

**WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2020**

**TO: THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR LEADER**

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR THE LEADER** WHICH WILL BE HELD AT **2.00 PM**, ON **WEDNESDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2020** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA.

*Wendy Walters*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



PLEASE RECYCLE

<b>Democratic Officer:</b>	<b>Martin S. Davies</b>
<b>Telephone (direct line):</b>	<b>01267 224059</b>
<b>E-Mail:</b>	<b>MSDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</b>

Wendy Walters Prif Weithredwr, *Chief Executive*,  
Neuadd y Sir, Caerfyrddin. SA31 1JP  
*County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP*

# A G E N D A

1. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST.
2. DECISIONS RECORD - 2ND SEPTEMBER 2020. 3 - 6
3. ARFOR. 7 - 10
4. REPORTS NOT FOR PUBLICATION.  
FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION OF ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CASE AND FOLLOWING THE APPLICATION OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER MAY CONSIDER THAT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE NOT FOR PUBLICATION AS THEY CONTAIN EXEMPT INFORMATION AS DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH 14 OF PART 4 OF SCHEDULE 12A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) (WALES) ORDER 2007.
5. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE ARFOR PROGRAMME. 11 - 30

*Note:- The press and public are not entitled to attend the meeting. The decision record will be published normally within 3 working days.*

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR THE LEADER

**WEDNESDAY**, 2 September 2020

**PRESENT: Councillor:** E. Dole (Executive Board Member).

**The following officers were in attendance:**

M. Bull, Economic Development Area Manager;  
L. Alvarez, Bureau Officer;  
A. Nicholas, Rural Regeneration Officer;  
M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer.

**Virtual Meeting: 2.00 pm - 2.40 pm**

**1. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

There were no declarations of personal interest.

**2. DECISIONS RECORD - 5TH AUGUST 2020**

**RESOLVED** that the decision record of the meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020 be signed as a correct record.

**3. TARGETED REGENERATION INVESTMENT TOWN CENTRE RECOVERY FUND**

The Executive Board Member considered a report on the Welsh Governments lifting some of its Covid-19 restrictions for non-essential retail and leisure and hospitality businesses, whereby a number of town centre businesses across the county were facing the challenges of reopening and operating businesses within the limitations of the revised government guidelines. In order to support those primary town centre businesses across Carmarthenshire the Welsh Government, following lobbying, had approved a regional request from the South West Wales Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Group, via the lead body partner (Swansea), to allow for the top slicing of TRI allocations to support town centre recovery. As part of that request, Carmarthenshire had been advised that £75k of its allocation could be top sliced to support each of the three primary town centres within the County (Ammanford, Carmarthen and Llanelli) to receive a notional allocation of £25k per town.

The Executive Board Member thereupon considered the schemes parameters/guidelines and processes and how it would operate. If adopted, the preferred delivery routes to achieve the best value for money, whilst ensuring local ownership/buy in/local management, timely delivery and provided each of the towns with a co-ordinated intervention would be:

Carmarthen – A Joint Application developed between Carmarthen Town Council and Carmarthen Bid;

Llanelli - A Joint Application 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 to be submitted by either Carmarthenshire County Council or a combination of Carmarthenshire County Council and Ammanford Town Council.

It was reported that due to the urgency of delivery, post approval at Economic Panel Stage, consideration would need to be given to whether to allow applicants to proceed with project delivery whilst formal political approvals were sought

**RESOLVED THAT**

- 3.1 the Welsh Government's offer to top slice £75k of TRI funding allocation to deliver a Recovery Fund in Primary Town Centres be accepted;**
- 3.2 the proposed processes and pro-formas to be used for the delivery of the fund be agreed;**
- 3.3 the preferred routes for delivery be agreed;**
- 3.4 participants be allowed to proceed, at their risk, with project delivery whilst formal approvals were sought;**
- 3.5 In the event of applications being required to be submitted directly by Carmarthenshire County Council agreeing to fund required capital allocation in line with the required intervention rate, funding be made available from the Transformation Strategic Project Fund.**

**4. TARGETED REGENERATION INITIATIVE TOWN CENTRE RECOVERY GRANTS**

The Executive Board Member considered three applications for a Targeted Regeneration Initiative Town Centre Recovery Grant, as detailed within the report.

**RESOLVED that the following applications for a Targeted Regeneration Initiative Town Centre Recovery Grant be approved subject to the usual terms and conditions and those specified in the report.**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Award</b>
Carmarthen Town Council and Carmarthen Bid	£25,000.00
Ammanford Town Council & Carmarthenshire County Council	£25,000.00
Ymlaen Llanelli and Llanelli Town Council	£25,000.00

**5. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE FOLLOWING GRANT FUNDS: WELSH CHURCH FUND**

**RESOLVED that the following application for assistance from the Welsh Church Fund be approved subject to the usual terms and conditions and those specified in the report.**

<b>Welsh Church Fund</b>		
<b>App. Ref</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Award</b>

WCF-20-04	St Michael's & All Angels Church, Ammanford	£2,657.00
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## 6. REPORTS NOT FOR PUBLICATION

**RESOLVED** pursuant to The Local Government Act 1972 as, amended by The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007 that the following items were not for publication as the reports contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

## 7. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE ARFOR PROGRAMME

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED** pursuant to the Act referred to in minute no. 6 above not to publicise the content of the report as it contained exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) (Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act).

The public interest test in this matter related to the fact that the report contained detailed information about the business and financial affairs and ambitions of the applicants. In this case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption under the 1972 Act in respect of this report outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information therein, as disclosure would be likely to place the person and businesses named in the report at an unfair disadvantage in relation to their commercial competitors.

The Executive Board Member considered applications received for assistance from the ARFOR fund.

**RESOLVED** that the following applications received for assistance from the ARFOR Fund be approved subject to the usual terms and conditions and those specified in the report:

ARFOR Programme Grant Fund		
App. Ref	Applicant	Award
AG4-02	TIQI	£20,000.00
AG4-03	Swper Box CIC	£15,126.60
AG4-06	Cegin Lean Kitchen Cyf	£8,892.00
AG4-07	Pitchfork and Provision	£20,000.00
AG4-08	Llaeth Derlwyn	£10,844.86
AG4-09	JK Lewis & Son	£11,828.39

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

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## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR THE LEADER

30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020

<b>Executive Board Member:</b>	<b>Portfolio:</b>	
Cllr. Emlyn Dole	Leader	
<b>ARFOR</b>		
<b>Recommendations / key decisions required:</b> To approve the revised eligibility criteria and proposed procedures for delivery of the ARFOR Innovation Fund to include the introduction of Llwyddo'n Lleol targeting young people to venture into business in the area and allocating funds for the development of rural business hubs and/or 'pop-up' shop type activity.		
<b>Reasons:</b> Maximising Job Creation in rural Carmarthenshire		
Directorate Name of Head of Service: Jason Jones Report Author: Rhian Phillips	Designation Head of Regeneration	Tel: 01267 242336 jajones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

**Declaration of Personal Interest (if any):** None

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

**DECISION MADE:**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

LEADER

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

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

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR THE LEADER**  
**30<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**ARFOR**

**Background**

The aim of the ARFOR programme is to ensure economic growth and prosperity, by enabling people to obtain employment opportunities within local communities which will contribute towards securing the prosperity of the Welsh language in rural communities.

Led by Gwynedd County Council, the programme will be delivered in Carmarthenshire, Gwynedd, Ceredigion and Anglesey with the 4 Local Authorities working in collaboration due to their social and cultural similarity.

ARFOR is seeking to promote entrepreneurship, business growth and community resilience with a focus on promoting the use of the Welsh language by providing an opportunity for new and existing businesses.

ARFOR is a third-party grant scheme, which can include both capital and revenue funding. Funding allocation for Carmarthenshire is 456,250.

To date there have been 17 successful applications, resulting in a total investment of in excess of 800k to rural Carmarthenshire including private sector investment.

**Proposed Eligibility Criteria**

**Due to the need to commit funding by end of the financial year and relatively small amount of budget remaining we propose the following changes:**

- Due to the level of grant remainin, the maximum grant be reduced to £5,000 with each grant award based on up to 60% of the total eligible costs
- Due to current economic climate, applications must as a minimum demonstrate existing jobs being safeguarded and/or new jobs being created as a result of ARFOR assistance
- Applications will need demonstrate ways in which it will support the sustainability of the Welsh language within their proposed project as well as wider community.



## Application Process

The Arfor fund will be administered as follows:

- Interested applicants will request and application form and submit applications in line with the guidance which will be considered by a project panel made up from representatives from the Local Action Group – Grŵp Cefn Gwlad, who also administer LEADER funding for rural Carmarthenshire. This approach will ensure a more co-ordinated and joined up approach in the delivery of both programmes.
- Applications meeting the required scoring criteria and benchmarks will proceed for full approval via Executive Board meeting.
- The decision making panel and Council's Executive Board Member will then assess and consider each application following assessment panels scoring.

## Meanwhile Spaces

Aligned with the recommendations of the Rural Taskforce Moving Rural Carmarthenshire forward report as well as initial findings from Economic growth plan development within rural market towns, the need for rural business space has been identified to foster business growth and entrepreneurialism.

9k of ARFOR budget has been identified for the piloting of business hubs across rural Carmarthenshire. Funds identified will be used for costs such as rental costs, purchase of suitable equipment and fit out costs for the re-development of under utilised spaces within rural market towns.

## Llwyddo'n Lleol

Allocate 10k of ARFOR budget to target young people to venture into business within rural Carmarthenshire.

The proposed eligibility criteria will be as follows;

- Applicants aged between 18-30
- New business to be located within rural Carmarthenshire
- All sectors will be eligible bar agriculture due to fund restrictions
- Successful applicants will receive a financial support up to a maximum of £1000
- Mentoring support will also be made available to successful applicants

## Recommendations:

1. To approve the revised application & prioritisation process as set out above
2. Approve the utilisation of 9k of ARFOR budget to pilot the use of un—used spaces within rural market towns for business hub/pop up shop activities
3. Approve the utilisation of 10k ARFOR budget for Llwyddo'n Lleol bursary programme as set out above

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?	No
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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

Policy and Crime & Disorder	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Organisational Development	Physical Assets
<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

### 1. Policy

- All applicants will be required to provide a copy of their Welsh Language Policy as part of the application process.
- All signage displayed on or in a building supported under the fund will need to be displayed bi-lingually.

### 2. Legal

- The terms and conditions of grant that will be issued to applicants are being considered by CCC legal
- As a condition of grant Legal charges will need to be registered with the land registry on all buildings that are supported under the programme

### 4. Finance

- The £456,250 capital and revenue funding for third party grant applicants has been confirmed by Welsh Government in their grant offer letter of July 2019.

## CONSULTATIONS

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

**Signed:** Jason Jones Head of Regeneration

**1. Scrutiny Committee** N/A

**2. Local Member(s)** N/A

**3. Community / Town Council** N/A

**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:**

ARFOR Grant offer letter

# Agenda Item 5

By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007.

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