

CABINET MEMBER DECISION MEETING FOR REGENERATION, LEISURE, CULTURE AND TOURISM

8TH JULY 2024

Cabinet Member:	Portfolio
Cllr. Hazel Evans	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture and Tourism

TEN TOWNS CAPITAL FUND

Purpose

To consider an application for funding submitted by St Clears Town Council as part of the Ten Towns Programme. The aim of the Ten Towns Programme is to increase the resilience and future growth of Carmarthenshire's rural market towns and their surrounding areas.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To approve 1 application submitted as part of the 10 towns programme on behalf of the Economic Growth Plan Team in St Clears

Applicant: St Clears Town Council
Project Name: St Clears Ten Towns Capital Phase 2
Grant requested: £31,263

Reasons:

To support the economic opportunities identified as part of extensive community consultation and discussion with key stakeholders that will provide economic and social benefit to the County's rural market towns.

Directorate: Place and Infrastructure Ainsley Williams Report Author: Rhian Phillips	Designations Director of Place & Infrastructure Funding Manager	Ainsley Williams awilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk Rhian Phillips MRPhillips@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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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 DECISION MEETING FOR REGENERATION, LEISURE, CULTURE AND TOURISM 8TH JULY 2024

TEN TOWNS CAPITAL FUND

Background

The aim of the 10 Towns Programme is to increase the resilience and future growth of Carmarthenshire's rural market towns and their surrounding areas.

The Authority has committed £1m capital funding to support the respective towns to take forward some of the capital aspirations identified within their economic growth plans. This was approved by Executive Board on 21st June 2021. Subsequently, further funding has been secured via the Shared Prosperity Fund Rural Anchor Programme to support the realisation of the town's priority projects.

St Clears Town Council has already received Cabinet Member approval in March 2024 for £33,697 for phase 1 of their Ten Towns project. Funding has been secured for the re-development of Y Gât, formerly known as the West Wales Craft Centre, as a multi use space for the local community. The building has recently been subject to an asset transfer to the Town Council.

This report relates to St Clears' Phase 2 project.

The application has been assessed and considered by the internal Funding panel before being presented to Cabinet member for final decision.

Application for consideration:

Applicant:	St Clears Town Council
Total project costs:	£31,263
Grant Requested:	£31,263

St Clears Town Council is the lead applicant for the project.

This 2nd Phase application will consist of 3 elements.

The first element will focus on promoting the town's offer through the installation of digital screens in Pentre Road, car park as well outside Y Gât. With a dedicated website under development, the digital screens will link to the town website, providing information of the town's offer, including information on local businesses. A second screen will be placed outside Y Gat showcasing what's on in the building.

Secondly, the grant will be utilised to undertake further improvements to Y Gat. With capital works to the ground floor underway and near completion as part of Phase 1, a need has been identified to decorate the first and second floors of the Centre.

The final element will involve the installation of new street furniture outside Y Gat this providing an outdoor space for the Town Council to utilise as well as increasing dwell time within the town.

The latter element will complement other targeted investment programmes such as the Tackling Towns Centre (SPF) and Revitalising Rural Town Centres (RRTC) funds which are currently being delivered as part of the Ten Towns initiative.

No planning permission is required and landowners' permission has been granted for the installation of the digital screens. St Clears Town Council has also been granted Advertising consent for both screens and have committed to continue with the maintenance costs of the screens post funding.

The application for support aligns with the Ten towns programme and will complete what is already proving to be a successful re-birth of Y Gat as an economic and community focussed centre.

Project Delivery timeline:

The project will begin as soon as full approval is granted. Project must be fully complete by end of December 2024 in line with Shared Prosperity Funding period.

Outputs to be achieved:

Outputs	Target
M2 of new/upgraded commercial space created	600m2
No of businesses directly/indirectly supported	30 business directly (8 in Y Gat)

Recommendation:

To approve a grant request of **£31,263** from the Ten Towns Capital Shared Prosperity Fund.

2. OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE

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

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

Policy, Crime and Disorder

The Ten Towns programme provides an opportunity for rural market towns to create new economic benefit and opportunities developed as a recommendation from the Moving Rural Carmarthenshire Forward Plan.

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

Funding has been secured via the Ten Towns programme which is funded by Carmarthenshire County Council capital funds. Additional funding has also been secured via the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund as part of the Rural Anchor.

Risk Management Issues

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

Designation: Director of Place & Infrastructure

1. Local Member(s) – Elected Member Cllr Phillip Hughes has been consulted on an on-going basis as part of the growth plan team meetings and is supportive of the project.

2. Community / Town Council - The application is being led by St Clears Town Council on behalf of the wider community.

3. Relevant Partners - Members of the established growth plan team which includes key stakeholders from public, private and third sector organisations have been consulted and are supportive of the project.

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
10 towns Phase 2 STC		HELD Digitally