

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Date:	17th March 2014
Subject:	Welsh Government Vibrant and Viable Places Funding for Holyhead Regeneration and Homes
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr. Aled M. Jones Cllr. Ken Hughes
Head of Service:	Dylan J. Williams, Head of Economic & Community Regeneration
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Local Members:	Cllr. T.Lloyd Hughes, Cllr. J.E. Evans, Cllr. D.R.Thomas, Cllr. Raymond Jones, Cllr. R.LI.Jones, Cllr. J.A.Roberts

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s
<p>The County Council has recently been successful in securing an allocation of £7.49m to Holyhead from the Welsh Government’s Vibrant and Viable Places (VVP) urban regeneration programme in the period 2014-2017, and arrangements are now needed to administer and deliver this programme. It is therefore recommended that the Committee delegates to the Corporate Director for Sustainable Development the authority to :-</p> <p>a) agree and establish Holyhead VVP programme governance, stakeholder engagement, and staffing arrangements;</p> <p>b) submit individual Holyhead VVP project funding bids, and accept VVP project funding offers, subject to consultation with the Head of Finance;</p> <p>c) administer Holyhead VVP programme funded grants to eligible third party recipients from agreed budgets in compliance with funding conditions, subject to the arrangements being agreed by the Head of Finance;</p>

d) delegate the authority to undertake b) and c) for specific projects to appropriate Heads of Service.

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?

A senior responsible owner (SRO) is required and of the potential options, the Corporate Director for Sustainable Development was identified as best placed to carry out this role. This is due to the considerable experience of steering similar grant funded regeneration programmes, and the fact that the majority of the projects involve responsibilities within this department, and / or involve property / development matters.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

Endorsement is needed to agree the new capital grant programme arrangements.

CH – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

The Holyhead VVP programme should contribute to the following new Council aims :-

- We increase our Housing Options & reduce Poverty
- We Regenerate our Communities and develop the Economy
- Improve Education, Skills and Modernise our Schools
- Transform our Leisure & Library Provision

D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?

The funding will form part of and add value to the Council's capital programme, which is regularly reported on. Match funding by the Council will be from existing agreed budgets or other external grants that are secured.

DD – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	Have been briefed on VVP process
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	VVP grant process has been discussed with relevant Finance staff and principles agreed
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer	No comments received

	(mandatory)	
4	Human Resources (HR)	-
5	Property	Have been involved in discussions about relevant projects
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	-
7	Scrutiny	-
8	Local Members	Have been briefed via email and at the Holyhead regeneration stakeholder group
9	Any external bodies / other/s	Various stakeholders were involved in the VVP bid preparation process and 23 letters of support were included in the bid. Formal resolutions of support were received from the Anglesey Economic Regeneration Partnership and North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

E – Risks and any mitigation (if relevant)		
1	Economic	Positive contribution expected
2	Anti-poverty	Positive contribution expected
3	Crime and Disorder	Potential contribution to reduction of this
4	Environmental	Any implications for the Council's statutory duties under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act, 2000 and the Natural Resources and Rural Communities (NERC) Act, 2006 will be considered as projects are developed.
5	Equalities	Promotion of equality is a funding condition
6	Outcome Agreements	Potential positive contribution to these
7	Other - Financial	Usual risks associated with external grant funding and being lead body for awarding grant funding to third parties. These risks will be mitigated by the adoption of suitable programme management arrangements based on the Council's experience in administering similar schemes in the past.
8	Other – Staffing / Capacity	The programme will create considerable additional workload for Council staff. The bid therefore includes provision for funding a small team of staff to manage the programme and related activities. Several existing EU/WG grant funded regeneration programmes end in 2014 – VVP funds may help avoid some job losses.

F - Appendices:

Holyhead Vibrant and Viable Places (VVP) Funding Awarded to Holyhead – Briefing Report by Head of Economic & Community Regeneration dated 10th February 2014

FF - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

Welsh Government Vibrant and Viable Places (VVP) Policies and Reports
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housing-and-regeneration/regeneration/vibrant-and-viable-places/?lang=en>

Holyhead VVP Bid (SOP) documents
<http://www.anglesey.gov.uk/business/regeneration-and-investment/vibrant-and-viable-places-bid-for-holyhead/>

WG Vibrant and Viable Places (VVP) Programme Funding Awarded to Holyhead



February 2014

Prepared by: Economic and Community Regeneration

WG VIBRANT & VIABLE PLACES PROGRAMME

FUNDING FOR HOLYHEAD

BACKGROUND

Anglesey has benefitted from Welsh Government Regeneration Area funding for the last six years through the Mon a Menai Programme. This has awarded grants to various County Council and third party projects, and has been a useful source of match-funding to draw down EU and other grants. This funding ends in March. The new Vibrant and Viable Places (VVP) funding is being targeted at eleven settlements in Wales which have been selected following a competitive bid process. Holyhead is one of these selected locations, which has been awarded £7.49m over 3 years, starting in April 2014. VVP funding is all capital, with a specific emphasis on housing / homes as well as on general economic / social/ environmental regeneration.

KEY POINTS

- 100% of funding requested by IACC has been approved (i.e. All elements/ components within the application) – most areas have had sum reduced.
- IACC commended for requesting less resources than maximum permitted (important factor in WG approval/ decision making).
- Only component which needs clarity is that of proposed budget hotel. Visit Wales not in favour, BUT Housing & Regeneration still willing to support. WG to consider further.
- All approved funding (£7.49m) is capital, no revenue component (unlike under Mon a Menai).
- Anglesey will have appointed 'Account Manager' within WG for the Programme. Purpose of role unclear, and individual not confirmed.
- Annual Programme to be signed off by Minister (currently Carl Sargeant AM)
- Completing/ submitting year 1 (2014/2015) Programme information priority.
- This will be followed up with individual project PAFs (submission and sign-off).
- Programme will approved in accordance with submitted information to date and annual spend profile to be provided by IACC no later than 31/3/2014. No opportunity to amend after this.
- Any underspend/ de-commitment will be returned to central VVP budget, no opportunity for slippage beyond agreed profile.
- Award of grants to third parties via VVP will be responsibility of IACC (similar to PEG grants?).
- On-going evaluation of impacts, community benefits, and tackling poverty agenda key considerations.
- Governance and Project Management agreed as outlined in bid document -

resources profiled.

- Quarterly claims to be submitted (inclusive of progress report).
- Front-loading year 1 expenditure desirable (WG).
- EU match funding potential recognised, unclear if WG or IACC should be pursuing.
- Success will require effective cross-Service delivery.

IACC Priority Actions

- 1. Consider and formalise Programme governance arrangements.**
- 2. Agree Senior officer roles, responsibilities, expectations and accountabilities (in terms of Programme governance), across relevant Services.**
- 3. Ensure Programme governance arrangements complement (but are not stifled by) Corporate requirements.**
- 4. Consider and agree Programme Management capacity, prepare JDs and progress recruitment process.**
- 5. Complete and submit Year 1 Programme Overview to WG for Ministerial approval.**
- 6. Complete and submit Year 1 Project Applications (PAFs) for approval, including Programme Governance and Project Management.**
- 7. Progress community/ stakeholder engagement, communication and information sharing.**
- 8. Report to Executive Committee for approval of programme and grant award arrangements.**

Dewi Lloyd who led the successful bid has again been seconded as an initial interim arrangement to progress the above outlined urgent actions (until the Programme Management capacity issues have been resolved). This is a necessity if we are to make early progress and have a realistic opportunity of 'hitting the ground running', meeting WG expectations, and achieving the Year 1 Programme spend targets.

Dylan J. Williams
Head of Economic & Community Regeneration, 10th February 2014.