



Covid Recovery Programme

Summary



Amendment to Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2021-2026 and 2021-22 Budget and Capital Programme for 2021-2031:

4.1 To set aside £1.8 million of the one-off funding now available in 2020-21 to put in place a Powys Recovery Fund, this fund will support Communities and Council Services.

4.2 This £1.8 million will be held in a specific reserve and drawn down over the next 2 years. The reserve will be used flexibly across both categories. Detailed criteria is currently being developed.

This is a much-needed and extremely positive opportunity to assist our businesses, residents and communities recover from the devastating impact of COVID. We are working on the criteria but seeking to introduce the fund with the following principles:

- To achieve a county-wide impact
- A 2-year programme, with more detail to follow in the second year
- Wide range of activities included/provided for within the programme
- All numbers are provisional/indicative
- Complimentary to existing and emerging activities from Welsh Government

The two key themes for the fund will be assisting **our communities** and **our services** that support them.

Theme 1 - Community



1.1 Powys Covid Recovery Fund

To help community groups, charities, social enterprises, and voluntary organisations in supporting people and communities in responding to the challenges presented by COVID-19.

- Combine with the existing Community Development Fund (£100K p/a)
- Establish an appropriate scoring/assessment matrix
- Get the money out ASAP in 2021-22

1.2 Public Convenience Support

To help all of our communities get back on their feet.

- Recognise the additional costs that COVID has introduced to those community groups running public conveniences in Powys
- Provide grant support to all groups continuing to provide public conveniences across Powys

- Support those remaining facilities to be transferred with an equitable approach across the county
- Dedicated additional allocation for urgent repair work

Theme 2 - Economy and Environment



2.1 Business Recovery Support

To help all of our local businesses get back on their feet.

- Additional and dedicated officer resource to ensure our businesses receive specialist support and make full use of the recovery schemes available to them
- Focus on advising enterprises that have fallen through the gaps of current support packages
- Enhance signposting to existing programmes, such as Workways plus, TRIP, LEADER, Town Centre Loans, MWGD. Working closely with Business Wales/Welsh Government/NFU/FUW/Mid Wales Tourism/Mid Wales Manufacturing Group and other key partners



2.2 Highway Recovery Fund

To invest in our essential road network.

- Enhanced highway cleansing activities
- Additional pot hole repair and maintenance funds.

This is on top of the additional revenue funding of £250k 20/21 and the HAMP investment of circa £10m 21/22.

2.3 Financial Recovery Support

To help our local residents back on their feet.

- Enhanced Income and Awards Support Team
- Additional dedicated Covid support officer
- Strengthen the existing Money and Advice Team

2.4 Council Services Specific Support

To help support all of our vital frontline services recover from the impact of the pandemic.

- Additional funding to support small scale specific recovery initiatives and activities, focussing on strengthening organisational resilience that will provide for progressive and sustainable service delivery
- Examples could include: Library provision, arts and culture recovery, HR and OD – occupational health support for staff, care home support/development, pupil support initiatives

3.0 Provisional Covid Recovery Fund Finances



All details to be finalised, but this is based on a £2.0m over two years programme fund.

(£1.8m additional one-off funding plus £100k pa Community Development Fund)

Circa £1.0m per year – timing of expenditure can be flexible, based on need and priority.

Indicative year 1 (20/21) programme:

- Theme 1 - Community (£400K)
- Theme 2 - Economy & Environment (£600K) - minimum 50% of available funds allocated to the Highways Recovery Fund.