

Executive Board Member Leader
2nd September 2020

Executive Board Member:	Portfolio:	
Cllr.Emlyn Dole	Leader (Economic Development)	
Targeted Regeneration Investment Town Centre Recovery Fund		
Recommendations / key decisions required:		
<div>1. To accept Welsh Governments offer to top slice £75k of TRI funding allocation to deliver Recovery Fund in Primary Town centres</div> <div>2. To agree process and pro-formas to be utilised for delivery of fund as proposed</div> <div>3. To agree preferred routes for delivery</div> <div>4. To allow applicants to proceed at their risk with project delivery whilst formal approvals sought</div> <div>5. That in the event of applications being required to be submitted directly by Carmarthenshire County Council agreeing to fund the required capital allocation in line with required intervention rate. Funding to be made available from Transformation Strategic Project Fund.</div>		
Reasons:		
To support the recovery of Primary Town Centre economy post Covid 19 Lockdown		
Directorate: Chief Executives Name of Head of Service: Jason Jones	Designation Head of regeneration	Tel No. 01267 242336
Report Author: Mike Bull	E Mail Address: MABull@carmarthenshire.gov.uk JaJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk	

Declaration of Personal Interest (if any):

None

Dispensation Granted to Make Decision (if any):**DECISION MADE:**

Signed: _____ DATE: _____

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

The following section will be completed by the Democratic Services Officer in attendance at the meeting

Recommendation of Officer adopted	YES / NO
Recommendation of the Officer was adopted subject to the amendment(s) and reason(s) specified:	
Reason(s) why the Officer's recommendation was not adopted:	

Executive Board Member Leader (Economic Development)

2nd September 2020

Targeted Regeneration Investment Town Centre Recovery Fund

Introduction

Following Welsh Government's lifting of restrictions with regards to non-essential retail and leisure and hospitality businesses, a number of town centre based businesses across the county are facing the challenges of reopening and operating businesses within the limitations of revised government guidelines.

To support those primary town centre-based businesses across Carmarthenshire the Economic development team have been lobbying key external funders for support to assist with restart and recovery and has been advised that Welsh Government have approved a regional request from South West Wales Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) group via lead body partner (Swansea) to allow the top slicing of TRI allocations for use in supporting town centre recovery. As part of that request Carmarthenshire has been advised that £75k funding can be top sliced to support each its 3 primary town centres (notional allocation of £25k per town).

Process

Guidelines and an application form for the fund have been developed and approved in conjunction with lead partner and Welsh Government. (guidance attached)

The key criteria is as follows:

Funding available to support initiatives in the following targeted towns:

- Llanelli
- Ammanford
- Carmarthen

Capital projects Only

Essential stakeholder engagement

Applications can be considered from the following:

- Local authority (direct delivery)
- BIDS / Town Councils
- Third party businesses

Funding is to be awarded at a maximum intervention rate of 80% in the case of BIDs / Town Council's and Third parties. Local authority intervention rates will need to be agreed with Welsh government on a case by case basis.

It is proposed that any application and award will have to follow the standard procedures already in place for the TRI programme which will involve:

Submission of application and supporting documentation

Assessment by Economic Development Officer / Co-ordinator

Assessment by Economic development funding panel

Political approval (EBM leader)

Ratification Lead Partner

Issue of Offer letter

Considerations

From discussions with the lead partner it has been identified that each local authority can consider whether they wish to deliver directly themselves, award directly to businesses or whether they wish to support Town Centre Organisations such as BID Groups and or Town Council to produce co-ordinated support packages. Having discussed with stakeholders in respective towns each delivery option has its own advantages and disadvantages, however it is felt that to achieve the best value for money in relation to the available grant whilst ensuring local ownership/buy in/local management, timely delivery and providing the town with a co-ordinated intervention the preferred routes for delivery are as follows:

Carmarthen – Joint application developed between Carmarthen Town Council and Carmarthen BID

Llanelli – Joint application developed between Llanelli Town Council and Llanelli BID

Ammanford – Direct delivery application developed by Carmarthenshire County Council in conjunction with Ammanford town Council and task-force and submitted by either Carmarthenshire County Council or a combination of Carmarthenshire County Council and Ammanford town Council

Due to urgency of delivery post approval at Economic panel stage consideration needs to be given to whether or not to allow applicants at risk to proceed with project delivery whilst formal political approvals are sought.

Recommendations

6. To accept Welsh Governments offer to top slice £75k of TRI funding allocation to deliver Recovery Fund in Primary Town centres
7. To agree process and pro-formas to be utilised for delivery of fund as proposed
8. To agree preferred routes for delivery
9. To allow applicants to proceed at their risk with project delivery whilst formal approvals sought
10. That in the event of applications being required to be submitted directly by Carmarthenshire County Council agreeing to fund the required capital allocation in line with required intervention rate. Funding to be made available from Transformation Strategic Project Fund.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?	YES
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed:

Head of

Policy and Crime & Disorder	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Organisational Development	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	YES	NONE	None	NONE	None

2. Legal

TRI Offer letters have been developed previously in conjunction with CCC legal. There may need to be assistance where applications are for projects where licences are required.

3. Finance

In respect of the Ammanford application Capital finance may be required to fund required applicant intervention rate (maximum £6,250). This funding will be provided from Transformation Strategy Project Fund capital allocation if required.

6. Physical Assets

Support and assistance of the property team may be required where applications require licences to be agreed where projects are to be situated on Council land.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: **Head of**

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

1. Scrutiny Committee

None

2. Local Member(s)

Local members will be fully engaged via respective delivery groups in each town centre

3. Community / Town Council

Stakeholder discussions have taken place with Carmarthen Town Council, Llanelli Town Council and Ammanford town Council

4. Relevant Partners

Stakeholder discussions have taken place with Carmarthen and Llanelli BID and members of Ammanford task Force

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Scheme application Form	To be completed	To be completed (Delete as applicable)
Scheme Guidance Form	To be completed	To be completed (Delete as applicable)
To be completed	To be completed	To be completed (Delete as applicable)