CYFARFOD PENDERFYNIADAU'R AELOD O'R BWRDD GWEITHREDOL - YR ARWEINYDD

15FED TACHWEDD 2019

Yr Aelod o'r Bwrdd Gweithredol	Portffolio:
Cyng. Emlyn Dole	**Arweinydd**

ARFOR		
Argymhellion / penderfyniadau allweddol sy'n ofynnol: **Cymeradwyo'r broses ymgeisio a blaenoraethu ar gyfer ARFOR**		
Y Rhesymau: Gwneud y mwyaf o Creu Swyddi yn Sir Gâr		
Y Gyfarwyddiaeth: **Enw Pennaeth y Gwasanaeth:** **Jason Jones**	**Swyddi:** **Pennaeth Adfywio**	Ffon: 01267 242336 jajones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Declaration of Personal Interest (if any): None

Dispensation Granted to Make Decision (if any):

DECISION MADE:

Signed:

_____DATE:_____

LEADER

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
Executive Board Member Decision Meeting for the Leader
15th November 2019

ARFOR

Background

The aim of the ARFOR programme is to ensure economic growth and prosperity, by enabling people to obtain employment opportunities within local communities which will contribute towards securing the prosperity of the Welsh language in rural communities.

Led by Gwynedd County Council, the programme will be delivered in Carmarthenshire, Gwynedd, Ceredigion and Anglesey with the 4 Local Authorities working in collaboration due to their social and cultural similarity.

ARFOR is seeking to promote entrepreneurship, business growth and community resilience with a focus on promoting the use of the Welsh language by providing an opportunity for new and existing businesses.

ARFOR is a third party grant scheme, which can include both capital and revenue funding.

Proposed Eligibility Criteria

All projects must demonstrate how they contribute towards the programme's objectives;

- The fund is only available to new or existing SMEs within the eligible sectors that are located in or planning to locate within rural Carmarthenshire. Support is aimed primarily at businesses operating in the food and drink sector and creative industries.
- promoting enterprise and supporting business growth in areas with a high proportion of Welsh speakers
- generating more and better paid jobs to retain local people in these areas and encourage those who have left to return
- promoting the wide ranging value of the use of Welsh and bilingualism in business creating a vibrant sense of place
- encouraging the businesses and people who move to rural areas to value and use the Welsh language
- All applicants must be economically and financially viable.
- The maximum grant is £50,000 with each grant award based on up to 60% of the total eligible costs
- Grant applications must be able to demonstrate new jobs being created as a result of ARFOR assistance

Application Process
The Arfor fund will be administered as follows:

- A two stage application process will be followed with initial expressions of interest being considered by a project panel made up from representatives from the Local Action Group – Grŵp Cefn Gwlad, who also administer LEADER funding for rural Carmarthenshire. This approach will ensure a more co-ordinated and joined up approach in the delivery of both programmes.
- Subject to the panel's recommendations, successful applicants will be invited to proceed to stage 2 which will involve the submission of a detailed application.
- Stage 2 applications will be assessed by Grwp Cefn Gwlad against the Programme's objectives.
- The decision making panel and Council's Executive Board Member will then assess and consider the individual stage 2 applications.

Recommendations:

1. To approve the proposed application & prioritisation process as set out above

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: Jason Jones Interim Head of Regeneration

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

1. Policy

- All applicants will be required to provide a copy of their Welsh Language Policy as part of the application process.
- All signage displayed on or in a building supported under the fund will need to be displayed bi-lingually.

2. Legal

- The terms and conditions of grant that will be issued to applicants are being considered by CCC legal
- As a condition of grant Legal charges will need to be registered with the land registry on all buildings that are supported under the programme

2. Finance

- The £456,250 capital and revenue funding for third party grant applicants has been confirmed by Welsh Government in their grant offer letter of July 2019.
- In line with current policy, the finance department will undertake a financial assessment of proposed applicants over £25k and list their recommendations in a report for the decision making panel.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Jason Jones Interim Head of Regeneration

1. Scrutiny Committee N/A

2.Local Member(s) N/A

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:

ARFOR Grant offer letter