

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR THE
LEADER
17th March 2021

CARMARTHENSHIRE BUSINESS FLOOD RELIEF FUND

Background

Following widespread flooding across the county as a result of Storm Callum the authority established a £200k Carmarthenshire Business Flood Relief Fund to assist private & third sector enterprises to recover from flooding damage. The fund enabled affected enterprises to apply for a grant of up to £4999 towards a maximum project cost of £9999 to assist with: Construction Costs to rectify damage to buildings; Replacement or Repairs to equipment; Clean Up Costs. Having supported 30 businesses and exhausted enquiries under the fund at that time Executive Board in 2019 agreed to close the fund and transfer the remaining unused balance from the £200k back to the Carmarthenshire Rural Enterprise Fund. Subsequently businesses have continued to suffer from increasing occurrences of storm flooding, the most recent incidents being as a result of Storm Christoph in January 2021 and widespread flooding in February 2021.

To aid businesses who are attempting to recover from both the impact of Covid 19 and regular storm flooding it is proposed to review CCC's package of support to provide a mix of reactive and pro-active interventions. Whilst the impact of Storm Christoph and previous storms has reiterated the need for the authority to continue to provide re-active support to affected businesses, the increasing frequency of the flooding events and the significant impact it is having on businesses in the worst affected areas such as Llangadog, Gwendraeth at Pontyates and Kidwelly, Carmarthen Quay, Abergwili, Nantgaredig, Llandovery, Pensarn etc would suggest that it may be prudent of the authority to provide a mix of re-active and proactive support.

Recommendations

1. To formally approve the continuation of the original Business Flood Relief Fund to assist Carmarthenshire Businesses with recovery from damage to premises caused by flooding.
2. Agree an amendment to original eligibility criteria to enable businesses who have suffered from flooding over the last three years to access funding support for pro-active projects to protect their properties from future flood damage.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

NO

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 Regeneration

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Finance

In order to secure the funding required to deliver the fund listed in the report the following adjustments are required to the Capital programme.

Continue to utilise the remaining budget (£96k) from the original £200k set aside from CREF to deliver the Business Flood Relief Fund in 2018.

COSULTATIONS

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED

YES

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

THERE ARE NONE