

Press release

RWE sell Aberthaw site to The Cardiff Capital Region for green innovation project

- **Former coal site to be transformed into Green innovation hub**
- **Transformation of the former RWE site by CCR is aligned to RWE's strategy**

Swindon, 05 March 2022

Today marks an important day in the former 1500MW Aberthaw coal fired power station's history as The Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) has committed to purchase the site for £8m to develop and reposition it as an exemplar for green energy production in the region.

Aberthaw Power Station closed in 2020 after almost 50 years of operations. The site played a critical role in the UK's power generation mix since it began operations in 1971, establishing strong links with the community and contributing millions of pounds to the local economy. The decision to close the station contributed to the company's goal to reduce its CO2 emissions with a target of net zero emissions by 2040.

Following approval to purchase from the CCR's Regional Cabinet, CCR plans to remediate, redevelop and reposition the site, maximising its long-term development potential to drive sustainable, clean economic growth across the South-East Wales region.

The proposed Master Plan for the redevelopment of the Aberthaw site, will seek to:

- Support the production of renewable and green energy projects
- Provide an accompanying battery storage facility to support the green energy projects
- Produce a zero-carbon manufacturing cluster which will include green hydrogen production facilities
- Provide a green energy innovation centre to promote innovation, growth, knowledge and community interaction with the zero-carbon future of Wales
- Be responsible for the development and maintenance of a bio-diverse ecology park which will include a visitor centre, providing amenities to the local community
- Create the correct conditions to support industrial de-carbonisation and future gigaplant facilities.



RWE is at the forefront of green innovation and is committed to investing £15 billion in the UK in green energy projects by 2030. This sale reaffirms RWE's transition from fossil fuel generator to that of one of the world's leading renewable generators.

Tom Glover, UK Country Chair, RWE, commented on the sale: "The Aberthaw Power Station site has been at the industrial heart of Wales for over 50 years. It played an invaluable role helping to secure the energy supplies across the UK electricity system and we are very proud of everyone who worked at the site and would like to thank them and the local community for all of their support.

"We are incredibly pleased that Cardiff Capital Region have a future vision of a green and renewable transformation of the site which very much mirrors RWE's transformation into Wales' largest renewable generator and our ambition for a net zero generation fleet. We want to wish Cardiff Capital Region every success in this innovative project".

Economy Minister Vaughan Gething MS said: "We are pleased to see Cardiff Capital Region play a leading role in a project designed to deliver new jobs in a stronger, greener regional economy. The proposed plan for Aberthaw is positive news which fits well with our commitment to develop tidal lagoon projects and support ideas that can help Wales become a world centre for emerging tidal technologies. The Welsh Government's support for City Deals is integral to our vision to developing stronger economic regions in a Team Wales recovery."

Kellie Beirne, Director for the CCR City Deal said: "The acquisition of the Aberthaw Power Station site is a significant opportunity for the Cardiff Capital Region to take ownership of a major strategic site, which will support green and clean economic growth, innovation, and job creation within a key industry of the future – demonstrating compatibility of climate and economic aims."

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RWE

RWE is leading the way to a green energy world. With an extensive investment and growth strategy, the company will expand its powerful, green generation capacity to 50 gigawatts internationally by 2030. RWE is investing €50 billion gross for this purpose in this decade. The portfolio is based on offshore and onshore wind, solar, hydrogen, batteries, biomass and gas. RWE Supply & Trading provides tailored energy solutions for large customers. RWE has locations in the attractive markets of Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region. The company is responsibly phasing out nuclear energy and coal. Government-mandated phaseout roadmaps have been defined for both of these energy sources. RWE employs around 19,000 people worldwide and has a clear target: to get to net zero by 2040. On its way there, the company has set itself ambitious targets for all activities that cause greenhouse gas emissions. The Science Based Targets initiative has confirmed that these emission reduction targets are in line with the Paris Agreement. Very much in the spirit of the company's purpose: Our energy for a sustainable life.

About CCR

The Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) represents the 10 Local Authorities making up South East Wales. These comprise Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen, and Vale of Glamorgan. The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCDD), which commenced in 2016, is a £1.2bn programme agreed between, and funded by, the UK Government, the Welsh Government and the ten local authorities in South East Wales to bring about significant economic growth in the region through investment, upskilling, and improved physical and digital connectivity. The long-term ambition is to increase GVA, create 25,000 high skill jobs and leverage an additional £4bn of investment.

German General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

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