



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: ATISN 10533

Date: 12 July 2016

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN reference 10533

Thank you for your request which was received by the Welsh Government on 29 June 2016. You asked for the following information:

“the latest policies in place pertinent to Bridgend Country Borough Council that counteract the demise of our most precious (commercial property resources); not forsaking the visual impact to our well needed visitors”.

The Welsh Government's Vibrant and Viable Places regeneration framework was launched in 2013

The flagship regeneration programme within the framework is the **VVP Targeted Regeneration Investment** capital programme. Eleven local authorities are sharing over £100 million of capital funding for regeneration schemes, with the funding available from 2014 to 2017. The funding is being invested in town centres, coastal communities and Communities First areas on a range of projects and programmes. The eleven recipient towns and settlement areas successful in securing funding as part of the 2014-17 period being: Holyhead, Merthyr Tydfil, Newport, Colwyn Bay, Port Talbot, Wrexham, Swansea, Pontypool/Cwmbran, Bridgend, Deeside and Pontypridd.

A **Business Improvement District** is a mechanism for a business community to generate finance to assist in supporting local economic development and regeneration. Up to £25,000 can be accessed by each area to support feasibility studies and the full process leading up to ballot. The Welsh Government is supporting 10 areas: Aberystwyth, Abergavenny, Bridgend, Llanelli, Neath, Pant & Merthyr Industrial Estates, Pontypridd, Caernarfon, Bangor, and Colwyn Bay. BIDs traditionally play a role in supporting bringing empty premises back into use. The ballot result in Bridgend is expected in August.

Through the **Town Centre Loans Scheme**, £10 million has been allocated to 11 local authorities with the aim of bringing empty sites and premises back into viable use, supporting job creation and economic growth and increasing the supply of housing and improving housing quality. The funding can be recycled a number of times before it needs to be repaid to the Welsh Government in 15



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years. The Welsh Government is working with the remaining LAs in 2016/17 with a view to sharing a further £10m and Bridgend is within this consideration.

<http://gov.wales/topics/housing-and-regeneration/regeneration/vibrant-and-viable-places/?lang=en>

Bridgend County Borough Council's asset handling policies are a matter for the Council. I have attached a link to the Council's Asset Management website page, which includes details on their current Asset Management Plan and associated policies.

<http://www1.bridgend.gov.uk/services/property/asset-management.aspx>;

Welsh Government and UK Government offer guidance on property asset management to the public sector and resources can be found on our internet site at the following links

<http://gov.wales/topics/improving-services/assets-cymru/?skip=1&lang=cy>
<http://gov.wales/topics/improving-services/assets-cymru/?lang=en>

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or

Email: FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely