

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 25TH APRIL, 2022

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 14TH MARCH, 2022

“C873 BARRY GROWTH PROGRAMME (DL/ER) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration presented the report to update Cabinet on the work of the Barry Growth Programme and sought approval to submit funding applications.

Consultants Rothwell had been commissioned to support the Council in preparing the Barry Growth Programme. The programme would be made up of an ambitious vision and narrative for Barry, a spatial Masterplan and a 10-year investment plan, with identified early catalyst projects. The report updated Cabinet on the work to date and sought support for the early direction of travel outlined (Appendix A).

The UK Government had set out its Levelling Up agenda and released a White Paper in advance of funding rounds opening in the Spring of 2022. The report requested that powers be delegated to submit bids to the Levelling Up Fund as required, forming a first wave of projects within the Barry Growth Programme. The Deputy Leader said it was not possible to ignore the opportunity for possible external funding and was a key reason why the report had been brought forward for consideration. There had also been support from the local Member of Parliament and the proposals had also been shared with him.

It had been hoped to be able to bring the report to Cabinet alongside the full guidance, but with that not being possible there was a need to be able to move quickly to submit bids before a new administration was fully established. The proposals had been shared with the leaders of political groups within the Council prior to coming to Cabinet.

Cabinet would be aware with regards the project linked to Barry Docks Waterfront that development of the Marina had been the subject of feasibility research a number of years ago prior to the pandemic and by Councillor Burnett’s predecessor.

Appendix A contains a chart which discusses tackling inequality, driving future sectors of job skilling growth, addresses the issues around population change and leading on decarbonization.

The Leader agreed that the urgent decision procedure would be required if bidding rounds were to open in the spring and needed to be submitted prior to the new administration being in place.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein,

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the emerging findings and initial proposals within the Barry Growth Programme be noted and endorsed.

(2) T H A T authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services to enter into agreements with relevant landowners and partner organisations to enable the development of a Vale of Glamorgan Council application for a package bid of projects within the Barry Growth Programme to be submitted to the UK Levelling Up Fund.

(3) T H A T authority be granted to the Head of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Chief Executive and Leader and Deputy Leader as Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration and subject to the approval of the Barry Regeneration Project Board, to submit a grant application and associated funding packages, including match funding from sources identified for regeneration purposes, for a Levelling Up Fund package bid of up to 3 projects on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

(4) T H A T authority be granted to the Head of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Chief Executive and Leader and Deputy Leader as Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration subject to the approval of the Barry Regeneration Project Board, to submit an Investment Plan linked to the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

(5) T H A T the use of the urgent decision procedure as set out in Section 14.14 of the Council’s Constitution be exercised in advance of Levelling Up funding rounds opening in the Spring of 2022.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure the work underway is consistent with the strategic place-based ambitions of the Council

(2) To ensure that a suitable funding package is in place and enable the submission of grant applications in a timely manner and to give pace and impetus to the Council’s overarching ambitions for Barry and its communities.

(3) To ensure that the Council is able to respond to the timescales and technical guidance when submitting proposals to the UK Government.

(4) To ensure that project applications comply with grant scheme technical guidance.

(5) To ensure being able to submit a first wave of projects within the Barry Growth Programme.”