



Report of Cabinet Member for Better Communities

External Funding Panel – 4 December 2019

Tackling Food Poverty and Addressing Food Insecurity EU Transitional Funding

Purpose:	To provide details of funding allocation from the Welsh Local Government Association to Swansea Council to Tackle Food Poverty and Address Food Insecurity
Policy Framework:	Tackling Poverty Strategy 2017 - 2020 Social Services and Well-being Act Wales (2014) Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The panel notes the offer of the Council's element of the Tackling Food Poverty funding from the WLGA.
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Finance Officer:	Chris Davies
Legal Officer:	Lucy Moore
Access to Services Officer:	Catherine Window

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Funding has been allocated to the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) from the Welsh Government 'Tackling Food Poverty and Addressing Food Insecurity EU Transition Funding' bid, to distribute it to all Local Authorities.
- 1.2 Swansea Council's funding allocation is £36,913 revenue and £74,378 capital. The funding relates to the period 1st November 2019 to 31st March 2020 and must be claimed in full by 30th May 2020.
- 1.3 The revenue sum has been based on the 2019-20 Final Settlement on the 'Total Claimants of Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Pension

Credit and Universal Credit' and the capital funding is distributed on the 'Average (12 months to August 2018) of claimant count figures'.

2. Purpose of the funding

- 2.1 The purpose of the funding is to enable local authorities to:
- 2.2 Support an increased number of people facing food poverty by extending existing food bank provision across each authority.
- 2.3 The capital funding should support organisations to access, store and distribute additional supplies of good quality food, including good food surplus, in particular, larger amounts of fresh food, boosting the capacity of organisations to provide good quality, nutritious food to their customers. It can be used in a variety of ways to suit the requirements in each authority, for example but not limited to: purchasing fridges, freezers and cooking equipment.
- 2.4 The revenue funding can be used in a variety of ways to suit the requirements of the authority. These might include funding and working with voluntary organisations, community groups and housing associations etc. to develop projects such as social supermarkets, community cafes, lunch clubs. It can be used to, for example, provide specialist support for taking forward initiatives such as outreach work, training for volunteers (e.g. food handling qualifications) and to build community resilience through cluster work and the development of food bank hubs which bring together a range of support services.
- 2.5 It is expected that authorities may benefit from working collaboratively to maximise the impact of this funding. Local Authorities are expected to work with local expertise who are already addressing food poverty and insecurity.
- 2.6 Provision should not be turned down to individuals or organisations outside authority area.

3. Allocation of the funding

- 3.1 Food Banks and other partners from across Swansea have been engaged with to establish local trends, needs and gaps in provision so that the priorities for the allocation of the funding can be determined.
- 3.2 The allocation process and any associated third party application process will then be established for the funding to be distributed efficiently and effectively.
- 3.3 The Swansea funded activity and spend to date is due to be reported to WLGA by mid-January 2020, including the number of people supported and details of any collaboration with other authorities. Further reports will follow in April 2020 and October 2020.

4. Equality and Engagement Implications

4.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

4.2 An EIA Screening Form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full EIA report was not required:

- A November 2019 report from the Trussell Trust in to the State of Hunger in the UK Identifies a profile of those who are more likely to experience food insecurity. The groups identified are: Households with a lower income, unemployed people, younger people, lone parents and single person households, households who rented (particularly social renters) and people affected by ill health.
- The most significant protected group that are likely to be impacted by this funding are those experiencing poverty. Whilst we acknowledge that people experiencing poverty may belong to any protected group, available data tells us that the groups that are more likely to experience food insecurity are children and young people, any other age group, disabled people, asylum seekers and carers.
- The impact of the project will be positive on individuals from all protected groups experiencing food insecurity and accessing food bank provision in Swansea.
- The Screening Form is attached as Appendix A.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The 'Tackle Food Poverty and Address Food Insecurity' funding allocated to Swansea Council is detailed below:

Revenue funding	£36,913
Capital funding	£74,378
Total	£111,291

6. Legal Implications

6.1 The Council must ensure that the terms and conditions attached to Tackling Food Poverty and Addressing Food Insecurity EU Transition Funding are complied with and the Council's Financial Procedure Rules Regarding Grant Applications and Acceptances are followed.

Background Papers:

WLGA Food Poverty Grant Offer Letter

Appendices:

Appendix A - EIA Screening Form