

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council - Integrated Impact Assessment

(Includes Well-being of Future Generations, Protected Characteristics, Welsh Language, Socio-economic Disadvantage, Sustainability and Biodiversity, Consultation/Engagement and Data/Evidence)



Before completing this Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA), please refer to the corresponding **guidance document**, which provides essential background information.

An IIA MUST be completed for:

- Any Council / Cabinet report.
- Any strategic decisions being taken where due regard is required to reduce inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage.
- Any project (i.e. something that has a start and end date and is different from day to day business).
- Where you are implementing significant change e.g. service provision.

This IIA helps to support the Council in making informed and effective decisions whilst ensuring compliance with a range of relevant legislation. This IIA must be completed at the start of any project or proposal.

Title of Report / Project:	Repayable Funding to Support the Regeneration of Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre					
Officer completing IIA:	Zoe Thomas					
Lead Officer / Project Manager:	Zoe Thomas					
Service:	Housing and Regeneration					
IIA completion date:	6 th April 2021					
Type of proposal: (please place an X in the relevant box)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	Restructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Procedure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please identify): Programme – allocation of loan finance					
Give a brief description of the proposal including the aims, and any links to relevant reports or documents:	The purpose of the request for the Town Centre Repayable Funding Scheme is increasing jobs, increasing visitor numbers, reducing the number of vacant, redundant or under-utilised sites and premises within Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre by encouraging more sustainable uses for empty sites and premises. A business can apply for loan finance (with no lower or upper limit) and the assessment is based on the outputs that can be achieved, the benefit the scheme will have on the Town Centre, linkages to key strategies, the re-payable term and following robust due diligence on the applicant.					

1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives

Does your proposal help to deliver any of the Council's Well-being Objectives?

How does your proposal help to deliver any or all of the Council's Well-being Objectives?

Well-being Objectives	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on the Council's Well-being Objectives? Please place an X in the relevant box.			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation.	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts? How will you know when this has been achieved?
	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
Best Start to Life - Children and young people get the best start to life and are equipped with the skills they need to be successful learners and confident individuals.		X		The repayable loan scheme will not directly target children and young people therefore currently the programme does not directly impact on this objective.	The core aims of the scheme are to reduce the number of vacant, underutilised and redundant sites and premises in town centres and to support the diversification of town centres.
Working Life - People feel supported to develop the skills required to meet the needs of businesses with a developing, safe infrastructure making Merthyr Tydfil an attractive destination.	X			The core aims of the scheme are to reduce the number of vacant, underutilised and redundant sites and premises in town centres and to support the diversification of town centres.	This scheme will encourage more sustainable uses for empty sites and premises, such as residential, leisure and for key services.
Environmental Well-being - Communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside.	X			The scheme will target the key assets and buildings within the Town Centre and the conservation area. This will create an improved perception and the opportunity to protect, enhance and promote the environment.	Listed buildings and historic properties can be targeted through the loan programme.
Living Well - People are empowered to live independently within their communities, where they feel safe and enjoy good physical and mental health.	X			The scheme will enhance the Town Centre and improve long-term vacant properties bringing them into sustainable use.	The projects will bring a sense of pride and confidence to the community and improve quality of lives for residents and businesses within Merthyr.

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How does your proposal help to deliver any or all of the Council's Well-being Objectives?

Well-being Objectives	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on the Council's Well-being Objectives? Please place an X in the relevant box.	Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation.	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts? How will you know when this has been achieved?
	Positive Negative Neutral		

Sources of evidence to support the above (please use this information when completing the section 'Data and Evidence'):

Town Centre Masterplan
Repayable Loan Scheme Guidance and Application

2. Sustainable Development Principles (The Five Ways of Working)

Does your proposal demonstrate you have met the sustainable development principles (five ways of working)?

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires the Council to consider how any proposals improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being, whilst also looking to the future, planning for the long term and ensuring that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Please consider the national well-being goals when completing this section.

Five Ways of Working	How does your proposal demonstrate you have met the five ways of working when developing the proposal?	Are there any additional actions to be taken to better contribute to the five ways of working and/or mitigate any negative impacts? How will you know when this has been achieved?
Long Term - Thinking and planning for the long term, balancing short term and long term needs.	The projects identified and targeted through the loan programme will focus on the long-term sustainable use of buildings within Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre. The targets achieved through the delivery of the scheme will have a long-term impact increasing economic growth and ensuring the Town becomes commercially and self-sustaining.	The projects will form part of the 15 year Placemaking Plan which has been adopted for implementation within Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre.
Prevention - Preventing problems occurring or getting worse.	The project will prevent the further deterioration of the High Street and key buildings within the Town Centre.	The project will prevent vacancy rates increasing within the Town Centre a long-term vacant properties will be targeted through the scheme.
Integration - Impact on our well-being objectives, national well-being goals and the well-being objectives of other public bodies.	The projects align to the aims and objectives of the Merthyr Tydfil Placemaking Plan 2019-2035.	The funding secured links to the WG Transforming Towns Agenda.
Collaboration - Acting in collaboration with others inside and outside the Council.	Collaboration is a key consideration of the project. MTCBC will engage with the private sector to support delivery and achieve outcomes.	Projects will be delivered in conjunction with internal departments as and when required including Planning and Legal.
Involvement - Involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and who reflect the diversity of our communities.	Continued consultation and communication will be undertaken extensively throughout the delivery of the projects.	Each project will have a Communications Plan.

Sources of evidence to support the above (please use this information when completing the section 'Data and Evidence'):

Repayable Loan Scheme Guidance and Application.
Placemaking Plan.

3. Protected Characteristics (including Welsh Language)

Does your proposal directly impact on service users, employees and/or the wider community, including the nine protected characteristic groups and Welsh language as identified below?

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different groups. Please note that an individual may have more than one protected characteristic.

Protected Characteristics	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on service users, employees and/or the wider community, including the nine protected characteristic groups and Welsh language? Please place an X in the relevant box.			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation.	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts? How will you know when this has been achieved?
	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
Age - People of all ages.			X	The project focuses on the Town Centre Repayable Loan Scheme and does not impact on age.	n/a
Disability - People with disabilities/long term conditions.	X			The project will take disability into consideration and accessibility will be included in any building design.	n/a
Gender Reassignment - People whose gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex they were assigned at birth.			X	The project focuses on the Town Centre Repayable Loan Scheme and does not impact on gender reassignment.	n/a
Marriage and Civil Partnership - People who are married or in a civil partnership.			X	The project focuses on the Town Centre Repayable Loan Scheme and does not impact on marriage and civil partnership.	n/a
Pregnancy and Maternity - Women who are pregnant and/or on maternity leave.			X	The project focuses on the Town Centre Repayable Loan Scheme and does not impact on pregnancy and maternity.	n/a

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Does your proposal directly impact on service users, employees and/or the wider community, including the nine protected characteristic groups and Welsh language as identified below?

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different groups. Please note that an individual may have more than one protected characteristic.

Protected Characteristics	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on service users, employees and/or the wider community, including the nine protected characteristic groups and Welsh language? Please place an X in the relevant box.			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation.	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts? How will you know when this has been achieved?
	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
Race - People from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds.			X	The project focuses on the Town Centre Repayable Loan Scheme and does not impact on race.	n/a
Religion or Belief - People with different religions and beliefs including people with no beliefs.			X	The project focuses on the Town Centre Repayable Loan Scheme and does not impact on religion or belief.	n/a
Sex (Gender) - Women and men, girls and boys and those who self-identify their gender.			X	The project focuses on the Town Centre Repayable Loan Scheme and does not impact on sex (gender).	n/a
Sexual Orientation - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual.			X	The project focuses on the Town Centre Repayable Loan Scheme and does not impact on sexual orientation.	n/a
Welsh Language					
The Welsh Language Wales Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards require the Council to have 'due regard' for the positive or negative impact a proposal may have on opportunities to use the Welsh language and ensuring the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language.					
Welsh Language - Opportunities for people to use and promote the Welsh language, treating the Welsh	X			Welsh language will be used for any materials developed relating to project delivery.	n/a

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Protected Characteristics	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on service users, employees and/or the wider community, including the nine protected characteristic groups and Welsh language? Please place an X in the relevant box.			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation.	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts? How will you know when this has been achieved?
	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
language no less favourably than the English language, compliance with Welsh Language Standards, links with internal and external Welsh Language strategies.					

Sources of evidence to support the above (please use this information when completing the section 'Data and Evidence'):

Repayable Loan Scheme Application and Guidance.

4. Socio-economic Disadvantage (Strategic Decisions)

Does your proposal impact/deliver better outcomes for those who are experiencing socio-economic disadvantage?

The Socio-economic Duty places a responsibility on the Council to have 'due regard' to how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage when making strategic decisions. This duty gives us an opportunity to do things differently and put tackling inequality at the heart of key decision-making. Socio-economic disadvantage means living on a low income compared to others in Wales, with little or no accumulated wealth, leading to greater material deprivation, restricting the ability to access basic goods and services.

Please consider: Single parents and vulnerable families, pensioners, carers, looked after children, single adult households, armed forces community, people with low literacy/numeracy, people who are homeless, people who have experienced the asylum system, students, people of all ages leaving a care setting, people living in the most deprived areas of Wales, people misusing substances, people involved in the criminal justice system, people who are not in education, employment or training. Please see the guidance document for more information.

Socio-economic Disadvantage	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on socio-economic disadvantage for service users, employees and/or the wider community? Please place an X in the relevant box.			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation.	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts? What steps will be taken to reduce inequalities of outcome? How will you know when this has been achieved?
	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
Low Income/Income Poverty - Unable to afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing, transport, other essential items etc.			X	The project focuses on the Town Centre Repayable Loan Scheme and does not impact on low income / poverty.	n/a
Low and/or No Wealth - Enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future.			X	The project focuses on the Town Centre Repayable Loan Scheme and does not impact on low and / or no wealth.	n/a

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Please consider: Single parents and vulnerable families, pensioners, carers, looked after children, single adult households, armed forces community, people with low literacy/numeracy, people who are homeless, people who have experienced the asylum system, students, people of all ages leaving a care setting, people living in the most deprived areas of Wales, people misusing substances, people involved in the criminal justice system, people who are not in education, employment or training. Please see the guidance document for more information.

Socio-economic Disadvantage	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on socio-economic disadvantage for service users, employees and/or the wider community? Please place an X in the relevant box.			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation.	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts? What steps will be taken to reduce inequalities of outcome? How will you know when this has been achieved?
	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
Material Deprivation - Unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies etc.			X	The project focuses on the Town Centre Repayable Loan Scheme and does not impact on material deprivation.	n/a
Area Deprivation - Where you live e.g. rural areas, and where you work e.g. accessibility of public transport.			X	The project focuses on the Town Centre Repayable Loan Scheme and does not impact on area deprivation.	n/a
Socio-economic Background - Social class i.e. parents' education, employment and income.			X	The project focuses on the Town Centre Repayable Loan Scheme and does not impact on socio-economic background.	n/a
Socio-economic Disadvantage - What			X	The project focuses on the Town Centre Repayable Loan Scheme and	n/a

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Please consider: Single parents and vulnerable families, pensioners, carers, looked after children, single adult households, armed forces community, people with low literacy/numeracy, people who are homeless, people who have experienced the asylum system, students, people of all ages leaving a care setting, people living in the most deprived areas of Wales, people misusing substances, people involved in the criminal justice system, people who are not in education, employment or training. Please see the guidance document for more information.

Socio-economic Disadvantage	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on socio-economic disadvantage for service users, employees and/or the wider community? Please place an X in the relevant box.			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation.	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts? What steps will be taken to reduce inequalities of outcome? How will you know when this has been achieved?
	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
cumulative impact will the proposal have on people or groups because of their protected characteristic(s) or vulnerability or because they are already disadvantaged?				does not impact on socio-economic disadvantage.	

Sources of evidence to support the above (please use this information when completing the section ‘Data and Evidence’):

5. Consultation and Engagement

What consultation and/or engagement has been undertaken to inform the development of the proposal?

There may be a legal requirement to consult in some instances, or a legitimate expectation that consultation will take place. Where it has been determined that consultation is required, the Gunning Principles must be adhered to.

- The proposals are still at a formative stage.
- There is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration'.
- There is adequate time for consideration and response.
- 'Conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made.

Please consider: Protected Characteristic groups, those who are experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, communities and places of interest, other stakeholders, forums, community groups and community councils. Please see the guidance document for more information.

Consultation and Engagement	Has consultation and/or engagement been undertaken on the proposal? Please place an X in the relevant box.			Briefly describe any recent or planned consultation and/or engagement exercises, paying particular attention to evidencing the Gunning Principles. Please identify when the consultation and/or engagement took place or will take place, or why it is not required.	Who was consulted/engaged with? Was sufficient information provided to allow an informed decision on the proposal to be made? What were the key findings of the consultation and/or engagement? Have these findings been taken into account? Is further consultation and/or engagement required?
	Undertaken	Due to be undertaken	Not required		
Requirement for consultation and/or engagement to be undertaken, or a legitimate expectation that it will take place.		X		As the repayable finance has been secured by MTCBC, the Loan Programme can now be consulted on with local businesses, landlords and tenants.	n/a

Sources of evidence to support the above (please use this information when completing the section 'Data and Evidence'):

6. Data and Evidence

What data or other evidence has been used to inform the development of the proposal?

Evidence may include the outcome of previous consultation or engagement exercises, existing databases, pilot projects, review of customer complaints and compliments and other service user feedback, national and regional data, academic publications and reports, future trends, horizon scanning, business plans etc. Consider the sources of evidence from all of the sections in your explanation.

Data and Evidence	Has data and evidence been used in order to inform the proposal? Please place an X in the relevant box.		What data or other evidence has been used to inform the development of the proposal? What have been the key findings of this data and evidence? Has this data and evidence helped to inform the proposal?	How has the data and evidence helped to inform the proposal? If the data and evidence did not support the proposal, why was this? Have there been any gaps identified? If so, what steps will be taken to cover the identified gaps?
	Yes	No		
Data and evidence used in order to inform the proposal.	X		Merthyr Tydfil CBC is currently delivering a 'Merthyr Tydfil Business Loan Scheme' which is being funded through Welsh Government's Regeneration Department. The Business Loan was allocated to Merthyr Tydfil CBC in January 2018 and the term of the loan was April 2018 to April 2020. £1m was made available under the re-payable scheme and the purpose of the loan was to provide businesses with short term finance for the purpose of increasing jobs, increasing visitor numbers, reducing the number of vacant, redundant or under-utilised sites and premises within Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre by encouraging more sustainable uses for empty sites and premises. The loan programme was deemed a success and in January 2020 a further request was made to Welsh Government to extend the loan programme in Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre and in March 2020 an offer letter was issued for £1m for the period April 2020 to April 2025. The loan purpose remained the same as the original loan.	The purpose of the request for the Town Centre Repayable Funding Scheme was identical to the current loan programme that Merthyr Tydfil CBC are delivering (with the exception that Merthyr Tydfil CBC would also be eligible to apply and use the loan for regeneration purposes to support the delivery of the masterplan). A business can apply for loan finance (with no lower or upper limit) and the assessment is based on the outputs that can be achieved, the benefit the scheme will have on the Town Centre, linkages to key strategies, the re-payable term and following robust due diligence on the applicant.

6. Data and Evidence

What data or other evidence has been used to inform the development of the proposal?

Evidence may include the outcome of previous consultation or engagement exercises, existing databases, pilot projects, review of customer complaints and compliments and other service user feedback, national and regional data, academic publications and reports, future trends, horizon scanning, business plans etc. Consider the sources of evidence from all of the sections in your explanation.

Data and Evidence	Has data and evidence been used in order to inform the proposal? Please place an X in the relevant box.	What data or other evidence has been used to inform the development of the proposal? What have been the key findings of this data and evidence? Has this data and evidence helped to inform the proposal?	How has the data and evidence helped to inform the proposal? If the data and evidence did not support the proposal, why was this? Have there been any gaps identified? If so, what steps will be taken to cover the identified gaps?
	Yes		

Sources of evidence to support the above:

Merthyr Tydfil Business Loan Programme
Repayable Loan Scheme Application and Guidance

7. Biodiversity and resilience of Ecosystems

How does your proposal impact on Biodiversity and therefore the resilience of Ecosystems?

Under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 we must seek to maintain and enhance Biodiversity within the proper exercise of our functions. In doing so, we must also seek to promote the resilience of Ecosystems.

Biodiversity and resilience of Ecosystems	What is the expected impact on Biodiversity? Please place an X in the relevant box.				Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation.	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of Biodiversity? How do you know when this has been achieved?
	Maintained	Enhanced	Reduced	Neutral		
To maintain and enhance Biodiversity (and therefore promote the resilience of Ecosystems).	X				Biodiversity will be a key consideration of any application.	The Regeneration Team will liaise with Planning on any opportunities.

Sources of evidence to support the above (please use this information when completing the section 'Data and Evidence'):

8. Summary

As a result of completing this IIA, please identify below;

- The number of positive, negative or neutral scores for the Council's Well-being objectives, the sustainable development principles, protected characteristics including Welsh Language and Socio-economic disadvantage.
- If consultation and/or engagement has been undertaken, is due to take place or is not required.
- If data and evidence has been used in order to inform the proposal.
- If the proposal maintains, enhances or reduces the resilience of ecosystems.

The table below should then be included in the related Council/Cabinet report.

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Neutral/Not Applicable	
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	3 of 4	1 of 4	0 of 4	
2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement 	5 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5	
3. Protected Characteristics (including Welsh Language)	2 of 10	0 of 10	8 of 10	
4. Socio-economic Disadvantage	0 of 6	0 of 6	6 of 6	
5. Consultation and Engagement	Undertaken	Due to be Undertaken	Not Required	
	0 of 1	1 of 1	1 of 1	
6. Data and Evidence to inform the proposal	Yes		No	
	1 of 1		0 of 1	
7. Biodiversity and the resilience of Ecosystems	Maintained	Enhanced	Reduced	Neutral/Not Applicable
	1 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1
Summary				
The main positive impacts are:	The main positive impacts are that the delivery of the Repayable Loan Scheme in Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre will support Well-being Objectives and Sustainable Development Principles through targeting economic growth and reducing vacancy rates, with a focus on the long-term sustainability of the Town Centre. The project will have a positive effect on the economy, socially and on heritage.			

The main negative impacts are:

No negative impacts have been identified.

9. Actions

Based on the summary of your positive and negative impacts identified in the Summary section above, will you need to make changes to your proposal to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts?

Please identify any further actions you will need to undertake to better inform this proposal e.g. whether further consultation is required or more data and evidence is required to better inform the proposal.

What are you going to do?	Estimated completion date	Who will be responsible?	Timelines/Milestones e.g. 6 months/over a year, etc.	Progress

10. Version Control

The IIA should be used at the earliest stages of the development of the proposal and decision making process, and then honed and refined throughout to strengthen and shape the proposal. This section will act as an audit trail to evidence how the IIA has been developed over time.

Please use the table below to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have delivered the sustainable development principles.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration

11. Monitoring and Review

The implementation and the impact of the proposal should be monitored and reviewed throughout the development of the proposal.
Please identify how the proposal will be monitored and reviewed as it progresses, including the implementation of any amendments identified.

How will the implementation and the impact of the proposal and any amendments be monitored?

When will the proposal be reviewed? How frequently will this take place?

Who is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the proposal?

12. IIA Approval

IIA Approved by:

Job Title:

IIA Approval date: