Government. However, it is considered important that BCBC develop Bridgend County Borough Local Investment Plan information to submit to RCTCBC to inform the region's Local Investment Plan and to provide clarity at the local level on the Bridgend County specific proposals the Council wants to achieve through the UKSPF. This information was presented to Cabinet in July 2022 and Cabinet delegated authority to the Corporate Director Communities to submit to Rhondda

Cynon Taff County Borough Council the Bridgend County Borough Local Investment Plan information (July 2022), Appendix 1, for delivering the Bridgend County UKSPF funding allocation to feed into the development of the CCR Local Investment Plan submission to UK Government.

- 4.3 Each local authority within the CCR will have flexibility over how they deliver UKSPF. Guidance from UK Government highlights that a mixture of options are available: competitions for grant funding; procurement; commissioning, and in-house provision.
- 4.4 Following a series of internal workshops with officers from across all Directorates within the Council a draft set of proposals was developed. This set of proposals was then discussed with the County Borough’s Economic Partnership and the Public Service Board (PSB). In addition, the proposals have been shared and discussed with Members of the Senedd and Bridgend County’s two Members of Parliament, whose support is required for the proposed activity outlined in the Bridgend County Borough Local Investment Plan information. Following engagement and feedback, proposals were revised before being presented to Cabinet in July 2022. As information and guidance evolves and further detail is provided it may be the case that proposals change again.
- 4.5 Appendix 1 is set against the challenges and opportunities that have been evidenced through the Bridgend Economic Strategy, the Bridgend Local Development Plan, the (draft) Bridgend Net Zero Carbon Strategy and the Bridgend and Cwm Taf Wellbeing Assessment. Whilst there are clear areas of alignment between these documents and opportunities through UKSPF it is not the case that all areas are aligned, nor is it the case that UKSPF is the only source of funding available to deliver these key strategic documents.
- 4.6 An overview of the current set of Bridgend County Borough Local Investment Plan proposals is set out below under a series of regional theme descriptions, which were developed by RCTCBC:

Communities and Place

Regional Theme Description*	Proposed Bridgend County delivery
Development and resilience of communities by improving facilities and access to services and supporting community-based organisations	Bridgend County Local Resilience Planning
Action to support individuals and community-based organisations to deal with the challenges of the current economic environment and cost of living crisis	
Supporting the improvement and redevelopment of town centres and community places to revitalise them.	Bridgend County Thriving Communities
Improving access to and facilities for local people and communities in sport, culture, arts and heritage.	
Supporting action to improve services and facilities for young people.	
Action to support decarbonisation, energy efficiency and green initiatives in communities and places.	Bridgend County Green Spaces Enhancement Scheme

Other activity such as feasibility studies	Bridgend County Community Future Scoping Programme
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*Bridgend County Prosperity Co-Production Framework may offer an opportunity to deliver across all.

Supporting Local Business

Regional Theme Description*	Proposed Bridgend County delivery
Business premises development and improvement.	Bridgend County Centres of Enterprise
Small business support and development including finance for growth and resilience.	-Bridgend County Business Prosperity Programme -Bridgend County Local Enterprise Support Programme
Small business support for key growth sectors, research and development and innovation.	
Action to support decarbonisation, energy efficiency and green economy initiatives for businesses and social enterprises.	
Support for the growth and development of the visitor economy including businesses, facilities, and events.	- Bridgend County Tourism Events Support - Bridgend County Local Destination Management and Marketing
Other activity such as feasibility studies	Bridgend County Business Future Scoping Programme

*Bridgend County Prosperity Co-Production Framework may offer an opportunity to deliver across all.

People and Skills

Regional Theme Description*	Proposed Bridgend County delivery
Regional Employability and Skills Framework Package <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in employment and key sectors • Unemployed and economically inactive people • Young people to enter employment 	-CELT**+ <i>Bridgend Inspire 2 Work / Achieve</i> -CELT + <i>Employability - Bridgend County</i> -CELT+ <i>Regional Joint Commissioning</i>
Regional joint commissioning Jointly commission FE/HE/ training providers / specific organisations to provide the following type of support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrap-around support for those at risk of disengaging from FE • Upskilling at work • Upskilling to meet skill gaps in sectors i.e., green jobs, manufacturing, creative and digital. 	

*Bridgend County Prosperity Co-Production Framework may offer an opportunity to deliver across all.

**Connect Engage Listen Thrive

4.7 It is currently considered that the proposals will be taken forward via a mixture of delivery models considered best suited to the activities involved and at a delivery level considered to be most suitable as outlined in Appendix 1.

4.8 The Local Investment Plan for the CCR was submitted to UK Government by 1 August 2022. The anticipated date for the first investment plans to be approved and

payment awarded is October 2022 onward. The current delivery period for the UKSPF is to March 2025.

- 4.9 It is to be noted that these proposals were developed in the absence of detailed fund guidance from UK Government and, as such, are subject to change in relation to proposed activities, delivery models and funding values.
- 4.10 The lead authority will have responsibility for a single funding agreement with the UK government for the full South East Wales UKSPF allocation of £278.5M and will be accountable for all aspects of monitoring and claiming the allocation. There will be a requirement for appropriate agreements between the lead authority and the nine other South East local authorities to pass on accountability and the terms and conditions of the funding to deliver UKSPF. It is currently proposed by RCTCBC that this be taken forward via back-to-back agreements. These are in development and will require further detailed guidance from UK Government before they can be finalised. It was therefore agreed by Cabinet in July 2022 that authority be delegated to the Corporate Director Communities, in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal, and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy, Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change and the Corporate Director – Education and Family Support to negotiate and enter into a CCR regional funding agreement with RCTCBC acting as lead authority and to enter into any further deeds and documents which are ancillary to the agreement or that are necessary to deliver the UKSPF.
- 4.11 Whilst the development of the regional governance model and the required legal agreements is on-going, the governance model created at a local level through the Economic Strategy is in place.
- 4.12 A two-tier governance structure has recently been implemented as the result of the 2022 Economic Strategy, resulting in the establishment of the Bridgend Economic Partnership, which reports to the BCBC Economic Programme Board. Given that the majority of the UKSPF funded programmes address economic development challenges, it was agreed by Cabinet that the Economic Partnership and Economic Programme Board be involved in the governance and oversight of the UKSPF programmes within Bridgend County Borough. Close liaison and interaction will be required for oversight of the programmes that align more closely to the Public Services Board (PSB) agenda.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 There is no effect upon the Council's policy framework or procedure rules as a result of this report.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal at this stage.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 The proposed UKSPF Local Investment Plan for Bridgend County Borough demonstrates the sustainable development principle by ensuring that by meeting the needs of the present they do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This is evidenced through the 5 ways of working as follows:

Long-term: The elements that make up the proposed Local Investment Plan have been identified following discussion with key stakeholders and in relation to current understanding of the potential long-term challenges on the County Borough. Building on the process of developing and creating the Economic Strategy, the Local Development Plan (LDP) and the Wellbeing Plan for the County Borough it has been possible to set out a long-term response.

Prevention: BCBC has for many years worked closely with stakeholders and the local business community to support the local economy in a wide variety of proactive ways. As well as a continuation of BCBC's ability to react to local situations, the development of the UKSPF Local Investment Plan builds on strengths to plan for the future, take proactive action and support local businesses and local communities.

Integration: The work to develop the UKSPF Local Investment Plan is closely aligned with the BCBC Corporate Plan, the Local Development Plan and the Public Service Board's Well-being Plan and the Bridgend County Economic Strategy.

Collaboration: The development of the UKSPF Local Investment Plan has been steered by a BCBC officer group and is being developed and will be delivered in partnership with key stakeholders.

Involvement: For the UKSPF Local Investment Plan to successfully operate it will require the involvement of senior members of local public sectors organisations, community leaders, business leaders, representatives of business sectors and trade bodies and other key stakeholders.

8. Financial implications

8.1 The UKSPF provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition.

8.2 All places in the UK will receive a conditional allocation from the UKSPF to cover the period up to March 2025. Table 1 below details the allocation per Authority for the CCR.

Table 1: UKSPF allocation in CCR

Individual authorities	Core UKSPF £	Multiply £	Total £	% of regional allocation
Blaenau Gwent	23,301,572	4,863,920	28,165,492	10.11
Bridgend	19,116,296	3,990,295	23,106,591	8.30
Caerphilly	28,272,298	5,901,499	34,173,797	12.27
Cardiff	34,587,594	7,219,740	41,807,334	15.01
Merthyr Tydfil	22,698,977	4,738,136	27,437,113	9.85

Monmouthshire	5,919,533	1,235,631	7,155,164	2.57
Newport	27,177,563	5,672,986	32,850,549	11.79
Rhondda Cynon Taf	37,320,994	7,790,305	45,111,299	16.20
Torfaen	20,431,241	4,264,774	24,696,015	8.86
Vale of Glamorgan	11,606,505	2,422,717	14,029,222	5.04
Total for the region	230,432,573	48,100,003	278,532,576	100.00

- 8.3 Bridgend's allocation is 8.3% of the total allocation for the region. Guidance from UK Government currently suggests that funding is broken down to a fixed yearly allocation for core UKSPF; 12% in Year 1 (22/23), 24% in Year 2 (23/24) and 64% in Year 3 (24/25). For Multiply allocations, the breakdown is 30% in Year 1 (2022/23), 35% in Year 2 (2023/24) and 35% in Year 3 (2024/25) as shown in table 2 below.

Table 2: Bridgend County UKSPF allocation

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Totals
Core UKSPF	£2,293,955.52	£4,587,911.04	£12,234,429.44	£19,116,296.00
Multiply	£1,197,088.50	£1,396,603.25	£1,396,603.25	£3,990,295.00
Totals	£3,491,044.02	£5,984,514.29	£13,631,032.69	£23,106,591.00
	15%	26%	59%	100%

- 8.4 It is important to note that there is no indication currently that any funding not utilised in-year can be carried forward into future years, so may be lost if it is not spent in line with allocations. Mechanisms are being explored with other Local Authorities in the region and with UK Government in relation to flexibility around this. In addition, current guidance suggests that up to 4% of each area's allocation can be used for administration purposes, either local and/or regional associated costs. Further guidance is expected from UK Government in relation to this.
- 8.5 Bridgend's allocation through the UKSPF is currently £23,106,591 (inclusive of a possible 4% administration budget). The current profiled expenditure in table 3 below, inclusive of a possible 4% administration budget and Multiply, is £25,295,345. As a result, the programme is currently over-committed based on proposals developed to date by £2,188,754.00.

Table 3: Bridgend County UKSPF proposals

	Total
Total spend proposed to date	£ 25,295,345.00
UKSFP Allocation	£ 23,106,591.00
Over allocation	£2,188,754.00

- 8.6 In addition, officers have been advised of a request by the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Team to 'top-slice' an element of Bridgend's UKSPF allocation for delivery of a regional proposal, which was agreed by the Chief Executives of the Local Authorities in the region. The value of the top-slice is £334,000. This would result in table 4 below.

Table 4: Bridgend County UKSPF proposals including regional top-slice

	Total
Total BCBC proposals to date	£25,295,345.00
CCR Top-slice	£334,535.00
Uplifted total	£25,629,880.00
UKSPF Allocation	£23,106,591.00
Over allocation including CCR top-slice	£2,523,289.00

- 8.7 Once further guidance is issued and reviewed these values may change as officers review proposed activity. In September 2022 officers submitted a growth pressure proposal as part of the 2023-2027 Medium Term Financial Strategy process for the shortfall in funding of £2,523,289 to ensure full delivery of the proposed activities outlined in Appendix 1.
- 8.8 If this growth pressure proposal is not approved and the programme remains over-allocated then the responsibility for identifying gap funds for each of the proposed areas of delivery rests with the respective BCBC lead directorates. Should gap funds not be identified prior to delivery then available budgets for delivery will only be those available through the UKSPF and the proposals delivered will be those already developed in line with the UKSPF funding allocation as spend cannot exceed available budgets. If however gap funding is identified then it will be possible to enhance delivery.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 notes the report.

Janine Nightingale
CORPORATE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITIES
12 September 2022

Contact Officer: Ieuan Sherwood
Group Manager Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability

Telephone: (01656) 815333

E-mail: ieuan.Sherwood@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address: Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

Background documents:

United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

Bridgend County Borough Local Investment Plan information

Challenges, Opportunities and Proposals

July 2022



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UKSPF Programmes Overview

The UKSPF will support the UK government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency

Within the overarching objective of the UKSPF of building pride in place and increasing life chances, there are three key investment priorities:

1. Community and Place
2. Supporting Local Business
3. People and Skills

Within each of these investment priorities are the following objectives:

Communities & Place

- Strengthening social fabric and fostering sense of local pride and belonging
- Building resilient, safe and healthy neighbourhoods, through targeted improvements to the built environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention.

People & Skills

- Boosting core skills and support adults to progress in work
- Reducing levels of economic inactivity through intensive life and employment support Supporting people furthest from the labour market to overcome barriers to work
- Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work

Supporting Local Businesses

- Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions
- Promoting networking and collaboration
- Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for SMEs to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.

This document identifies the challenges and opportunities identified through a number of key strategic documents in Bridgend County Borough which identify potential areas of alignment with the UKSPF. The document also highlights some areas of opportunity that align with the UKSPF. Current thinking in relation to governance arrangements for programme oversight and fund disbursement, and programme risks are detailed, to ensure that the programmes are well structured, fairly administered, and deliver real outcomes to the residents, businesses and communities in Bridgend County Borough.

It is important to note however that detailed technical guidance is yet to be published and therefore the information contained, whilst valid at the time of writing is subject to change.

Local Challenges and Opportunities

The Bridgend Economic Strategy, the Bridgend Local Development Plan, the (draft) Bridgend Net Zero Carbon Strategy and the Bridgend and Cwm Taff Wellbeing Assessment set out key challenges across and within each of the three key investment priorities, accompanied by substantial evidence from research and from stakeholder engagement and consultations. Whilst there are clear areas of alignment between these documents and opportunities through UKSPF it is not the case that all areas are aligned, nor is it the case that UKSPF is the only source of funding available to deliver these key strategic documents.

Challenges aligned to Community and Place theme include:

- **Local resilience planning:** Support for local communities to undertake local resilience planning, focusing on Health, Climate and Economy. Linked directly to future delivery of key local strategies, such as the Climate Response Programme, Local Development Plan, Wellbeing Plan and Economic Strategy.
- **Nature recovery and resilience:** There is a pressing need for action to build resilient ecological networks across our whole land and seascape to safeguard species and habitats and the benefits they provide, addressing the root causes of biodiversity loss, and targeting interventions to help species recover where necessary (Economic Strategy, Wellbeing Assessment).
- **Decarbonisation of the economy:** The need for individual, business and community action to live more sustainably has been identified in community engagement work, and detailed in the Net Zero Carbon Strategy, Wellbeing Assessment and Economic Strategy.
- **Transport Infrastructure:** Lack of, or deficiencies in, public transport infrastructure, especially regarding “last mile” connectivity, particularly in the valleys (Economic Strategy).
- **Active Travel:** The need to expand active travel infrastructure beyond current plans (Economic Strategy, Net Zero Carbon Strategy, Wellbeing Assessment).
- **Town Centres:** Bridgend Town Centre in particular needs improvement, but all the town centres need attention (Economic Strategy, Local Development Plan).
- **Inequality:** The Economic Strategy, Local Development Plan and the Wellbeing assessment all identify substantial inequalities between areas (in terms of wealth/income, educational attainment, access to resources and employment, transport and digital connectivity).
- **Community Safety:** Whilst crime is generally lower in Bridgend than in many areas of Wales, there remain concerns for some feeling safe walking after dark, in particular, some worried about anti-social behaviour and gangs gathering (Wellbeing Assessment).
- **Feasibility Planning:** Feasibility studies will provide the required data, knowledge and understanding leading to further funding bids and will underpin the development of future bids to LUF, UKSPF and other strategic funds from any other relevant sources.

There are already 4 major projects ongoing in the County Borough which will all contribute to significant improvements across Bridgend:

- the proposed plan for Bridgend Town Centre in the Bridgend Town Centre Masterplan;
- the renovation of the Maesteg Town Hall;
- the development plans for Porthcawl waterfront;
- and the “Employment Land” plans for the industrial areas outside Bridgend Town.

Opportunities aligned to Community and Place theme include:

- Establishment of community resilience committees, the development of a 'Resilience Hwb' (a virtual hub as well as physical location) offering exhibition, demonstration space and a trader's corner.
- A fund for community-driven resilience response actions such as feasibility, action plans, options appraisals, and a scheme for community projects to include some capital.
- Work with community venues, tying in cultural and heritage sites, to increase engagement in the community and sustainability of community groups.
- Review, refresh and deliver the Nature Recovery Plan in Bridgend to create and improve green space.
- Ensure suitable commercial premises, and flexible working spaces / co-working spaces.
- Coordinating net-zero strategies across the County Borough, including public/private/voluntary sectors.
- Create a long-term programme for rolling out low-carbon retrofitting solutions to the wider borough.
- Support the attractions in the Valleys and Coast through improved signage and marketing.
- Develop more accommodation options to increase the visitor capacity of the area
- Working with cultural groups to increase and broaden the cultural opportunities across the County.
- Coordinating the planning of public transport services into the evening to support the local night-time economy and to support last-mile public transport connectivity.

Challenges aligned to Supporting Local Businesses theme include:

Challenges identified through broad stakeholder engagement for the Economic Strategy in 2021 additionally identified:

- **Visitor Attraction / Marketing:** A perception of poor marketing and PR for Bridgend County (outside of the county) as a place to live and work (Economic Strategy)
- **Decarbonisation:** Significant challenges to businesses due to climate change, and the imperative to move to a low-carbon economy (Economic Strategy, Net Zero Carbon Strategy)
- **Business Premises:** A lack of available and suitable business premises prevents the Bridgend County business community from reaching its full potential with businesses required to be put on a waiting list for premises (Economic Strategy, Local Development Plan)
- **Recruitment:** Difficulties to recruit skilled individuals, specifically in hospitality, tourism, care etc., but more widely too (Economic Strategy consultations)
- **Business Skills:** Businesses require a skilled workforce, but they also need specific business skills to meet their full potential. The 2021 business survey undertaken by the council indicated that marketing, social media and digital skills (ranging from basic knowledge of Microsoft products to more technical IT knowledge) were deemed particularly important for local businesses. Industry-specific skills such as food hygiene were also indicated as important.

Opportunities aligned to Supporting Local Business theme include:

- Working across sectors to support businesses to diversify, decarbonise and grow

- Support for the creation of development and investment plans, built on local needs and engagement and the creation of 'fund ready' business plan and delivery propositions.
- Strategic capital interventions across the County that support adaptations to existing (council-owned) property to create more diverse business accommodation and development of new property.
- A local enterprise support programme to provide case and account management, training, advice and support to existing businesses and support the development of new business ideas.
- Supporting existing and developing tourism events across the County that offer opportunities in relation to targeted and niche markets and delivering a range of seasonal and targeted marketing campaigns in partnership with the local tourism industry.

Challenges aligned to People and Skills theme include:

- **Skills Gaps:** Bridgend County has a structural economic constraint of skill shortage which has caused a trend of long-term unemployment (2021 Economic Strategy). This has meant that over time, families and communities have become embedded in cycles of unemployment, exacerbating already existing issues of deprivation and inequality.
- **Economic Inactivity / Worklessness:** The Economic Strategy and Wellbeing Assessment identify deep-rooted economic and social problems within some areas of Bridgend County Borough. This is most clearly recognised in the labour market where there are issues of high economic inactivity (almost 30% in some areas) and significant geographical inequality. There is a large pool of jobless people who are potentially available to work, although a significant proportion of whom are likely to require varying degrees of assistance to re-enter the labour market one of the large drivers of the higher economic inactivity rate is a comparatively high number of people who are long-term sick.
- **Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET):** There is a need to reduce the number of 11 to 19-year-olds who are in education but at risk of becoming not in education, training, or employment (Pre-NEET), and those who are 16 to 24-year-olds who are NEET, to bring about their sustainable integration into the labour market, thereby contributing to a reduction in youth unemployment (Economic Strategy, Wellbeing Assessment).

Opportunities aligned to People and Skills theme include:

For Bridgend County, capacity building is essential across all levels of the community, to develop skills and competencies to take greater control of their own lives and contribute to inclusive local development.

- There is significant untapped economic potential to be unlocked by facilitating re-skilling and up-skilling of the existing workforce.
- Continued focus on basic skills is needed to ensure workforce (and potential workforce) with a strong and broad set of basic skills that encourages people into work and ensures they can succeed.
- Bridgend County can capitalise on its strong background in the advanced manufacturing sector, bringing economic advantage as that sector develops and enabling Bridgend County to consolidate its position as a regional hub.
- The Low Carbon economy is set to expand rapidly and create a wealth of new jobs. Bridgend County can capitalise on this with the right training programmes, aligned to national and local strategies to de-carbonise the economy.

- Support young people to make a positive transition into education, employment or training when they leave school, reduce the number of 11 to 24-year-olds who are NEET, and address wider issues such as poor emotional/physical/sexual health and youth homelessness.
- Boost learning, skills and employability in the immediate and future workforce especially those cohorts with barriers to establishing a secure employment situation.

Summary of Project Proposals

1. Community and Place

Bridgend County Local Resilience Planning

Support for local communities to undertake local resilience planning, focusing on Health, Climate and Economy, linked directly to future delivery of key local strategies, such as the Climate Response Programme, Local Development Plan, Wellbeing Plan and Economic Strategy. To include activities such as community resilience analysis, the establishment of community resilience committees, support for community-driven resilience response actions, the development of the 'Resilience Hwb' (a virtual hub as well as a physical, town centre location) offering exhibition, demonstration space and a traders corner. Also, Resilience Hwb on tour (a series of local-level talks, seminars and workshops targeted at the local level. In addition to this the options for action in relation to sites identified as community challenges will be explored.

This will be delivered at a local level using a mix of in-house, commissioning and procurement.

Current proposed value
£1,000,050

Bridgend County Thriving Communities

Part (a): Community Capacity and Development Building Programme

The community development and building capacity programme will include a range of new approaches co-produced with people and communities including the delivery of some approaches and programmes that have previously been progressed as pilot phases of development. This could include a new third sector fund to replace similar previous locally administered grant programmes.

Part (b): Transforming Bridgend County Borough/ Transforming Commercial Centres

Transforming Bridgend will support the design, development and feasibility of projects already identified through local placemaking and masterplanning strategies.

The capital element will extend funding to support commercial property grants beyond main town centres (outside of Transforming Towns Boundary), but also support major town centre infrastructure projects as match funding to the Transforming Towns programme.

Thriving Communities will be delivered at a local level using a mix of in-house, commissioning, procurement, and grant fund.

Current proposed value
£2,080,000

Bridgend County Green Spaces Enhancement Scheme

Part (a): Bridgend County Local Nature Plan

This will take forward the delivery of the Bridgend County Local Nature Plan and deliver key actions outlined in the Biodiversity and Ecosystems Recovery Plan. A targeted approach will be adopted to carry out a wide range of locally focused biodiversity enhancement schemes based on local engagement and local involvement. Alongside this, a 'biodiversity' budgeting concept will be rolled out with resources being made available for community-led green space and biodiversity enhancement activities.

This will be delivered at a local level, although it has the opportunity to operate on a Sub-regional level, using a mix of in-house, commissioning and procurement.

Part (b): The Great Glamorgan Way.

This is a project which aims to continue to deliver a coherent 270KM network of green corridors within the South Wales Central region for the purposes of improving bridleway access and habitat connectivity. The project will also continue to develop its work on assessing and growing the economic impact the network will have with the varying local communities it passes through.

Current proposed value
£725,000

Bridgend County Community Future Scoping programme

Support the creation of development and investment plans, built on local needs and engagement and the creation of 'fund ready' business plans, funding bids and delivery propositions.

This will be delivered at a local level using a mix of in-house, commissioning, procurement, and grant fund.

Current proposed value
£400,000

Bridgend County Prosperity Co-Production Framework

This cross-cutting framework will provide the opportunity to adopt a co-production approach to design and delivery and adaptable and responsive delivery mechanisms by specialist organisations with targeted local to regional delivery in response to needs as they are considered to be and change. This will be delivered locally and will involve in-house, commissioning, procurement and grant fund.

Current proposed value
£1,000,000

2. Supporting Local Business

Bridgend County Business Prosperity programme

This programme will work across sectors to support businesses to diversify, decarbonise and grow through a wide range of targeted, clustered and County-wide interventions that enhance the capacity of businesses to develop and support opportunity maximisation. This will be delivered at a local level using a mix of in-house, commissioning, procurement and grant fund.

Current proposed value
£1,100,000

Bridgend County Business Future Scoping programme

Support the creation of development and investment plans, built on local needs and engagement and the creation of 'fund ready' business plans, funding bids and delivery propositions. This will enable the exploration of longer-term options to diversify, decarbonise and grow. This will be delivered at a local level using a mix of in-house, commissioning, procurement and grant fund.

Current proposed value
£425,000

Bridgend County Centres of Enterprise

A series of strategic capital interventions across the County that support adaptations to existing property to create more diverse business accommodation and development of new property. This could include the target to develop the 'Net-Zero market'. Examples, such as:

- Bridgend carbon neutral indoor market
- Industrial property development
- Town centre business premises

This will be delivered at a local level using a mix of in-house, commissioning and procurement.

Current proposed value
£ 3,500,000

Bridgend County Local Enterprise Support Programme

A local enterprise support programme to provide case and account management, training, advice and support to existing businesses and support the development of new business ideas. To enable a focus on 'meanwhile' spaces as a mechanism for businesses to test new products and markets and a series of meet-the-buyer-focused interventions. This would work with the Bridgend Business Forum.

This will be delivered at a local level using a mix of in-house, commissioning and procurement.

Current proposed value
£450,000

Bridgend County Tourism Events Support

Tourism events support will provide a tiered approach to supporting existing and developing tourism events across the County that offer opportunities in relation to targeted and niche markets. Coordination will be through a central portal and point of contact that will enable local supply chain development. Alongside these opportunities to identify suitable assets and event spaces will be explored and developed as is considered feasible. This will be delivered at a local level using a mix of in-house, commissioning, procurement, and grant fund.

Current proposed value

£450,000

Bridgend County Local Destination Management and Marketing

This will enable local attraction enhancement and support the delivery of a range of seasonal and targeted marketing campaigns in partnership with the local tourism industry. That partnership approach will support the development of a new and unique range of package offers.

Coordination of County wide destinations will enable the local economy to better respond to peak and seasonal demand placed upon it by tourism and ensure that visitor experience is enhanced. This will be delivered at a local level using a mix of in-house, commissioning, procurement and grant fund.

Current proposed value

£150,000

Bridgend County Prosperity Co-Production Framework

This cross-cutting framework will provide the opportunity to adopt a co-production approach to design and delivery and adaptable and responsive delivery mechanisms by specialist organisations with targeted local to regional delivery in response to needs as they are considered to be and change. This will be delivered locally and will involve in-house, commissioning, procurement and grant fund.

Current proposed value

£1,000,000

3. People and Skills

CELT+ (as part of a regional model)

This programme has 3 parts:

CELT + Bridgend Inspire 2 Work /Achieve

Preventative work with Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 and other young people who are disengaging and disengaged with education, training and employment and need support to secure a suitable post-16 destination. Resources for participants (homeless, poor digital skills) to engage with services. The programme will delivery on the CELT model of engagement, community based using third sector partners as the point of contact, health board, young people.

This will be delivered locally and there is an aspiration for it to be co-ordinated regionally by a lead Local Authority. It will be delivered locally via in house, commissioning and procurement.

Current proposed value
£3,150,000

CELT+ Employability - Bridgend County

The programme will support a number of key intervention stages to support people within the County Borough: Getting involved; Becoming more employable; accessing employment; staying in employment; employment progression.

The programme will delivery on the CELT model of engagement, community based using third sector partners as the point of contact, health board, young people.

This will be delivered locally and there is an aspiration for it to be co-ordinated regionally by a lead Local Authorities will be delivered locally via in house, commissioning and procurement.

Current proposed value
£4,000,000

CELT+ Regional Procurement Opportunities

In order to support clients to achieve the best and most sustainable job we will work with regional partners, supported by the Regional Skills Partnership, to procure appropriate support for the CELT + cohort which will provide training and support to all age clients in Bridgend to access opportunities across the region. These industries which are currently new and niche are expecting high growth and investment and are predicted to provide secure sustainable employment going forward requiring skills which will be in high demand in the future.

Current proposed value
£875,000

Multiply - Bridgend County

Multiply is a standalone programme within the UKSPF that will seek to support adults (19+) by improving their functional numeracy skills through free personal tutoring, digital training, and flexible courses.

UK Government has defined success measures under the Multiply programme as:

1. More adults achieving maths qualifications / participating in numeracy courses (up to and including Level 2/ SCQF Level 5).
2. Improved labour market outcomes e.g. fewer numeracy skills gaps reported by employers, and an increase in the proportion of adults that progress into sustained employment and / or education.
3. Increased adult numeracy across the population.

A range of delivery mechanisms are being explored for Multiply within the region and at a local level. Therefore, it is currently considered that it will be delivered locally via in house, commissioning and procurement.

Current proposed value
£3,990,295

Bridgend County Prosperity Co-Production Framework

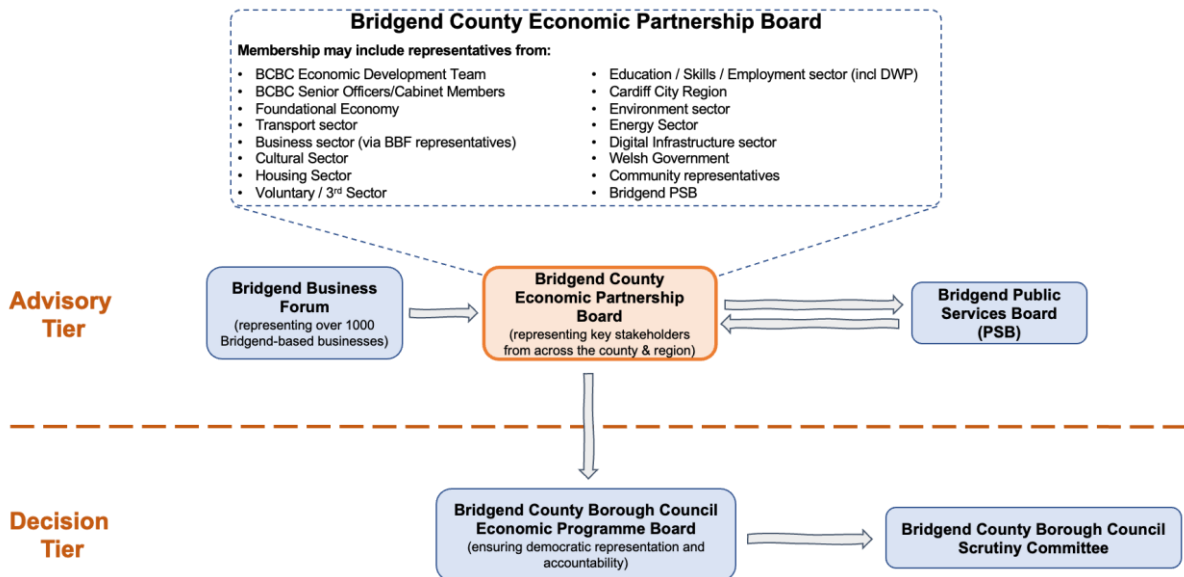
This cross-cutting framework will provide the opportunity to adopt a co-production approach to design and delivery and adaptable and responsive delivery mechanisms by specialist organisations with targeted local to regional delivery in response to needs as they are considered to be and change. This will be delivered locally and will involve in-house, commissioning, procurement and grant fund.

Current proposed value
£1,000,000

Local Governance

A two-tier governance structure has recently been implemented at a local level as the result of the 2022 Economic Strategy, resulting in the establishment of the Bridgend Economic Partnership, which reports to the BCBC Economic Programme Board. Given that the majority of the potential UKSPF funded programmes address economic development challenges, it is proposed that the Economic Partnership and Economic Programme Boards are appropriate structures for governance and oversight of the UKSPF programmes within Bridgend County Borough. Close liaison and interaction will be required for oversight of the programmes that align more closely to the Public Services Board (PSB) agenda.

This is represented in the following diagram:



The focus will be on balancing requirements for business recovery/growth with community wellbeing, environmental imperatives and ecological health, and recommending short, medium and longer-term actions to address these.

The council already has well-established governance models for programme execution in the existing Programme Board model. This model, along with the existing Council, Cabinet and Committee structures is employed to ensure democratic oversight, decision making and accountability for decisions that affect the communities, businesses and the natural environment. The Economic Programme Board is comprised of representatives from key departments, is chaired by the relevant cabinet member or director, and reports into the Cabinet and Corporate Management Board (CCMB).

UKSPF funded proposals face a number of key risk areas that could impact their success in achieving the target outcomes. General risks include:

- **Mobilisation and scale-up of delivery capacity:** there is a significant amount of delivery expected within a two-year period. A key risk relates to a failure to recruit sufficient project delivery staff, to ensure capacity to deliver (this applies equally to BCBC staff and staff within delivery partners).
- **Insufficient funds to complete target objectives:** In preparing the UKSPF proposals, informed assumptions have had to be made regarding the cost of delivery. Given ongoing inflationary pressures, there is a risk that funding falls short of the actual cost to deliver.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** All of the proposals will require on-going engagement with local residents, businesses and stakeholders in order to deliver true co-production of programmes. Insufficient engagement with stakeholders will lead to poor take up of opportunities provided by UKSPF, resulting in likely shortfalls in target outcomes.
- **Poor collaboration / alignment across delivery partners and within the council:** Effective collaboration across council departments and delivery partners will be vital to ensure effective and integrated delivery planning and delivery.
- **Council Processes:** The ability of participating local authorities to process all the required actions within a timely manner will be vital to delivery success.
- **Unknown support landscape from March 2023:** There exists a risk of planning a programme without full knowledge of the support landscape post March 2023, which may subsequently turn out to be insufficient to sustain the programme.
- **Significant external events:** large scale, disruptive external events or developments (e.g. Covid, International Conflict) beyond the influence of BCBC or delivery partners could cause significant disruption / delay to delivery programmes.
- **Poor quality of contractors:** Where contractors are required to deliver works or elements of a programme, it is essential that appropriate minimum quality standards are maintained.
- **Alignment of UKSPF with Welsh Government Programmes and funding:** It will be important to ensure alignment between UKSPF and WG programmes and funding streams, to maximise the benefits from both.
- **Timing of UKSPF funding:** Delays in the decision-making timetable of UKSPF could have knock-on impacts in relation to the delivery timetable of UKSPF.

Summary of UKSPF Programme Proposals

Community and Place

Proposals	Activities	Delivery model	Delivery level	Current proposed value
Bridgend County Local Resilience Planning	Health; Economy; Climate	In-house; commission; procurement	Local; sub-regional	£1,000,050
Bridgend County Thriving Communities	Capital/revenue grant fund for community group access	In-house/commission; grant fund	Local	£2,080,000
Bridgend County Green Spaces Enhancement Scheme	Targeted green space and biodiversity enhancement programme, including Great Glamorgan Way	In-house; commission; procurement	Local; sub-regional	£725,000
Bridgend County Community Future Scoping programme	Fund to test the feasibility of longer term community-led ideas	In-house/commission; grant fund	Local	£400,000
Bridgend County Prosperity Co-Production Framework	Core fund to support deliverability across all themes	In-house; grant fund	Local	£1,000,000
				£5,205,050

Supporting Local Business

Proposals	Activities	Delivery model	Delivery level	Current proposed value
Bridgend County Business Prosperity programme	Grant fund to support business diversification, decarbonise and growth	In-house; grant fund	Local; sub-regional	£1,100,000
Bridgend County Business Future Scoping programme	Grant fund to support feasibility of longer-term options for diversification, decarbonise and growth	In-house; grant fund	Local; sub-regional	£425,000
Bridgend County Centres of Enterprise	Capital support to create more diverse business accommodation	In-house; commission; procurement	Local	£3,500,000
Bridgend County Local Enterprise Support Programme	Networking, training and development for local businesses	In-house; commission; procurement	Local	£450,000
Bridgend County Tourism Events Support	Tiered grant fund to support events across the County	In-house; grant fund	Local	£450,000
Bridgend County Local Destination Management & Marketing	Product-led marketing campaigns	In-house; commission; procurement	Local	£150,000
Bridgend County Prosperity Co-Production Framework	Core fund to support deliverability across all themes	In-house; grant fund	Local	£1,000,000
				£7,075,000

People and Skills

Proposals	Activities	Delivery model	Delivery level	Current proposed value
CELT+ Bridgend Inspire 2 Work / Achieve	Support for NEETS	In-house; Commission; procurement	Local	£3,150,000
CELT + Employability -Bridgend County	Employability support for employees to improve labour market position	In-house; Commission; procurement	Local and regional co-ordination	£4,000,000
CELT+ Regional Joint Commissioning	Support for local employers to improve the skills of their workforce	Commission; procurement; grant fund	Sub-regional; regional	£875,000
Multiply – Bridgend County	Adult numeracy support programme	In-house; Commission; procurement	Local; sub-regional; regional	£3,990,295
Bridgend County Prosperity Co-production Framework (cross-cutting)	Core fund to support deliverability across all themes	In-house; grant fund	Local	£1,000,000
				£13,015,295

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO SUBJECT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3

26 SEPTEMBER 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

LEVELLING UP FUND PRIORITY PROJECTS

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with background on the UK Government Levelling Up Fund (LUF), and to provide an update on the development of projects previously endorsed by Cabinet, and submitted to the fund.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

- **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
- **Helping people to be more healthy and resilient** – taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
- **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

3.1 The LUF was announced by the UK Government at the 2020 Spending Review. In March 2021 the Government set aside an initial £4 billion for the LUF for England over the next four years (up to 2024-25) and a minimum of £800 million for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. As such, up to £4.8 billion until 2024-25 will be available in the LUF across the UK.

3.2 The UK Government will use the new financial assistance powers in the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020 (UKIM Act) to make the LUF available to the whole of the UK, with financial support provided directly to Local Authorities in Wales from Whitehall.

- 3.3 The LUF is jointly managed by HM Treasury (HMT), the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the Department for Transport (DfT). A Department for Wales has been set up to engage with and provide support directly to Welsh Local Authorities.
- 3.4 The LUF will invest in local infrastructure and capital projects that have a visible impact on people and their communities. This includes a range of high value local investment priorities, including local transport schemes, urban and economic regeneration projects and supporting cultural assets.
- 3.5 A prospectus was published on guidance and priorities relating to the LUF. Alongside the prospectus UK Government published a 'priority area' ranking, with each local area ranking between 1 and 3. As part of this ranking Bridgend was given a priority category 1, which represents the highest need for the LUF.
- 3.6 The LUF programme is competitive, despite a ranking system for priority. There are no set allocations for each area and each application will be reviewed on merit.
- 3.7 It is important to note that Local Authorities can only receive funding for one bid for every Member of Parliament (MP) whose constituency lies wholly within their boundary. The UK Government would also like to see MPs express support for one bid that they see as a priority, but it is not a requirement of the bidding process for MPs to have expressed their support. Each Local Authority is also eligible to make one additional bid for potential transport projects in the area. This enables Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to make 3 bids in total - one for each constituency, Bridgend and Ogmore, and a third for a strategic transport project.
- 3.8 Each constituency bid can be up to the value of £20m. However, there is also scope for investing in larger, high-value transport projects, allowing for bids of up to £50m, with each bid being encouraged to contribute a minimum of 10% funding from local and third-party contributions.
- 3.9 The first round of funding, which opened for applications in June 2021, saw £1.7 billion awarded to 105 projects across the UK. Six Local Authorities in Wales made successful bids, with 10 projects in total being supported.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 Officers presented a report to Cabinet in November 2021 setting out the potential projects identified within each constituency which could be developed further to meet the objectives and criteria of the fund and would be able to be delivered within the timeframe of the programme.
- 4.2 Officers have also had the ability to take advice from successful applicants, consult with the UK Government, Cities and Local Growth Unit, Regional Team and review amendments to the round two technical advice note which has enabled thoughts to be galvanized in relation to the projects and position previously endorsed by Cabinet.
- 4.3 Officers have discussed the position in relation to the LUF with the local MPs for both the Ogmore and Bridgend constituencies, and will present further detail of the projects in advance of the funding deadline to confirm their endorsement.

- 4.4 Applications for round two of funding initially had to be submitted in full by midday on Wednesday 6 July 2022, with any information submitted after this deadline not considered as part of an application. This was subsequently postponed to Tuesday 2 August. Following a three month assessment period, decisions are anticipated to be announced in Autumn 2022.
- 4.5 Outlined below are updates on those constituency projects which officers previously reported to Cabinet, setting out the current position and proposals for the way forward.

Bridgend Constituency proposed project: Porthcawl Pavilion Redevelopment.

- 4.6 The LUF prospectus sets out a clear agenda to support cultural investment. To maintain, regenerate, or creatively repurpose museums, galleries, visitor attractions (and associated green spaces) and heritage assets as well as creating new community-owned spaces to support the arts and serve as cultural spaces.

Following a review of the round 2 technical guidance, officers are confident that the pavilion project continues to strongly meet the objectives of the fund and that the pace of development work will enable a robust application to be made.

- 4.7 The project has been in development since 2016 when Awen Cultural Trust (Awen), in partnership with BCBC, commissioned a study on the options for enhancing and re-developing the Grade II Listed building. The study considered the physical, artistic and social significance of the Grand Pavilion; provided a high level appraisal of its condition; considered the possible treatment of the historic building for renovation and concept designs that could unlock new social and commercially sustainable benefits.
- 4.8 The principal objectives of the renewal of the Grand Pavilion have been to address the issues of risk to the building fabric that exist in the condition of the concrete structure whilst also meeting the needs and aspirations of local people for extended and improved arts, heritage and library services.
- 4.9 The new facilities proposed within the most recent feasibility work on the Grand Pavilion include:
- New function spaces at first floor (Esplanade) level,
 - New rooftop function and cafe spaces offering elevated sea-views across the Bristol Channel,
 - New Studio theatre and ancillary facilities,
 - Increased and improved welfare facilities including new changing places facility,
 - Business incubation or workshop spaces to street level,
 - New office facilities.
- 4.10 BCBC committed a sum of £210,000 to the development for this project from BCBC's Feasibility Funding budget. RIBA Stage 3 design work was completed in order to support the application, and was packaged to present a well progressed, detailed and fully costed application.

- 4.11 It is acknowledged that the delivery of this project will require significant financial and grant investment. In addition to the LUF application is a need to submit an expression of interest to the National Heritage Lottery Fund to secure further development and capital funding. There has already been positive early discussions with the National Heritage Lottery Fund, however due to the timing of bidding rounds, submitting an application has not yet been possible, and as such, at the point of submitting an application to the LUF, Council agreed to underwrite the match funding by building a sum of £1,999,800 into the capital programme at its meeting in July 2022. Any change to this requirement will be reported back to Cabinet and Council as necessary.
- 4.12 The re-development of the Grand Pavilion clearly represents an opportunity for a flagship and legacy capital scheme. It is also a key component of the wider Porthcawl Regeneration Programme being pursued.

Ogmore Constituency proposed project

- 4.13 Within the previous report endorsed by Cabinet, officers sought agreement to pursue a Bridgend Enterprise Development Project, which officers felt was the most advantageous project to meet local needs and achieve the aspirations of the Levelling Up programme, by delivering commercial and employment space in key locations.
- 4.14 Despite officers' views that we would be able to develop a strong bid which met local needs, UK Government Levelling Up officials have been unsupportive of this project, and in a number of meetings impressed on us that they did not believe that this project would be successful and would not find favour during the assessment process.
- 4.15 Officers have, in tandem with this process, now identified other potential funding sources which could be available to support the development of our Bridgend Enterprise Development Project, and therefore previous development work can still be capitalised on to deliver badly needed employment space within the Ogmore constituency.
- 4.16 Despite having considered other strategic opportunities within the constituency area, there has not been a mandate to develop any other projects further, to a point where officers could recommend the submission of an alternative project at this point.
- 4.17 Officers would like to take the opportunity to identify an alternative strategic project and potential partners to develop a bid for the communities of the Llynfi, Garw and Ogmore Valleys, in anticipation of a potential further bidding round.

Bridgend Transport Proposal : Penprysg Railway Bridge

- 4.18 The Penprysg railway bridge proposal has been a long-standing infrastructure project for Bridgend and is included in the current and replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) as well as predecessor land use plans.

- 4.19 This project will result in the rebuilding of the Penprysg road bridge so that it can accommodate two-way traffic leading to the eventual closure of Pencoed's railway level crossing, and an all-new active travel bridge for pedestrians and cyclists.
- 4.20 The Pencoed level crossing is on the South Wales mainline railway as well as local Metro routes. When in operation there is a resultant build up of road traffic leading to significant congestion in the town centre. The current alternative road bridge on Penprysg Road is a substandard single lane with limited pedestrian/active travel provision.
- 4.21 Due to these constraints, there is a longstanding moratorium on development west of the level crossing. The plans will also unlock potential development land located to the west of the current level crossing and enable fresh investment and facilities to be introduced.
- 4.22 Once the level crossing is closed, the proposal also provides the opportunity to enhance the public realm in and around the commercial area at the level crossing and to enhance the local environment.
- 4.23 Only 23 transport specific projects were successful across the UK in the first round, the majority of which are large projects. The process for larger scale projects requires a significant amount of additional detail to support the application.
- 4.24 This is a highly complex and challenging project to deliver, however, there is confidence that this project which is being developed in conjunction with Network Rail and through a working group comprising the MP, Member of the Senedd (MS), BCBC Members (including the Leader and Cabinet Members), Town Council representatives, technical officers, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales, Network Rail and Transport for Wales, will present a well considered and supported project. A public consultation exercise took place in the Autumn of 2021.
- 4.25 The timeframe for the completion of this project will go beyond that of the LUF's current programme for projects to be completed by March 2025. The guidance notes state that in exceptional circumstances a project would need to demonstrate completion by March 2026. This has been made explicit within the application form.
- 4.26 An internal project management and governance structure is being set up to lead the project and will further progress the design and development work in tandem with the submission of the LUF bid.
- 4.27 Post application this project will require significant detailed design work to continue, and until such a time as the design is complete a definitive cost cannot be established. Work to date puts the cost close to £25m, which is the value requested in the LUF bid. The value of match funding currently set aside within the capital programme for this scheme is £2,500,000, which Council approved in July 2022. This amount will be reviewed and confirmed prior to acceptance of any successful award of LUF funding. Should the figure change then subsequent reports will be presented to Cabinet and Council as required.
- 4.28 The value of the project would place it into the 'large transport scheme' category and therefore there will be a need for a more substantial financial and economic case. This additional information is currently being procured using external

consultants to provide more detailed financial information and set up a project scope, funded from existing approved capital budgets, as outlined in paragraph 8.7.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no direct impact on the Council's policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment based on the 5 ways of working has been considered and there are no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives:

- Long Term - Investment in and redevelopment of major infrastructure is critical to developing confidence in and growing the economy, ensuring local investment while providing the ability to operate across the region and beyond. Investment in some of our major assets is also essential to secure their long term sustainability and contribution to the reduction in carbon emissions of our infrastructure and assets.
- Prevention - Investment in assets now will prevent further decline in the integrity of our structures. It will also prevent a decline in local environment and the quality of business and employment facilities within our communities.
- Integration - These projects will ensure that local cultural facilities, and better public transport facilities will be provided and integrated into the local communities. The public will be able to make better use of existing facilities and will be provided with greater employment and social opportunity within their communities.
- Collaboration - The success of the suite of projects will be founded on cross sector working and collaborative effort with partners and stakeholders to use creative and cultural activity to improve population well-being.
- Involvement - These are two very different projects being proposed with levels of engagement varying significantly to date. However, the success of each project will rest of the effective engagement with key public and operational stakeholders. This will be through formal channels such as Weltag and more informal conversations with critical partners.

8. Financial implications

8.1 Two bids have been submitted for funding in round two of the LUF programme.

- 8.2 Early design work was completed and fully costed in order to submit the applications.
- 8.3 The LUF application encourages a minimum 10% match funding requirement for each project. As the details of the delivery costs related to each project emerges following further detailed design work, both projects will be seeking the support of partner organisations and other external funding sources to support the total cost of the delivery of the projects. However, at this point match funding from external sources has not been secured.
- 8.4 This report sets out the anticipated value of the match funding requirements, until such a point as officers have been able to identify and apply for additional funding from alternative partners and funding sources.
- 8.5 The total project costs submitted for these projects as part of the LUF applications, are as follows:

<i>Porthcawl Grand Pavilion redevelopment</i>	
Total Project Cost	£19,998m
Match funding requirement	£1,999,800

<i>Penprysg Road Bridgend Replacement and Pencoed Level Crossing Closure</i>	
Total Project Cost	£25m
Match funding requirement	£2,500,000

- 8.6 The match funding requirement for the two projects is £4,499,800, for which funding has been set aside in the capital programme, and demonstration of a commitment to match fund the schemes is a requirement of the funding bids.
- 8.7 It was approved at Council on 15 June 2022 as part of the Capital Programme Update report to include a financial allocation of £500,000 towards the Penprysg Road Bridge Scheme, for continuing the design of the bridge with Network Rail and to undertake additional engineering solutions as a result of the recent public consultation.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 It is recommended that Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 Note the overview and update on the application process associated with the LUF.

Janine Nightingale
CORPORATE DIRECTOR – COMMUNITIES
15th September 2022

Contact Officer: Delyth Webb
Group Manager Strategic Regeneration

Jonathan Parsons
Group Manager Planning & Development Services

Telephone: (01656) 815207

E-mail: Delyth.Webb@Bridgend.gov.uk
Jonathan.Parsons@Bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address: Bridgend County Borough Council, Communities Directorate, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

Background documents:

Levelling Up Fund Technical Note – UK wide

Levelling Up Fund Priority Projects Cabinet Report dated 16th November 2021

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3

26 SEPTEMBER 2022

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER - LEGAL & REGULATORY SERVICES, HR AND CORPORATE POLICY

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) Present the Committee with the Forward Work Programme (**Appendix A**) for consideration and approval;
- b) Request any specific information the Committee identifies to be included in the items for the next two meetings, including invitees they wish to attend;
- c) Request the Committee to identify whether there are presently any further items for consideration on the Forward Work Programme having regard to the selection criteria in paragraph 4.3;
- d) Present the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet (**Appendix B**) to track responses to the Committee's recommendations made at the previous meetings;
- e) Advise that the Committee's updated Forward Work Programme and Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet will be reported to the next meeting of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC).

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

- **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
- **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
- **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently

as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council's Constitution requires the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to develop and implement a Forward Work Programme for the Committee.
- 3.2 The Council's Constitution also provides for each Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee to propose items for the Forward Work Programme having regard to the Council's Corporate Priorities and Risk Management framework, for the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to have oversight.

Best Practice / Guidance

- 3.3 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny's (CfGS) Good Scrutiny Guide recognises the importance of the Forward Work Programme. In order to 'lead and own the process', it states that Councillors should have ownership of their Committee's work programme, and be involved in developing, monitoring and evaluating it. The Good Scrutiny Guide also states that, in order to make an impact, the scrutiny workload should be coordinated and integrated into corporate processes, to ensure that it contributes to the delivery of corporate objectives, and that work can be undertaken in a timely and well-planned manner.
- 3.4 Forward Work Programmes need to be manageable to maximise the effective use of the limited time and resources of Scrutiny Committees. It is not possible to include every topic proposed. Successful scrutiny is about looking at the right topic in the right way and Members need to be selective, while also being able to demonstrate clear arguments for including or excluding topics.
- 3.5 The CfGS guide to effective work programming 'A Cunning Plan?' makes the following reference to the importance of good work programming:

'Effective work programming is the bedrock of an effective scrutiny function. Done well it can help lay the foundations for targeted, incisive and timely work on issues of local importance, where scrutiny can add value. Done badly, scrutiny can end up wasting time and resources on issues where the impact of any work done is likely to be minimal.'

Forward Work Programme

- 3.6 Following the approval of the schedule of Scrutiny Committee meeting dates at the Annual Meeting of Council on 18th May 2022, the scheduling of standing statutory reports to Scrutiny Committees upon: the Medium Term Financial Strategy, Performance, the Corporate Plan, Budget Monitoring, etc. were mapped to the appropriate timed COSC meeting dates into a draft Forward Work Programme.
- 3.7 The draft Forward Work Programme for each Scrutiny Committee has been prepared using a number of different sources, including:
 - Corporate Risk Assessment;
 - Directorate Business Plans;

- Previous Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme report topics / Minutes;
- Committee / Member proposed topics;
- Policy Framework;
- Cabinet Work Programme;
- Discussions with Corporate Directors;
- Performance Team regarding the timing of performance information.

3.8 There are items where there is a statutory duty for Policy Framework documents to be considered by Scrutiny, e.g. the MTFS including draft budget proposals scheduled for consideration in December 2022, following which the COSC will coordinate the conclusions and recommendations from each of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees in a report on the overall strategic overview of Cabinet’s draft Budget proposals to the meeting of Cabinet in February 2023.

3.9 An effective FWP identifies the issues that the Committee wishes to focus on during the year and provides a clear plan. However, at each meeting the Committee will have an opportunity to review this as the Forward Work Programme Update will be a standing item on the Agenda, detailing which items are scheduled for future meetings and be requested to clarify any information to be included in reports and the list of invitees. The FWP will remain flexible and will be reported to each COSC meeting with feedback from each SOSC FWP and any updated information gathered from FWP meetings with Scrutiny Chairs and Corporate Directors.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 The Committee approved its Forward Work Programme at its previous meeting.

4.2 The Committee’s Forward Work Programme will also be reported to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for coordination and oversight of the overall FWP.

Identification of Further Items

4.3 The Committee is reminded of the Criteria Form which Members can use to propose further items for the FWP which the Committee can then consider for prioritisation at a future meeting. The Criteria Form emphasises the need to consider issues such as impact, risk, performance, budget and community perception when identifying topics for investigation and to maximise the impact scrutiny can have on a topic and the outcomes for people. Criteria which can help the Committee come to a decision on whether to include a referred topic, are set out below:

Recommended Criteria for Selecting Scrutiny Topics:

PUBLIC INTEREST: The concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen for scrutiny;

ABILITY TO CHANGE: Priority should be given to issues that the Committee can realistically influence, and add value to;

PERFORMANCE: Priority should be given to the areas in which the Council is not performing well;

EXTENT: Priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or large parts of the County Borough; or a large number of the Authority's service users or its population;

REPLICATION: Work programmes must take account of what else is happening in the areas being considered to avoid duplication or wasted effort.

Reasons to Reject Scrutiny Topics:

- The issue is already being addressed / being examined elsewhere and change is imminent.
- The topic would be better addressed elsewhere (and can be referred there).
- Scrutiny involvement would have limited / no impact upon outcomes.
- The topic may be sub-judice or prejudicial.
- The topic is too broad to make a review realistic and needs refining / scoping.
- New legislation or guidance relating to the topic is expected within the next year.
- The topic area is currently subject to inspection or has recently undergone substantial change / reconfiguration.

Corporate Parenting

- 4.4 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a Local Authority towards looked after children and young people. This is a legal responsibility given to local authorities by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. The role of the Corporate Parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The Council as a whole is the 'corporate parent', therefore all Members have a level of responsibility for the children and young people looked after by Bridgend.
- 4.5 In this role, it is suggested that Members consider how each item they consider affects children in care and care leavers, and in what way can the Committee assist in these areas.
- 4.6 Scrutiny Champions can greatly support the Committee in this by advising them of the ongoing work of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee and particularly any decisions or changes which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.
- 4.7 The Forward Work Programme for this Committee is attached as **Appendix A**.
- 4.8 The Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committee's recommendations at the previous meeting is attached as **Appendix B**.
- 5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules**
- 5.1 The work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Council's Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

- 7.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with 5 ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The following is a summary to show how the 5 ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:

- Long-term - The approval of this report will assist in the planning of Scrutiny business in both the short-term and in the long-term on its policies, budget and service delivery.
- Prevention - The early preparation of the Forward Work Programme allows for the advance planning of Scrutiny business where Members are provided an opportunity to influence and improve decisions before they are made by Cabinet.
- Integration - The report supports all the wellbeing objectives.
- Collaboration - Consultation on the content of the Forward Work Programme has taken place with the Corporate Management Board, Heads of Service, Elected Members and members of the public.
- Involvement - Advanced publication of the Forward Work Programme ensures that the public and stakeholders can view topics that will be discussed in Committee meetings and are provided with the opportunity to engage.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Consider and approve the Forward Work Programme attached as **Appendix A**;
- b) Identify any specific information the Committee wishes to be included in the items for the next two meetings, including invitees they wish to attend;
- c) Identify any further items for consideration on the Forward Work Programme having regard to the selection criteria in paragraph 4.3 of this report;

- d) Note the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committee's recommendations made at the previous meetings, attached as **Appendix B**;
- e) Note that the Forward Work Programme, Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet and any updates from the Committee will be reported to the next meeting of COSC.

Kelly Watson

Chief Officer – Legal & Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy

20 September 2022

Contact Officers: Meryl Lawrence
Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny

Lucy Beard
Scrutiny Officer

Jessica McLellan
Scrutiny Officer

Telephone: (01656) 643515 / 643613 / 643263

Email: scrutiny@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Democratic Services - Scrutiny
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Background documents: None.

**Forward Work Programme
Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3:**

APPENDIX A

<u>Date of Meeting:</u>	<u>Report Topics:</u>
Monday 18 July 9.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination - Nomination to the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel - Draft Outline Forward Work Programme
Monday 26 September 4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shared Prosperity Fund - Levelling Up Fund
Monday 14 November 4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate Joint Committees Regional Responsibilities
Monday 12 December 4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-23 to 2025-26 and Budget Proposals * - Corporate Joint Committees Regional Responsibilities
Monday 20 February 4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A report upon Porthcawl Regeneration to include Porthcawl Regeneration projects, the PRIF (Porthcawl Resort Investment forecast), Cosy Corner and the Grand Pavilion. - Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy Local - Biodiversity Action Plan
Monday 17 April 4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy Local - Biodiversity Action Plan move - Future Waste Services Work Streams
Date to be scheduled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A report upon accessible playground equipment in play areas and access to play areas, parks and playing field pavilions, for the disabled community across the County Borough, and the latest Assessment and Action Plan in accordance with Equalities legislation. (Cross Directorate Report)

* If the Budget Settlement is received late as in recent years, the scrutiny of the Draft MTFs and Budget Proposals will need to be moved to a meeting date to be convened after Cabinet in January 2023.

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Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3

RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING ACTION SHEET

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
18 July 2022	Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination	Councillor Jonathan Pratt was nominated to represent Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 as an invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.	Scrutiny / Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy	ACTIONED – Membership of Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee updated and formally reported to Cabinet 19 July 2022.
18 July 2022	Nomination to the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel	Councillor Colin Davies was nominated to sit on the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel.	Scrutiny	ACTIONED – Membership of Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel updated and initial Briefing session arrangements underway.
18 July 2022	Forward Work Programme Update	The Committee requested the following representatives be invited for the following reports scheduled for the September meeting:	Scrutiny	ACTIONED – Requested Invitees have been invited to attend the September meeting of the Committee.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- For the Shared Prosperity Fund report, the appropriate lead Officers.- For the Levelling Up Fund report, the appropriate lead Officers and a representative of Awen Cultural Trust, as management of the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.		