On a visit to Port Talbot, Lesley Griffiths AM saw first-hand the progress made in the first year of the town’s Vibrant and Viable Places (VVP) Programme which has received £10.1m funding from the Welsh Government.

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“The Vibrant and Viable Places programme is proving to be a game-changer for Port Talbot”

LESLEY GRIFFITHS AM

“‘It will bring about a genuine transformation of the town’”

CLLR. ALI THOMAS OBE

The £30m regeneration programme in Port Talbot will deliver:

- a transformed town centre
- 140 new homes
- 350 improved residential homes
- 2,000m² of new business space

For further information contact:
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Neath Port Talbot

www.npt.gov.uk/places
Grŵp Gwalia have submitted a planning application to Neath Port Talbot Council to redevelop the former Port Talbot Police Station. The proposal is for the existing building to be demolished and a new three storey building constructed. The proposals will see 30 new apartments on two upper floors and around 600sq.m of new commercial space on the ground floor. The site is in a key location in Port Talbot town centre, in close proximity to Port Talbot Parkway Station and Port Talbot’s Harbourside, already home to HM Justice Centre and Port Talbot’s first R&D Village, providing business space and research facilities to leading global manufacturers TWI UK Ltd. and Tata Steel. The 15 month building contract is expected to commence early in 2016.

For further information contact: Lindsey Williams 01639 686411 a.l.williams@npt.gov.uk

Homes above Shops

The Homes above Shops project aims to refurbish underused upper floors of commercial buildings in the town centre and to convert them into new homes. The project is being led by Grŵp Gwalia in partnership with Neath Port Talbot Council and the owners of the commercial properties. Number 6 Station Road was recently purchased by the Council and a planning application has been submitted to convert the upper floors into four flats with refurbished commercial use on the ground floor. Several other schemes are also being developed nearby.

For further information contact: Lindsey Williams 01639 686411 a.l.williams@npt.gov.uk
Plans unveiled for Port Talbot’s Integrated Transport Hub

Port Talbot Parkway Station is currently undergoing a £11.3m redevelopment to provide a new modern station.

The Transport Hub right next to the train station will improve access to employment and residential areas in and around the town and to valleys communities.

It will create a public space to complement the redeveloped Port Talbot Parkway station and existing and new buildings in this key town centre location.

At the station, the new bridge was lifted into place recently, which marked a significant step in Port Talbot Parkway’s redevelopment.

Network Rail are aiming for the footbridge to be open by the end of December with full project completion early in 2016.

Work starts on new Employability Centre

Port Talbot based CJ Construction is on site to turn the old Aberavon fire station building into a Community Employability Centre to help local people into jobs.

The Centre will be managed by NSA Afan to provide a range of employment services and community facilities, including pre-employment courses, mentoring and support services and vocational workshops. There will also be office space for rent, hot desking facilities and spaces for use by community groups.

This project presents a real opportunity to not only bring a derelict but prominent building back into use, but to develop a regeneration project which will provide services to people within their own community.

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For further information contact:
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First year success for Neighbourhood Renewal Programme

Over 130 homes in Port Talbot are now more energy efficient thanks to the Council’s Neighbourhood Renewal Programme. During the three year programme over 300 homes will be targeted for energy efficiency improvements such as external wall insulation and render system.

There is also some funding for new energy efficient boilers and loft insulation, and some properties in the Port Talbot town area could also benefit from additional renovation works not only making them more energy efficient but also more secure and weather proof.

Funding has now been secured for the second year of works from a number of sources, including the Welsh Government’s Vibrant and Viable Places Programme and the Arbed project. The Council was also successful in securing funding from Npower under the ECO (the Energy Companies Obligation) scheme to support this work.

Phase 2 of the renewal programme has already started on site with the aim of improving another 150 homes over the next few months.

Vibrant and Viable Places

The interest free loans of up to £25,000 are offered to eligible home owners to improve the condition of their property and make them safer and more energy efficient.

To find out more, please contact the Housing Renewal Team on 01639 763288 or email hras@npt.gov.uk

Local pupils explore history and archaeology at Green Park

After remains of the old Afan tin plate works were found during site preparations at Green Park in Port Talbot, local pupils were invited along to find out more about the history of the site.

The pupils from St Joseph’s Infant School were invited by Coastal Housing Group to visit the site, just across the road from the school, to meet with Archaeologists and learn about archaeology along with the history of the old tin plate works.

The pupils met with Archaeologist John Cranford, who is part of the team who were called in to excavate the site and record the find for future generations.

Clare Watkins, Coastal housing’s Employability and Skills Manager, said “This was a great opportunity for the pupils to come and explore the history and archaeology of the Green Park site.

“The feedback from the children was especially pleasing. They really enjoyed their visit; they listened intently and asked lots of interesting questions, which John the archaeologist was happy to answer.

Cllr. Ali Thomas OBE said: “Whilst we’re building for the future, it is also important to remember and record our past. It was an ideal opportunity for the children to witness the archaeological dig at close quarters, and learn more about our Industrial Heritage.”

For further information contact: Lindsay Williams 01639 686411 a.l.williams@npt.gov.uk