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**THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND**

5th February 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

**REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee will be held in virtually via Microsoft Teams - if you would like to attend this meeting live via Microsoft Teams please contact committee.services@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk on Wednesday, 10th February, 2021 at 10.00 am.

***Please note that a pre and post meeting will be held 30 minutes prior to the start and following the conclusion of the meeting for members of the committee.***

Yours faithfully

Michelle Morris  
Managing Director

**AGENDA**

**Pages**

**1. SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION**

You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required

We welcome correspondence in the medium of Welsh or English. / Croesawn ohebiaith trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg.

should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

2. **APOLOGIES**

To receive.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

To receive.

4. **REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** 5 - 16

To receive the minutes of the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.

(Please note the minutes are submitted for points of accuracy only.)

5. **ACTION SHEET - 6TH JANUARY 2021** 17 - 18

To receive the Action Sheet.

6. **ASPIRE SHARED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME** 19 - 26

To consider the report of the Skills Development Manager.

7. **PROGRESS UPDATE: TOWN CENTRE TASK AND FINISH GROUP** 27 - 32

To consider the report of the Team Manager Regeneration Opportunities.

8. **USE OF CONSULTANTS** 33 - 40

To consider the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services and the Head of Regeneration and Development.

9. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME: 24TH MARCH 2021** 41 - 44

To consider the report.

To: Councillor J. Hill (Chair)  
Councillor G. A. Davies (Vice-Chair)

Councillor M. Cross  
Councillor M. Cook  
Councillor G. L. Davies  
Councillor H. McCarthy  
Councillor K. Hayden  
Councillor S. Healy  
Councillor W. Hodgins  
Councillor J. C. Morgan  
Councillor J. P. Morgan  
Councillor L. Parsons  
Councillor K. Rowson  
Councillor B. Willis

All other Members (for information)  
Manager Director  
Chief Officers

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**COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT**

**REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT: REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2021**

**REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR J. HILL (CHAIR)**

Councillors G.A. Davies

M. Cook

M. Cross

P. Edwards

K. Hayden

S. Healy

W. Hodgins

H. McCarthy

J.C. Morgan

J.P. Morgan

B. Willis

**AND:** Head of Regeneration & Development  
Service Manager Business & Regeneration  
Team Manager Regeneration Opportunities  
Scrutiny & Democratic Officer/Advisor

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<p><b><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
No. 2	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b></p> <p>Apology for absence was received from Councillor L. Parsons.</p>	

<p><b>No. 3</b></p>	<p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></b></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.</p>	
<p><b>No. 4</b></p>	<p><b><u>REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2020 were submitted.</p> <p><i><u>Visit to Turkish Glass Factory</u></i></p> <p>A Member referred to page 19 of the minutes and sought advice on whether the Chair should have declared an interest as he had taken part in the visit, and therefore not taken part in the voting process.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Officer/Advisor reported that legal advice had been provided which stated that Members were only required to declare an interest when a report on the agenda was being discussed. As the Forward Work Programme was only listing items for consideration at the next meeting the Chair was not required to declare an interest.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
<p><b>No. 5</b></p>	<p><b><u>ACTION SHEET – 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER, 2020</u></b></p> <p>The Action Sheet arising from the meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2020 was submitted, whereupon:</p> <p><i><u>Destination Management Plan</u></i></p> <p>A Member expressed concern that the Blaenau Gwent Guide had been printed and circulated prior to it being considered by Members.</p> <p>Another Member asked when the Destination Management Plan would be resubmitted to Scrutiny for consideration, and the Chair undertook to investigate.</p> <p><i><u>Forward Work Programme (Use of Consultants in relation to the Regeneration portfolio – cost of consultants)</u></i></p>	

and the benefits / outcomes of using external consultants over the last 2 years)

A Member referred to the report scheduled for submission on the 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 regarding the cost of consultancy fees over the last 2 years, and said this should be extended further to include consultancy fees over the last 5 years.

Another Member agreed and said this would provide a more comprehensive overview.

A Member said the reason for requesting this information was in response to figures reported to Council covering the last 2 years. He said Officers had done a lot of work to compile the information and extending this further would only put added pressure on Officers.

A discussion ensued when the Head of Regeneration & Development said Officers had already done the work based on a 2 year period. The information had been put together and the report was currently going through relevant process prior to submission to Committee on the 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2021. The Officer said extending this to cover the last 5 years would involve a significant amount of additional work.

A Member said he did not understand why an extension had been requested when 2 years had been agreed by the Scrutiny Committee, and the work had already been done by Officers.

Another Member agreed and said the Committee should continue with the 2 year period, particularly in light of the Officer's comment. However, following consideration of the report, if any additional information was required then a further report could be requested at that time.

The Chair said taking into account the Officer's comments the Committee would continue with the report covering the last 2 years.

Forward Work Programme (Tech Valley progress and spend)

	<p>The Head of Regeneration &amp; Development reported that the special meeting may be a joint meeting with Welsh Government as they were responsible for managing many of the projects.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, that the Action Sheet be noted.</p>	
<p><b>No. 6</b></p>	<p><b><u>PROGRESS REPORT - TARGETED REGENERATION INVESTMENT PROGRAMME AND TOWN CENTRE REPAYABLE FUNDING SCHEME</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Team Manager Regeneration Opportunities.</p> <p>The Team Manager Regeneration Opportunities presented the report which provided an update on the current position with the Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Programme and Town Centre Repayable Funding Scheme, and followed the report presented to the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 5th March, 2020. The TRI programme was established in 2018 and was originally intended to be a three-year programme (2018-2021). For the initial three-year phase of the TRI programme a capital budget of £100million funding was made available in Wales, with allocations of the funding dependent upon the quality of the projects, regional significance and approval of the National Panel. TRI funding would not be automatically apportioned equally across each of the ten Local Authorities. Allocation for the South East Wales region was £44million.</p> <p>The Team Manager confirmed that the report submitted on the 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 stated that a proposal for additional £5 million capital funding from Valleys Task Force to extend the Cardiff Capital Region TRI Thematic Project in Valleys Taskforce areas had been successful. However, it had since been advised that this funding would no longer be forthcoming from Valleys Taskforce, but there would be scope to include the projects put forward for this funding within the existing TRI Thematic Programme.</p>	



The Officer then went through the report and highlighted points contained therein. She pointed out that as at the 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 a total of 91 Expressions of Interest had been received, and 4 applications have been progressed to the stage of delivery at a total cost of £44,731. In terms of the low number of enquiries progressed to delivery, there were a number of reasons for this, namely:

- The funding cannot be used to fund works already completed before the grant was made available or a funding approval was in place;
- The funding can only be utilised for businesses located within one of the Town Centres (Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, Brynmawr, Abertillery and Blaina); and
- The funding can only be used for external measures to support business recovery (outdoor seating, canopies).

The Officer also reported that funding had been secured to develop a Placemaking plan for Tredegar. However, this would be subject to procurement over December with the commission commencing in January 2021. The plan would be delivered using the same approach as the Ebbw Vale Placemaking Plan.

A Member asked whether the Loan repayments were being received regularly, and what action could be taken if payments were missed.

The Officer said if the applicant had opted for monthly payment via direct debit and a payment was missed, they would be contacted immediately and given an opportunity to catch up. However, if payments continued to be missed our normal debt collection procedures would be commenced. The Officer also explained that one of the conditions of the initial loan agreement was a legal charge on the property to prevent them from selling without the Authority's permission/agreement, and this would allow us to go through the appropriate legal channels to reclaim the funding. The Officer said this was a lengthy process but fortunately to date it had not been necessary.

A Member said he was pleased with the report, and said when funding was awarded within Tredegar Town Centre an

Advisory Group was established which included Traders, Ward Members, the Town Council, and Coalfields Regeneration Trust. He said this approach had proved very successful and there was an excellent working relationship within the Town Centre, and he would be happy to discuss this with Officers.

The Officer said she was aware of the excellent work that had been done, and said it may be beneficial for the Member to attend a Town Centre Task & Finish Group to discuss the approach taken in Tredegar.

Another Member asked whether it would be possible to have a list of projects that had received money, and the Officer undertook to circulate this information to Members.

A Member then referred to section 2.3 of the report which outlined funding available for commercial building and residential enhancements within the town centres, and expressed concern that this may lead to the loss commercial premises.

The Officer explained that whilst these were two separate grants, there would be some schemes that would have ground floor commercial enhancement, along with the upper floor residential enhancement. However, retention of the ground floor for commercial purposes was encouraged as much as possible, particularly in town centres.

The Head of Regeneration & Development said the provision of housing within town centres was governed by our Development Plans which outlined the requirements for our town centres in terms of ensuring sufficient housing to encourage footfall, but also providing enough commercial space to remain a town centre. Each application would be considered on its merits, however, if an application was received for a conversion of a commercial premises in the middle of the town centre it would likely be refused.

A Member then referred to section 2.23 of the report and asked how Eugene Cross Park would feature within the plans as it was subject to a Community Asset Transfer.

The Officer said it would not detract from the CAT, but would look at the overall picture in terms of increasing footfall within the town centre, and creating improved links from Eugene Cross Park to the town centre to encourage people to visit when attending games etc.

A Member referred to the Placemaking Plans proposed for Ebbw Vale and Tredegar and expressed concern that consultants had been appointed over a number of years to develop various plans that never came to fruition.

The Head of Regeneration & Development explained that a substantial amount of work was required in order to obtain funding from Welsh Government for future projects, and it was necessary to engage with Consultants to secure these projects as they provided an additional expertise and resource for the Regeneration Team. She said the Team was limited, and the fact that regeneration was still going on within Blaenau Gwent with buildings being brought back into use in the current climate was testament to their excellent work.

In relation to the Member's comments, the Team Manager Regeneration Opportunities explained that the action plan set out the key projects and how they would be achieved, and confirmed that Welsh Government would be monitoring progress of the projects.

A Member referred to the key strategic sites detailed at section 2.23 of the report, and asked what was intended for the Ebbw Vale Railway Station. Also in terms of access from the Works site to the town centre, he said improved management of the funicular railway was needed and it should be operated on weekends.

In response the Team Manager Regeneration Opportunities said further development of the Ebbw Vale Railway Station would be considered as part of the plan in terms of making it a focal point for the area, and also improved pedestrian links from the Works site to the town centre. In relation to the funicular railway operating on weekends, the Officer said the budget was restricted but if greater demand could be generated through improved links and future

	<p>developments on the Works site, then longer opening hours could be considered in the future.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.</p>	
<p><b>No. 7</b></p>	<p><b><u>EMPLOYMENT PARK, LIME AVENUE – PROGRESS UPDATE REPORT</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Service Manager Business &amp; Regeneration.</p> <p>The Service Manager Business &amp; Regeneration presented the report which provided an update on the Employment Park at Lime Avenue, Works Site, Ebbw Vale. The Officer spoke to the report and highlighted the current position of the project as detailed at section 2.4 onwards.</p> <p>A Member asked whether European funding was guaranteed in light of Brexit, and was there was a deadline to spend the monies.</p> <p>In response the Officer explained that the funding had been secured and underwritten by Welsh Government. The target date for delivery of the scheme was the end of 2022 and work was progressing with WG and Coalfields Regeneration Trust to ensure this was achieved.</p> <p>The Member referred to section 2.7 of the report and asked whether there was opportunity following completion of the scheme for the Council to work with CRT on commercial activity etc. and benefit from any revenue generated from the scheme.</p> <p>The Officer said the Council owned the freehold, however, as the land reclamation was funded by WG any receipt from capital or revenue income would go back to WG. In terms of the scheme itself, CRT was contributing substantial funding and any income generated would be retained by them. However, the Council had a very positive relationship with CRT having worked on other projects, and would continue to work with them on any potential opportunities that may arise following delivery of the scheme.</p>	

	<p>A Member said the benefits of the scheme would be job opportunities and training, and also the expertise of CRT in securing any potential investment opportunities. He also enquired regarding the contribution from each party involved in the scheme.</p> <p>The Officer explained that relevant contributions would depend on the final cost. However, in relation to the £2.58m WEFO funding this would be split 50/50 by WG and CRT.</p> <p>In response to a question raised, the Officer confirmed that CRT would be maintaining the site on completion of the scheme. However, the Authority would work closely with them in terms of marketing etc. to ensure that any activities complement the work of Blaenau Gwent Regeneration in relation to skills training and support for businesses.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and the content of the report be noted (Option 1).</p>	
<p><b>No. 8</b></p>	<p><b><u>BUS EMERGENCY SCHEME (BES)</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Head of Regeneration &amp; Development.</p> <p>The Head of Regeneration &amp; Development presented the report which provided an overview on progress of the Bus Emergency Scheme (BES) Phase 2 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and to enter into longer term arrangements to make the bus services more sustainable across Wales.</p> <p>Since the start of the Covid pandemic, LA's, Transport for Wales, Welsh Government and Operators have worked together to ensure bus services are continued, despite the fact that many are not being utilised. The BES2 agreement would develop longer term arrangements with Operators, and WG would like this in place, and signed off by each LA by the end of January 2021. As well as responding to Covid, the BES2 would provide a building block for future improvements to our public transport, and also formalise WG commitment to support Operators in recovering from the Covid pandemic in terms of loss of fare box revenue and additional costs incurred as a result of Covid. Under the</p>	

agreement Operators would be required to provide bus services to meet local needs. The end date for BES2 was 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2022 and this should be enough time for revenue to recover.

The BES2 agreement would provide a legal basis for funding the costs associated with the impact of Covid, including the loss of fare box, duplication of buses to take account of social distancing or providing alternative services where operators give them up and the services are still needed. This would apply to services that were commercial pre-Covid and to tendered services.

The Officer went through the report and highlighted points contained therein.

A Member asked what plans were in place for the provision of a bus route to the new Grange Hospital.

In response the Officer confirmed that discussions were ongoing with the local Health Board, in terms of how the transport could be adopted to enable people to access the Hospital, not just from Blaenau Gwent but also a number of other LA's. The BES2 report was about funding and regional agreement to work on further improvements to the bus system.

Another Member also agreed that a bus route was needed for the Grange Hospital, but also redesigning bus routes to ensure quick and easy access to industrial estates for people to get to work.

The Officer confirmed that this was part of a separate project being currently being considered, working with the third sector and DWP on initiatives to get people to work. The BES2 arrangements would also include collaborative development of regional Reference Networks by LA's, Operators, WG and TFW and these would reflect local, regional and national priorities and help guide investment in bus services for the future, and under the BES2 LA's would have influence over development of the Reference Network.

The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and Blaenau Gwent endorse the content of the

	<p>report and support the BES2 arrangements as part of a regional and Wales approach (Option 1).</p>	
<p><b>No. 9</b></p>	<p><b><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME: 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021</u></b></p> <p>The Forward Work Programme for the meeting scheduled to be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 was submitted.</p> <p>A Member requested an update on the ‘Truck Shop’, Tredegar, and also said consideration should be given to an access road linking Bridge Street Industrial Estate and Tredegar Business Park (ViTCC site).</p> <p>The Head of Regeneration &amp; Development undertook to liaise with the Service Manager Development &amp; Estates regarding an update.</p> <p>In relation to a link road between Bridge Street Industrial Estate and Tredegar Business Park, the Team Manager Regeneration Opportunities said this could be considered as part of the TRI Programme and the Placemaking Plan for Tredegar.</p> <p>Another Member referred to the recent announcement that TVR would be commencing work at the Rassau Industrial Estate this month, and requested information on timescales etc.</p> <p>The Head of Regeneration &amp; Development confirmed that a report would be presented to Members as soon as possible.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted.</p>	

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**Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council**

**Action Sheet**

**Regeneration Scrutiny Committee – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action to be Taken</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
5	<b><u>Action Sheet – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020</u></b>  Members requested an update on Tech Valleys.	Ellie Fry	A joint All Member briefing is being arranged with Welsh Government to update the Council on the Tech Valleys progress/projects.
6	<b><u>Progress Report – Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme and Town Centre Repayable Funding</u></b>  Members to be provided with a list of projects that have been awarded funding.	Amy Taylor	Information sent via email to members of the Committee on 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2021.
9	<b><u>Forward Work Programme – 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021</u></b>  Members requested an update on the Truck Shop, Tredegar.  Members requested an update on TVR.	Steve Smith  Ellie Fry	<u>Tredegar Company Shop</u> We are instructing an expert officer from a neighbouring authority to collate information and submit an application to Cadw to demolish parts of the building. There has been a delay due to covid and capacity issues within the Team that are doing the work. Colleagues in our Infrastructure Team will shortly be carrying out a drone survey to assist in the submission (subject to capacity/covid/weather considerations).  Welsh Government are in final discussions with the contractor who has been procured to refurbish the Tech Board building in preparation for letting. TVR have acknowledged the commencement of work and their continued commitment to taking the space.

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# Agenda Item 6

*Executive Committee and Council only*

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee: **Regeneration Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **10<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

Report Subject: **Aspire Shared Apprenticeship Programme**

Portfolio Holder: **Executive Member Cllr D Davies, Regeneration and Economic Development**

Report Submitted by: **Tara Lane, Skills Development Manager**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
x	21.01.21	01.02.21			10.02.21	24.02.21		

## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update to the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, and to:
- consider performance of the Aspire programme and associated external business engagement; and
  - provide performance information on the BGCBC internal apprenticeship programme.

## 2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 The Aspire Shared Apprentice Programme was initially setup in 2015, with funding from WG, as a response to identified market failure within the engineering and advanced manufacturing sector within Blaenau Gwent. It proved so successful that it was expanded to include provision in Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council in 2017 and the project has been extended to September 2021 in both localities.
- 2.2 In 2018 the Aspire Team started working with internal departments to raise the profile of the programme and demonstrate how having an apprentice could strengthen the workforce and fulfil future skills gaps.
- 2.3 In the last 2 years – there have been 10 apprentices recruited into the Local Authority within various departments and in October 2020 a designated officer was appointed through Legacy Funding to support these apprentices, internal teams and to drive recruitment.
- 2.4 In 2019 Aspire won the ‘**Large** Employer of The Year’ award at the Apprenticeship Awards Cymru 2019 (AAC), which took place at the International Convention Centre, Newport. The award category entitled ‘Large and Macro Employer of the Year’ recognises and celebrates the employer’s

commitment to developing their workforce through apprenticeships, whilst also supporting their employees during training.

The Programme has also been shortlisted for the 2021 awards in partnership with Merthy Tydfil.

## 2.5 **The Aspire Offer to Apprentices across Blaenau Gwent**

- The programme provides an accessible platform for young people to access bespoke apprenticeship opportunities in the region facilitated by a programme management team liaising with local colleges and apprenticeship learning provider.
- The Aspire Team provides a range of support from advice on their application form; to encouragement, preparatory guidance for interviews and the selection processes. Feedback will be provided to unsuccessful applicants at all stages of the application and recruitment processes and signposting will be provided to other similar advertised vacancies that may be of interest.
- The successful candidates become part of a cohort that gives them an identity and peer to peer support in the first few months of their working life as an apprentice.
- They are also supported by a mentor throughout the term of the apprenticeship helping them resolve educational and social impediments to the completion of their apprenticeship. The mentors will also act as a point of mediation between the apprentice, the employer and the educational provider.

## 2.6 **The Aspire Offer to Businesses across Blaenau Gwent**

- One of the main appeals of the Shared Apprenticeship Programme to businesses is that flexible approach that can be offered, depending on business needs and capacity.
- The main attributes of the Programme are:
  - The creation of 'Partnership Agreement' between industry and the Programme
  - Continued investment in business engagement building upon local level connections
  - The Aspire Team undertake the recruitment process for employers
  - Employers make final recruitment decisions
  - All apprenticeship level positions are paid for
  - Regular reports on the progress of individual apprentices
  - Short surveys are completed at the end of the apprenticeship and feedback is provided to the apprentice and employer
  - The employer has a qualified employee to help take the business forward.

2.7 **To date the Aspire Shared Apprenticeship Programme has:**

Externally

- Recruited and supported 84 apprentices (2015-2020)
- The Programme has engaged with over 60 manufacturing companies across the Local Authority to facilitate the apprenticeships, 20 have become host employers of which some of the companies are:
  - Continental
  - PCI Pharmaceutical
  - JC Moulding
  - GTEM
  - Cruz Engineering
  - Sogefi Filtration
  - Liberty Steel
  - TCK Electrical
  - Camtronics
- 58% of companies are SMEs
- Learning Pathways include:
  - Electrical Engineering
  - Mechanical Engineering
  - Applied Science
  - IT
  - EEP's
  - Commercial focused Business Administration
  - Quality Engineering
- 100% of apprentices on cohort 1 have been employed, of which 67% retained within host employer
- The programme can now measure the outcomes due to the first two cohorts of apprentices completing their apprenticeships:

In 2015/2016 academic year Cohort 1 and 2: -

	Number of apprentices	Completed their framework	Entered Employment	Progressed onto further learning
Cohort 1	18	15 (83%)	15(83%) 3still on programme	9 (50)%
Cohort 2	19	15 (79%)	13 (68%) 5 still on programme	10 (55%)
Totals	37	30 (81%)	28 (76%) 8 still on programme	19 (51%)

- 100% of apprentices in cohorts 1-5 have had the opportunity to rotate to another company to fulfil skills gaps
- Of the 30 apprentices currently on programme, the following information applies:
  - 91% are Male and 9% are female
  - 100% are of White ethnicity

- 97% do not have a disability 3% have a disability

### Internally

- Recruited 10 Internal Apprentices employed within BGCBC on a range of pathways.
- Community Services, Audit, Business Support and Social Services are departments who have already engaged.
- Housing and Digital pathways are being reviewed and it is hoped vacancies in these areas will be created in early 2021.

2.8 In 2020, 17 Apprentices were furloughed due to Covid. This was the largest number at any one time with some apprentices being placed longer than others. The priority during that period was to support the Apprentices and help them to continue their learning through college, usually virtual lessons and continue where possible NVQ work. In addition, the Aspire Team supported them with their health and wellbeing to guide them through uncertain times with encouragement and open communication.

2.9 No apprentices on the Aspire Programme were made redundant during this period of time and have all since returned to their work place. It is felt that the support the Aspire Programme Team offered apprentices as well as employers facilitated this outcome.

### 3. **Options for Recommendation**

**Option 1** – that the Committee consider and accept the report as provided.

**Option 2** – that the Committee consider the report and make specific recommendations to the Executive Committee.

### 4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

- Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan: Forge new pathways to prosperity through employment and skills development
- Corporate Plan: Economic Development and Regeneration
- Regeneration Priorities: employment and skills, enterprise and innovation.

### 5. **Implications Against Each Option**

#### 5.1 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***

##### Short Term

To date there has been no confirmation of funding post 2022 and this is Welsh Government funding.

## Long Term

It is anticipated that the proposals submitted to the Welsh Government and City Deal will generate funding for the programme to continue over the next 6 years for Blaenau Gwent and the City Region

### 5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

Demand for the service across the region doesn't materialise; mitigated through market research, early business/LA engagement and a phased approach to delivery.

Demand for the service exceeds resource available; this will be managed within the realms of the funding, some areas may not require the service and because the programme will be centrally funded the programme management team can allocate resource where required.

Duplication of provisions/lack of engagement from FEs; mitigated through early engagement with providers and colleges. Over the last few months a number of meetings have been held to discuss apprenticeship allocation and how best Aspire could potentially facilitate opportunities and support recruitment and compliment their service.

### 5.3 ***Legal***

Legal advice and joint contracts of employment have been agreed for the programme currently and it is expected that these will remain the same future host employers. In addition to contracts of employment, there are training agreements in place with the apprentice, Aspire, host employer and training provider.

### 5.4 ***Human Resources***

Not required for this update

## 6. ***Supporting Evidence***

### 6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

To date the Aspire Shared Apprenticeship Programme has:

- Recruited and supported 84 apprentices placed in over 20 manufacturing companies across Blaenau Gwent in addition to employment of 10 apprentices within council departments.
- 51% of apprentices within Cohorts 1 & 2 (2015 & 2016) have progressed onto higher education / HNC.
- 100% of apprentices on cohort 1 have been employed, of which 67% retained within host employer
- Framework completed: Cohort 1 –83%, Cohort 2 – 79%
- 100% of apprentices in cohorts 1-5 have had the opportunity to rotate to another company to fulfil skills gaps

## 6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

The following are future outcomes that are based on the regional proposals submitted to City Deal and Welsh Government respectively which includes Blaenau Gwent and 9 other authorities:

- Recruit and support over 300 apprentices across the region over 6 years should the funding proposals be awarded
- 20% of apprentices to progress onto higher education / HNC.
- 70% of apprentices to be employed within host employer
- 100% of apprentices to have had the opportunity to rotate to another company to fulfil skills gaps

The Employment and Skills plan will outline specific priorities and associated actions to:

- Increase the number of employment opportunities available
- Increase the range of employment opportunities available
- Ensure appropriate employment provision to support people into work and progress once in work
- Train and upskill local residents aligned to demand or growth sectors
- Raised awareness of opportunities to support educational attainment and aspiration
- Increased employment and skills opportunities secured through community benefits.

## 6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

To date the emerging proposals have been developed in consultation/discussion with:

- Merthyr Tydfil Council
- Welsh Government
- City Deal
- Regional Skills Partnership
- Coleg Gwent
- Coleg Y Cymoedd
- Coleg Merthyr Tydfil
- Torfaen Council
- RCT Council

## 6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term***

- The future proposals aim to meet the needs businesses; future skills planning and fulfil current skills gaps. The success within two current local authorities' (BG & MT) demonstrate the need for a coordinated approach to facilitate the recruitment for business and engagement with learning providers.



- The team are continually working with education to identify progression routes onto higher education as industry requires these higher level skills and with this apprenticeship pathway it provides alternative routes to employment for young people
- The proposals are offering employers and local authorities to demonstrate the employment opportunities within local areas providing skilled young people locally and meeting regional needs

#### 6.5 ***Preventative focus***

#### 6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

- The proposals are integral to collaborative working across the city region and with individual local authorities, that is the key to its success, to date there has been RSP engagement, partner LA and FE discussions, business engagement,
- There are currently Joint Contracts of employment in place with all current employers with apprentices and these documents will be shared and part of the proposal,
- It is vital that the team works closely as they have done in the past with FE. It will be important to utilise the apprenticeship contract within individual providers for each area. Relationship with the FE to support delivery

#### 6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

The contents of the plan will link closely with Education.

#### 6.8 ***EqIA***

The plan is aimed at ensuring Blaenau Gwent Prospers, this is inclusive of all in our efforts to raise skills and employment levels for residents.

### 7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

- 7.1 A baseline, aligned to the proposals will be developed to measure the medium and long term impact of the programme. An annual review and update on progress will be prepared and reported through scrutiny, executive and the PSB.

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# Agenda Item 7

*Executive Committee and Council only*

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee: **Regeneration Scrutiny Committee**  
Date of meeting: **10<sup>th</sup> February 2021**  
Report Subject: **Progress Update: Town Centre Task and Finish Group**  
Portfolio Holder: **Councillor D Davies, Deputy Leader & Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development**  
Report Submitted by: **Amy Taylor, Team Manager Regeneration Opportunities**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
X	x	01.02.21			10.02.21			

## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. For members of the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee to receive a status update on the work of the Task and Finish Group.

## 2. Scope and Background

- 2.1. In October 2020, the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee approved a report to re-establish a Town Centre Strategy Task and Finish Group.

- 2.2. Members agreed that the group membership would consist of the following Scrutiny Committee Members:

- Councillor John Hill (Chair)
- Councillor Keri Rowson
- Councillor Wayne Hodgins
- Councillor Phil Edwards
- Councillor John Morgan
- Councillor Lee Parsons

- 2.3. The members above were selected to ensure that all town centres would have representation from a local Ward Member.

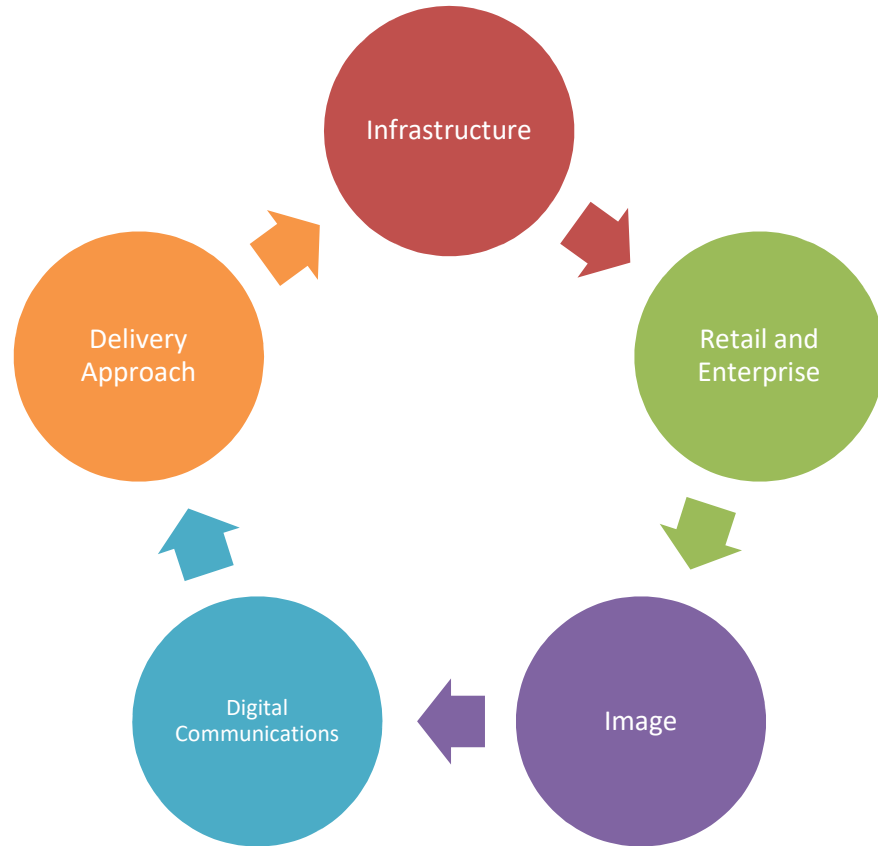
- 2.4. Two meetings have since been held since the re-establishment of the group and this report provides an update on progress.

- 2.5. The first meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 sought to re-establish the group and re-affirm the purpose of the task and finish group. It was agreed during the meeting that meetings would take place monthly with the frequency being reviewed regularly to ensure that suitable progress is being made.

- 2.6. Members discussed setting out a timeline for reporting the outcomes of the Task and Finish Group to the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and it was agreed that

the Group would present regular progress updates and that work would continue until it was felt that all areas to be considered had been discussed.

- 2.7. The group discussed and agreed the key themes that would be considered as part of the future strategy for Blaenau Gwent Town Centres these included:



### Infrastructure

- 2.8. In terms of town centre infrastructure members outlined the areas they wish to consider. These areas include:

- Traffic Orders / Parking Enforcement across the Towns
- Pedestrian zones and their overall impact upon town centre viability
- Parking facilities and availability
- Town Centre Gateways and Wayfinding

- 2.9. Members were particularly interested in looking at how we can make the entrances to the Town Centres more inviting and make it clearer where the towns start and finish. It was also felt that consideration should be given to looking at how we can improve signage and wayfinding to direct people to and around the towns.

### Retail and Enterprise

- 2.10. Recognising current challenges resulting from COVID-19 discussions took place surrounding how we could look at ways to improve the retail and enterprise across the town centres.

- 2.11. Developing an enterprise culture within the town centre retail space would be complimentary to other projects being delivered by the Council such as Boxworks. Options for pop-up town centre space that could allow test trading and supporting businesses to use start-up retail premises.
- 2.12. With outdoor markets playing such a key role across our towns both currently and in years past we must also consider options as to how we can support them to continue operating and where possible support them to grow.
- 2.13. Along with infrastructure and physical retail premises we must also consider additional support town centre businesses may need to continue to operate. We will identify and develop training and development opportunities that will help their businesses to operate and grow in the future.

#### Image

- 2.14. The group discussed how we can ensure that we minimise negative perceptions of our town centres. It was agreed that we need to focus more on ensuring that we promote positive news stories as much as possible.
- 2.15. It was also acknowledged that whilst the COVID-19 pandemic had brought many challenges to our Town Centres it had also allowed our Town Centres to highlight the essential services that they can provide to our community.
- 2.16. It is important that we create a sense of place and enhance the overall town centre experience. Each of our towns have their own features so we must ensure that those features aren't lost and we talk about them when we are talking about our towns.

#### Digital Communications

- 2.17. As a result of COVID-19 there has been even greater shift from the physical high street to online purchases.
- 2.18. The group agreed that we need to look at how the Council can use digital communications to promote and support our town centres. We will explore how we can support businesses through the use of social and digital media.
- 2.19. It will also be important to consider how we can support the town centre businesses who want to start online trading. The Council is currently installing free public WiFi across town centres.

#### Delivery Approach

- 2.20. In order deliver against any strategy that is put in place for Town Centres, it is important to develop and establish a partnership model. It was agreed that future discussion was required on the approach to establishing this model.

- 2.21. In order for further consider the delivery approach it was agreed that an invitation would be extended to Nick Landers and Councillor Malcolm Cross, Chair of the Tredegar Advisory Group.

### Present Position

- 2.22. A second meeting of the task and finish group took place on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021. On this occasion the group received a short presentation from Nick Landers on the Tredegar Advisory Group. This included details of how the advisory group was established, how it operates and how it has supported Officers and Members to collectively work on the regeneration of Tredegar.
- 2.23. Members felt that they would like to explore replicating the approach taken in Tredegar across all other Towns. Officers agreed to support members to consider these options and the establishment of the groups.

### 3. **Options for Recommendation**

- 3.1. To note the progress of the Task and Finish group and agree to receive further updates from the Task and Finish Group on a quarterly basis.

### 4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

- 4.1. The report supports the following Corporate Plan priorities:

- To protect and enhance our environment and infrastructure to benefit our communities;
- To support a fairer sustainable economy and community; and
- An ambitious and innovative council delivering the quality services we know matter to our communities.

The Town Centre strategy will consider existing infrastructure within our town centres and explore ways that this can change to support regeneration activity.

- 4.2. It also supports delivery of the Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan:

- Safe and friendly communities;
- To look after and protect the environment;
- To forge new pathways to prosperity; and
- To encourage and enable people to make healthy lifestyle choices in the places that they live, learn, work and play

The Town Centre strategy will seek to ensure that our town centres are safe and friendly communities for our residents and visitors to shop within. This will include projects to maintain and enhance the local environment, increase business occupancy and create an environment in our town centres that encourages our residents to spend time there for work, learning and leisure.

- 4.3. In supporting our statutory responsibilities towards the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act, the Town Centre Strategy will support in creating:
- A more prosperous Wales;
  - A resilient Wales; and
  - A Wales of cohesive communities

## 5. **Implications Against Each Option**

### Cost

- 5.1. There are no direct cost implications to the Council for the areas discussed with this report. The work of the Task and Finish Group will identify projects and these will be pulled into business cases for necessary approvals as and when required.

### Risk including Mitigating Actions

- 5.2. There is a risk that further spikes within the COVID-19 pandemic could further delay the work of the task and finish group. This has been mitigated by utilising virtual meeting facilities where possible and this will continue to be used throughout the work of the Task and Finish Group.
- 5.3. Site visits could increase the risk of attendees becoming infected with COVID-19. Site visits will only be arranged if they are essential to the work of the task and finish group and will be subject to COVID-19 safety measures (this will be considered at the time of the visits).

### Legal

- 5.4. There are no direct legal implications associated with this report.

### Human Resources

- 5.5. Regeneration will support the work of the Town Centre Task and Finish Group. The Town Centre Business Development Officer will be responsible day to day for taking forward the Town Centre strategy and working with partners to develop the partnerships and collaborations that will enable the priorities to be taken forward.

## 6. **Supporting Evidence**

### Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)

- 6.1. The task and finish group consists of members of the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee. Future work will include wider stakeholders including town centre forums and town centre businesses.

### Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)

- 6.2. The work of the Task and Finish group alongside the agreement of a Town Centre strategy will establish a long term plan for the future of our town centres.

### Preventative focus

- 6.3. Town Centres across the UK have suffered a long period of decline which has been further exacerbated by the onset of COVID-19. There are however areas of alternative approaches and business initiative which should be capitalised upon in order to reduce the potential for even further decline.

### Collaboration / partnership working

- 6.4. It will be essential that delivery of the Town Centre strategy is done on a collaborative and partnership working basis. One of the key areas of focus of the Task and Finish Group is to agree and establish the delivery approach that will enable the town centre strategy to be delivered.

### Integration(across service areas)

- 6.5. As described above, future work will create a wider network of stakeholders and this will include officers from across other service areas which either support or impact upon the future of our town centres.

## **7. Monitoring Arrangements**

- 7.1. Reporting on this priority will be included within the departments business plan reporting. We will also provide regular progress updates to the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

### **Background Documents /Electronic Links**

N/A



# Agenda Item 8

*Executive Committee and Council only*

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee: **Regeneration Scrutiny Committee**  
Date of meeting: **10 February 2021**  
Report Subject: **Use of Consultants**  
Portfolio Holder: **Councillor D Davies, Executive Member  
Regeneration and Economic Development**  
Report Submitted by: **Richard Crook, Corporate Director of Regeneration  
and Community Services  
Ellie Fry, Head of Regeneration & Development**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
x	x	01.02.21			10/02/21			

## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide Members with the information requested, relating to expenditure incurred during 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 on the use of consultants to support, supplement and complement the work of Officers across the Council.

## 2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 Consultants are widely used across the whole public sector including Welsh Government for a number of different purposes. At Blaenau Gwent (BG) we use consultants in a number of ways:

- To provide assistance in specialist areas where there is no or limited expertise or experience within the Council e.g. treasury management, VAT, Legal
- To provide independent advice and a different perspective (challenge)
- To supplement resources where there is insufficient capacity to undertake a specific, identified task e.g. because the work has come into the Council unexpectedly, or where the work needs to be progressed within a specific / limited time period.
- To provide training to BG staff to enhance their own expertise e.g. changes to legislation
- A substantial amount of the consultant costs are associated with project delivery and funded through external grants

- 2.2 The advantage of engaging Consultants is also that they are only needed for a shorter period of time enabling an organisation to pay for that skill on demand only when they need it. This is often an effective use of the Council's resource and avoids / replaces the need to employ additional staff, with specialist knowledge & skills, on a permanent basis.

2.3 During 2018/19 and 2019/20 the Council spent a total of £0.7m & £1.1m on Consultants across all services, the attached appendix identifies those Consultants, the costs and the reason for engagement relating to the Economy portfolio.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 **Option 1:**

To note the use of consultants and accept the report.

3.2 **Option 2:**

To note and challenge the use of consultants.

4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

Corporate Plan 2018-22, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

This proposal supports the amendments made to the Outcome Statements within the Corporate Plan in its review in July 2020.

Corporate Plan 2020/22 Outcome Statements:

- Protect and enhance our environment and infrastructure to benefit our communities
- To enable people to maximise their independence, develop solutions and take an active role in their communities
- An ambitious and innovative council delivering the quality services we know matter to our communities

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

5.1 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***

5.1.1 The attachment at Appendix 1 details the cost of consultants commissioned by the Council for the period 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 for the Economy Portfolio.

5.1.2 The costs incurred are summarised below:

<b>Funding Stream</b>	<b>2018/2019 £</b>	<b>2019/2020 £</b>
<b>Capital:</b>		
Internal	0	0
External (Grant)	33,163	33,838
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>33,163</b>	<b>33,838</b>
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Internal	92,359	60,969
External (Grant)	137,026	82,765
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>229,385</b>	<b>143,734</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>262,548</b>	<b>177,572</b>

5.1.3 The table above highlights that for the Economy portfolio 65% of the expenditure incurred on consultants over the 2 years, have been funded externally either by grant or contributions from partner organisations

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

The risks associated with not engaging specialist consultants when needed could result in negligence, poor project outcomes, insufficient resources, unable to draw down external funding, existing staff under excessive pressure and the Council being taken to court.

5.3 ***Legal***

No legal issues associated with this report.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

The HR impacts are included in the risks but will include excessive pressure on staff if consultants were not available. Specialist expertise missing in certain areas of the service which could also lead to legal liabilities for the Council or opportunities missed for progressing projects to support the local communities or economy.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

Performance data is attached at Appendix 1.

6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

6.2.1 The use of Consultants is key in supporting the Council to deliver both capital and revenue projects, the outcome of which is new, improved, quality services and facilities for the residents of Blaenau Gwent.

6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

6.3.1 The procurement of consultants will comply with the Council's approved Standing Orders for Contracts.

6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

6.4.1 When considering future projects/schemes, professional fees/Consultancy costs are built into the outline project costs / Grant application.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

6.5.1 The use of Consultants supports the Council to deliver on specific projects and initiatives. In some instances, this may result in the Council missing out on where otherwise the Council may miss out on opportunities, funding or project delivery.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

N/A

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

N/A

6.8 ***EqlA***

Screening has been undertaken and no full assessment is required.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 Monitoring will form part of the Project Management arrangements.

**Background Documents /Electronic Links**

- *Appendix 1 – Analysis of expenditure incurred on Consultancy Costs*

PORTFOLIO	SCHEME	CONSULTANT	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	YEAR		Funded By
				2018/2019 £	2019/2020 £	
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>						
Economy	Heat Networks Project	ATKINS LTD	District Heat Network Feasibility Study	33,065		External Grant
Economy	Lime Avenue Business Park	CHANDLERKBS	Cost Plan for Business Units		3,200	External Grant
Economy	Regain 2	CHANDLERKBS SMITH AND JONES DESIGN	Cost Plan for Regain		3,438	External Grant
Economy	VRP - Discovery Gateway	CONSULTANTS LTD	Professional Fees		20,000	External Grant
Economy	Lime Avenue Business Park	THE COAL AUTHORITY WSP UK LTD /PARSONS	Coal Mining Report	98		External Grant
Economy	Lime Avenue Business Park	BRINCKERHOFF WSP UK LTD /PARSONS	BREAAM Support		2,900	External Grant
Economy	Lime Avenue Employment park	BRINCKERHOFF	BREAAM Support		4,300	External Grant
<b>TOTAL - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>				<b>33,163</b>	<b>33,838</b>	
<b>REVENUE EXPENDITURE</b>						
Economy	Economic Development	ALCIUM SOFTWARE LIMITED	Alcium to do a Guide for users of the Business Hub. This would include an introduction to the Hub an overview of the features and tips for businesses to make the most out of their listing. This includes the content and design work.	300	-	Revenue Budget
Economy	BG Business Hub	ALCIUM SOFTWARE LIMITED	Enquiry Form Implementation - COVID 19	-	375	Revenue Budget
Economy	Housing Division - Environmental Dept	ALPINE LAND SURVEYORS LTD	Please undertake a topographical survey of land in a former industrial park at Ashvale Tredegar per quotation dated 10th June 2019.		550	Revenue Budget
Economy	Estates	ATEGA LTD	following approval from Welsh Government under the Asset Collaboration Programme Wales Phase 2 (ACOW2).	34,800	-	External Grant
Economy	Economic Development	AUSTIN SMITH LORD	Test Track Images	-	5,000	Earmarked Reserve
Economy	General Offices	BELLROCK PROPERTY & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT LTD	SERVICE CHARGE CONSULTANCY SERVICES - GWENT RECORDS OFFICE	-	6,000	Revenue Budget
Economy	Regen Dept - Supps & Servs	BEVAN BRITTAN CAPITA BUSINESS SERVICES	Silent Valley review / TUPE Advice - ACT Service	22,213	7,556	Earmarked Reserve
Economy	Integrated Responsive Transport Pilot	LTD	Charges in respect of Professional Services. IRT Pilot	-	3,890	External Grant
Economy	Housing Division - Environmental Dept	CELTIC ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION LTD	Ecological survey-Land at Ashvale Tredegar		790	Revenue Budget
Economy	Estates	CIPFA BUSINESS LTD	To produce a Strategic Asset management Plan as part of our ACPW2 award.	13,700	-	External Grant
Economy	Estates	COALFIELDS REGENERATION TRUST	Property and Legal Advice	5,220	-	External Grant

PORTFOLIO	SCHEME	CONSULTANT	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	YEAR		Funded By
				2018/2019 £	2019/2020 £	
Economy	Town Centre Strategy Project	EDWARD NASH LLP	Professional services for options and analysis work for Ebbw Vale and Brynmawr Town Centres	7,225	-	Revenue Budget
Economy	Estates	GELDARDS LLP	Professional charges relating to Charitable Disposal - Land at Bedwelty Park Tredegar	-	3,012	Revenue Budget
Economy	Resilient Project	GEP ENVIRONMENTAL LTD	Project Management Support (Investment Grade Proposal and WOS Agreement) - 8 days on the Re:Fit Project	4,800	-	External Grant
Economy	Economic Development	GRANT THORNTON UK LLP	Fees in relation to the Circuit of Wales	39,600	-	£28,000 funded by contributions from other LAs / Revenue Budget
Economy	Regen Dept - Supps & Servs	GRANT THORNTON UK LLP	Due Dilligence on Silent Valley	24,793	4,500	Earmarked Reserve
Economy	Regen Dept - Supps & Servs	GROUNDSURE LIMITED	Groundsure Review and Environmental Report for Silent Valley	875	-	Revenue Budget
Economy	Estates	GWYDION HUGHES	Advice on Former School Sites - Garnfach Nantyglo and Welsh School Brynmawr	1,000	-	Revenue Budget
Economy	Tenant Costs	JONES LANG LASALLE LIMITED	For the acquisition of Units 1-6 Cwm Draw Industrial Estate at the agreed fee of 1% +VAT.	8,978	-	Revenue Budget
Economy	Regen Dept - Supps & Servs	LOCKE PROPERTY INVESTMENTS	Technical advice and support to the property team regarding BG industrial units.	-	6,939	Revenue Budget
Economy	Regen Dept - Supps & Servs	MOTT MACDONALD LTD	Blaenau Gwent TA - due diligence & Silent Valley Landfil Finanical Provision	-	14,564	Earmarked Reserve
Economy	Industrial Sites	OPINION RESEARCH SERVICES LTD	Carry Out a Local Housing Market Assessment (2018 - 2033)	19,450	-	Contributions from Housing Assoc.
Economy	Economic Development	OVE ARUP & PARTNERS LIMITED	Brynmawr and Nantyglo Masterplan Invoice 1 of 2 80% of total project cost	-	31,160	£20,000 External grant
Economy	Economic Development	PLANNING SOLUTIONS CONSULTING LTD	Llanhilleth Pit Head Baths Masterplan Invoice 1 of 2 50% of project cost	-	20,983	External Grant
Economy	Asset Collaboration Programme Wales	PROPERTY DATA SOLUTIONS LTD	Surveys for Civic Centre Silent Valley and Central Depot	9,506	-	External Grant
Economy	Estates	PROPERTY DATA SOLUTIONS LTD	To carry out Surveys on our Industrial Estates portfolio as part of our ACPW2 award.	16,300	-	External Grant
Economy	General devt - Town Centre redevelopmt	REVIVE & THRIVE LTD	Consultancy fee for the BID project on Tafarnaubach & Rassau Ind. Est.	4,099	25,596	Revenue Budget / External Grant
Economy	Estates	SAVILLS (L&P) LTD	Fee in relation to the disposal of Former Ebbw Vale Comprehensive School.Site.	4,000	-	External Grant
Economy	Industrial Sites	THE COAL AUTHORITY	Coal Mining Report	-	199	Revenue Budget
Economy	Economic Development	WILDWOOD ECOLOGY LTD	Ecological Surveys	537	-	Revenue Budget
Economy	Housing Division - Environmental Dept	WYG ENVIRONMENT PLANNING TRANSPORT LTD	Please undertake a Coal Mining Risk Assessment for land at Ashvale Tredegar	-	325	Revenue Budget
Economy	Blaenau Gwent Business Awards	JANET HARRIS	Consultancy fee for The Blaenau Gwent Business Awards 2018	1,250	-	External Grant
Economy	Economic Development	SOLACE ENTERPRISES	For the services of Graham Haywood 30th October - 8th November 2018	10,740	-	Revenue Budget

PORTFOLIO	SCHEME	CONSULTANT	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	YEAR		Funded By
				2018/2019 £	2019/2020 £	
ENRaW Agency Accounts	ENRaW - Technical Ecology	TECHNICAL ECOLOGY	SURVEY GREAT GWENT STATE OF NATURE (RESILIENT GREATER GWENT)		12,296	External Grant
<b>TOTAL REVENUE EXPENDITURE</b>				<b>229,385</b>	<b>143,734</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>				<b>262,548</b>	<b>177,572</b>	

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# Agenda Item 9

*Executive Committee and Council only*

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee: **Regeneration Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **10<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

Report Subject: **Forward Work Programme: 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr David Davies, Deputy Leader and Executive Member Regeneration and Economic Development**

Report Submitted by: **Cllr John Hill, Chair of the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
x	x	01.02.21			10.02.21			

1. **Purpose of the Report**
  - 1.1 To present to Members the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme for the Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021 for discussion and agreement.
2. **Scope and Background**
  - 2.1 The Scrutiny Work Programmes are key aspects of the Council's planning and governance arrangements and support the requirements of the Constitution.
  - 2.2 The topics set out in the Forward Work Programme link to the strategic work of the Council as identified by the Council's revised Corporate Plan, corporate documents and supporting business plans.
  - 2.3 Effective work programmes are essential to ensure that the work of scrutiny makes a positive impact upon the Council's delivery of services.
  - 2.4 The Committee's Forward Work Programme was agreed in September 2020, recognising the fluidity of the document to enable the Committee to respond to urgent and emerging issues, and included timescales when reports will be considered by the Committee. The work programme is managed and implemented by the Scrutiny and Democratic Officer under the direction of the Chair and Committee.
  - 2.5 The forward work programme for the forthcoming meeting will be presented to Committee on a 6 weekly cycle in order that Members can consider the programme of work; request information is included within the reports, as appropriate and / or make amendments to the work programme.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 **Option 1:** The Scrutiny Committee consider the Forward Work Programme for the meeting 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021, and

- Make any amendments to the topics scheduled for the meetings;
- Suggest any additional invitees that the committee requires to fully consider the reports; and
- Request any additional information to be included with regards to the topics to be discussed.

3.2 **Option 2:** The Scrutiny Committee agree the Forward Programme for the meeting 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021, as presented.

**Background Documents /Electronic Links**

- Appendix 1 – Forward Work Programme – Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

## Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme

Dates / Deadlines	Topic	Purpose	Lead	Executive / Council
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021</b>  Deadline: 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	1. New Destination Management Plan for 2020-2025	<b>Pre-Decision</b> To consider and recommend for approval the new Destination Management Plan for 2020-2025.	Owen Ashton	Executive
	2. Lime Avenue Business Park and Boxworks	<b>Performance Monitoring</b> To provide members with details of the delivery of the developments.	Owen Ashton	Executive
	3. RE:FIT	<b>Progress Update</b> To provide members with an update on the RE:FIT Project and progress to install energy efficiency measures in public sector buildings.	Amy Taylor	Executive
	4. Tredegar Townscape Heritage Initiative Project Closure Report	<b>Progress Update</b> To provide members with details of the final outputs and outcomes of the THI project.	Nick Landers / Amy Taylor	Executive
	5. Business Improvement District annual reports 2020/2021	<b>Progress Update</b> To inform members on progress made to date.	Moe Forouzan / Sally Jones	Executive
	6. Community Benefits	<b>Performance Monitoring</b> Members to consider community benefit outcomes delivered (20/21) through BGCBC contracts and wider partner opportunities.	Bethan McPherson / Laura Bull	Executive

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