

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**

**Delegated Decision**

**11<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

**REPORT AUTHOR: Economic Regeneration Manager**

**SUBJECT: Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme (LABGI) Funds**

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**REPORT FOR: Decision**

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**1. Summary**

1.1. To consider and approve the allocation of funds from the LABGI budget. Powys County Council currently has £43,000 within the LABGI fund budget, all of which is to be used against revenue spend.

**2. Proposal**

2.1 It is proposed that the following revenue items are supported for financing from this fund:-

**Sponsorship for the Powys Business Awards**

In June 2011 it was approved (delegated decision) by the Port-Folio holder for Regeneration and Development that £5,000 of funding from Labgi Funds be secured to sponsor 2011 Business Awards scheme. The previous Business Awards had been a resounding success and this report seeks to secure additional sponsorship of £7,000 for 2012 and a further £7,000 in 2013 totalling £19,000 over a 3 year period.

Mid Wales Manufacturing Group (MWMG), as lead partner with Powys County Council, had secured sponsorship for all 10 categories which comprised:

Business of the Year Award 2011 – Powys County Council  
Growth Award – Finance Wales  
Training & Development Award – Coleg Powys  
Start-Up Business Award – County Times  
Small Business Award – Turner Peachey, Chartered Accountants  
Young Entrepreneur Award – Cambrian News & Brecon & Radnor Express  
Leadership Award – Leadership & Management Wales (LMW)  
Tourism Award – Tourism Partnership Mid Wales

Manufacturing Award – Mid Wales Manufacturing Group (MWMG)  
Social Enterprise/Charity Awards – Mid Wales Housing Association Ltd  
Judges Award – Themes Restaurant

## **IT Equipment**

In order that the Development Management team within Powys CC can provide a more efficient service in support of businesses £8,500 to be allocated to provide laptop computers for case officers.

## **GVA Grimley's management of workspace contract**

GVA Grimley, Cardiff currently manage the workspace portfolio for Powys which comprises of 15 sites across the Authority. It is proposed that £12,000 be allocated to implement the recommendations within the workspace strategy (as prepared by GVA Grimley) which was approved in cabinet in September 2011. These proposals are over and above the current contract value. Recommendations are set out below:-

To develop and implement a standard 3 year lease document for use in all owned workspace across Powys. This will include the communication to all tenants by carrying out site visits.

To implement the recovery of service charges across Powys. The Council will look to recover 50% of the estimated service charges in the first year moving to 100% twelve months later.

2.3 This would therefore leave a balance of £3,500 within this budget.

### **3. Powys Change Plan 2012-15**

3.1 The virement of the LABGI funds to supporting the above projects addresses the Change Plan's key area for improvement entitled Regeneration and will aid the successful delivery of the Regeneration Strategy.

3.2 The virement of funds will assist in meeting the Change Plan's continuous improvement activity' by 'supporting Powys' economy and optimising opportunities for micro, small and medium sized enterprises.

### **4. Options Considered/Available**

4.1 It is recommended that above proposals are approved which will assist the Council in meeting the continuous improvement activity for Regeneration

**5. Preferred Choice and Reasons**

- 5.1 The preferred choice is set out in section 4 above. This will assist the Council in meeting the continuous improvement activity for Regeneration in the Powys Change Plan 2012-15 and in achieving the outcome agreement target set against the Business Awards.

**6. Sustainability and Environmental Issues/Equalities/Crime and Disorder,/Welsh Language/Other Policies etc**

- 6.1 The above has taken account of these issues in the course of its preparation and they will continue to be relevant considerations in its implementation.
- 6.2 The above recommendations will have a considerable impact on economic vitality, regeneration, health and personal wellbeing, tourism, creating a sustainable environment, amongst many others.

**7. Children and Young People's Impact Statement – Safeguarding and Wellbeing**

- 7.1 Not applicable.

**8. Local Member(s)**

- 8.1 The recommendation is relevant to all Members and all parts of the County

**9. Other Front Line Services**

- 9.1 Two of the proposals above (Business Awards and GVA Grimley) will be coordinated by the Economic Regeneration Team.

**10. Support Services (Legal, Finance, HR, ICT, BPU)**

- 10.1 Continuation of existing process.

**11. Local Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc**

- 11.1 The report explains how the above proposals will support the recommendations set out in the Powys Regeneration Strategy.

**12. Communications**

12.1 The communication of the changes / actions will need to be addressed in conjunction with the Council's communications team

### **13 Statutory Officers**

13.1 The Strategic Director Law and Governance has no comment to make on the report.

13.2 The Strategic Director Finance and Infrastructure comments: "The Principle Accountant for community skills and Learning comments that the funds have already been allocated to the projects set out in this report."

### **14. Members' Interests**

14.1 The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
<b>The portfolio - holder agrees to the proposed budget and virements as set out in Section 2 of the report above.</b>	<b>To facilitate the delivery of regeneration actions in the County</b>

<b>Relevant Policy (ies):</b>			
<b>Within Policy:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Within Budget:</b>	<b>Y</b>

<b>Relevant Local Member(s):</b>	
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<b>Person(s) To Implement Decision:</b>	<b>Wynne Jones; Portfolio Holder</b>
<b>Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:</b>	<b>1 May 2012</b>

<b>Contact Officer Name:</b>	<b>Tel:</b>	<b>Fax:</b>	<b>Email:</b>
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