

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 9TH OCTOBER, 2017

REFERENCE FROM CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2017

“CALL-IN – COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON – PROCUREMENT OF REFIT
WORKS FOR COUNCIL BUILDING ASSETS –

The above matter had been subject to Cabinet consideration at its meeting held on 4th September, 2017 (Minutes No. C63 refers).

Councillor Dr. Johnson had called-in the matter for further consideration by the Scrutiny Committee and to receive additional information on and, be satisfied with regard to:

- (1) The possible eligible projects for which ReFit Cymru can be used, and which have been identified by Cabinet as appropriate for implementation – and the basis on which these decisions have been made
- (2) The anticipated costs and savings of these proposals
- (3) The appropriateness of the procurement mechanisms in securing local benefits for Vale of Glamorgan based companies as first tier contractors or sub-contractors.

Councillor Dr. Johnson also referred in addition to the above and sought further information included in the scheme and details in regard to the procurement exercise that would be undertaken. He noted that 28% of the Council's schools had not taken up the opportunity to be involved with the scheme and enquired the reasons for their non-participation.

In response, the Head of Finance tabled for the consideration of the Committee details of the ReFit Programme and, in particular, the types of work that could be funded via this programme.

The Leader of the Council, who was in attendance as the portfolio holder, reminded the Committee that the initiative was a Welsh Government scheme with the purpose of accelerating energy efficiency within public buildings. He also reminded the Committee that he was unable to answer Councillor Dr. Johnson's question regarding the eligible projects given that contractors would be responsible for vetting schemes directly. With regard to the contractors appointed under the national procurement framework for undertaking the initiative, there were a total of 16 national contractors. The appointed contractors would be responsible for assessing the business case for each building and for the introduction of energy efficiency

initiatives. Energy efficiency savings were anticipated in the region of £240,000 in the first year with contractors responsible for delivering the predicted savings.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of including an appropriate clause in the contract specification to ask how these contractors would sub-contract local contractors to deliver the Council's schemes.

The Head of Finance indicated that 25 Council buildings had been identified of which 10 were schools. The scheme had been widely promoted across all schools within the County, however, it was likely that not all schools had engaged in the initiative due to financial considerations. She also indicated that it was normal practice within the invitation to tender process to ask contractors a range of questions including how they would utilise local contractors, promote local employment and create apprenticeships. This had been done as part of other Council projects and referred to projects such as the Penarth Learning Community project where such arrangements had been implemented. She also indicated that she would circulate via email details of the companies on the national procurement framework for this work.

A Member of the Committee referred to information in relation to the companies participating in the scheme which was available on the relevant website.

Further discussion centred around the Committee's preference for the inclusion of an appropriate clause in the invitation to tender for the contract. The Committee, having given due consideration to the matter,

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the procurement of ReFit works for Council building assets be supported and that the Cabinet be asked to give consideration to the inclusion of an appropriate clause in the invitation to tender for the contract to require how the main contractors would utilise local contractors, local employment and support apprenticeships to deliver the scheme.

Reason for recommendation

To ensure that the local community benefitted from the contract during its delivery.”