

REPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

06 DECEMBER 2016

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – OPERATIONAL AND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the development of Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and to describe what impact the deal will have on Bridgend County Borough. Because the City Deal is still developing an update in the form of a presentation will be given to the committee to reflect the most recent position.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal will support the achievement of the following Corporate Priorities.
 1. **Supporting a successful economy** – taking steps to make the county a good 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 of all people in the county.
 2. **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.
- 2.2 The improvement priorities identified in the Corporate Plan 2016-2020 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The amended Corporate Plan adopted by Council on 10 March 2016 formally set out the improvement priorities that the Council will seek to implement between 2016 and 2020. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees engage in review and development of plans, policy or strategies that support the Corporate Themes.

3. Background

- 3.1 During April 2016, planning workshops were held to enable Overview and Scrutiny Committees to carry out a review and planning exercise. The main aim was to review outcomes and impacts that their committee had made during the previous year and to identify suggestions for future items for their Annual Forward Work Programme for 2016/17.
- 3.2 Whilst compiling items for the draft Annual Forward Work Programme, Members of the Partnerships and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested

Cardiff Capital Region City Deal be added to the Forward Work Programme, for clarity on how it will benefit the Local Authority and its residents.

4. Current Situation / Proposal

- 4.1 The Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) City Deal is an agreement between the UK government, the Welsh government and the ten leaders of the local CCR. The Authorities included (Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen, Vale of Glamorgan).
- 4.2 The ten leaders of the local authorities, the Secretary of State for Wales, The Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the First Minister signed the City Deal document in a ceremony on 15 March 2016. A copy of the signed documents is attached at Appendix A.
- 4.3 The City Deal provides the opportunity to deliver:
 - £1.2 billion investment in the Cardiff Capital Region's infrastructure through a 20-year Investment Fund.
 - The creation of a non-statutory Regional Transport Authority to co-ordinate transport planning and investment, in partnership with the Welsh Government.
 - The development of capabilities in Compound Semiconductor Applications.
 - The creation of a Cardiff Capital Region Skills and Employment Board.
 - The CCR and the Welsh Government will work with Department of Work and Pensions to co-design the future employment support from 2017 for people with a health condition or disability and/or long term unemployed.
 - A Cardiff Capital Region Business Organisation will be established to ensure that there is a single voice for business to work with local authority leaders.
 - The Welsh Government and the Cardiff Capital Region commit to a new partnership approach to housing development and regeneration. This will ensure the delivery of sustainable communities, through the use and re-use of property and sites.
- 4.4 If successful, the City Deal has the potential to be a key transformation project that would improve the economic competitiveness of the CCR.
- 4.5 Following the signing of the agreement, the Councils are now working together to develop the detailed City Deal proposals and put in place all arrangements and documentation required to finalise the City Deal.
- 4.6 One of the major schemes which the City Deal will support is the proposed South Wales Metro, which will offer quicker, more frequent and reliable transport services. New stations, routes and a single ticket system would all revolutionise how people get around the region and in turn help unlock the potential of the region through an integrated network of rail, bus and light rail.

4.7 In addition to improving transport links, City Deal is also intended to fund improved skills development, create up to 25,000 jobs, reduce unemployment and create better links between industry and academia in the region.

4.8 In order to develop the City Deal, the UK and Welsh Governments expect the Councils to have established the appropriate governance arrangements actively engaged the business sector and have in place an Investment Fund Assurance Framework that ensures the respective funded projects represent value for money. The current proposal is that this is to be completed by the early part of 2017.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

5.1 The work of the Partnerships and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental well being in the County Borough of Bridgend.

5.2 Although, there is currently no impact from the City Deal on the Authorities Policy Framework and Procedure Rules as the City Deal develops there may be a need to review the impact the City deal has in this respect.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 This report is for information only and as the City Deal agreements progress Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as necessary.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 Previous reports on the City Deal have attempted to quantify the likely financial implications for the council. Financial scenarios are being remodelled by the 10 councils and an update of the current position will be shared with the committee as part of the presentation.

8. Recommendations

8.1 The Committee is asked to consider and provide comment on the developments of the Cardiff Capital Region.

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Background documents: None