

Cabinet Board Member Meeting

14.07.2023

Cabinet Member:	Portfolio:	
Cllr. Ann Davies	Cabinet member for Rural Affairs and Planning Policy	
Subject: Welsh Government Allotment Support Grant		
Purpose:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- To retrospectively approve applications submitted for consideration as part of the Welsh Government 2023/24 Allotment Support Fund.- To agree to the Bureau undertaking the administrative role in line with the Terms & Conditions of the grant.		
Recommendations / key decisions required:		
Approve the delivery of the Allotment Support Fund and associated projects.		
Reasons:		
To increase the availability of good quality allotment plots within Carmarthenshire.		
Directorate Name of Head of Service: Jason Jones	Designation Head of Regeneration, Digital and Policy.	Tel No. 01267 224124
Report Author: Rhian Phillips	E Mail Address: MRPhillips@carmarthenshire.gov.uk	

Declaration of Personal Interest (if any):

None

Dispensation Granted to Make Decision (if any):

N/A

(If the answer is yes exact details are to be provided below:)

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

MEETING 14.07.2023

WG Allotment Support Grant

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

Carmarthenshire County Council has been allocated an indicative amount of £34,308 by Welsh Government via the Allotment Support Grant to increase the availability of good quality allotment plots across Carmarthenshire. The funding relates to activity within 23/24 financial year. An indicative amount of £34,308 has also been allocated for activity within 2024-25, which is subject to another Work Plan being finalised for those years by no later than 31 December 2023.

The fund will be used in a variety of ways to help boost the capacity of the organisations. This includes -

- Creation of new plots
- Bringing derelict plots back into use
- Improving accessibility
- Improving site services
- Improving site security
- Improving site management
- Increase recycling / renewability
- Increase biodiversity / pollinators

The fund will be administered by the Authority's Bureau team and any variations to the funding will be managed by the team.

Welsh Government have requested that a short 'Work Plan' be submitted proposing a number of improvements to allotments within the county and that will form the targets that are expected to be achieved.

The Bureau has subsequently made contact with Town & Community Councils and Allotment groups who operate allotments within Carmarthenshire to establish the level of need. Based on this information, each group was asked to provide a list of works and outputs that would increase the availability of good quality allotments plots with works to be completed by March 2024. They were also asked to list any works and outputs that could potentially be undertaken in years 24/25, with the finalised work plan for these years required to be submitted by 31 December 2023.

Subsequently 10 projects were submitted and assessed by the Bureau team, which then formed the 'Work Plan 23/24' that was submitted to Welsh Government for approval by the deadline of 30th April 2023. Work Plan attached. These have subsequently been approved by Welsh Government.

The report therefore seeks retrospective approval to proceed with the 10 projects identified within the Work Plan.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	NO
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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, Digital and Policy

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

1. Policy

The funding will help deliver against some of the key aspirations of the County's Wellbeing plan by helping to sustain and enhance natural & built spaces to encourage healthy living for residents & visitors.

The fund will also support the objectives of the Wellbeing & Future Generations Act by encouraging social resilience and community well-being through the development and creation of green spaces.

2. Legal

Successful applicants will be required to sign up to a Funding agreement which will set out the Terms and Conditions of the grant.

3. Finance

A total budget of £34,308 capital funding has been awarded via the Welsh Government Allotment Support Grant for 23/24 financial year and will be utilised to support community groups. The fund will cover 100% of the costs, as no match funding will be required. This will be the same for years 24/25, albeit it is indicative at this stage, but will be confirmed if the final work plan is approved in December 2023.

The funding will be distributed to Third Parties in line with procedures agreed with CCC Finance.

The Funding relates to 2023/2024 and must be fully claimed by March 2024.

The Authority will be reimbursed by Welsh Government.

4. Risk Management

Risks will be managed on an on-going basis through regular dialogue and monitoring between the Bureau and third party applicants.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Jason Jones

Head of Regeneration, Digital and Policy.

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

1. Scrutiny Committee

N/A

2. Local Member(s)

N/A

3. Community / Town Council

Relevant T&CC contacted who either lease or sublease allotments, to promote the opportunity to access the WG Allotment support grant.

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:

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Allotment Support Grant	AF-23-01 AF-23-02 AF-23-03 AF-23-04 AF-23-05	County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP