

**CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR REGENERATION,
LEISURE, CULTURE & TOURISM 17/02/2023**

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|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Cabinet Member: | Portfolio: | |
| Cllr. Gareth John | Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism | |
| Subject: APPROVAL OF UK SPF ANCHOR PROGRAMMES AND THEMES FOR STANDALONE PROJECTS OPEN CALL | | |
| Purpose: To approve the recommendations from the Regeneration Partnership | | |
| Recommendations / key decisions required: | | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Approve the Sustainable Communities Anchor Programme as recommended by Carmarthenshire’s Regeneration Partnership 2) Approve the Place Anchor Programme as recommended by Carmarthenshire’s Regeneration Partnership 3) Approve the Rural Anchor Programme as recommended by Carmarthenshire’s Regeneration Partnership 4) Approve the Supporting Local Business Anchor Programme as recommended by Carmarthenshire’s Regeneration Partnership 5) To consider the detail within the Standalone Projects paper and approve the key themes to be put forward for open call as recommended by the Regeneration Partnership – Appendix 2 | | |
| Reasons: | | |
| <p>The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK government’s Levelling Up agenda. An allocation of funding of £38.6m has been confirmed for Carmarthenshire which will enable us to deliver against some of the County’s strategic objectives. Approving the detail within the Anchor programmes and the themes for the Standalone calls will enable delivery to commence in Carmarthenshire and give third sector, public sector and private sector organisations the opportunity to benefit from the funding available.</p> | | |
| Directorate | Designation: | Tel No. 01267 242336 |
| Name of Head of Service: | Head of Regeneration | JaJones@crmarthenshire.gov.uk |
| Jason Jones | | |
| Report Author: | Tel: 01267 242367 HLMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov. uk | |
| Helen Morgan | | |

Declaration of Personal Interest (if any): None

Dispensation Granted to Make Decision (if any):

Cabinet resolved on 30th January 2023 to delegate authority to Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture and Tourism to sign off the detailed Anchor projects following recommendation of the Regeneration Partnership.

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 CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR REGENERATION, LEISURE, CULTURE & TOURISM 17th January 2023

Approval of UK SPF Anchor Programmes and Themes for Standalone Projects Open Call

The Cabinet, following recommendation from the Regeneration Partnership has agreed the delivery models for the implementation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) in Carmarthenshire as follows:

- Anchor Programmes - Thematic programmes developed under each of the key SPF themes that will manage major parts of the investment strategy
- Standalone projects – Strategic applications that will address challenges that are not covered by the Anchor projects. Applications will be invited via open calls.
- Commissioned projects - Procured activity to deliver precisely defined activity that is not being fulfilled by the delivery models detailed above.

Anchor Programmes

The Anchor programmes will deliver major parts of the investment plan, primarily by offering third party grants to organisations. It has been agreed by Cabinet that 5 Anchor programmes be established, namely, Sustainable Communities, Rural, Place, Supporting Local Business and Employability and Skills.

Four of the Anchor programme applications have been received under the Communities and Place and Supporting Local Business SPF investment priorities, namely:

1. Sustaining Local Communities
2. Place
3. Rural
4. Supporting Local Business

Appendix 1 summarises each of the above anchor programmes.

The Anchor programme that sits under the People and Skills priority is being developed.

Following assessment by the SPF Programme Management Team and discussion at the relevant priority subgroup each of the above anchor programmes have been recommended for approval by the Regeneration Partnership. We are requesting final approval from Cabinet Member for Regeneration Leisure, Culture and Tourism.

Standalone Projects Open Call

A mapping exercise has been undertaken (Appendix 2) where key challenges and opportunities identified within Carmarthenshire's Investment Plan have been assessed against the funding opportunities being made available within the Anchor programmes for both the Communities and Place and Supporting Business investment priorities. A similar exercise will be undertaken for the People and Skills priority once the Anchor programme within this priority has been fully developed.

Based on the findings and following input from the priority subgroup meetings, it is proposed that the call for applications for 'standalone applications' should specifically focus on the following themes:

- Projects which respond to the opportunities identified in the Local Innovation Strategy (LIS) – Digital, Health, Circular economy, and Foundational economy
- Volunteering support
- Social Enterprise support
- Local food models
- Active travel and rural transport
- Strategic Tourism / culture / heritage projects
- Strategic county wide Net Zero projects

We are requesting approval by Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture and Tourism, to open calls for applications within the Community and Place and Supporting Local Business priorities that focus on the themes above. Open calls for the People and Skills priority including Multiply will be opened once the Anchor programme for People and Skills has been fully developed.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES – Appendix 1 & 2

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 | Staffing Implications | Physical Assets |
| YES | YES | YES | NONE | YES | YES | NONE |

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The Shared Prosperity Fund provides an opportunity to draw down additional investment which will help deliver against some of the County's key strategic objectives.

In order to draw down the funding, a Regional Investment Plan was submitted to UK Government setting out how the Region intends to utilise the funding based on local needs and opportunities. A Carmarthenshire Investment Plan was developed which fed into the Regional Plan.

The Investment Plan for Carmarthenshire is based on our existing strategies and plans including the Economic Recovery Plan, Local Innovation Strategy, Wellbeing Assessment, and the South West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan. The Carmarthenshire Plan is aligned to the 7 Well-being goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

The Anchor programmes have been developed to address some of the challenges and opportunities detailed in Carmarthenshire's Local Investment Plans and as such, are in line with Carmarthenshire's existing strategies and plans including the Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives

2. Legal

Local government is being given responsibility for delivery of the UKSPF. Swansea Council will act as the 'lead local authority' for the South West region and will have overall accountability for the funding and how the Fund operates.

Delivery and management of the programme in Carmarthenshire will be the responsibility of the Authority. This will include assessing and approving local project applications, entering into funding agreements with third parties as well as processing payments and day-to-day monitoring.

Appropriate agreements will be put in place between the Regional lead and the Authority which will set out agreed roles and responsibilities. Swansea Council as the Lead Authority is currently drafting a Service Level Agreement. Our Authority's legal team is being consulted on this.

At a project delivery level, the Authority will enter into a funding agreement with all delivery partners. These will be developed in conjunction with the Authority's legal team.

Approval was received by Cabinet on 30th January 2023 to proceed at risk with opening calls for all applications prior to entering into a formal Service Level Agreement with Swansea Council. This will ensure that we can launch the programme as soon as possible at a local level.

3.Finance

Whilst Swansea Council will act as the accountable body for the region and receive the Region's allocation via UK Government, delivery and management of Carmarthenshire's allocation will remain the responsibility of the Authority with Chris Moore as Senior Responsible Officer.

The budget requested by the Anchor programmes is fully funded by the SPF. Some of the third-party grants contained within the Anchor programmes will attract further private sector investment into the county. It is the intention that following approval of the Anchor programmes, Carmarthenshire's remaining UKSPF budget will be allocated to Standalone and Commissioned projects.

4.Risk Management Issues

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

Individual risk registers will be maintained at project level together with appropriate mitigation measures.

5. Staffing Implications

To manage the UKSPF at a local level and coordinate the process of opening Standalone calls, a dedicated Programme Management will need to be established to ensure that the necessary processes and procedures are put in place to administer the UKSPF. The Anchor projects require dedicated staffing to deliver the programmes. The staffing structures and associated job descriptions have been prepared.

On the 30th of January 2023, Cabinet approved the recommendation to proceed at risk with the recruitment of staff for the internal Anchor teams and Programme Management team whilst the formal Service Level Agreement between Swansea Council and this Authority is finalised to enable the programme to commence as soon as possible. The risk will be minimal as the allocation for Carmarthenshire has been approved by UK Government.

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

Carmarthenshire's Regeneration Partnership recommended approval of all Anchor Programmes and themes for open call for Standalone projects

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

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

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW OR THERE ARE NONE (Delete as applicable)

| Title of Document | File Ref No. | Locations that the papers are available for public inspection |
|------------------------|------------------------|---|
| To be completed | To be completed | To be completed (Delete as applicable) |
| To be completed | To be completed | To be completed (Delete as applicable) |
| To be completed | To be completed | To be completed (Delete as applicable) |