



Countryside & Economic Projects

Team Plan 2015/16

Team Manager: **Bob Guy**

Service Plan: Development Services

Date signed off: 31/07/2015

Signed off by: **Miles Punter**

Team Overview

The Countryside & Economic Projects team undertakes a number of key roles for the Council -

To work with a range of individuals, organisations, businesses and other key stakeholders at a local, regional and national level to facilitate regeneration and promote and support the development of sustainable communities across the Vale of Glamorgan.

To secure grant funding for regeneration.

To work in partnership with a range of statutory, voluntary and community organisations on community projects and initiatives, creating capacity in the third sector for self-regeneration.

To promote economic development and the creation of employment opportunities.

To assist long term unemployed individuals prepare for and find work.

To manage natural and other assets entrusted to the Council whilst maximising opportunities for enjoyment by residents and visitors.

To provide environmental education.

To promote and enhance the Vale of Glamorgan as an area for tourism and as a visitor destination.

To promote independent living and improved quality of life by offering grant assistance to eligible applicants with impairments to adapt their property.

To facilitate improvements in private sector housing through renewal areas and the provision of grant assistance.

Our Contribution to Service Plan priorities 2014/15

Our contribution to the Service Plan priorities last year:

- As part of implementing the biodiversity action plan, we actively promoted conservation seed mixes and cutting regimes on Council projects for example, the Railway Walk, Penarth which will to deliver benefits to wildlife and also has the added benefit of costs savings. In addition we worked on 11 projects in partnership with Natural Resource Wales to improve habitats including significant wildflower planning areas. [CP/E7]
- Through the Castleland Renewal Area scheme we have improved the standard of housing and the local environment for residents. Works completed during 2014/15 include a face-lifting programme for 316 homes to improve external appearance, upgraded/ new central heating systems, installation of voltage optimisers, solar thermal hot water systems. In addition, we implemented an HMO licensing scheme in the area. Improvements made to community facilities and the environment include the external refurbishment of the Sea Scout Hall, Holton Road. [CP/H5 and CP/R12]. Green Deal assessments have been undertaken for homes suitable for ECO funding and the Renewable Heat Premium Payment Scheme bids. If successful this will help improve the energy efficiency of the housing stock and reduce fuel poverty. [CP/H6]
- We continue to assist people to live independently by reducing the time taken to deliver disabled facilities grants and the accessible homes policy. Occupational therapy waiting times have reduced from 7 weeks in December 2013 to 5 weeks in December 2014. Similarly the delivery time for DFGs has reduced from 284 days in 2013/14 to 199 days in 2014/15. 100% of customers are happy with the process and the work undertaken and feel it has made them more independent. [CP/H11]
- A loan agreement has been signed between key partners that is, Welsh Government, the Council and the Consortium to bring forward construction of the road linking Barry Waterfront with Barry Island. Anticipated completion date of the road is summer 2015. [CP/R4]
- The Communities First Cluster in Barry is helping to deliver improved health and wellbeing to residents living in within the Cluster area. Most targets set by Welsh Government have been met or exceeded. Local employment is increasing and unemployment is below the Wales and UK average. [CP/R11]

- Implemented a new framework contract which has further improved our delivery times for disabled facilities grants. Service Objective 2 (CP/H11) (IO3) (DS/A006)
- Continued implementation of the Castleland Renewal Area to improve the standard of housing and the local environment. Service Objective 2 (CP/R12) (DS/A001)
- Through joint working with Cardiff & Vale CAB we have supported families in need to access support services that help them into training and employment. Supported long term unemployed people into employment through mentoring, training and job search assistance Service Objective 3 (CP/CL14) (IO)
- We continued to play an active part in board discussions on all matters relating to the master planning of the St. Athan and Airport Enterprise Zone in partnership with Welsh Government. Service Objective 3 (CP/R8) (DS/A083/ DS/A107)
- We adopted a town centres framework to promote investment and improve their vitality and attractiveness for residents and visitors to the Vale.
- Successfully concluded the Barry Regeneration Area programme in partnership with Welsh Government. Service Objective 3 (CP/R9)(IO)(CP/R7)
- We secured a partnership grant of £60k to facilitate work in Penarth and Llantwit Major. As part of this we worked with businesses in Penarth Town centre on the proposed establishment of a Business Improvement District. Service Objective 3 (CP/R10/ CP/R1)(IO) (DS/A167/ DS/A176/ DS/A177/ DS/A082)
- Delivered 11 practical projects in collaboration with Natural Resources Wales to improve habitat, including significant new wildflower planning areas. Service Objective 5 (CP/E7) (DS/A114)
- We reviewed the delivery of the Council's Countryside Service to improve the Tourism and visitor experience and increase income and other economic spin-offs. Service Objective 5 (DS/A186/ DS/A188)
- We completed capital works in relation to the interpretation, branding and sense of place project for the Heritage Coast and

Secured 'Coastal Communities' grant for slipway replacement and commercial (outdoor activities) storage at Southerndown. Service Objective 5 (DS/A187)

Our Team Plan 2015/16

Service Outcome 1:		Service Outcome 1 - Residents of the Vale live in safe, healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities.						
Objective 1:		To promote participation in a diverse range of sporting, cultural, recreational and community interests and activities.						
Ref.	During 2015-16 we plan to:	Success Criteria/ Outcomes we'll achieve from this action are:	High, Medium or Low priority	Officer responsible for achieving this action	Start date	Finish date	How will the work be resourced?	Progress
New	Implement a programme of expanding commercial activity at countryside sites, including filming opportunities.	New activities/additional income	H	SP/MC	1/4/15	31/3/16	Existing staff	
New	Fully integrate the restructured Countryside Service with common working practices, rotas, health and safety matters and education	Fully integrated and flexible service	H	SP	1/4/15	31/12/15	Existing staff	

	programmes.							
New	Review the Glamorgan Heritage Coast project , its aims, objectives, and working relationship with landowners	Clarity of roles achieved, possible refocusing of some resources to activity on tourism and income generation.	M	SP	1/7/15	31/12/15	Existing staff	
New	Subject to Cabinet approval, implement parking charges at Country Parks	Increased income to sustain Country Parks.	H	SP	Subject to Cabinet approval	Subject to Cabinet approval.	To be confirmed	
New	Review the Leckwith Wood land holding with a view to tourism/visitor activities, subject to environmental constraints	Understanding of opportunities in place, potential income streams, potential new tourism destination.	H	SP	1/4/15	30/9/15	Existing resources	
New	Support the delivery of Grounds & Parks Maintenance with professional Landscape Architecture services in respect of key projects	Projects complete on time and on budget	H	MD	1/4/15	31/3/16	Existing staff	
New	Develop the volunteer base for the Countryside	Increased volunteer activity	H	SP/MD/GT	1/4/15	31/3/16	Existing staff	

	Service							
new	Support delivery of the Tackling Poverty fund green spaces projects	All projects complete	H	MD	1/4/15	31/3/16	Existing staff	
New	Review overtime/weekend working at Countryside sites	Reduced costs whilst maintaining safe service.	H	SP	1/4/15	31/8/15	Existing staff	
New	Implement the Streetgames project to increase the participation of 8-24 year olds in sporting activity.	Increased collaborative activity and increased participation in outdoor activity in Communities First areas.	M	CD	1/4/15	31/3/16	WG grant	
New	Implement the 2015/16 Coastal Access improvement Programme projects	All projects delivered on time and grant drawn	H	GT/SP	1/4/15	31/3/16	WG grant	

Service Outcome 1:		Service Outcome 1 - Residents of the Vale live in safe, healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities.						
Objective 2:		To promote healthy and sustainable communities to ensure individuals achieve their potential.						
Ref.	During 2015-16 we plan to:	Success Criteria/ Outcomes we'll achieve from this action are:	High, Medium or Low priority	Officer responsible for achieving this action	Start date	Finish date	How will the work be resourced?	Progress
CP/R12) (DS/A001)	Implement the Castleland Renewal Area to improve the standard of housing and the local environment.	Residents live in a healthy and safe environment and in fit for purpose dwellings. High satisfaction with Renewal Area Programme. Improved energy efficiency of the housing stock.	High	EP/BG	01/04/2015	31/03/2016	Capital programme + existing staff , WG grant	.
CP/H5) (DS/A003)	Facilitate the renewal of the private sector	Residents live in fit for purpose, energy efficient dwellings.	H	EP/BG	1/4/15	31/3/16	Capital programme, existing staff,	

	housing stock through a range of renewal and improvement initiatives.						grant	
(DS/A065)	Deliver a Communities First programme in Barry for 2015/16.	Residents in identified areas of need are supported to improve their quality of life through improved health, access to employment and access to education.	H	CD	1/4/15	31/3/16	Funding awarded via WG. Management costs also funded.	
(CP/H8) (DS/A005)	Monitor and reduce the number of empty homes by promoting their return to use and implementation of the Empty Homes Strategy.	Increase in the number of empty properties brought back to use. Reduced negative impact of empty properties in Vale neighbourhoods. Reduced pressure for the release of greenfield sites for new housing.	H	EP/BG	1/4/15	31/3/16	WG grant, existing staff	
CP/H11) (DS/A006) (WAO/IP1&2/ DFG/2011/12)	Assist people to live independently in their homes by reducing the time	Residents live in homes that meet their needs with adaptations are	H	EP/BG	1/4/15	31/3/16	Capital programme + existing staff	

	taken to deliver Disabled Facilities Grants and delivering the Accessible Homes Policy.	delivered in a timely manner. High satisfaction with DFG processes and adaptations. Continuous improvement in DFG performance sustained into 2015/16. (target of 195 day turnaround)						
(DS/A006) New	Review the stairlift framework for DFGs	Maintain reduced timescales	M	EP/BG/NA	1/4/15	31/3/16	Existing staff	
(DS/A065) New	Implement the new Community Involvement Plan for Communities First	Increased genuine engagement and participation	H	CD	1/4/15	31/3/16	WG grant	
New	Explore targeted antipoverty actions in Llantwit Major and St Athan as part of LEADER delivery	Better understanding of issues and opportunities to access grant programmes.	M	PC	1/8/15	31/3/16	WG grant, Capital programme	
New	Explore new and innovative ways of delivering non-statutory services	Understanding of the feasibility for community involvement ,	H	PC	1/8/15	31/3/16	WG grant, capital programme	

	with a view to greater community involvement	volunteering and best practice						
New	Secure Town Centres Loan Fund and implement a programme.	Development of 3 properties supported, subject to approval of funding	H	DW	1/7/15	31/3/16	WG loan & existing staff	
New	Establish an integrated system for delivery of the Houses Into Homes and Home improvement loan schemes	Schemes in place and resourced to deliver against targets	H	DW	1/5/15	31/3/16	WG loan, existing staff, reserve	
New	Implement public realm/traffic management scheme for Broad St/High Street Barry.	First year's capital spend implemented	H	DW	1/4/15	31/3/16	Capital programme and existing staff.	
(DS/A065) New	Finalise the restructure of the Communities First Board	Better community representation and active participation, Improved consultation.	M	CD	1/4/15	31/3/16	WG grant	
(DS/A065) New	Further integrate Communities First with Flying Start and Families First	Closer joint working, adoption of Combined Outcomes	M	CD	1/4/15	31/3/16	WG grant	

	(including via WG pilot)	Framework						
New	Implement the Main Street regeneration Scheme	Residential & commercial schemes implemented in accordance with grant approval	H	EP/GW	1/4/15	31/3/16	WG grant	
New	Investigate options for renewal funds post March 2016	Priority projects targeted and authorities in place to deliver.	H	EP/BG/GW	1/9/15	31/3/16	Existing staff	

Service Outcome 1:	Service Outcome 1 - Residents of the Vale live in safe, healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities.							
Objective 3:	To Facilitate and promote investment in the local economy in order to secure sustainable economic growth and improve employment opportunities.							
Ref.	During 2015-16 we plan to:	Success Criteria/ Outcomes we'll achieve from this action are:	High, Medium or Low priority	Officer responsible for achieving this action	Start date	Finish date	How will the work be resourced?	Progress
(DS/A193)	Work in partnership to provide access to good quality, sustainable training and employment opportunities.	Improved employability and increased job opportunities for participants. Reduced unemployment rates.	High	ES	01/04/2015	31/03/2016	Existing staff	
(CP/R7) (DS/A079)	Actively seek a new cinema for the town of Barry.	Residents have access to modern cinema facilities without having to travel	H	ES/BG/DW	1/4/15	31/3/16	Existing staff	

		out of county.						
CP/R8) (DS/A083)	Support Welsh Government in administering the St. Athan and Airport Enterprise Zone to maximise investment and job creation.	New companies invest in the EZ, increasing employment opportunities for local people.	H	ES/BG	1/4/15	31/3/16	Existing staff	
(DS/A068)	Deliver a rural development plan for 2015/16 supporting schemes that promote the sustainability of rural communities.	Residents continue to be actively involved in the future of their communities. Innovative ideas benefit the long term social and economic wellbeing of rural Vale communities.	H	PC	1/4/15	31/3/16	WG grant.	
(DS/A194)	Deliver improvements to the Vale's town centres via the Council's adopted framework.	Increased vitality of the Vale's town centres, offering businesses, residents and visitors an improved environment.	H	Lead –ES Supporting – CD, DW, PC	1/4/15	31/3/16	Financial requirements to be costed.	

(CP/R4) (DS/A195)	Work with Partners to promote further regeneration work in Barry.	Increased vitality of Barry's town centres, offering businesses, residents and visitors an improved environment.	H	DW/BG	1/4/15	31/3/16	Existing staff	
(DS/A196)	Implement agreed Tackling Poverty Initiatives in Barry, through the WG's Tackling Poverty Fund.	Agreed 3 year Tackling Poverty initiatives fully implemented resulting in physical improvements within Barry, improved housing stock and enhanced areas of open space within the most deprived communities.	H	DW	1/4/14	31/3/16	Existing staff + WG grant	
New (DS/A068)	Develop and deliver projects in the rural vale to exploit natural assets for economic benefit	Pilot projects delivered to support future investment	H	PC	1/8/15	31/3/16	WG grant	
	Deliver the	Investment in	H	PC	1/5/15	31/3/16	Lottery funding	

New	Coastal Activities project	coastal facilities and businesses supported to provide activities. All grant targets met.					plus WG match	
New	Deliver the Young People's Bursary scheme	20 businesses started	H	PC	1/4/15	31/3/16	Waterloo Foundation grant + cash match from reserve	
New	Deliver the prosperous communities strand of the Communities First Delivery Plan	Improved employment outcomes for CF residents	H	CD	1/4/15	31/3/16	WG grant	
New (DS/A195) (DS/A193)	Improve the performance of the Jobs Growth Wales programme in Barry	WG CF targets achieved, improvement of previous year.	M	CD	1/4/15	31/3/16	WG grant	
New	Integrate the new C4W programme into Communities First	Programme functioning in Barry alongside CF projects	M	CD	1/4/15	31/3/16	WG grant/ESF	
New	Finalise the restructure of the Business &	Balanced budget and targets achieved	H	ES	1/4/15	31/7/15	Existing staff	

	Employment team							
New	Review arrangements for the delivery of the WORK Programme post March 2016 and ensure team structure is fit for purpose	Contract obligations met, budget balanced	H	ES/BG	1/4/15	31/3/16	Existing budgets	
New	Prepare and cost improvement projects for office/workshop accommodation in anticipation of additional resources	Facilities maintained in good order	M	ES	1/4/15	30/9/15	Existing budgets	
New	Increase occupancy of the Vale Enterprise Centre and Business Service Centre	95% BSC, 80% VEC occupancy	H	ES	1/4/15	31/3/16	Existing staff.	
New	Increase membership of Business Forum	330 members registered.						
New (DS/A195)	Seek to extend Communities First	Extended funding secured	H	CD/BG	1/4/15	31/3/16	WG grant	

	in Barry beyond March 2016							
New (DS/A195)	Review the future of Barry Town centre Market	Arrangements beyond January 2016 formalised.	H	ES	1/10/15	1/1/16	Existing staff	
New	Explore opportunities to exploit emerging European funding.	Maximum grant take up	H	ES/PC/D W/EP/SP/ BG	1/4/15	31/3/16	Existing staff	

Service Outcome :		Service Outcome 2 Development within the Vale is sustainable and the environment is protected and enhanced for current and future generations.						
Objective :		Objective 5: To protect, promote and preserve the Vale's unique environment by conserving and enhancing special places.						
Ref.	During 2015-16 we plan to:	Success Criteria/ Outcomes we'll achieve from this action are:	High, Medium or Low priority	Officer responsible for achieving this action	Start date	Finish date	How will the work be resourced?	Progress
(DS/A114)	Continue to implement the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.	Character and unique qualities of the Vale's conservation areas are preserved and enhanced.	H	SP/ED	1/4/15	31/3/16	Existing staff	
	Identify and support	Community led projects to	H	PC	1/8/15	31/3/16	Existing staff,	

New	projects for submission to the Rural Community Development Fund	improve rural areas developed and funded.					WG grant	
New	Implement the NRW partnership grant projects	Improved habitats, environmental education	H	SP Lead	1/4/15	31/3/16	NRW grant	
New	Identify projects for the new WG Environmental Grant to replace NRW partnership programme	Continuity of projects	H	SP/BG	1/4/15	31/3/16	Existing staff	
New	Finalise the improvements programme for the Heritage Coast centre	More customer focused facility, better image, improved interpretation	H	SP	1/4/15	31/3/16	Existing staff, grants as available	
New	Deliver the Rights of Way Improvement Plan actions for 2015/16	All ROWIP funded projects delivered to grant conditions	H	GT	1/4/15	31/3/16	WG grant	
New	Provide professional ecological advice to the statutory planning function	All consultation targets met.	H	SP/ED	1/4/15	31/3/16	Existing staff	
New	Restructure the delivery of the LBAP partnership secretariat	Sustainable arrangements in place	H	SP/ED	1/4/15	31/3/16	Existing staff	

	role							
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