

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 26TH JULY, 2021

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 7TH JUNE, 2021

“C582 THE UK GOVERNMENT LEVELLING UP AND COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUNDS BID GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS (EL / PR) (SCRUTINY – ALL) –

The Levelling Up and Community Renewal Funds (the Levelling Up Fund) were announced as part of the UK Government 2020 Spending Review. The Levelling Up Fund would focus on capital investment in local infrastructure and was intended to build upon and consolidate prior programmes such as the Local Growth Fund and Towns Fund.

The report sought authority from Cabinet to submit an initial bid under the UK Government’s Levelling Up Fund, and to set out an agile governance structure sufficient to allow submission within the deadlines set out in the programme guidance.

The Leader commented that in his view transport bids may be where the Authority should concentrate initially.

Councillor Burnett added that transport and regeneration bids were most likely, but any bid would have to be strong, ‘shovel-ready’ and deliverable by 2024. Work was currently being undertaken to put together any potential bid/s that may be submitted by the 18th June, 2021 deadline or in advance of any second tranche.

The Head of Regeneration and Planning confirmed that Officers were working on putting information together regarding any potential transport bids for this year. Projects would have to be ready this year so a potential bid may not be feasible within the first round but would be explored to potentially put forward the strongest bid possible.

The Leader agreed that any potential bid would have to be strong in order to be considered.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein amended Recommendations (2), (3) and (7) as outlined below

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the Levelling Up Fund Prospectus attached at Appendix A to the report and the Community Renewal Fund Prospectus (attached at Appendix B to the report) be noted.
- (2) T H A T the production and submission of a bid to both the Community Renewal Fund and the Levelling Up Fund in line with the themes and objectives set out in the report, provided the bid be available and ready to start by the submission date, be supported.
- (3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Head of Regeneration and Planning (in consultation with the Leader, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration, Managing Director and the Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer), in liaison with the Operational Manager (Regeneration) to agree the content of the bid prior to submission.
- (4) T H A T the Head of Regeneration and Planning be given delegated powers to procure any consultancy support that will be needed for the production of bid/s to the fund subject to the need for any financial or procurement resources required given the urgency of the process, being agreed by the Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer under the waiver process.
- (5) T H A T the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services be given delegated powers to review and agree any contractual arrangements should they be required to facilitate the process of making a bid/s.
- (6) T H A T the Head of Regeneration and Planning be given delegated powers to allocate funds from the Barry Regeneration Programme to facilitate the bid/s. Such funds to be reinstated as and when the UK Government provides the revenue support as advised in the Fund Protocol advice.
- (7) T H A T the response to the bid by the UK Government, should they be submitted, be reported back to Cabinet in due course, together with more detailed governance arrangements relating to the delivery of any successful bid.
- (8) T H A T the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure set out in Section 14:14 of the Council's Constitution be approved in order to meet the deadline set by the UK Government for making initial bids under the Levelling Up Programme of 18th June, 2021.**

Reasons for decisions

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) That Cabinet supports the submission of a bid to each fund, given the opportunity to support investment in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- (3) To facilitate an agile response to the funding opportunity and to provide a governance structure in line with the Council's Project Management Toolkit.

(4) To facilitate an agile response to the bidding deadline whilst giving consideration to the Council's Financial Regulations and Procurement Guidelines.

(5) To facilitate the sign off of any contractual matters should they be required as part of the bid submission process.

(6) To provide immediate access to funding in support of the bid submission process.

(7) In order to report back to Cabinet on the success or failure of the bids and any advice received from the funding body.

(8) The reporting of the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure is a requirement of the Council's Constitution."