



## **Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee**

### **Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on: 13.12.2022.**

The Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee met on 12.12.2022 and considered the following documents:

Shared Prosperity Fund: Submission of a Regional Investment Plan for Mid Wales

The Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee thank the Portfolio Holder for A More Prosperous Powys, County Councillor David Selby, and officers for attending scrutiny.

Scrutiny made the following observations:

- The Committee was generally content with the report presented for consideration and that the application form was very clear and straightforward.
- The Committee noted that:
  - Funding has been confirmed and a memorandum of understanding would need to be completed so that the funding could be accessed.
  - £2.7m had been allocated for year 1 and that it was hoped that written confirmation would be received that some of this funding could be rolled forward to Year 2.
  - The Investment plan sets out the high-level information which was available for everyone to share to encourage applications.
  - In the first-year applications would be focussed on Council based projects due to the short timescale but subsequently would be open to a wider range of applications.
  - In response to whether support would be available for organisations who required it to complete applications, that limited support would be available, but a series of guides were being prepared to support applicants in completing the form.
  - A further update would be provided to Town and Community Councils about the Fund and how to make applications as well as a further briefing to Members.
  - Consideration was being given as to whether applicants could apply for multiple workstreams rather than a single workstream as suggested.
  - Organisations involved in the Local Partnership would be allowed to apply for funding for projects but could not take part in the determination of their own applications.
  - All applications would be assessed by officers and then applications and officer recommendations would be considered by the Local Partnership.
- The Committee suggested that:
  - the overall investment plan be sent out in advance of the requests for applications being issued and noted that a communications plan for the plan had been agreed.
  - Consideration be given to representation on the Local Partnership from a work-based learning provider and also Local Nature Partnerships.

Scrutiny's Recommendation	Accept (plus Action and timescale)	Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)	Reject (plus Rationale)
1 that the overall investment plan be sent out in advance of the requests for applications being issued			The Mid Wales investment plan has already been published and publicly available
2 that consideration be given to representation on the Local Partnership from a work-based learning provider and Local Nature Partnerships	Accept and suggested representation put to Local Shared Prosperity Partnership for Powys		

In accordance with Rule 7.27.2 the Cabinet is asked to provide a written response to the scrutiny report, including an action plan where appropriate, as soon as possible or at the latest within 2 months of the date of the Cabinet meeting i.e., by 13.02.2023

Membership of the Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee on 12.12.2022:

County Councillors:

A Davies, D Bebb, I Harrison, Adrian Jones, Arwel Jones, K Lewis, G Mitchell, J Brignell-Thorp, C Walsh