

# Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Date 1st October 2024

**Subject: Ten Towns Initiative – progress update**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the work of the Ten Towns initiative and to outline the support which has been secured to progress initiatives at a local level.

**THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-**

Review and assess the information contained in the report and provide any recommendations or comments.

**Reason(s)**

The Ten Towns initiative was established as a direct response to the County’s Moving Rural Carmarthenshire Forward Plan, which identified a need to increase the resilience and future growth of Carmarthenshire’s rural market towns and their surrounding areas. This report provides an update for Scrutiny Committee to consider.

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-** Cllr. Carys Jones, Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Community Cohesion and Planning Policy (Ten Towns Programme Portfolio)

Cllr. Hazel Evans, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism (Shared Prosperity Fund Portfolio)

<b>Directorate: Place, Infrastructure and Economic Development</b>	<b>Designations:</b>	<b>Tel Nos.</b> 01267 246471
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

1<sup>st</sup> October 2024

### Ten Towns Initiative – progress update

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

The report provides a comprehensive update on the Ten Towns initiative, the aim of which is to support economic growth in ten rural market towns across the County. It outlines the support secured to progress various initiatives at a local level, emphasizing the collaborative efforts between different stakeholders. In addition, it highlights the development of economic growth plans tailored for each of the ten towns, focusing on enhancing local infrastructure, boosting tourism, and supporting local businesses.

Specific projects approved to date are detailed in Annex A.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?**

**YES**  
**Main Report and Annex A**

# IMPLICATIONS

**ALL IMPLICATIONS REQUIRE SIGN OFF BY THE DIRECTOR OR HEAD OF SERVICE**

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: Simon Davies

Head of Economic Development and Property

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio-diversity & Climate Change
<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>

## 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The Ten Towns initiative has been developed to support the regeneration of rural market towns across Carmarthenshire in line with the County's rural strategy Moving Rural Carmarthenshire Forward. This initiative will also support the delivery of the Carmarthenshire Investment Plan which is aligned with the county's existing strategies and plans including the Economic Recovery Plan, Local Innovation Strategy, Wellbeing Assessment, and the Southwest Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan and Corporate Strategy.

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.

## 2. Legal

Terms and conditions have been issued to successful third-party grant which have been agreed by internal legal department aligned with agreements shared by Swansea County Council as the lead body of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in the region.

Grant offer agreements in excess of £50,000 are executed as deeds.

### 3.Finance

Funding has been secured for the delivery of the Ten Towns programme from the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund as part of the Rural Anchor as well as the Authority's capital programme.

£1 million has been made available to support the programme from the authority with a further £2.27 million secured via both the Rural Anchor and Place Anchor.

The funding secured is required to be incurred in full by the end of March 2025. Third party applicants are on track to complete approved projects by the end of December 2024.

The programme budget is being closely monitor with any underspends identified being quickly reinvested into the development of new initiatives that support the Ten towns.

### 5. Risk Management Issues

A programme level risk management process is 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 is maintained together with appropriate mitigation measures. The Rural Anchor Team who are responsible for administering both named 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.

### 8. Biodiversity and Climate Change

This is a key consideration of the programme with grant applicants encouraged to explore sustainable practises and ensure any capital development is mindful of both ecological and biodiversity considerations.

Aspects of the programme, namely the circular economy fund, provides opportunity for local communities to develop projects that will support a greener, less wasteful community.

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO  
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**  
YES

**Include any observations here**

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information  
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

**THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW OR THERE ARE NONE** (Delete as applicable)

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Application forms and award letters	Various	Sharepoint