



Briefing Note of the Director of Place

Special Economy and Infrastructure Policy Development and Delivery Committee - 24 April 2018

Annual Report for 2017/18 Work Programme

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Economy and Infrastructure Policy Development and Delivery Committee (PDDC) has been meeting regularly since July 2017. It has cross-party membership and is a forum for Council Members and officers to work together to form policy.
- 1.2 At its first meeting the PDDC determined that its work programme would initially develop and understanding of the broad range of policy areas and as the year progressed identify the key aspects of applicable policy that could be developed by the committee
- 1.3 As such, several of the sessions have had to deal with some substantial items including the City Deal, future Transportation Strategy, an analysis of the wider economy, City River Corridor Strategy. In addition, it has also had the opportunity to look at more specific areas including pedestrianisation of Wind Street, Citizens Card, Homes as Power stations and Co-operative housing.
- 1.4 This report outlines the key areas and highlights recommendation where applicable and sets out the proposed work programme for 2018/19.

2. AREAS COVERED AND ACTIONS ARISING

2.1 City Deal Overview – Phil Holmes

- 2.1.1 Key Issues covered at the meeting held on the 10th August 2017 included:
 - Background history behind the bid;
 - The agreements and partnership arrangements in place between the various Local Authorities, Universities, Public Bodies, Private Industry and both Welsh and National Governments;
 - The main aims and challenges of the project;
 - The visions, anticipated impacts and planned interventions;
 - Alignment with UK Industrial Strategy;
 - Aims for Delivery of Projects & Job Creation;

- Funding breakdown and investment from both City Deal money and private industry investment for each scheme was outlined;
- Proposed returns for the investment, and aims and objectives of projects
- Front loading of Local Authority monies to kick start projects;
- Super Smart Innovation Region Proposals including Life Science and Well Being Campus and Village, Steel Science Centre, Factory of the Future, Homes as Power Stations & Pembroke Dock Marine;
- 5 Case Business Model currently being prepared for all schemes;
- The Skills and Talent Initiative being led by Regional Learning Skills Partnership;
- Regional Digital Infrastructure;
- Development of Centres for Excellence in Next Generation Digital Services;
- Links with S4C to develop a Creative Digital Cluster “Yr Egin”;
- Regeneration of Swansea City Centre and Main Projects contained within that project: Arena, Hotel, Multi Storey Car Park, 5G Mobile Communications Test Bed & redevelopment of St David’s site;
- Development of Waterfront Digital Business District;
- Kingsway Digital District;
- Delivery Timelines;
- Governance Arrangements.

2.1.2 Additional discussions included:

- Breakdown of City Deal finances;
- Public transport infrastructure;
- Evidence of sustainability from a wellbeing and environmental view; and
- Addressing the GVA gap.

2.1.3 Actions arising:

- No specific actions but further follow up sessions will be arranged as the “Swansea specific” schemes develop

2.2 Citizen’s Card – Sarah Caulkin

2.2.1 Key Issues covered at the meeting held on the 10th August 2017 included:

- The Citizen’s Card would be available to individuals of voting age.
- The introduction of the Citizen’s Card would link the front end website and back office and allow individuals to undertake a whole range of functions (e.g. reporting fly tipping, paying Council Tax, applying for vacancies). Additionally, it would also enable users to access discounts on Council and partner facilities.
- There would be an option for the discount card to be used on a smart phone ‘app’ or to be a physical card.
- The system could interface Modern.Gov with the Councillor Casework Management System (CCMS) which would keep Councillors informed by linking information.

- The Card would assist the Council in its management and adherence to data protection in line with new legislation due to come into force in May 2018. The new legislation heavily penalises organisations who do not have appropriate process and procedures in place for the management of data.
- The Card would link with Freedom of Information (FOI) management systems that are currently being developed.
- Information supplied by citizens will be held by relevant employees within the Authority and would not contain sensitive data.
- Employees of the Authority, as part of their terms and conditions under Data Protection legislation, could only access information in pursuit of their job. There would be a high level of integrity around the security of base records.
- Citizens would be given the option to save their information or alternatively re-enter each time they access the system.
- Suggestions for a better title would be welcomed.
- A user group will be established with Councillors in order to improve the flow of information.
- Despite the introduction of the Citizen's Card, a range of options for communicating with the Council would still be offered to members of the public.
- Set up costs would be £50,000 plus £700 per month. Physical card costs are yet to be finalised but it is anticipated that they will not be too expensive. It is also anticipated that many individuals will opt to use a smart phone 'app'.

2.2.2 Actions arising:

- The Software Team Leader extend an invitation to all Councillors to be involved in the Councillor Casework Management System (CCMS) user group;
- The report be noted.

2.3 Wind Street Pedestrianisation – Lisa Wells

2.3.1 Key issues covered at the first meeting on the 14th September 2017 included and subsequent session on the 8th March

- Representatives of the Swansea Business Improvement District (BID) within the City Centre had lobbied the Council highlighting the economic benefits that could be derived from the delivery of the Scheme.
- An evaluation undertaken by City Centre Management on behalf of Highways had highlighted universal support. Both businesses and residents felt it would improve the prosperity of the City and provide diversification in respect of: differing demands between the day and night time economy; increased patronage of venues by encouraging
- non-residents to visit the area; changes in the perception of the area; improvements to the look of the area and an increase in safety.

- During the consultation, businesses were encouraged to submit solutions to the traffic congestion and support for elderly and disabled visitors which had been identified as concerns.
- Bronze is a basic pedestrianisation scheme, expanding what is currently in place (e.g. use of bollards and minimal amount of infrastructure work) and would be low cost. Silver includes the delineation of the street scene and sets to create the impression that the area is a pedestrianised area within the existing layout. The Gold standard is of the standard seen in big cities (Cardiff, Barcelona).
- Wind Street enjoys 'Purple Flag' status which is a badge of honour in the night-time economy and demonstrates that the area has met the required standards. Partnership work is ongoing to change people's perception of Wind Street and outlying areas. Short term and long term way of looking at diversification of the evening and night time economy. Short term these include activities that go on after 4pm and deliver on street events such as the upcoming Swansea Big Weekend which celebrates the evening and night-time economy and includes, street food, pop up events. The long term way would be to improve the diversity of offer through the regeneration schemes that are being progress i.e. the Arena and development of St David's.

2.3.3 Actions arising:

- Further work has continued and the PDDC received a presentation from appointed consultants at its session on the 12th April.
- The PDDC supported the direction of travel and the need to maintain some access for delivered etc. with times to be agreed
- Consideration should be given of making the street one way and narrowing the traffic lanes and removing the current loading bays
- A more detailed scheme will now be developed and reported back to the PDDC once sufficient progress has been made

2.4 **River Corridor – Martin Nicholls**

2.4.1 Key issues covered initial at the meeting on the 12th October 2017 and in more detail on the 9th November 2017 during which Gail Evans provided a visual presentation of which the key issues included:

- Outlined the work completed to date, the current position and future requirements for each Strategy Area in relation to Morfa Distributor Road, Hafod Morfa Copper works, Powerhouse Redevelopment, Hafod Morfa Masterplan, Skyline Cable Car, White Rock, Copper Quarter – Addis Site, Pipe house Wharf.
- Further considerations and next steps in relation to Access and Infrastructure, Leisure and Heritage, Development and Environmental Enhancement
- The need for more employment opportunities for local people via commercial, light industry, mixed use developments in the scheme;

- The need for another river crossing link for pedestrians / cyclists in order to link St. Thomas to the City Centre to avoid the very confusing and sometimes congested River Tawe Bridges.
- Restoring the Bascule Bridges.
- Biodiversity on the Eastern side – e.g. a Micro eco-park / nature reserve, managed sympathetically and the possibility of involving relevant experts in a study of current plant / wildlife species.
- Further scoping to link in with S.106 agreements to secure access to the Riverside - working with landowners.
- Ensuring that access routes, particularly footpaths / cycle paths are safe for users.
- An access route from Morfa to White rock car park.
- Inclusive consultation with all users including anglers, rangers, Wheelwrights, users of bridleways, etc.
- Query whether the potential housing redevelopment site could be split up into smaller plots for private purchase e.g. homeowners who could have their own riverside access for a pontoon (prime land).
- Whether the Housing development would consist of mixed or affordable housing.
- An educational development / gallery for schools to access / study in.
- The need to engage with the local communities in order to avoid isolation in relation to access, parking and infrastructure.

2.4.2 Actions arising:

- The need to incorporate foot / cycling routes on any future development proposals.
- Consideration to be given to enhancing wildlife in the areas.
- Approval / consultation with National Resources Wales for the proposed luge.
- Consultation with users of the riverbank (e.g. anglers, etc.).
- Officers to proceed with the schemes but if any difficulties arise during the process, they be reported back to the Committee for further consideration.

2.5 Future Transportation Strategy and Housing – Stuart Davies

2.5.1 Key issues covered at the meeting held on the 12th October included:

- Context – How the Transport Strategy Works.
- Regional Working Arrangements.
- External Funding Streams.
- 2016/17 Capital Spend.
- Funding Bid Process.
- Challenges – Swansea Road Traffic Volume.
- A Growing City.
- Policy Challenges.
- Transport Policy Tensions.
- Tangible Benefits.

- Excellent Cities 2025.
- Key Opportunities and Next steps.
- Development of use for Transport and Infrastructure in Swansea.
- Parking and Integrated Transport Strategy.
- Shopping Regional Arrangements.
- City Centre Master Plan Strategy.
- Challenges/considerations including lack of funding; the duty to consider the Wellbeing of Future Generations Legislation; prioritisation of schemes in accordance with the Council's Corporate Objectives; congestion (especially on the critical areas such as Fabian Way); development and promotion of the use of bicycles in the City Centre with the introduction of cycle stations for cycle hire and ongoing work with First Cymru.
- The commissioning study being undertaken to look at city centre master planning and the parking needs which will be available in the next few months.

2.5.2 Actions arising from the key issues discussed included:

- The presentation be noted.
- A copy of the presentation be circulated to Committee Members.
- The results of the feasibility study be scheduled into the work plan currently being formulated for 18/19

2.6 Housing in the City Centre – Paul Meller

2.6.1 Key issues covered in the meeting held on the 7th December 2017 included:

- Updated Members on the role of housing in the regeneration of the City Centre having regard to the success of past and current policy and the Council's emerging policy framework.
- Context, policy background (which included a historical review) and future role of housing in the regeneration of the City Centre.

2.6.2 Further discussions held on the key issues included:

- With regard to high density city living, there were no hard and fast rules in terms of density per hectare;
- Car parking restrictions are relaxed in the City Centre but has to be clearly linked into the development (on site and off site);
- Taking a more futuristic view of life, it is not too far away that car ownership will not be a necessity because of advancing technology;
- The City Centre will change to accommodate a mix of residential, retail and leisure therefore attracting people;

2.6.3 Actions arising from the key issues discussed included:

- No actions at this stage but further session planned as the detailed briefs become clear

2.7 Swansea Bay City Deal – Homes as Power Stations – Martin Nicholls

2.7.1 Key issues covered in the meeting held on the 7th December 2017 included:

- Overview of the Swansea Bay City Deal Homes as Power Stations Project and proposed next steps.
- He detailed the background; need/demand; project overview; national UK level funding package; outputs/results and the next steps.

2.7.2 Further discussions from the key issues discussed included:

- There are lots of test sites in the UK, however, technology has not moved fast enough (battery storage has been a problem);
- The pilot is not just about new build houses, it also deals with retrospective fittings;
- The pilot is likely to be adopted more gradually within the private sector;
- There will be no impact on the revenue budget;
- A further update will be provided in January/February 2018 when the business case has been developed.

2.7.3 Actions arising from the key issues discussed included:

- No actions but further session planned as part of the 18/19 work programme once the business cases finalised

2.8 Swansea and the City Region “An Economic Perspective” – Phil Holmes

2.8.1 Key issues covered in the meeting held on the 11th January 2018 included:

- Introducing Swansea
- Connectivity;
- Swansea Statistics and Our Strategic Sectors;
- The Business Base;
- Strategic Employment Sites;
- Innovation, Learning, Quality of Life, Culture, Leisure & Sport;
- Key Regional Statistics;
- The Big Challenges;
- The City Deal Response;
- Key Local Regeneration Activities;
- Working in Partnership;
- Regeneration Programme;
- The Implications of Brexit;
- Welsh Government Prosperity for All and Economic Action Plan.

2.8.2 Further discussions arising from the key issues included:

- Productivity, GVA and comparisons with other authorities within the region;

- Transport links, connectivity, potential Swansea Bay Metro and Welsh Government feasibility study looking at inter-connectivity between regions;
- The Tidal Lagoon project; improving the Fabian Way gateway into the city;
- Involving communities outside the city centre in the changes, improving the movement of transport within the city centre and attracting large shops to locate in Swansea;
- The City Deal - improving employment prospects, training, skills and confidence of working age people;
- The impact of the universities in Swansea and the work being undertaken;
- Potential for the Felindre site;
- Confidence in the planning process in Swansea.

2.8.3 Actions arising from the key issues included:

- The presentation be noted.
- A copy of the presentation be circulated to Committee Members.
- Action identified integrated into other work streams

2.9 Co-Operative Housing – Geoff Bacon

2.9.1 Key issues covered in the meeting held on the 8th March 2018 included:

- Background,
- Rationale,
- Development of the schemes,
- Grass roots,
- Existing community organisations,
- Top down meets bottom up and support available to Swansea Council.

2.9.2 Further discussions arising from the key issues included:

- The terms of reference would be examined;
- Specific strategies will be developed to safeguard 'grass roots' organisations;
- Tenants would have less protection than a 'Housing Act' tenancy;
- In terms of a responsibilities, the Co-operative will have clear rights and responsibilities.

3. CONCLUSIONS

3.1 The report outlines the key work topics and where specific recommendations have been made how these will be taken forward.

As indicated many of the areas are significant and as such require ongoing input and this will be a key factor in the formulation of the work programme for 18/19.

There are no specific recommendations arising out of this report although the views of the committee are sought on how this report feeds into the 18/19 work programme

In giving consideration it may be prudent to narrow down the areas of focus to be able to concentrate on a smaller number of key activities on a one and done approach

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None