

MEETING:	LANGUAGE COMMITTEE
DATE:	07 November 2019
TITLE:	ARFOR programme
AUTHOR:	Anwen Davies <i>Developing Rural Gwynedd Programme Manager</i>
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT	Give the Members an update on the ARFOR programme

1. Background:

Following a budgetary agreement between Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru, in February 2019, the Minister for the Economy, Ken Skates AM, confirmed that a budget of £2 million was available to Gwynedd, Anglesey, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire Councils to trial innovative methods of supporting the economy in the Welsh language's heartlands. The funding is available up to the end of 2020/21.

The Leaders of the four Local Authorities have been meeting regularly over the past year in order to discuss priorities for the Programme.

The Arfor Programme Board has been established, which includes the Leaders of the four counties, and commentators from Welsh Government are present. At a meeting of the Programme Board, Gwynedd Council was asked to act as the lead body for the four counties, by co-ordinating the relationship with Welsh Government.

It was agreed that it was a priority for all counties to refer the majority of the budget to implementing plans locally, by sharing the lessons learnt in order to inform further plans in future.

It was agreed to safeguard some of the budget to draw up a plan to develop the economy and create jobs in the Arfor area for the future, and to hold some joint pilot activities.

£466,250 is available to be invested in Gwynedd over a two-year period on activities that would lead to the creation of new jobs that, in turn, would support the language in our communities.

The Gwynedd Arfor Steering Group has been established to identify a package of innovative projects to trial over the period that is in-keeping with the programme's criteria. Arrangements are already in place to measure the impact of the various types of interventions on the economy and on the language.

The package of projects in Gwynedd include:

- Support for Enterprise
- Maker and Co-locations Spaces
- Enterprising Communities Challenge
- Llwyddo'n Lleol

More information on these projects will be given in the meeting itself.

2 What is sought by the Committee?

The Members are asked to accept the update that will be given by the officer and to offer any observations and questions following the presentation.