

# Cabinet Meeting

## 15 April 2024

### SUBJECT: 10 Towns Programme Capital Fund – Llanybydder

#### Purpose:

To consider an application submitted by the Old School Llanybydder as part of the 10 Towns programme. The aim of the 10 towns programme is to provide designated rural market towns across the County the opportunity of economic growth and sustainability.

#### Recommendations / key decisions required:

- To approve an application submitted by the Old School Community Centre (Charity) in Llanybydder as part of the 10 Towns programme on behalf of the economic growth plan team established in the town.

#### Reasons:

To support the opportunities identified as part of extensive community consultation and discussion with key stakeholders that will provide economic and social benefits to Llanybydder.

The project is seeking funding from both the Shared Prosperity Fund via the Rural Anchor and via the Authority's Ten Towns capital fund. In line with Cabinet decision on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023, this report is being presented to Cabinet due to the fact that the overall request for funding is in excess of £100k.

Cabinet Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

#### CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. Ann Davies - Rural Affairs & Planning Policy (Ten Towns programme portfolio)  
Cllr Hazel Evans – Regeneration, Leisure, Culture and Tourism (Shared Prosperity Fund portfolio)

#### Directorate: Name of Head of Service:

Jason Jones

**Report Author:**  
Mared Pemberton

#### Designations:

Head of Regeneration,  
Policy and Digital

Rural Programmes Co-ordinator

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**SUBJECT: 10 Towns Programme Capital Fund - Llanybydder**

## 1. SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

### Background

The aim of the 10 Towns Programme is to increase the resilience and future growth of Carmarthenshire's rural market towns and their surrounding areas.

The Authority has committed £1m capital funding to support the respective towns to take forward some of the capital aspirations identified within their economic growth plans. This was approved by Executive Board on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021. Subsequently, further funding has been secured via the Shared Prosperity Fund Rural Anchor Programme to support the realisation of the town's priority projects.

Llanybydder Old School Community Centre, which is a charity responsible for the Old school in the town, has agreed to act as the lead body on behalf of the economic growth plan team which has been established within the town.

### Application for Consideration:

**Applicant:** Llanybydder Old School Community Centre  
**Project Name:** Redevelopment of Old school at Llanybydder

**Total project costs:** **£194,294**

### Grant request:

SPF Ten Towns Fund: £74,294  
Ten Towns Capital Fund (Core): £100,000  
**Total grant requested:** **£174,294**

### Match funding source and status:

Targeted Finance Fund (CCC) to be considered by Cabinet  
Member for Regeneration, Leisure and Tourism on 11 March 2024 **£20,000**

## Project Summary

The application has been submitted by the Old School Community Centre which is a charity located in Llanbydder. The re-development of the community centre has been identified as a priority project in the town's economic growth plan as well as by the economic growth plan team. Funding is being sought to undertake refurbishment and repurposing of existing building which is currently in a state of disrepair.

The project will create a centre that supports both the economic growth and social needs of the town through the development of:

- A shared working space for small businesses to hire and utilise
- A learning & personal development hub
- Events facility hire
- Café

These elements will complement the existing community gym already operating from the centre which provides an income stream to ensure its sustainability.

The Old School Community Centre is an existing charity which is in the process of being registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which will enable the organisation to employ staff and increase their revenue streams. Once incorporated, the organisation will appoint a centre manager for 12 months whose role will be to manage the overall project during the construction phase and to develop a programme of activity aligned with the results gained from several community consultations.

The soon to be appointed officer, which is funded via the Shared Prosperity Fund, will focus on developing partnerships and a calendar of activity for when the capital works are completed.

Their role will include:

- Marketing and promotion of space for wellbeing practitioners to hold community classes
- Development of business surgeries
- Securing tenants for cafe

The post will be sustained by income generated from the activities that will be undertaken at the centre.

### Outputs to be achieved:

M2 redeveloped	466m2
Vacant units/buildings brought back into commercial use	1
No of facilities created/improved	1
No of businesses directly/indirectly supported	4 businesses directly supported 5 businesses indirectly supported
No of jobs created	2 (centre manager and café operator)
Increase in footfall	Annual visits - 5000

**Timeline:**

The programme of works is scheduled to take place over 7 months with the project requiring to be completed by December 2024.

**Recommendation:**

To approve a grant request of £100,000 from the Authority's 10 Towns Capital Fund and £74,294 from the Shared Prosperity Fund as part of the Rural Anchor programme.

**OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE**

There are no alternative funding sources available for this project. Without Shared Prosperity Fund investment and Core funding this project, which has been identified as a priority by the Llanybydder Growth Plan Team, would not proceed.

<b>DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?</b>	<b>NO</b>
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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: Jason Jones

Head of Regeneration, Digital and Policy

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio-diversity & Climate Change
<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>

## 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The 10 towns programme provides an opportunity for rural market towns to create new economic benefit and opportunities developed as a recommendation from the Moving Rural Carmarthenshire Forward Plan.

The above is aligned with the county's existing strategies and plans including the Local Investment Plan for Carmarthenshire, Economic Recovery Plan, Local Innovation Strategy, Wellbeing Assessment, and the South-West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan and Corporate Strategy.

The project will also deliver against the Authority's Vision Statement which identifies the Ten Towns initiative as a key priority in 'Making our communities and environment, healthy, safe and prosperous' places to live.

The Programme will support the objectives of the Wellbeing & Future Generations Act by targeting interventions which aim to ensure that the Welsh speaking communities of the County remain vibrant and sustainable communities.

## **2. Legal**

Terms and Conditions will be issued to the applicant which have been verified by the Corporate legal team and will be executed as a deed.

## **3. Finance**

Funding has been secured from the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund as part of the Rural Anchor as well as via the Authority's Ten Towns capital fund.

## **5. Risk Management Issues**

A programme level risk management process will be followed to ensure that risk is assessed and managed at all levels.

A key risk is the short delivery timeframe of SPF with all 3<sup>rd</sup> party grants required to be financially completed by the end of December 2024.

At a project level, a risk register will be maintained together with appropriate mitigation measures. The Rural Anchor Team who are responsible for administering both named funds will closely monitor progress of the project individual awards. Where a lack of progress is being made, applicants will need to provide clarification as to how they will be able to deliver against the original approved amount.

## **8. Biodiversity and Climate Change**

The project will ensure sustainable practices are adopted when carrying out the works and in the administration of the building.

# CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Jason Jones

Head of Regeneration, Digital and Policy

## 1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination

NA

## 2. Local Member(s)

Cllr Denise Owen has been consulted on an on-going basis as part of the growth plan team meetings and is supportive of the project. Cllr Owen is the Chair of the 10 towns growth team.

## 3. Community / Town Council

On-going consultation with the relevant Community Council in the development of the proposals as a member of the town's growth plan team.

## 4. Relevant Partners

Members of the established growth plan team prioritised the project which consists of key stakeholders from public, private and third sector. Further community consultation undertaken with both businesses and local organisations highlighted support for the proposals.

## 5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

n/a

## CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED

**YES** - Cllr. Ann Davies - Rural Affairs & Planning Policy (Ten Towns programme portfolio) and Cllr Hazel Evans – Regeneration, Leisure, Culture and Tourism (Shared Prosperity Fund portfolio) have been consulted and are supportive of the project.

## Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

**THERE ARE NONE**

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Ten towns – Llanybydder		Held digitally