

**Swansea Bay City Region Joint Committee - 14 January 2021**

## Accounting Officer Review (AOR) Action Plan

<b>Purpose:</b>	To update JC on the progress made on the Action Plan in response to the Accounting Officer Review (AOR) and Gateway 0 Review recommendations
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Swansea Bay City Deal (SBCD) Joint Committee Agreement (JCA)
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that Joint Committee:
1)	Reviews progress to Action Plan
<b>Report Author:</b>	Ian Williams (SBCD Portfolio Development Manager)
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Chris Moore (SBCD S151 Officer)
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Tracey Meredith (SBCD Monitoring Officer)

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The SBCD Portfolio Action Plan available in Appendix A has been developed in response to the recommendations made in the Accounting Officer Review (AOR) in August 2020 and the Gateway 0 review undertaken in July 2020.
- 1.2 The Action Plan is a 'live' document, updated and reported on a monthly basis with the potential to expand the scope of the plan to incorporate other work areas of the PoMO. As such it will be the Portfolio Action Plan and a key operational document for overseeing the timely and effective delivery of the forward work programme of the SBCD PoMO.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 As part of the assurance arrangements for the SBCD Portfolio, an independent Gateway 0 Review was undertaken in July 2020. Further, a five-week Accounting Officer Review (AOR) process was conducted by the Welsh Government, which commenced in August 2020 with the purpose to approve the SBCD Portfolio Business Case.
- 2.2 The AOR review resulted in 15 recommendations for the SBCD PoMO to address in relation to the Portfolio Business Case.

- 2.3 The SBCD Portfolio Gateway 0 report received an Amber Delivery Confidence Assessment (DCA) rating and contained six prioritised recommendations to the Portfolio SRO to ensure that the portfolio is positioned for effective management and delivery.
- 2.4 The Portfolio Action Plan combines both sets of review recommendations and provides detail on the specific actions required to fulfil the recommendations and the priority, timing, ownership, status and dependencies for each action.

### **3. Progress on Action Plan**

#### **AOR Recommendations:**

- 3.1 Considerable progress has been made on the actions identified in response to the AOR Recommendations. Whilst two of the actions have been completed, the majority of the other actions are well underway and are due to be closed off with the submission of the updated Portfolio Business Case by the end of March 2021.
- 3.2 A number of meetings have been held with WG / UKG to discuss progress and to agree specific requirements relating to the actions. A progress report was submitted by the PoMO to Welsh Government prior to Christmas to meet the conditions of funding for the release of City Deal funding.
- 3.3 The PoMO will now focus on the completion of the outstanding actions and their incorporation into the next iteration of the Portfolio Business Case

#### **Gateway Review Recommendations**

- 3.4 The three recommendations prioritised as Critical have been completed and good progress made on the remaining actions.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The specific financial implications are detailed within the attached report, with associated recommendations. Financial reporting has been consistently reported and is acquired from the project manager through the use of a standard template, which will be reviewed in collaboration with Welsh Government as part of the financial recommendations. The successful progress and completion of the actions resulting from the AOR process will support the release of future drawdowns of City Deal funding from UKG/WG.

### **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

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

- 6.1 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.

**Background papers:** None

**Appendices:**

Appendix A: AOR / Gateway 0 Action Plan