

# CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR HOMES & DEPUTY LEADER

**DATE: 06/02/2024**

<b>Cabinet Member:</b> Cllr. Linda Davies Evans	<b>Portfolio:</b> Cabinet Member for Homes & Deputy Leader	
<b>Subject: Direct Food Support Fund</b>		
<b>Purpose:</b> Cabinet Member considers and approves a suite of initiatives that will support the needs of people facing food poverty in Carmarthenshire.		
<b>Recommendations / key decisions required:</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>To approve the establishment of the following 3<sup>rd</sup> party grants via the Welsh Government Direct Food Support Fund administered by CCC Bureau team within Economic Development: Foodbank support Digital support Capital fund</li><li>Approve delegation to the Head of Regeneration, Policy &amp; Digital to award funding to successful applicants</li></ol>		
<b>Reasons:</b> To support an increased number of people facing food poverty by providing financial support to enable local organisations to meet local needs.		
<b>Directorate</b> <b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Jason Jones  <b>Report Author:</b> Rhian Phillips	<b>Designation</b> Head of Regeneration, Policy and Digital  Economic Development Area Manager	<b>Tel No:</b> 01267 224124 <b>Email addresses:</b> <a href="mailto:Jajones@carmarthesnhire.gov.uk">Jajones@carmarthesnhire.gov.uk</a>  <a href="mailto:mrphillips@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">mrphillips@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>

**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 HOMES & DEPUTY LEADER

**DATE: 06/02/2024.**

## Direct Food Support Fund

### 1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

As part of Welsh Government's Direct Food Support Fund 2023/2024, Carmarthenshire County Council has been allocated a budget of £45,647 (capital funding) and £55,916 (revenue funding) to support an increased number of people facing food poverty.

To support the needs of local communities, it is proposed that the funding will be used to deliver the following grant schemes:

#### **Foodbank support**

The Authority has been providing support to a total number of 14 foodbanks since 2020 via various Welsh Government funding initiatives. It is proposed that this support continues, enabling foodbanks to support those facing food poverty as a result of the cost-of-living crisis. The number of foodbanks supported has fluctuated over the years, however all foodbanks have been given the opportunity to access the funding. The fund will be administered by the Bureau within Economic Development. Future foodbank provision will be sourced via the Welsh Public Sector Collaborative Food Group (WPSCFG) Food Framework.

As per previous rounds, all foodbanks in the County will be invited to submit an expression of interest for funding which will be assessed by the Bureau's grants panel, taking into consideration the number of people they are currently supporting, future numbers, along with how they plan to target those most in need. As part of the assessment process, each application will be considered based on the monetary value requested, divided by the numbers of individuals supported over a 3 month period (March – May 2024).

The Authority will enter into an agreement with the respective foodbanks which the Bureau will monitor on a regular basis. This will be through completion of monitoring claim forms by the groups, as well as site visits to all awarded foodbanks. As part of the funding agreement, there will be a requirement that all foodbanks work closely with the Hwb service to ensure that people accessing the foodbanks receive additional wrap around advice and support services.

#### **Digital grant**

To ensure that foodbanks have the necessary digital tools to effectively manage services and to monitor clients, a grant of up to £1k will be available to purchase IT equipment and software required, e.g. purchase of iPad, laptops etc. This will also allow for foodbanks to work closer with the Hwbs, allowing for cross referrals and enabling the foodbanks to accept digital food vouchers from referral agencies. It will also enable the foodbanks to work with their clients to complete the online referral forms on their behalf. The grant will be available at 100% of total costs.



### **Capital Grant Fund**

It is proposed that this is distributed through a third-party grant which will be open to any constituted organisation which is seeking to help tackle food poverty in Carmarthenshire. The fund will be promoted on the Authority's website and will also be circulated via the Bureau's third sector newsletter.

Capital grants of between £1,000 and a maximum of £5,000 will be made available. The fund will be administered by the Bureau team.

The capital funding will be available to support organisations to deliver a variety of initiatives which help tackle food poverty. The following projects would be eligible for funding:

- Projects which help access, store and distribute additional supplies of food, including good food surplus, boosting their capacity to provide good quality, nutritious food to their customers. E.g. purchase of fridges, freezers, cooking equipment, kitchen equipment and storage.
- Projects that support the development of local food growing and distribution initiatives.
- Projects such as community cafes, growing projects, social supermarkets, community shops

### **Recommendation:**

It is proposed that the aforementioned grants are approved to enable the Authority to support those facing food poverty.

Eligible applications to all 3 funds will be assessed by the Bureau's grants panel and successful applicants will be required to sign up to an agreement which sets out the terms and conditions of the grant.

It is recommended that authority is delegated to the Head of Regeneration, Digital and Policy to award the funding for all 3 funds.

## **2. OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND THEIR PROS AND CONS**

There are no other options. The funding has been allocated to Carmarthenshire to support an increased number of people facing food poverty.

<b>DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?</b>	<b>NO</b>
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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, Policy and Digital

Policy and Crime & Disorder	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Organisational Development	Physical Assets	Bio-diversity & Climate Change
YES	YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES

## 1. Policy

The grant will support the County's existing strategies and plans including the Corporate Strategy (Well-being Objective 2) which recognises the need to tackle poverty particularly with the added pressures of the cost-of-living crisis impacting residents, businesses and organisations. The interventions proposed will provide support to organisations within the County that are responding and supporting people that are facing food poverty.

The fund will also align with the 7 goals of the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act for Wales.

## 2. Legal

The Authority will enter into an agreement with all successful recipients of the grants, outlining the terms and conditions of the grant.

In relation to support to foodbanks, the terms and conditions of the grant will require that all foodbanks work closely with the Hwb service to ensure that people accessing the foodbanks access additional wrap around advice and support services.

## 3. Finance

Funding of £45,647 (capital funding) and £55,916 (revenue funding) has been secured via Welsh Government's Direct Food Support scheme. The Digital Grant will be funded from slippage from other various Welsh Government grants.

## 4. Bio- diversity & Climate Change

The capital grant will be open to projects that support the development of local food growing and distribution initiatives thus reducing food miles and adding to local biodiversity which will have a positive impact on Climate Change in line with the Council's declaration of a Climate Change emergency.

# 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)**

Local Members will be consulted for their input into the decision before final awards are made.

**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**

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
WG Direct Food Support Fund	WG DFSF 2023/24	County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP