

# CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR REGENERATION, LEISURE, CULTURE & TOURISM

17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023

<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	<b>Portfolio:</b>
Cllr. Gareth John	Cabinet Member Decisions Meeting for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE FOLLOWING GRANT FUNDS: RURAL INNOVATION FUND

### Recommendations / key decisions required:

To consider 5 applications submitted under the Rural Innovation Fund, which forms part of the Rural Anchor within the Communities and Place intervention of Carmarthenshire's Shared Prosperity Fund.

The Rural Innovation Fund provides opportunity for third sector and public sector bodies to pilot and test new ways of working that provide innovative solutions to rural challenges.

In summary, 5 applications are considered for this meeting, of which 4 applications are recommended for approval, totalling £179,845.

### Reasons:

Development of sustainable, yet innovative solutions to address some of the economic, social and environmental challenges facing rural Carmarthenshire.

<b>Directorate</b> <b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Helen Morgan	<b>Designations:</b> Economic Development Manager	<b>Tel: 01267 242367</b> HLMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
<b>Report Author:</b> Mared Pemberton	<b>LEADER Programme Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Tel: 07812 475386</b> MEPemberton@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

**Declaration of Personal Interest (if any):**

None

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

N/A

**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 <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

## CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR REGENERATION, LEISURE, CULTURE & TOURISM

17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE FOLLOWING GRANT FUNDS: RURAL INNOVATION FUND

The Rural Innovation Fund provides opportunities for the third sector and public sector bodies to pilot and test new ways of working that provide innovative solutions to rural challenges.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS / KEY DECISIONS REQUIRED:

The purpose of this report is to consider applications that have been received as part of the first call for application under the Rural Innovation Fund, as part of the Shared Prosperity Fund.

It is recommended that 4 applications totalling £179,845 be approved and 1 application not be considered for approval, as outlined below.

#### SPF-RIF-01 West Wales Rivers Trust

Project title: Circular Agricultural Plastics (CAP)  
Amount requested: £ 44,845.

West Wales Rivers Trust was formed in 2017 with the aim of restoring and safeguarding the rivers, lakes and wetlands of Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion.

The objectives of the Trust are to:

- Promote awareness of environmental issues and best practice
- Promote recreational enjoyment of rivers, lakes and wetlands
- Undertake research and development to help restore damaged habitats

The project will seek to address the growing issue of agricultural plastic waste build up, pollution of watercourses and the wider environment, and the lack of framework for its collection in Carmarthenshire.

The output will be a feasibility study which will include a proposal model for a financially and environmentally sustainable agricultural plastics collection scheme in Carmarthenshire.

#### **Recommendation:**

Approve grant of £ 44,845 based on a project expenditure of £ 44,845 due to innovative nature demonstrated in the application which is well aligned with the fund criteria.

## **SPF – RIF -02 Menter Cwm Gwendraeth Elli**

Project title: Re-rooting the Welsh Language

Amount requested: 43,647.21

The aim of the project is to improve linguistic needs and care in sheltered homes/accommodation. A high percentage of the residents who live in sheltered homes/accommodation are first language Welsh speakers, but very few staff are able to communicate with them through their mother tongue. Our hope is to bridge this void by upskilling staff/volunteers and developing the homes' resources by creating a sensory garden for residents, staff and visitors. The garden would also help the residents of the homes/accommodation to engage with nature, either by regaining lost skills with the help of the staff or developing new skills.

### **Recommendation**

Due to the lack of innovation demonstrated in the application, it is recommended that the application is not supported as does not align with the key criteria of the fund.

## **SPF-RIF-03 Actif Communities, Carmarthenshire County Council**

Project title: 'Actif Anywhere' for children in rural Carmarthenshire

Amount requested: £45,000

The aim of the project is to increase the amount of physical activity children take part in, outside of curricular PE lessons, within education settings (pre-school, Meithrin's and primary schools) and communities in rural areas of Carmarthenshire.

This will be achieved through insight and consultation to design a 'person-centred' package of support to each individual setting. The support package will be fluid depending on the needs of the setting, but will include livestreamed physical activity and well-being sessions, in-person delivery of physical activity sessions via Actif Communities Coach and upskilling and support to volunteers / staff.

### **Recommendation:**

Approve grant of £ 45,000 based on a project expenditure of £ 45,992.50 due to innovative nature demonstrated in the application which is well aligned with the fund criteria

**SPF-RIF-04 Highways, Carmarthenshire County Council / Ramblers Cymru**

Project title: Developing Volunteer Resource to survey, manage and maintain public rights of way (PROW) in Carmarthenshire  
Amount requested: £45,000

Working in partnership with Ramblers Cymru the project will recruit, train, equip and organise a volunteer resource to assist the County Council in surveying, maintaining and managing Public Rights of Ways in Carmarthenshire.

Volunteers would be trained in health & safety, basic first aid, manual handling, dynamic risk assessments, lead walker training, provided in partnership with Ramblers Cymru. Volunteers would also receive training on the Council's CAMS information system and how to record and upload survey information. They will also undertake minor maintenance along the routes.

**Recommendation:**

Approve grant of £ 45,000 based on a project expenditure of £ 45,000 due to innovative nature demonstrated in the application for support which is with the fund criteria

**SPF-RIF-06 University of Wales Trinity Saint David – Carmarthen Business School**

Project title: Identifying the Challenges for Enhancing Rural Resilience through the Circular Economy (CE)  
Amount requested: £45,000

The project is a research-based project focusing on the potential of the circular economy to enhance rural resilience, whilst at the same time contributing to a net zero future. Within the project UWTSD will engage with rural enterprises across Carmarthenshire to assess their adoption of circular economy practices and to gain an understanding of challenges and barriers faced by rural enterprises, both real and perceived, in engaging with circular economy principles. An outcome of the project will be to identify how we can collaboratively build a circular rural economy in Carmarthenshire by working together as enterprises, stakeholders and communities.

**Recommendation:**

Approve grant of £45,000 based on a project expenditure of £ 49,186.19 such as Regeneration Partnership, Regional Skills and Learning Partnership as well as Public services Board due to innovative nature demonstrated in the application for support which is well aligned with the fund criteria.

Subject to ensuring working in partnership with relevant stakeholders such as Regeneration Partnership, Regional Skills and Learning Partnership as well as Public Service Board

**Total Number of Applications recommended for approval - 4    Total Value = £179,845**

**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: **Helen L Morgan**

**Development Manager Regeneration & Policy**

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>

### Legal

The grant scheme terms and conditions of the grant have been approved by CCC legal team.

### Finance

In line with current policy, the finance department will undertake a financial assessment of proposed applicants over £25k. The funding requested will be provided from the Rural Innovation Fund as part of the UK government SPF programme.

## CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: **Helen L Morgan**

**Development Manager Regeneration & Policy**

### 1. Local Member(s)

### 2. Community / Town Council

### 3. Relevant Partners

**4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** Rural Innovation Fund and Sustainable Communities Fund Panel (to include Regeneration Partnership Communities and Place Sub group members)

### Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

**THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW**

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Rural Innovation Fund	SPF-RIF-01 SPF-RIF-03 SPF-RIF-04 SPF-RIF-05 SPF-RIF-06	County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP