**Regenerate NPT**: **Project Closure Report**

Project Organisation: Awel Aman Tawe

Project Name: Energy Local NPT

Project Start Date: 1 June 2018 Project End Date: 30 June 2020

Date of Report: 8/1/2021

Addendum Documents List: Egni Share Offer document and leaflet (with RDP branding),

There is a mandatory requirement to complete this document at Project Closure. The purpose of the report is to provide a project level document evidencing how well the project has performed against the original Business Plan delivered by the Local Partnership and Local Action Group during the lifetime of the project, and how it has contributed to the aims and objectives of the Local Partnership’s Local Development Strategy. It should also document how the project has performed against the planned costs, delivery timescales, and Key Performance indicators. Please try and keep within the maximum word count.

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| 1. **Background:** (briefly detail the background to the Project – 250 max) | | | | | |
| The main aims of the organisations are:   * To advance the education of the public, in particular but not exclusively in energy efficiency and renewable resources for the public benefit; * The preservation and conservation of the environment through the promotion and use of renewable energy and energy saving measures; * The relief of poverty; * To conduct research and development relating to the utilisation of energy conservation practices and renewable energy technologies and to use the research for the public benefit.   AAT applied to LEADER for funding to employ an Energy Local Development Officer to promote sustainable and efficient measures to communities in NPT. Some key goals for the Development Officer were the following: | | | | | |
| 1. **Project Outcomes as per application these are potential activities, not outcomes** | | | | **Was this achieved? What supporting evidence is there of achievement? If not achieved, why not?** | |
| 1 - 2 Energy Local Clubs based on community energy sites formed with 100 members per Club and £100 per year saved per household. | | | | We have installed 136kW on 6 new buildings with funding from 800 coop members as per our Share Register which is open for inspection by Welsh Govt/RDP. | |
| 3 LED lighting projects | | | | We have not taken this forward as all our capacity was taken up on the solar projects | |
| 1 electric vehicle Car Club and two new electric charge points. | | | | We applied to RDPNPT for funding to take forward Electric vehicle and chargepoints as Carmarthenshire Energy Coop had a similar project approved by their RDP. We could not get a response from Council officers and were not successful in securing RDP funding. We have included chargepoints in our Hwb y Gors project which is currently awaiting planning consent from NPT https://planningonline.npt.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QAZTPLKZJ1I00 | |
| 1 battery storage system linked to solar PV. | | | | Our design team are considering this for Hwb y Gors and are in discussions with WPD | |
| 1 renewable heat project. | | | | We have undertaken full feasibility funded by AAT for this at Hwb y Gors (former Cwmgors school) and secured £250k capital funding from Welsh Govt. Our RDP application for Hwb y Gors was turned down. The ground source heat pum is noted in the planning application which is currently being determined by NPT and details are described in the application https://planningonline.npt.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QAZTPLKZJ1I00 | |
| 20 vulnerable residents identified and helped to source funding for energy efficiency measures. | | | | We have not taken this forward as our time was taken up on the solar project and Hwb y Gors | |
| Development of Energy Centre to include the addition of some zero carbon homes to Passive House standard. | | | | We are developing Hwb y Gors as a low carbon centre with £250k Welsh Govrt funding. but this is not funded by RDP. It is currently awaiting planning determination by NPT | |
| 1. **Strategic Achievements:** (outline what the Project has achieved in terms of alignment with LEADER Themes and Priorities and any contribution to national strategies - 300 max) | | | | | |
| Community Energy and Climate Change: we’ve noted below what the postholders, Rosie Gillam and Alex Ferraro managed to achieve within their grant funding period which is 136kW of new solar capacity on community buildings in RDP villages. I’m coping in NPTCVS as we don’t feel that our work has been recognised by the RDP team and as vol sector reps, we want them to be aware of our feelings and we’re concerned about the delay in providing RDP funds to us. Externally, our work has been recognised and we have won national awards: Egni Co-op won Outstanding Renewable Energy Project in an award sponsored by Welsh Government in December 2019 (<https://egni.co-op/egni-co-op-earns-a-place-in-the-sun-at-wales-sustainability-academy-awards/>) & Awel Aman Tawe was recognised as Environmental Organisation of the Year in the Social Enterprise UK Awards – <https://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/winners-of-the-uk-social-enterprise-awards-2019/>  We consider we’ve achieved a lot in NPT in very difficult circumstances. I also need to point out that in effect, we are being required to cashflow RDP for one salaried post (Rosie Gillam and Alex Ferraro jobshare) for 6-9 months for around £8k.  As background, the application for a Development Worker followed several applications from AAT and discussions with the RDP team which didn’t result in any funding for us. We did not understand the reasons for repeated rejections which were very time consuming for our charity to make such applications. In the end and with their permission, we used another application from Carmarthenshire Energy Coop which was successful in increasing their staff capacity and used that as the basis of our application to RDPNPT. We made that clear in our presentation to the LAG and RDP staff that we had copied and pasted CEL’s application.  Just to be clear:  1, most of the RDP feasibility funding we secured has been paid to the Council for their legal costs as these are mainly council owned buildings. Due to this, AAT has had to fund other aspects of feasibility such as our own legal costs and structural surveys. Other Councils have not charged us legal fees.  2. in order to install these sites owned by NPT Council, we have had to agree that no compensation needs to be paid by the Council if the lease is terminated and the sites sold. Other Councils have not done this. This substantially increases the risk for us.  3. on all the RDP sites except for Cymmer Pool, we are providing free electricity. This means they don’t cover their install cost over the next 20 years and allow us to repay our loan.  in effect, these sites are being cross subsidised from our other installs elsewhere in Wales where we are selling the solar electricity to the sites at a 20% discount as compared to their existing mains supplier.  4. AAT has raised substantial match funding (£131k) to fund the solar panels – this is not being accounted for in your match funding assessment. Without it, nothing tangible would have happened apart from reports of potential. AAT has had to put its own funding into the projects in NPT to make them happen.  The list of activities noted above were indicative of the kind of projects that could be looked at. They are descributed by NPTRDP as ‘outcomes’ which they are not – the activity which was successful was the solar panels where we managed to raise an additional £131k (as per more detailed sheet attached) to fund the installation costs. We have also taken forward the Energy Centre project (Hwb y Gors) and builders are currently onsite. | | | | | |
| 1. **With regards to your comments at application stage, how have you managed this project in terms of sustainability**? (What plans have been put in place to maintain the project once it is completed? 400 words max) | | | | | |
| EOI States: “AAT will aim to fund this post with revenue from the wind farm and other contracts we have secured in the past such as Ynni Lleol, Resource Efficient Wales and Renew Wales”  AAT has put substantial match funding into the project to install the solar panels and fund the staff as noted above. The coop business model that AAT has developed has a 20 year business model associated with it. Electricity and carbon savings will continue for the 20 years, with maintenance costs built into our model. | | | | | |
| 1. **Project Beneficiaries:** | | | | | |
| We undertook feasibility studies including EPCs and grid applications; engaged with community organisations; and undertook lease discussions on each of the following sites:  Glyncorwg Ponds Mountan Bike Centre. New visitor centre (RDP)  Glyncorwg Ponds Mountan Bike Centre. Old visitor centre (RDP)  Cymmer library (RDP)  Cymmer Community Swimming Pool/Afan valley swimming pool (RDP)  Croeserw Community Enterprise Centre (RDP)  Croeserw social club (RDP)  Resolven RFC (RDP)  Resolven Building Blocks (RDP)  Cadoxton community centre (non-RDP)  Owain Glyndwr community centre, Neath (non-RDP)  Aberdulais Community Hall (RDP)  Twyn Teg (Coastal Housing)(non-RDP)  Twyn Teg: Awel (non-RDP)  Ysbryd y Môr, Aberavon (non-RDP)  Melincryddan Advice centre, Neath (non-RDP)  Cwmgors old school (RDP)  Friends and neighbours Centre (FAN), Neath (non-RDP)  Crynant community hall (RDP)  Cwmllynfell Millenium Hall (RDP)  Cwmgors Rugby Club (RDP)  NPTCVS (non-RDP)   1. We raised £131,940 to fund the cost of the solar panels on the following sites. this figure does not include Glynneath, Dove, Seven Sisters and AAT which were installed in 2014 but we carried out electrical checks and maintenance on these sites in 2019-20. The 6 installs in NPT total 136kW. We understand that these 6 sites are the only solar installs in Wales supported by the RDP programme.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Site** | **Commissioned Date** |  | **Total Array Capacity kW** | **Cost (£)** | **Est. Annual Generation (kWh)** | **Est. Carbon Savings (kC02/year)** | | Cymer Library | 21/02/20 | RDP | 12 | 12,651 | 8,500 | 1981 | | Cwmgors Old School | 28/08/19 | RDP | 30 | 29,414 | 25,500 | 5942 | | Cwmgors Rugby Club | 02/03/20 | RDP | 33 | 27,928 | 26,852 | 6257 | | Crynant Community Hall | 27/11/19 | RDP | 4 | 5,202 | 3,400 | 792 | | Cwmllynfell Millennium Hall | 14/02/20 | RDP | 11 | 12,624 | 8,500 | 1981 | | Glynneath Training Centre | 2014 | RDP | 12 |  |  |  | | Dove Workshops | 2014 | RDP | 21 |  |  |  | | Seven Sisters Community Centre | 2015 | RDP | 30 |  |  |  | | Awel Aman Tawe | 2014 | RDP | 4 |  |  |  | | Cymmer Swimming Pool | Ongoing | RDP | 50 | 48,000 | 42,500 | 9903 | | | | | | |
| 1. **Cross Cutting Themes:** If relevant, briefly describe how your project contributed to the following themes: | | | | | |
| **Equal Opportunities:** | | | | | |
| We have an EO policy and recruited Rosie and Alex according to that process | | | | | |
| **Sustainable Development including Economic, Environmental and Social** | | | | | |
| Solar PV generating will provide clean electricity to building owners and the grid. It will help local community groups by reducing their electricity bills and retain money within the local economy;  It will promote the use, and awareness of the need, of renewable energy to the building users and the general public.  This project demonstrates a new financial model which will make it viable to install solar PV.  The sites used include: community halls, sports centres, and buildings used for youth clubs, among others. | | | | | |
| **Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion** | | | | | |
| Income from the project will be used to fund community projects tackling poverty and exclusion. Community organisations for which we are installing solar will benefit from cheaper electricity. | | | | | |
| 1. **Project Performance – Financial & Indicator Achievements:** (details performance against approved timescales and budget expectations. Include the reasons for all variances) | | | | | |
| 1. Performance indicator achievement against targets approved:Please complete final position | | | | | |
| **PI Reference** | **Approved Target** | **Total Achieved** | **Justification for underachievement** | | **How has achievement been evidenced** |
| R:24 | **Jobs Created** | | | | |
| 1 | 1 |  | | payslips |
| LD.CL.004 | **Number of pilot activities undertaken/supported** | | | | |
| 2 | **0** | No evidence received | |  |
| LD.CL.005 | **Number of community hubs created** | | | | |
| 1 | **0** | Evidence provided by applicant does not meet Welsh Government PI criteria | | Planning application |
| LD.C.L008 | **Number of participants supported** | | | | |
| 30 | **128** |  | | Signatures gathered by RDP team at educational events |
| NPT01 | **Number of communities engaged** | | | | |
| 6 | **0** | Evidence provided by applicant does not meet Welsh Government PI criteria | | leases |
| NPT03 | **Number of young people participating in the project** | | | | |
| **20** | **100** |  | | Signatures gathered by RDP team at educational events |
| NPT04 | **Number of women participating in the project** | | | | |
| **10** | **15** |  | | Signatures gathered by RDP team at educational events |
| NPT05 | **Number of Welsh speakers participating in the project** | | | | |
| **5** | **29** |  | | Signatures gathered by RDP team at educational events |

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| NPT06 | **Number of older people participating in the project** | | | | | | | |
| **10** | | **17** | |  | | | Signatures gathered by RDP team at educational events |
| NPT08 | **Number of projects aimed at environmental enhancements** | | | | | | | |
| **1** | | **1** | |  | | | Planning application and solar installs. photos on ww.egni.coop |
| *Admin Body: An Environmental statement was required as evidence of this PI, which has been completed* | | | |
| 1. **Pilot Activities/Projects:** please forward you plan to the RDP Team, outlining all of the stages and activities, including the timelines, as an addendum to this report. This should be available to promote externally and will be linked to the Wales Rural Network Website. Please tick one of the following:   Not applicable for this project 🞎 Y Forwarded to RDP Team 🞎 | | | | | | | | |
| 1. **Feasibility Studies:**  please forward your final report to the RDP Team. This should be available to promote externally and will be linked to the Wales Rural Network Website. Please tick one of the following:     Not applicable for this project 🞎 Y Forwarded to RDP Team 🞎 | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Project closure financial position will be taken from the information supplied in your final claim. Please also provide high level financial performance detail in the following table: | | | | | | | | |
| **High Level Performance Details:** | | | | | | | | |
| **Timescales** | | **Original Approved** | | | | **Latest Approved** | **Final Outturn** | |
| **From** | | **To** | | As agreed – June 2020 (Extension request received in July 2020 - refused by LAG 8.9.20) | June 2020 | |
| June 2018 | | June 2020 | |
| **Summary of Financial Performance** | | | | | | | | |
|  | | **Original Approved** | | | | **Latest Approved** | **Final Outturn** | |
|  | | **Revenue £** | | | | **Revenue £** | **Revenue £** | |
| **Total Project Costs** | | 83,628.00 | | | | - | 83,628 | |
| **RDP Funding** | | 66,870 | | | | - | 66,870 | |
| **Levered Funding** | | 16,758 | | | |  | 16,758 | |
|  | | **Original Approved** | | | | **Latest Approved** | **Final Outturn** | |
| **Intervention Rates** | | **RDP**  80% | | | | - | 80% | |
| **Levered** 20% | | | | - | 20% | |
|  | | **Cost Heading** | | | | **Justification for under/overspend** | | |
| **Justification for**  **Under/overspend by**  **Cost Heading** | |  | | | |  | | |

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| 1. **Conclusion:** Please provide a summary on the Project’s performance, identifying any key issues that need to be addressed: |
| 1. **Summary**   We never felt the project was understood by the Council and has been hugely timeconsuming for our charity to engage with. |
| 1. **Key Issues** |
| 1. **What went well?**   Our work on the ground |
| 1. **What didn’t go well?**   Relationship with NPTRDP |
| 1. **What could have been done differently?**   This sort of funding should be managed by NPTCVS not the council. We have made this point to the evaluation team and are concerned that we have been prevented from accessing further funding from RDP because of this. |

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| 1. **Handover contact details**: For post project monitoring and evaluation activities, Welsh Government will require contact details of staff who may be able to provide assistance. |
| Name: Dan McCallum Designation: Manager  Email: dan@awel.coop Telephone: 01639830870  Website address: www.egni.coop  Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AwelAmanTawe/about> |
| **Document Retention Procedures:**Documents (which includes all evidence relating to your project) must be retained in a suitable format for a period of 10 years following the end of the current LEADER programme – this means at least until 2031. |

**Signed:**  **Date: 8/1/2021**

**(Project Lead)**

**Signed: Date:**

**(RDP Manager – Lead Body)**

For Lead Body Completion:

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| **Post Project Activities by the Local Partnerships and Local Action Group:**  Define what (if any) activities need to be undertaken or considered by the Lead Body after the project has been closed include any post project follow up actions which may need to be undertaken following project closure:   * It is important to note that RDP is a separate entity to other departments in NPTC with no involvement or control over established processes e.g. legal fee charges. * Lead Body has not been able to establish or verify some of the PIs claimed by the Project Lead in this report. * This PCR appears to be reporting on the Egni Rural Project, also funded by RDP? * The applicant has stated, at Point 2 on this Project Closure Report, that Project Outcomes as Per Application “*are potential activities, not outcomes*” * This project exceeded/overachieved against many of the agreed PIs, however did not fulfil some. It is felt that this project has partially achieved the outcomes set out in the original application. The project has accomplished many outcomes; however, the team feels that the outcomes achieved are inconsistent with original application. The team has attempted to support the applicant to obtain detailed evidence e.g. participants PI’s were collated by an RDP officer. Obtaining the evidence required has resulted in tension between the applicant’s perception of the projects achievement and dissatisfaction of the teams’ involvement when attempting to gain information to report against this specific application. * Any further projects approved for this organisation will require all evidence towards PIs to be sanctioned by the RDP Manager and that evidence will need to be in strict accordance with Welsh Government and Regenerate NPT Guidelines. Project outcomes and objectives will need to be in accordance with original application as agreed and approved by the LAG, unless permission to deviate from that original application is approved by the LAG. Actual outcomes and PIs, against original application, will need to be reported on throughout the lifetime of the project and at Project Closure.   N Bray  **RDP Manager – Lead Body** |