

Meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3

22 April 2024

Recommendations / Information requested

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:
Caerau Heat Scheme		
<u>Recommendations:</u> The Committee discussed in detail the activity undertaken as part of the European Regional Development funded Caerau Heat Scheme project that had closed, including the creation of the Minewater Heat Toolkit and the recommendations evaluated by an external evaluator, the financial implications and total eligible cost of the scheme which had been approved by the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO).		
1	Having discussed the Caerau Heat Scheme report, Members felt there was an opportunity to strengthen the processes for management of future Research and Development projects. The Committee recommended that some research be undertaken of best practice processes for the management of Research and Development projects, including the management of finances and gateway protocols, to incorporate and strengthen the processes for any future projects of this type.	Noted – The management of all projects, whether R&D in nature or fully developed, is carried out in accordance with Prince2 management principles. However, it is recognised that the risk profile of demonstrator projects, such as the Caerau Minewater, is higher and would necessitate increase monitoring. This is something that will be incorporated as part of the lessons learnt piece of work.
2	Members felt it was important to keep moving forward, and while understanding that not all demonstrator projects would be successful, from the public’s perspective the Authority had to be responsible with the funding provided, so it was imperative to build on lessons that had been learned, where money is spent and explore where things could be done differently. Members acknowledged the toolkit created by the Authority following the Caerau Heat Scheme project and the lessons learned to share with others. The Committee recommended “that due consideration should be given to the financial risks, constraints and pressures for each and every similar type of project”, be added to the lessons learned.	Noted.
<u>Additional information requested:</u>		

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3	Members discussed the financial implications, what the final cost of the scheme had been spent on over the life of the project and requested the break down / summary of the funding spent on the project, that the Corporate Director of Communities had advised could be shared with Members.	Noted – This information will be shared with the Committee.