

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

4TH JUNE 2024

Cabinet Member:	Portfolio:
Cllr Hazel Evans	Cabinet Member Decisions Meeting for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE FOLLOWING GRANT FUNDS: RURAL INNOVATION FUND

Purpose

To consider 1 application submitted under the Rural Innovation Fund which is funded from the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund as part of the Rural Anchor.

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

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To approve the following application:

Applicant name: Golden Grove Trust
Project name: Adfer Gelli Aur
Grant requested: £44,901

Reasons:

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

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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 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

4th June 2024

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE FOLLOWING GRANT FUNDS: RURAL INNOVATION FUND

Summary of purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to consider an application submitted under the Rural Innovation Fund.

The Rural Innovation Fund provides opportunities for third sector and public sector organisations to pilot and test new ways of working that provide innovative solutions to rural challenges. The Rural Innovation Fund is funded via the Shared Prosperity Fund as part of the Rural Anchor.

Background

The application was considered by the Rural Anchor and Sustainable Communities Grant assessment panel in July of 2023.

The application was originally presented by Adfer Gelli Aur, a newly formed Community Interest Company (CIC), whose purpose is to support the re-development of the Golden Grove estate, Gelli Aur Carmarthenshire.

The main focus of the application was to commission specialist consultants to look at how the estate could be redeveloped providing both economic and community benefit. The panel supported the principle of the project however as the CIC had no legal claims over the estate, it was recommended that the application be resubmitted by an entity that would be able to implement the outcomes of the project.

Due to this recommendation, the application for support was re-submitted by the new board of directors of the Golden Grove Trust with the project activity remaining the same.

Following satisfactory due diligence being undertaken and supported by the assessment panel, this application is now presented to Cabinet Member for approval.

SPF-RIF-13

Applicant: Golden Grove Trust

Project title: Adfer Gelli Aur

Total project cost: £44,901

Amount requested: £44,901

Gelli Aur, near Llandeilo, is known as one of the most important country house estates in Wales. By the 19th century, the estate comprised more than 50,000 acres locally and so its

history is inextricably interwoven with the history of the area.

The current estate is in a state of disrepair resulting in the new directors of the Golden Grove Trust seeking support to rescue the entire estate from its current condition and build a sustainable future for the site, benefiting the local community, where public access is secured in perpetuity.

The application will undertake a review into the future viability of the estate, providing an action plan for the Trust on ways that the estate could be redeveloped as a sustainable enterprise to attract future investment and to secure its future. This will include detailed consultation with a variety of stakeholders to include the local community as well as a detailed business planning model. To raise the profile of the estate, the project will create digital content to capture the history and local importance of the estate to actively engage with stakeholders.

A memorandum of understanding is in place between the Golden Grove Trust, Adfer Gelli Aur CIC and the Golden Grove Residents Association to ensure that all parties work efficiently and effectively together providing local volunteering opportunities.

Project timelines

The project will begin as soon as awarded and will be completed by the end of December 2024 in line with the Shared Prosperity Fund's delivery timelines.

Outputs to be achieved

Number of local events or activities supported	2
Number of volunteering opportunities supported	15
Number of people reached	1000
Number of feasibility studies supported	1

Recommendation

To approve a grant request of £44,901 from the Rural Innovation Fund

OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND THEIR PROS AND CONS

The option of not approving this project in whole or part is open to Cabinet Member. However non approval will put at risk the Council's ability of delivering the Rural anchor programme within the UK Government's programme timeframe.

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: Ainsley Williams **Director of Place & Infrastructure**

Policy and Crime & Disorder	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Organisational Development	Physical Assets	Biodiversity and Climate change
YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO

Policy, Crime and Disorder

The Rural Innovation Fund provides an opportunity to pilot and explore concepts to support the development of sustainable, yet innovative solutions to address some of the economic, social and environmental challenges facing rural Carmarthenshire.

The above is aligned with the county’s existing strategies and plans including the Local Investment Plan for Carmarthenshire, Economic Recovery Plan, Local Innovation Strategy, Wellbeing Assessment, and the South-West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan and Corporate Strategy.

The project will also deliver against the Authority’s Vision Statement as a key priority in ‘Making our communities and environment, healthy, safe and prosperous’ places to live.

The Programme will support the objectives of the Wellbeing & Future Generations Act by targeting interventions which aim to ensure that the Welsh speaking communities of the County remain vibrant and sustainable communities.

Legal

Terms and Conditions will be issued to the applicant which have been verified by the Authority’s legal team.

Finance

The funding is made available as part of the Rural Innovation fund with funding secured from the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund as part of the Rural Anchor.

Risk Management Issues

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

A key risk is the short delivery timeframe of SPF with all 3rd party grants required to be financially completed by the end of December 2024.

At a project level, a risk register will be maintained together with appropriate mitigation measures. The Rural Anchor Team who are responsible for administering both funds will

closely monitor progress of the project individual awards. Where a lack of progress is being made, applicants will need to provide clarification as to how they will be able to deliver against the original approved amount. As a last resort this may mean suspension of a project mid delivery.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Ainsley Williams

Designation: Director of Place and Infrastructure

1. Local Member(s) – Cllr Ann Davies has been consulted as Cabinet member for rural affairs, community cohesion and planning policy and is supportive of the project.

2. Community / Town Council - N/A

3. Relevant Partners - The application was recommended for approval by the rural anchor and sustainable community fund assessment panel whose members represent a wide range sectors and organisations across Carmarthenshire.

4. 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:**

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
SPF-RIF-13		HELD DIGITALLY