



Swansea Bay City Region Joint Committee - 13 June 2024

## Swansea Bay City Deal Evaluation Framework

<b>Purpose:</b>	To seek Joint Committee approval for the SBCD Evaluation Framework detailing the evaluation arrangements for the Portfolio and its constituent programmes and projects as at Appendix A.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Swansea Bay City Deal (SBCD) Joint Committee Agreement (JCA)
<b>Consultation:</b>	Senior Responsible Owners Project Leads Welsh and UK Government
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:
1)	Joint Committee approves the SBCD Evaluation Framework attached at Appendix A
<b>Report Author:</b>	Ian Williams, SBCD Portfolio Development Manager
<b>Financial Officer:</b>	Chris Moore (SEC151 Officer)
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith (Monitoring Officer)

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The establishment and delivery of effective evaluation arrangements for the SBCD Portfolio is crucial for demonstrating the impact of the projects and programmes over the timeframe of the City Deal. The need for an emphasis on benefits realisation has been highlighted in several Gateway assurance reviews at a portfolio and project level and will be key in demonstrating the success of the SBCD interventions.
- 1.2 To facilitate this process, the PoMO established the SBCD Evaluation Task and Finish Group to oversee the development of an effective and workable approach to evaluation for the SBCD Portfolio. The main purpose of the Group was to agree and co-ordinate an approach and timeframe to evaluate the Swansea Bay City Deal Portfolio and associated Programmes and Projects.

- 1.3 The Group consisted of project / programme leads and PoMO team members who met monthly to shape the development of the approach. The Terms of Reference of the Group were to:
1. Agree the SBCD Evaluation rationale and principles
  2. Develop an evaluation framework for the SBCD with robust and timely evaluative measures to determine the success of the SBCD Portfolio
  3. Map project and programme benefits realisation/evaluation schedule
  4. Agree key roles, responsibilities, and activity to embed the SBCD Evaluation Framework
  5. Review monitoring and evaluation commitments in approved Business Cases (including Investment Objectives, CSF, Key deliverables, Benefits plan, etc)
  6. Consult with SBCD SRO's via PM's (Project / Programme Managers),. The Chair in consultation with PM's will determine appropriate consultation with other stakeholders
  7. Determine appropriate routes to evaluate the SBCD Portfolio using external organisations where appropriate to evaluate economic impact of the Portfolio, Programmes and Projects
  8. Undertake a review of other evaluative activity and best practice outside of the SBCD
- 1.4 The output of the Group is the draft SBCD Evaluation Framework as described in the section below.

## **2. SBCD Evaluation Framework**

- 2.1 The SBCD Evaluation Framework is attached at Appendix A. The Framework incorporates the rationale, principles, roles and responsibilities and methodology in the approach to evaluation of the SBCD portfolio.
- 2.2 The Framework also includes a schedule of evaluations for the overall Portfolio and for each of the headline projects and their main component parts. It is accepted that this information may change as projects continue to be developed and delivered.
- 2.3 Key to the development of meaningful evaluation arrangements will be the regular tracking and reporting of benefits. Each project and programme has now formalised benefits registers, benefits maps and benefit profile to ensure that this process is robust.
- 2.4 It is acknowledged that clarification on alternative measurements for economic impact / GVA needs to be resolved. This issue is identified in the recent Audit Wales report and will be actioned by the PoMO.

## **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 Portfolio – the cost of evaluations will be considered and appropriate allocations made in the PoMO budget planning process.
- 3.2 Projects and Programmes - It is the responsibility of the Lead deliver(s) to monitor and evaluate the successful delivery of the project or programme, which is aligned to the investment objectives and benefits outlined in the Business Case. The cost of

undertaking an evaluation will be dependent on the scope of each specific commission.

#### **4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1 The project level outputs, outcomes and impacts are defined in the Funding Agreements between the Lead Authorities and Accountable Body.

#### **5. Alignment to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

- 5.1 The SBCD Portfolio and its constituent projects are closely aligned to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the seven well-being goals for Wales. These alignments are outlined in a Portfolio Business Case for the SBCD, as well as in individual project business cases. The proposal would contribute directly to the Act and the well-being by promoting the successful delivery of programmes and projects.

**Background papers:** None

**Appendices:**

A: SBCD Evaluation Framework v1.0

B: Evaluation Profile Template