

## Swansea Bay City Region Joint Committee - 12 October 2023

### Portfolio Gateway Review Recommendations and Action Plan

<b>Purpose:</b>	To inform Joint Committee on the outcome of the Portfolio Gateway Review and to agree the Action Plan in response to the review recommendations
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Swansea Bay City Deal (SBCD) Joint Committee Agreement (JCA)
<b>Consultation:</b>	Joint Committee Programme Board
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	Joint Committee notes the outcome of the Portfolio Gateway Review approves the Action Plan attached at Appendix B and the response to the review recommendations (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 (Deputy Monitoring Officer)

#### 1. Introduction

The SBCD Portfolio Gateway Review Action Plan available in Appendix B has been developed in response to the recommendations made in the Gateway 0 review undertaken in July 2023.

#### 2. Background

As part of the assurance arrangements for the SBCD Portfolio, an independent Gateway 0 Review was undertaken in July 2023.

The Review was undertaken by an independent, external team in accordance with the Welsh Government Integrated Assurance Hub Guidelines. Sixteen 'conversations' were held with stakeholders between 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> July together with a workshop session with the local authority Leaders.

The SBCD Portfolio received an Amber-Green Delivery Confidence Assessment (DCA) rating. The summary finding of the Review were:

1. The SBCD Portfolio continues to make progress under the leadership of a strong SRO and Portfolio Director
2. The Portfolio continues to exercise good disciplines and work well with the individual SROs across the multiple partners in a quest to capitalise on the opportunities SBCD presents to the region.
3. There is a need to keep all parts of the Portfolio strategically relevant in enabling, contributing to, or delivering directly the Outcomes and Benefits intended.
4. The Portfolio is in good shape and indications are that successful delivery appears probable. Constant attention should be maintained, however, to ensure that risks do not materialise into issues threatening delivery (of the Projects and Programmes) or the achievement of the strategic intent (of the Portfolio).

The Review Team made four recommendations to the Portfolio SRO to ensure that the portfolio is positioned for effective management and delivery. The recommendations cover communications regarding strategic intent, benefits management, governance (in terms of the alignment with the CJC) and maximising value from dependencies and opportunities, particularly in relation to the private sector.

The full Review report is attached as Appendix A. It is anticipated that the next Gateway 0 Review for the Portfolio will be held in July 2024.

### **3. Gateway Review Action Plan**

The Portfolio Gateway Review Action Plan attached at Appendix B provides detail on the specific actions required to fulfil the four recommendations of the review together with the timing, ownership, status and dependencies for each action.

To facilitate the completion of the Action Plan recommendations, the PoMO is engaging with partners across the Portfolio through its governance meetings and targeted engagement. Progress on implementing the Action Plan will be reported to future Programme (Portfolio) Board meetings. The completed Action Plan will also be forwarded to UK and Welsh Governments with the updated Portfolio Business Case in March 2024 in readiness for the next drawdown of City Deal funding.

### **4. Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications associated with this report. Recommendations from the previous Gateway Review have been implemented.

### **5. Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

**Background Papers:** None

#### **Appendices:**

A: Gateway 0 Review Report July 2023

B: Gateway 0 Action Plan