

## **Economic Strategy Board Report to Joint Committee**

### **Life Science, Wellbeing and Sports Campuses project business case.**

#### **1 Background:**

This report contains specific Economic Strategy Board (ESB) feedback on the **Life Science, Wellbeing and Sports Campuses project**.

The ESB received a presentation on the revised Life Science, Wellbeing and Sports Campuses project at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Responses to queries raised at that meeting were returned to the Board in April 2021.

The full business case was formally presented to the Economic Strategy Board at its meeting on **21<sup>st</sup> June 2021**.

Members of the project team returned to the Board on the **8<sup>th</sup> of July 2021** to discuss the observations arising from the June meeting and to note that the University had accommodated a productive visit from Minister David TC Davies which provided an opportunity to demonstrate the practical realities of the Campuses concept with contributions being made by private sector advocates as well as the University and Health Board.

Subsequently members of the Board also had a site visit to understand the project concept in **August 2021**.

This has enabled the ESB to engage with project development and hold focused discussions with partner leads around the opportunities and concerns that the ESB had identified in relation to the project business case.

The ESB, in their advisory capacity to the Joint Committee, is dedicated to offering further support and assistance in addressing these opportunities and concerns, drawing on their specialist knowledge and expertise to ensure maximum impact of the City Deal is realised. The ESB will monitor the progress and impact of the project and report as required to the Joint Committee.

The ESB therefore concludes that there are no significant issues that could **prevent or significantly impede** the delivery of the project and is encouraged by the additional opportunities to work collectively to identify innovative solutions and further the positive impacts of the project.

#### **2 Conclusion**

**The ESB formally recommend the Life Science, Wellbeing and Sports Campuses project.**

**In addition, the Board has recommended a number of opportunities that could be considered going forward.**

### **3 Areas of Opportunity**

It is recommended that the project team should:

1. Consider how low carbon building technologies could be used for the facilities being provided.
2. Carry out an assessment of the potential benefits that can be achieved via procurement, especially opportunities for local supply chain development, given the synergies with the Pentre Awel project
3. Incorporate the delivery of business support, either directly or through partners, for the companies hosted as part of the offering. This would include opportunities to collaborate with the university, help with commercialisation, provide access to corporates, access to investment, employment opportunities, and developing local manufacturing capabilities.

### **4 Project SWOT analysis**

<p><b>Strengths</b> – e.g. why does the project demonstrate good value for money?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BCR of 2.33</li> <li>• Strong, proven partnership and track record</li> <li>• Additional benefits in terms of impact of community health</li> <li>• Attraction of 300+ cluster firms to the region</li> <li>• Attraction of inward investment</li> <li>• Strengthens Life Science innovation in the region</li> <li>• Involves multinational organisations, with potential to grow this network</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b> – e.g. where could the aspirations of the project go further?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If more funding was available sooner, the project could bring forward its phase 2 plans and could also invest in additional revenue/delivery activities (R&amp;D, skills, training)</li> <li>• Site and budget constraints require a phased approach to delivery</li> <li>• Scale of phase 2 expansion (options appraisal considers three sites, including at Hywel Dda; project is limited to 2)</li> <li>• Connectivity across the region: work is ongoing to understand collaborative opportunities and synergies with other projects.</li> <li>• Current lack of confirmed investment for phase 2</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b> – e.g. what are the key areas for greater investment?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing a Sports Tech economy in the region – unique in the UK</li> <li>• Harnessing MedTech and Sport Tech to deliver significant benefits to population health</li> <li>• Expansion of collaborations with private sector stakeholders</li> <li>• Growing the regional skills base</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b> – e.g. what are the key risks which may prevent the project from achieving its outcomes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of post-Covid recovery on availability of funding to support co-financing and inward investment</li> <li>• Timescales involved in securing the funding and developing the sites</li> <li>• Total funding package available to support Phase 1 development, especially given recent price increases in the construction sector</li> <li>• Increasing construction costs and supply chain delays arising from Brexit and Covid</li> </ul>