

Councillor Chris Holley
Convener, Development and Regeneration
Performance Panel

Please ask for: Cllr Robert Francis-Davies
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Our Ref: RFD/JW
Your Ref:
Date: 16 April 2024

SENT BY EMAIL

Dear Councillor Holley

Thank you for your letter dated 28th March following the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel on 12th March.

As requested, I set out below my responses to the items raised.

Ongoing holding costs on Debenhams and general update

There is no power or water connected at present, so no standing charges apply. Equally through legal direction we are not paying service charge contributions but this will be reinstated once the building is let.

Therefore the business rates are the only current regular outgoings and for the current financial year these are:

- The rates payable for the year 2023/2024 are - £ 231,387.50
- The BID rates for the same financial period are - £4,325.00

In addition we have spent the following:

- Purchase of 50 No. LED lights & stands - £5,989.00 + VAT.
- Reprogram Digital lock to secure the access - £62.00 + VAT.
- Commission a full measured survey/ plans - £6,785.00 + VAT.
- Consultancy fees to 12/2023 - £9,684.60+ VAT.
- Initial design drawings for splitting - £2,450 + VAT.

We have had initial concept plans drawn up for possible ways to split the property these have assisted the marketing of the property. There is a level of interest from retailers and leisure users that we are currently taking forward and hope to be able to update shortly.

Trading status of the Dolphin Hotel.

The Dolphin hotel is open and trading.

Visitor numbers for the Penderyn Visitor Centre

Visitor numbers experienced in the first year is c28,000 pro rata

Any further information to demonstrate that jobs created through funding business growth will not be temporary until funding runs out

We don't fund any staff salary costs, rent or day to day running costs of the business through the SPF-funded business grants. For example, the business growth grant is to fund the introduction of a new product or service that will create or safeguard employment. So the business has to be starting to offer something new to get the grant (not just business as usual).

Clarification on the total amount and breakdown of City Deal funding.

The City deal funding is split across the projects as set out below.

Project	City Deal
Innovation Matrix & Innovation Precinct	£13,441,000
Digital Village (71/72 Kingsway)	£13,711,000
Digital Square (Arena & Hotel)	£22,848,000
Totals	£50,000,000m

I trust these responses are helpful but should you need anything further please let me know.

Yours sincerely



**Y CYNGHORYDD/COUNCILLOR ROBERT FRANCIS-DAVIES
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CABINET MEMBER FOR INVESTMENT, REGENERATION & TOURISM**