

Cabinet
28 Chwefror 2022

CYNLLUN ADFER A CHYFLAWNI ECONOMAIDD SIR
GAERFYRDDIN DIWEDDARIAD CYNNYDD

Argymhelliad / penderfyniadau allweddol sydd eu hangen:

Er gwybodaeth ac er mwyn nodi'r cynnydd a fwriadwyd ac a wnaed mewn perthynas â chyflawni canlyniadau allweddol Cynllun Adfer a Chyflawni Economaidd Sir Gaerfyrddin.

Y rhesymau:

Yn ei gyfarfod ar 29 Mehefin 2020, rhoddodd y Bwrdd Gweithredol (fel y'i gelwid ar y pryd) ystyriaeth i adroddiad a oedd yn darparu asesiad o'r effaith yr oedd Covid-19 yn ei chael ar fusnesau yn Sir Gaerfyrddin ac yn nodi'r hyn a oedd yn bwysig iddynt yn y tymor byr, tymor canolig a thymor hir, fel y gallai'r Awdurdod roi'r cymorth y mae arnynt ei angen fwyaf yn y dyfodol. Arweiniodd hyn at baratoi Cynllun Adfer a Chyflawni Economaidd Sir Gaerfyrddin, a gafodd ei ystyried a'i gymeradwyo gan y Cabinet yn ei gyfarfod ar 21 Mehefin 2021. Ar draws tair thema Busnes, Pobl a Lle, mae'r Cynllun yn amlygu canlyniadau y gellir mesur llwyddiant yn eu herbyn. Cytunwyd y byddai'r Cabinet yn cael diweddariadau rheolaidd ynghylch cynnydd. Dyma'r diweddariad cyntaf o'r fath.

Angen ymgynghori â'r Pwyllgor Craffu perthnasol NAC OES

Angen i'r Cabinet wneud penderfyniad OES

Angen i'r Cyngor wneud penderfyniad NAC OES

YR AELOD O'R CABINET SY'N GYFRIFOL AM Y PORTFFOLIO:-

Y Cyng. Emlyn Dole – Arweinydd – Aelod Cabinet sy'n gyfrifol am Adfywio

Y Gyfarwyddiaeth:

Enw Pennaeth y Gwasanaeth:

Jason Jones

Awdur yr Adroddiad:

Jason Jones

Swyddi:

Pennaeth Adfywio

Cyfeiriad e-bost:

JaJones@sirgar.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cabinet

28th February 2022

Carmarthenshire Economic Recovery and Delivery Plan Progress Update

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 29th June 2020, the Executive Board considered a report which provided an assessment of the impact that Covid-19 was having on Carmarthenshire businesses and identified what was important to them in the short, medium and long-term, so that going forward the Authority could provide them with the assistance they most needed. In response to the issues identified a draft recovery strategy was proposed focusing on 11 key themes. A business, economy and community recovery group has been established to coordinate development and delivery of actions aligned to these 11 themes and an overarching advisory group, comprising key private sector industry leaders, has also been established. This group assisted us with the development and refinement of our draft plan into a finalised economic recovery and delivery plan, which was considered and approved by Cabinet at its 21st June 2021 meeting. At that same meeting Cabinet received a further update on the impact that Covid-19 was having on Carmarthenshire's economy, businesses and communities.

The intelligence gathered at that time clearly demonstrated that the authority and the local economy faced an extremely difficult time over the next 24 months as the effects of the Covid-19 crisis put pressure on jobs and demand. It was therefore essential that the Council's response was in tune with the needs of businesses and communities across Carmarthenshire, taking advantage of opportunities to accelerate change to enable success in the economy of the future. Carmarthenshire's economic recovery plan identifies some 30 actions to support the recovery of the Carmarthenshire economy from the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and Brexit. It sets out our priorities for supporting Business, People and Place. With this support Carmarthenshire's economy can recover as quickly as possible to become one which is more productive than before, more equal, greener, healthier, and with more sustainable communities.

Recovery plans for the County's 3 primary towns – Carmarthen, Llanelli and Ammanford – have also been developed to support the Council's overarching recovery proposals. Each plan is bespoke to the relevant town and sets out the impact that Covid-19 has had on the town centres in terms of loss of spending, increased vacancy rates and decline in footfall. Each of the plans highlight key issues and opportunities and provide a delivery framework of interventions specific to the individual town centres.

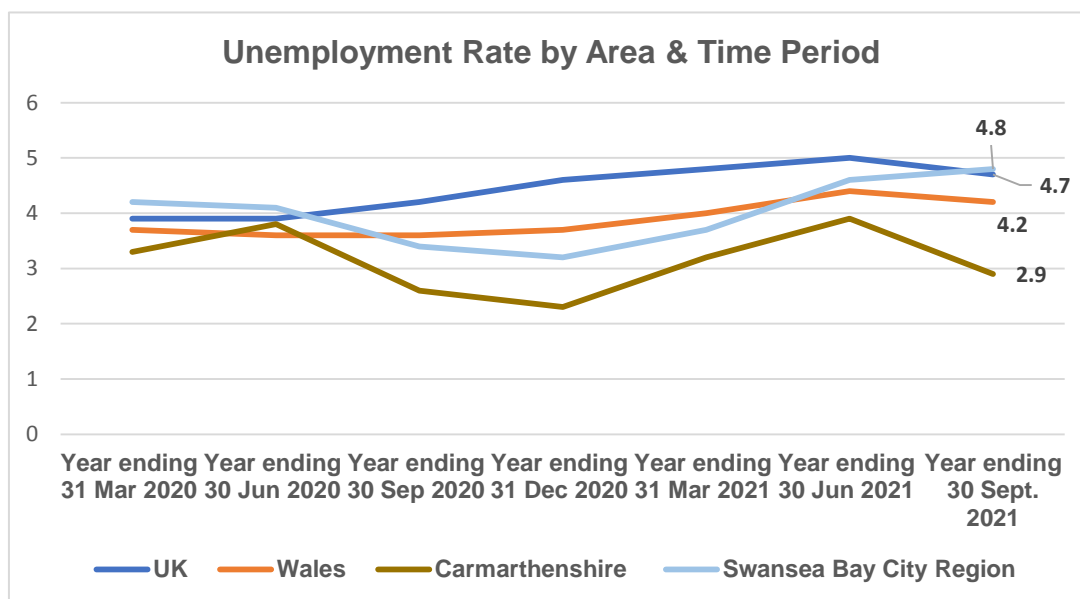
The Local Authority is not able to deliver everything, and we are working with public sector partners and external organisations, including the private sector, to ensure coordination of activity wherever possible to support our plan for recovery and growth.

It was previously agreed when the finalised Carmarthenshire Economic recovery and Delivery Plan was considered by Executive Board (as it was then called) that Cabinet would receive regular progress updates. This is the first such update.

CURRENT POSITION (DECEMBER 2021)

It would be fair to say that Carmarthenshire’s economic position has generally improved since the onset of the pandemic. Some challenges, however, remain. What was a difficult and uncertain time for all has seemingly improved in line with the reopening of the economy and the lifting of restrictions. Several Government interventions have been crucial to minimising what could have been catastrophic impacts to the economy. Most notably, these include the furlough scheme and the self-employment income support scheme which were complemented by a raft of business support grants (many of which were administered by the Authority). Detailed below are some of the key economic indicators that the Authority has been monitoring over the course of the last 22 months.

- Employment and Unemployment¹:



Unemployment rates have exhibited significant variation since the onset of the pandemic which is to be expected given its far-reaching effects on the labour market. The graph clearly depicts that although Carmarthenshire had seen an overall rise in unemployment (from 3.3% to 3.9%² between March 2020 and June 2021) this increase was lower than predictions made at the onset of the pandemic. Much of this can be attributed to the support measures mentioned above. Positively, the

¹ <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Business-Economy-and-Labour-Market/People-and-Work/Unemployment/ILO-Unemployment/ilounemploymentrates-by-welshlocalareas-year>

² Annual Population Survey (APS) responses are weighted to official population projections. The projections for 2020 were 2018-based, and, therefore, were based on demographic trends that pre-dated the COVID-19 pandemic. – This suggests care should be taken when viewing the data as there may not provide a full picture of the current landscape. They should be taken as indicative of trends.

most recent data indicates that the unemployment rate has decreased to 2.9%. It is also important to note that Carmarthenshire's unemployment rate has consistently remained below regional and national averages (except for a period in June 2020). The Council has been and remains committed to supporting individuals into work, details of specific activities are expanded on below.

- Recruitment Challenges:

Relatively low unemployment and high employment rates have culminated in what is known as a tightening of the labour market. This has resulted in several industries (most notably the Health and Social Care, Tourism and Hospitality and Haulage sectors) facing acute recruitment challenges. As well as hampering growth and productivity these challenges increase pressure on businesses to make uplifts to wages to attract talent. This is of course positive for prospective employees but places additional financial pressure on businesses and industries. This is especially pertinent for Carmarthenshire as these sectors are key drivers of the foundational economy on which we are particularly reliant in terms of employment and their economic contribution to the economy. Several initiatives have been developed and supported by the Council to address these challenges further detail of which can be seen further in the report under ERP outcomes.

- Furlough:

The end of the furlough scheme has not resulted in the severe economic downturns that were predicted. Whilst we are experiencing a tightening of the labour market, statistics indicate that the majority of those furloughed have returned to their substantive roles, which is positive. Incidences of staff acquiring alternative employment is minimal and mostly concentrated in the Health and Social Care, Tourism and Hospitality, Food and Construction sectors.

- Skills:

Much consideration was given to planning for the advent of new skills. Most businesses have, however, reported an acceleration and deepening of the skills issues and challenges that were present pre-pandemic. Most notably, these include digital and ICT skills, leadership and management skills and communication skills. Several sectors are also reporting that they are more aware of training needed around staff mental health and wellbeing.

Future considerations (the next 5-10 years) with regards to skills developments are concentrated within the following areas:

- Skills in new technology,
- Advanced or specialist IT skills,
- Renewable energy skills,
- Specialist engineering skills,
- Smart manufacturing skills.

- Business Recovery:

Businesses have done well to 'bounce back' – Restrictions imposed on businesses created a range of operational challenges which hampered income generation and productivity. Consumer demand and changing consumer spending practices were a significant concern but financial interventions and support provided by the Council have assisted businesses to

operate and diversify in a post-lockdown economy which was complemented by a campaign to think and buy local through the '100% Sir Gar' initiative.

With this being said, a different set of challenges appear to have come to the fore recently. Supply chain issues are a severe concern for several sectors, exacerbated by increasing costs and increased bureaucracy with regards to importing and exporting because of Brexit. This is of pertinence for the Manufacturing and Engineering and Construction sectors whereby these challenges are resulting in delaying work and in some instances the forced cancellation of some jobs.

- Disproportionate Effects:

The effects of the pandemic were not felt equally by all, evidence suggested that the effects would be felt disproportionately by the younger generation and those from low-income households. Much work has been done to counteract these effects, including the introduction of the Kickstart scheme which has been successfully supported by the Authority in our role as a Gateway Provider. This work will continue to ensure individuals have access to meaningful employment and training opportunities.

Economic Recover Target Outcomes

Across the three themes of **Business, People and Place**, the Council's Economic Recovery Plan (ERP) highlights 7 key outcomes against which success can be measured:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Jobs Created: | Target 3,000 |
| Jobs Safeguarded: | Target 3,000 |
| Business Enquiries Supported: | Target 6,000 |
| Number of individuals who have received training, providing them new skills/qualifications: | Target 600 |
| Number of employees earning real living wage: | Target 200 |
| Skills and Qualifications achieved by self-employed individuals and micro businesses: | Target 250 |
| Increased Digital Competency Levels: | Target 200 |
| Number of Construction/maintenance jobs safeguarded through delivery of energy efficiency measures: | Target 700 |

Progress against these targets as of December 2021 is detailed below:

- **Jobs Created – Target 3,000**
Quarter 3 progress 837

Our dedicated employability team has been working with both short term and long-term unemployed individuals in Carmarthenshire to support them into sustainable employment opportunities. To date they have created 642 jobs through Communities for Work, Workways

Plus and the Kickstart Scheme. The team continues to work closely with key local employers and job seekers to create employment opportunities for Carmarthenshire residents.

We have worked with employers including TRJ, The Range, ERA Living, T&M Landscaping, The Little Welsh Deli, Argrif and CK Supermarkets.

In September 2021 we successfully delivered three jobs' fairs to support sectors experiencing the aforementioned acute recruitment challenges. A fair was conducted in each of the primary towns, which were attended by businesses in the local area including TRJ, Castell Howell, Dunbia and Owens. Further jobs fairs are planned.

The Economic Development team has continued to support businesses throughout the pandemic, providing grants, advice, guidance and signposting that has led to the creation of 187 jobs. The current release of business grants provides support for business start-ups and expanding businesses with projects that directly aligned to job creation.

Contracts awarded through procurement frameworks have led to the creation of 8 jobs.

- **Jobs Safeguarded – Target 3,000**
Quarter 3 progress - 673

Throughout the pandemic our Economic Development team has delivered the Covid Business Recovery Funds on behalf of the Welsh Government. The funds have provided a lifeline to businesses in what has been a challenging time enabling these businesses to safeguard 356 jobs.

In addition to delivering the covid recovery grants, officers have also been supporting businesses to safeguard 111 jobs via the Carmarthenshire Rural Enterprise Fund and the emergency flood grants. The latter were set up in response to the adverse weather conditions we experienced in County that directly impacted businesses.

The Community Bureau have supported organisations during the pandemic, assisting them in safeguarding 20 jobs.

Through our Modernising Education and Housing and Highways programmes we have awarded contracts to local businesses, providing skilled work opportunities in the local economy, safeguarding a further 184 jobs.

- **Business Engaged / Enquiries Supported – Target 6,000**
Quarter 3 Total - 2,314

As an immediate response to the restrictions imposed on businesses during the pandemic, we created a Covid-19 Business Support Line to enable businesses to contact the authority and find out what support was available to them. Whilst the number of enquiries received has fallen in line with the re-opening of the economy, the line remains open. Crucially, this ensures that businesses have a central point of contact which they can utilise during what is an uncertain time and ever-changing situation.

Furthermore, the employability projects have been working closely with businesses throughout the County to assist them with their employability requirements and assist them in filling vacant roles. This has been a crucial service during a time where sectors such as Care, Hospitality

and security have been experiencing acute recruitment challenges against a back-drop of increasing demand for their services.

During the pandemic we launched the 100% Sir Gar initiative as a virtual shop window on our Discover Carmarthenshire website to support local businesses to recover from the effects of lockdown and the restrictions imposed on them. This was complemented by the launch of the 100% Sir Gar Pop up Shops which ran for two weeks in August 2021 out of the old Topshop in Carmarthen, followed by a further week in Pembrey Country Park. The initiative relaunched in December 2021, with a Pop-up Shop in the old Debenhams, Carmarthen, which generated just under 22,500 visitors to the store, benefiting the wider town centre economy. Most businesses (83%) exceeded their anticipated income targets and all the business who responded expressed an interest in participating in future similar events. As a result, further 100% Sir Gar pop up events are proposed during February and April this year in the former Debenhams Store. Similar pop-up shop opportunities were also introduced at 1 Stepney Street, Llanelli during December 2022. 11 businesses took advantage of the opportunity to trade here, of which 4 are currently being supported to apply for business grants, one has moved on to a permanent retail unit and another has been introduced to a longer-term occupation opportunity of a council property. We will be promoting further pop-up use opportunities in Llanelli over coming months. We are targeting property acquisitions in Ammanford with a view to providing meanwhile use opportunities there also.

- **Progressive Procurement:**

The authority's Progressive Procurement Cluster Group are currently working to address the recommendations detailed within the CLES report into community wealth building through localising spend. The group have made significant steps to understand the £5-£25k spend accrued by the authority and have planned several activities to raise awareness of tender opportunities and support local businesses to become 'tender ready'. These include:

- As a pilot exercise, businesses aligned to the PPE, Cleaning and Workwear and Mechanical and Electrical sectors were engaged with in September to raise awareness of relevant tender opportunities. This engagement was welcomed by the majority and has served to inform our future activities which are detailed below.
- A business survey which has been launched to gain an in-depth understanding of the support local businesses require to become 'tender ready'. Business engagement teams will use this information to engage with businesses on a one-to-one basis and provide the support needed.
- A marketing and media campaign which will raise awareness of upcoming tender opportunities, encourage businesses to utilise the authority's new 'Supplier Guide' and sign up to 'Sell2Wales'.

- **Number of individuals who have received training, providing them new skills/qualifications Target – 600**

Quarter 3 Total - 248

Our employability programmes have been working hard to deliver training courses to job seekers throughout the county to ensure they have the skills needed to fill vacant roles. The team have worked closely with training providers to deliver courses in Care, Security, Construction and Hospitality.

The Community Benefits Officer works closely with contractors working on Council commissioned developments to ensure that training opportunities resulting from these developments are maximised in accordance with contracts awarded by the authority.

Number of employees earning real living wage Target – 200

Quarter 3 total – 50

Our Business Development team and Employability teams are liaising with employers to identify businesses that pay the real living wage. This knowledge enables our employment teams to identify work opportunities that will have most meaningful and sustainable impact on the quality of life of prospective employees.

- **Skills and Qualifications achieved by self-employed individuals and micro businesses – Target 250**

Quarter 3 Total – 0

Although we have not yet reported any outcomes against this target, we have secured funding which will allow us to deliver training to self-employed individuals and micro businesses.

Via the Transforming Towns Programme, we have commissioned mystery shopper visits to 60 small businesses across the towns which will identify training needs.

We have also commissioned production of promotional material which will demonstrate the advantages of Welsh language use in business. The videos will be supplemented by online resources which will be accessible by all businesses.

- **Increased Digital Competency Levels – Target 200**

Quarter 3 total – 215

The employability teams have been supporting job seekers to improve their digital competency levels through one-to-one support and mentoring. Improving digital skills and competency levels strengthen the employability prospects of individuals and ensures that they are well positioned to apply for vacant roles.

- **Number of Construction/maintenance jobs safeguarded through delivery of energy efficiency measures – Target 700**

Quarter 3 total – 126

As an authority we are delivering a wide portfolio of projects across service areas which support the green agenda. Our Modernising Education Programme is providing new, state of the art facilities to children and our Housing schemes are providing energy efficient accommodation for residents. As an authority we are committed to the Net Zero Carbon pledge and will continue to deliver projects which help to achieve this. Our ambition to support the delivery of over 2,000 additional homes across the County over the next five years, investing over £300 million into our communities, will also help to safeguard a significant number of construction jobs.

MOVING FORWARD

There has been very good progress to date against the overall ERP targets. Over the course of the next 18 – 24 months, activity to fully achieve proposed outcomes will focus, although not exclusively, on the projects and initiatives set out below:

| Project | Brief Description | Outputs |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| CCC Employability Programmes | Communities for Work and Workways will provide support to some 3000 individuals. | Gaining full time employment 849 Gaining a qualification 1088 Volunteering 1087 Number of companies paying the living wage 260 Number into training 582 Number of residents feeling more Confident using IT after receiving Digital support 713 |
| Cross Hands East | Completion of infrastructure to phase 2 of the site comprising extensive mine treatment, provision of main services, cut and fill earthwork to create of 7 no. plots, internal highway, drainage, landscaping, mitigation. | 7 new commercial plots, to complement the 10 plots created in Phase 1, with the potential to create/safeguard 500 jobs in the medium term (3- 10 years) and circa 90 jobs in the short term - end of 2023. |
| Cross Hands Plot 3 | Construction works to commence site early spring 2022 to create some 3,00m ² of accommodation capable of net zero carbon operations and comprising 3 commercial buildings. | Jobs created 60 Jobs safeguarded 46 By end of 2023 |
| YMCA, Llanelli | £4.5m Refurbishment of Listed Building, funded by WG Transforming Towns. Scheduled completion and achievement of outputs early 2023. | 4 jobs created 10 jobs safeguarded 50 jobs accommodated 1 traineeship 4 enterprises accommodated 8 housing units created 1 non-residential unit brought back into use |
| Llandeilo Market Hall | Work commenced June 2020 and aiming for October 2022 completion. The £4.1m project will see 1,249m ² floorspace created/refurbished with potential to accommodate 17 small and medium enterprises as well as a range of business incubation units, market/event hall space, café, open plan tech hub/hot desk area/break out space, shared meeting/conference rooms and an external events area & Parking | SME's accommodated: 17 Jobs created / accommodated: 45.6 By late 2022 / early 2023 |
| Tywi Valley Path | 20 km river path from Carmarthen to Llandeilo | Estimated user numbers 123k per annum. Total increased spend in the area approx. £4.4million. |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| | | Potential tourism jobs supported from increased spend: 80 Construction jobs supported: 169 By early 2024 |
| Debenhams | <p>Carmarthen Hwb project to bring back into use redundant Debenhams department store in St Catherine's Walk – the heart of the town centre - back into use, bringing together health, social care and active leisure, alongside university provision access to employment support and public services; a new, publicly-accessible home for Carmarthenshire's Museum collections; and a welcome point for visitors to the town.</p> <p>The total capital cost of the proposed Carmarthen scheme is £19.608 million. Funding of £15.860 million is now confirmed from the Levelling Up Fund, with the remaining £3.748 million to be funded by Carmarthenshire County Council.</p> | Net present public value of £31.26m Visitor Economy – additional spend of around £67k per annum Additional Footfall - £385k per annum |
| Pendine | Pendine Attractor Project – on completion the site will host a new state of the art museum dedicated to Pendine's long association with land speed record breaking attempts, a 42 bed eco hostel with ancillary café and an accessible changing facility, outdoor events area and exhibition esplanade, dune gardens, children's play area and improved car parking. | 41 Jobs accommodated 4 SME's 123 Jobs Created (Direct, Indirect and Construction) By late 2022 |
| Pentre Awel | <p>Multi-million-pound project. Pentre Awel is the first development of its scope and size in Wales providing world-class medical research and health care delivery and supporting and encouraging people to lead active and healthy lives.</p> <p>Bouygues UK recently appointed to deliver Zone 1 (education, research, business, health and leisure facilities, together with primary infrastructure).</p> | It is estimated that 1850 jobs will be created from the entire development proposed, of which 750 – 950 jobs will be attributed to phase 1. Phase 1 construction scheduled for completion early 2024. |
| Pentre Awel Community Benefits | We are working closely with Bouygues UK to maximise the community benefits arising from the Zone 1 construction Phase. | <p>As a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of recruitment and training Plan – minimum engagement of 90 people • Provide 48 SMEs with access to development support • 7 Educational Programmes, e.g., Girls Believe • 1 Community Ambassador Programme • Work experience opportunities – contribute towards Pentre Awel's target of 270 placements a year |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Welsh language initiatives |
| Aldi | Disposal of Council land for significant redevelopment. Store opened December 2021 | Over 100 jobs created |
| Burry Port | <p>Burry Port Residential Residential development comprising of 312 units to be released to the market in 2022. The site is a key part of the Burry Port masterplan for the redevelopment of the area and will act as a catalyst for further development. The site is to be released to market in 2022.</p> <p>Burry Port Site 4 A mixed-use development incorporating circa 5,000 sqm of retail, hotel, pub/restaurant and residential uses. The site will be released to market in 2022.</p> | <p>Jobs created 50 Jobs accommodated 100 By late 2023/ early 2024</p> <p>Jobs Created 50 By late 2023/ early 2024</p> |
| Digital Infrastructure | The £55 million SBCD Digital Infrastructure programme will benefit residents and businesses in all parts of the Swansea Bay City Region, which includes Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea. The programme is estimated to be worth £318 million to the regional economy in the next 15 years. | Inward investment of £30 million is estimated throughout the five-year delivery phase of the programme |
| Skills and Talent | Carmarthenshire County Council is the Lead Body for the Regional Learning & Skill Partnership (RLSP). The RLSP is leading on the delivery of the SBCD regional Skills and Talent Programme over the next 5 years. The key aim of the programme is to deliver the skills needs of the 8 City Deal projects as well as supporting the skills needs of the region. | Regionally the SBCD Skills and Talent programme aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create 3000 apprenticeships • Develop 2000 skilled individuals and create 14,000 skills within individuals • Create 2 Centres of Excellence • Create a Career pathway for school pupils through to FE, HE and apprenticeship in the key themes of Construction, Energy, Smart Manufacturing, Health and Wellbeing and Digital • Create 20 new/updated skills frameworks to meet industry needs. |
| Housing | We will support the delivery of over 2,000 additional homes across the County over the next five years, promoting economic growth by investing over £300 million into our communities | This level of investment is estimated to safeguard some 700 over next 5 years |
| CCC Funding Support | Business Start Up / Business Growth Grant circa £500k currently available | Businesses supported 120 Jobs created 80 Jobs safeguarded 100 |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| | <p>Carmarthenshire Rural Enterprise Fund – to be launched February 2022</p> <p>Property Development Fund - to be launched February 2022</p> <p>Transforming Towns Funding (Previously Property Enhancement Development Fund) Open market call Feb 2022. WG budget allocation over 4 years. Total availability TBC. Will look to maximise Carmarthenshire’s allocation within the region.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire Business Renewable Energy Fund - (£500,000) Support to assist businesses with renewable energy initiatives and carbon reduction. Applicants can apply for up to 50% of the project cost to a maximum of £10,000. Businesses supported will need to demonstrate their project will improve their carbon footprint.</p> | <p>10 Businesses supported & 50 Jobs created during 2022/23</p> <p>3 Businesses supported & 30 Jobs accommodated during 2022/23</p> <p>Jobs created 10 Jobs accommodated 50 during 2022-2026</p> <p>No. of businesses signed up to the green growth pledge Carbon saved</p> |
| Crown Buildings, Llanelli | £3m private sector development with potential WG grant support. | Jobs safeguarded 100 by early 2024 |
| Glanaman Workshops | The project comprised demolition works and construction of 505sqm flexible workshops space with sizes ranging from 48sqm to 100 sqm. The project would deliver 6 no units to accommodate circa 25 jobs | Creating circa 25 jobs in 2022. |

CONCLUSION

Current indicators suggest that the economic outlook for Carmarthenshire is not thankfully as stark as what was previously envisaged when the Economic Recovery Plan was being developed. There is confidence, however, supported by activity to date and proposed, that the overall ambitious ERP outcomes are achievable. Regular updates will be provided to Cabinet on progress.

All opportunities to draw down additional external, including UK and Welsh Government, funding will be explored to add value to activity already planned or being undertaken to ensure that economic growth opportunities are maximised. For example, In the autumn, the Authority welcomed the announcements from UK Government that it had secured £19.9 million, jointly with Pembrokeshire County Council, to create two town centre hubs and a further £16.7m for the Tywi Valley Initiative. Both will be funded via the first round of the Levelling Up Fund. The Authority also welcomed further £2.97m funding from the UK Government’s Community Renewal Fund for projects involving upskilling, business support and town centre development – all of which greatly contribute to the economic recovery of Carmarthenshire.

We have benefitted from WG Transforming Towns funding support for a lot of our town centre related activity, and we look forward to continued WG funding to support delivery of our various town centre recovery proposals.

As part of its Levelling Up agenda, it is likely that UK Government will announce a new funding programme, the Shared Prosperity Programme (SPF) this March. Hailed as the EU replacement, this new programme will bring largely revenue funding for projects that address skills & training, business support and place regeneration. The guidelines for the SPF are expected before May and we will endeavour to take advantage of this future funding to maximise the impact of external funding in Carmarthenshire.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

Yes – Carmarthenshire Economic Recovery and Delivery Plan (April 2021)
<https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s51856/Report.pdf>

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, Crime & Disorder and Equalities | Legal | Finance | ICT | Risk Management Issues | Staffing Implications | Physical Assets |
| YES | NONE | YES | NONE | NONE | NONE | NONE |

1. Policy

In developing our Economic Recovery and Delivery Plan we have fully taken account of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act by ensuring that the actions we have identified fully consider and embed sustainable development with a view to improving economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being in all that we do. We have also considered how we can apply the five ways of working (long-term; prevention; integration; collaboration; involvement) as we make progress on the identified actions.

3. Finance

The Council has allocated £3.7m of capital funding and £700k of revenue funding to support the recovery actions. This funding is currently being used to deliver several grant schemes as identified in the report drawing down additional funding to maximise opportunities wherever possible.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Jason Jones

Head of Regeneration

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

1. Scrutiny Committee

N/A

2. Local Member(s)

N/A

3. Community / Town Council

N/A

4. Relevant Partners

The Local Authority is not able to deliver everything, and we are working with public sector partners and external organisations, including the private sector, to ensure coordination of activity wherever possible to support our plan for recovery and growth.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

N/A

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

YES

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

Cabinet Report (24th May 2021) on UK Government funding opportunities -
<https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s51037/Summary.pdf>