

# Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Date 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**Subject: Shared Prosperity Fund – Tackling Towns**

**Purpose:** To provide Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the Tackling Towns projects prior to the report being considered by Cabinet.

## THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

Review the information contained in the report on the Shared Prosperity Fund – Tackling Towns in advance of the report being considered by Cabinet.

## Reason(s)

To formulate views for submission to the Cabinet.

## CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Councillor Gareth John: Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture and Tourism

<b>Directorate</b>		<b>Tel Nos.</b>
<b>Name of Head of Service: Jason Jones</b>	<b>Designations: Head of Regeneration</b>	<b>E Mail Addresses:</b> <a href="mailto:jjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">jjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report Author: Tessa Peregrine</b>	<b>Economic Development Area Manager</b>	<a href="mailto:Tperegrine@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">Tperegrine@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Shared Prosperity Fund – Tackling Towns

### Introduction and Background

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK Government's Levelling Up agenda and will provide funding over the next two years up until March 2025. The fund is a combination of revenue and capital funding that can be used to support a wide range of interventions to build, provide, and improve life chances.

The Committee has previously considered an update report on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) in January 2023, where the delivery model of Anchor, Standalone and Commissioned Projects were presented, with the Tackling Towns programme sitting under the Place Anchor. Cabinet also considered and endorsed the Anchor Programmes which included Tackling Towns in January 2023. The Shared Prosperity Fund was formally launched on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

### Tackling Towns

The Tackling Towns programme aims to improve Carmarthenshire's town centres. The fund is targeted towards supporting projects and interventions to respond to the on-going challenges faced by Town Centres. The fund will be available to support the direct delivery of key actions identified within our regeneration masterplans for Carmarthen, Llanelli and Ammanford and the town plans listed below.

An allocation of £500,000 will be made to each of the three primary towns of Ammanford, Carmarthen and Llanelli with £1,100,000 allocation between the towns of Kidwelly, Whitland, St Clears, Llandeilo, Llandovery, Cwmamman, Cross Hands, Newcastle Emlyn, Laugharne, Llanybydder and Burry Port. All towns have Growth/Placemaking/Recovery plans in place and delivery will be linked directly to the actions noted. All projects delivered through the Tackling Towns fund are required to be completed by September 2024.

The projects earmarked for delivery have all been identified within the Recovery Masterplans, Growth Plans and Placemaking Plans of the respective towns. During the process of completing these plans engagement was undertaken with key stakeholders, Town Task Forces, Town Forums and Town Growth Groups.

**Annex A** details the list of prioritised projects for each of the 14 towns. Project officers will work towards delivery of the projects. Should further budget become available, then additional projects from the prioritised lists can be considered. If any projects are unable to be completed within project delivery timescales, we will review reserve projects which can be developed to ensure use of the Shared Prosperity Funding within the set timescales.

### Next Steps

The plan is set to be considered in Cabinet in June 2023, and if endorsed the project delivery team will work to develop and deliver the projects within funding timescales.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?**

**Yes**

**Appendix A – List of Tackling Towns Projects**

# 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, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>

## 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The Projects identified for delivery consider our existing strategies and plans including the Economic Recovery and Delivery Plan and respective Town Centre Plans. The proposals are also aligned to the 7 Well-being goals and the 5 ways of working of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and considers the Socio-Economic Duty of Carmarthenshire County Council.

### Legal

Legal support may be a required where land and property forms part of projects. We will engage with legal on a case-by-case basis to seek advice.

### Finance

£2.6m funding has been ringfenced under the Place Anchor and is fully funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Funding under the programme has also been allocated to recruit regeneration officers to deliver the programme.

### Risk Management Issues

All risk management issues will be assessed and mitigated during project delivery.

### Staffing Implications

Additional Regeneration Officers will be recruited to deliver the projects and is fully funded through the Shared Prosperity Fund.

### Physical Assets

None identified

<b>CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED</b> Yes		<b>Include any observations here</b>  Report Noted
<b>Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information</b> <b>List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:</b>		
<b>Title of Document</b>	<b>File Ref No.</b>	<b>Locations that the papers are available for public inspection</b>
<b>SPF Report to Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee January 2023</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<a href="#"><u>Agenda for Communities, Homes &amp; Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 26th January, 2023, 10.00 am (gov.wales)</u></a>