

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

4 MAY 2016

Executive Board Member:	Portfolio:	
Cllr. Meryl Gravell	Regeneration & Leisure	
Carmarthenshire Rural Enterprise Fund		
Recommendations / key decisions required:		
To approve the eligibility criteria and proposed procedures for delivery of the Carmarthenshire Rural Enterprise Fund.		
Reasons:		
Maximising Job Creation in Carmarthenshire		
Directorate	Designation	Tel: 01269 590241
Name of Head of Service:	Acting Economic Development	SWalters@carmarthenshir
Stuart Walters	Manager	e.gov.uk
Report Author:		Tel: 01267242393
Mike Bull	Physical Regeneration	MABull@carmarthenshire.
	Strategic Programme Manager	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 SUMMARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER REGENERATION AND LEISURE
4 May 2016

Carmarthenshire Rural Enterprise Fund

Background

The authority proposes to make available funds from the 2016/2017 and 2017/18 financial year's capital allocation to provide grant aid for capital projects for the county's rural enterprises. It is proposed that the Grant will provide assistance to enterprises and sole traders for the development of new and existing business premises, where new jobs are created as a result of the project. The programme has a fixed budget of £2m

Proposed Eligibility Criteria

It is proposed that:

- the premises to be developed, improved or extended will have to be based in Rural Area of Carmarthenshire as defined in Local Development Strategy for Rural Carmarthenshire;
- All applicants must be economically and financially viable.
- Grants for works to property will be available to owners of the freehold interest in the property or to lessees holding a lease that has a minimum of fifteen years remaining at the time of application. Leaseholders will have to secure their landlord's written consent to the proposed works.
- The grant will be based on the lesser of a maximum of £20,000 per job created or the maximum state aid exemption thresholds as set out under the Welsh Local Government Capital Investment Aid and Employment Aid Scheme

Proposed Application & Prioritisation Process

It is proposed that:

- A two stage application process be applied with stage one applications being considered by a project panel on a "challenge" principle basis.
- Project panel to consider applications and invite applications to proceed to detailed application stage with priority being given to projects that will provide: tangible benefits to the local economy in terms of quantity and quality of direct jobs created in key sectors; value for money; floor area of new / improved building to be developed; impact on Swansea Bay City Region Strategy Objectives and cross cutting Cross cutting issues addressed by the project including Impact on Welsh Language
- successful applicants will then be requested to submit a more detailed Stage 2 application form and documentation no later than 31 January 2017
- The decision making panel and Council's Executive Board Member will then assess and consider the individual stage 2 applications.
- Construction to be completed **no later than 31 March 2018.**

Recommendations:

1. To approve the proposed eligibility criteria as set out above
2. To approve the proposed application & prioritisation process as set out above

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: Wendy Walters

Assistant Chief Executive

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

- CCC legal team have considered the ability of the authority to award grant with state aid cover under the Welsh Local Government Capital Investment Aid and Employment Aid Scheme and have concluded that exemption to state aid applies.
- The terms and conditions of grant that will be issued to applicants are been 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

3. Finance

- The £2 million capital funding required for the scheme has been confirmed in the 2016/17 and 2017/18 Capital Programme
- There are minor revenue implications such as costs for initial marketing of the schemes and registering legal charges. These costs will be picked up within Economic Developments Current Rural Revenue Budget
- In line with current policy, the finance department will need to undertake a financial assessment of proposed applicants and list their recommendations in a report for the decision making panel.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Wendy Walters

Assistant Chief Executive

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:**

THERE ARE NONE