

DATE : 25 MARCH 2024

Cabinet Member: Cllr. Ann Davies	Portfolio: Cabinet member for Rural Affairs, Community Cohesion and Planning Policy	
Subject: WG Allotment Support Grant		
Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- To retrospectively approve applications submitted for consideration as part of the Welsh Government 2024/25 Allotment Support Fund.- To agree to the Bureau undertaking the administrative role in line with the Terms & Conditions of the grant.		
Recommendations / key decisions required: <p>To approve applications submitted as part of the Allotment Support Fund and associated projects.</p>		
Reasons: <p>To increase the availability of good quality allotment plots within Carmarthenshire.</p>		
Directorate Name of Head of Service: Jason Jones Report Author: Rhian Phillips	Designations: Head of Regeneration, Policy and Digital Economic Development Area Manager	Tel: 01267 242367 JaJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk Tel: 01267 242356 mrphillips@@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Declaration of Personal Interest (if any):

None

Dispensation Granted to Make Decision (if any):

N/A

(If the answer is yes exact details are to be provided below:)

DECISION MADE:

Signed: _____ DATE: _____
CABINET 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 SUMMARY

MEETING 25.03.2024

WG Allotment Support Grant

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

Carmarthenshire County Council has been allocated £34,308 by Welsh Government via the Allotment Support Grant to increase the availability of good quality allotment plots across Carmarthenshire. The funding relates to activity within 24/25 financial year.

The fund will be used in a variety of ways to help boost the capacity of the organisations. This includes -

- Creation of new plots
- Bringing derelict plots back into use
- Improving accessibility
- Improving site services
- Improving site security
- Improving site management
- Increase recycling / renewability
- Increase biodiversity / pollinators

The Bureau has subsequently made contact with Town & Community Councils and Allotment groups operating within Carmarthenshire to establish the level of need. Based on this information, each group was asked to provide a list of works and outputs that would increase the availability of good quality allotments plots with works to be completed by March 2025. The process adopted is the same as for previous years as agreed by Cabinet Member.

Subsequently 6 projects were submitted and assessed by the Bureau team, which then formed the 'Work Plan 24/25' that was submitted to Welsh Government for approval by the deadline of 31st December 2023. All of the 6 applications received are being presented for approval. Please refer to Annex A for details in relation to the projects. These have subsequently been approved by Welsh Government.

The fund will be administered by the Authority's Bureau team and any variations to the funding will be managed by the team.

The report therefore seeks retrospective approval to proceed with the 6 projects identified at Annex A.

OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND THEIR PROS AND CONS

There are no other options. The funding has been allocated to Carmarthenshire to increase the availability of good quality allotment plots across Carmarthenshire.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

NO
Appex A attached

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: Jason Jones

Head of Regeneration, Policy and Digital

Policy and Crime & Disorder	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Organisational Development	Physical Assets	Bio-diversity & Climate Change
YES	YES	YES	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	YES

1. Policy

The funding will help deliver against some of the key aspirations of the County's Wellbeing plan by helping to sustain and enhance natural & built spaces to encourage healthy living for residents & visitors.

The fund will also support the objectives of the Wellbeing & Future Generations Act by encouraging social resilience and community well-being through the development and creation of green spaces.

2. Legal

Successful applicants will be required to sign up to a Funding agreement which will set out the Terms and Conditions of the grant.

3. Finance

A total budget of £34,308 capital funding has been awarded via the Welsh Government Allotment Support Grant for 24/25 financial year. The fund will cover 100% of the costs, as no match funding is required.

The funding will be distributed to Third Parties in line with the Authority's grant procedure rules.

The Funding relates to 2024/2025 and must be fully claimed by March 2025.

The Authority will be reimbursed by Welsh Government.

4. Risk Management

Risks will be managed on an on-going basis through regular dialogue and monitoring between the Bureau and third-party applicants.

5. Biodiversity and Climate Change

The funding will support the development of local food growing thus reducing food miles and adding to local biodiversity which will have a positive impact on Climate Change in line with the Council's declaration of a Climate Change emergency.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Jason Jones

Head of Regeneration, Policy and Digital.

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

1. Scrutiny Committee

N/A

2. Local Member(s)

Local Members have been consulted and are supportive of the proposals.

3. Community / Town Council

Relevant T&CC contacted who either lease or sublease allotments, to promote the opportunity to access the WG Allotment support grant.

4. Relevant Partners

N/A

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:

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Allotment Support Grant	WG AF 2024/2025	County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP