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| Title of Item: | <u>2025/26 Shared Prosperity Fund Plans in Gwynedd</u> |
| Cabinet Member: | Councillor R. Medwyn Hughes Cabinet Member – Economy and Community |
| Relevant officer: | Dylan Griffiths, Economy Development Service Manager, Economy and Community Department |
| Date of meeting: | 10 June 2025 |

1. Decision Sought

- 1.1 To agree to commit up to £7,901,000 from the Gwynedd 2025/26 allocation from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to the 14 schemes listed in the report.
- 1.2 To authorise the Head of Economy and Community Department - in consultation with the Head of Legal Service, the Head of Finance Department and the Chief Executive - to confirm the details and the financial contribution.

2. What is the reason why the Cabinet must make the decision:

- 2.1 The [08 April Cabinet](#) asked the Shared Prosperity Fund Panel to give detailed consideration to the individual plans being considered for Gwynedd's allocation of the Shared Prosperity Fund and requested a recommendation to be brought back to the Cabinet on the individual allocations.
- 2.2 The Panel has now considered the plans and agreed on recommendations to the Cabinet.

3. Introduction and Rationale

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) funding period ended on 31 March 2025. Cyngor Gwynedd committed SPF funding to 40 schemes, and they managed to spend £23.95 million for the benefit of communities, residents, enterprises and organisations across the county.
- 3.1.2 In the Autumn Budget (30 October 2024), the UK Government announced an intention to continue with the Fund with less money for a transitional year in 2025/26. The intention is to have an amended funding procedure in place from April 2026.

- 3.1.3 On 13 December 2024, it was announced that £42.42 million had been allocated to North Wales for 2025/26, around half the expenditure in 2024/25. £8.19 million was allocated to Gwynedd, with around £7.90 million available for projects.
- 3.1.4 The [08 April Cabinet](#) agreed to continue with the regional and local governance procedure for the 2025/26 transitional year. The Cabinet also agreed that it was a requirement for every scheme in receipt of Gwynedd funding to respect two principles and agreed to the continuation of funds to distribute smaller amounts of SPF funding to enterprises and communities in the county.
- 3.1.5 On 8 April, the Cabinet asked the Shared Prosperity Fund Panel to give detailed consideration to the individual plans under consideration for the Gwynedd allocation from the Shared Prosperity Fund and present a recommendation back to the Cabinet on the individual allocations.
- 3.2 The rationale and justification for recommending the decision
- 3.2.1 The Panel - which includes Cabinet Members (specifically the Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for the Economy and Community and the Cabinet Member for Finance) and the chief officers (Chief Executive, Head of Finance, Head of Legal Services and the Head of Economy and Community) - have now reviewed the details of the individual plans and have agreed on recommendations to the Cabinet.
- 3.2.2 The package of schemes being recommended includes 14 projects. The total commitment of Gwynedd SPF funding for 2025/26 is £7.90 million:
1. **Camau Cefnogol - help to retain young people in education or training**
Grŵp Llandrillo-Menai (scheme also in Conwy and Môn)
 2. **EGNI - help to develop the skills of local businesses and workforce**
Grŵp Llandrillo-Menai (scheme also in Môn)
 3. **Activity to ensure benefits from the North Wales Growth Deal**
Ambition North Wales (scheme also in Môn, Conwy, Denbighshire and Flintshire)
 4. **Social enterprise support and support to employee-owned enterprises**
Cwmpas to lead (scheme also in Môn)
 5. **Gwynedd and Môn Enterprise Hub**
Menter Môn to lead (scheme also in Môn)
 6. **Skills and Innovation Voucher Scheme and Môr Ni Gwynedd**
Bangor University (a part of the scheme also in Môn and Flintshire)
 7. **Iach ac Actif - physical activity and well-being within communities**
Gogledd Cymru Actif (scheme also in Môn, Denbighshire and Flintshire)
 8. **Support package for people to achieve their potential in the world of work**
Cyngor Gwynedd to lead; Adra / housing associations and Gisda are partners
 9. **Fund to support enterprises in Gwynedd**
Cyngor Gwynedd

10. **Gwynedd Ni Town Centres - thriving places activity package**
Cyngor Gwynedd in collaboration with the Town and Community Councils of the county.
 11. **Community Regeneration Fund and support to develop ideas**
Cyngor Gwynedd to lead; Menter Môn supporting some communities
 12. **Community resilience development package**
Cyngor Gwynedd to lead; CAB, Ability Net, Mantell Gwynedd, Adra, Supporting People Hubs and the Community Transport Partnerships are partners
 13. **Diwylliesiant - culture, heritage and physical well-being package**
Cyngor Gwynedd to lead; Byw'n Iach, Bangor University and Antur Waunfawr are partners
 14. **Voluntary Sector Fund**
Mantell Gwynedd
- 3.2.3 Ambition North Wales (scheme 3 above) will be required to ensure that their demand is equal across every county.
 - 3.2.4 The Panel also recommends that Grŵp Llandrillo-Menai is requested to commit to collaborate with Council Departments and relevant schemes and that there is a provision across Gwynedd.
 - 3.2.5 Seven schemes are applications to continue schemes which operate across more than one county. These applications request £1.46 million (18.5%) of the SPF available to Gwynedd in 2025/26. (The continuation of these applications is subject to the support from other relevant counties).
 - 3.2.6 The other seven schemes would be operational in Gwynedd only. £6.45 million (81.5%) of the SPF funding will be distributed to these schemes. Every scheme includes provision across Gwynedd.
 - 3.2.7 The schemes build on what has been learnt from realising the SPF in Gwynedd, addressing the established principles, and offering an appropriate balance of activity across the themes and working county-wide and across counties when advantageous to do so.
 - 3.3 Next Steps
 - 3.3.1 The final details of the schemes will be verified as the details are received, then an instruction to provide offer letters will be released.
 - 3.3.2 The schemes can start in the meantime from April, at the risk of the applicant and their partners.

4. Views of the Statutory Officers.

4.1 Chief Finance Officer

“Officers from the Finance Department have worked closely with Economy and Community officers during the initial phase of the Shared Prosperity Fund, and we will continue to do so during 2025/26. I am satisfied that there are robust arrangements in place to administer this scheme, which enable me to provide assurances in accordance with my duties as the statutory finance officer with responsibility for the proper administration of the money. I am also of the opinion that there were robust procedures in place for identifying projects to be included in the programme.”

4.2 Monitoring Officer

“The report represents a fair and appropriate summary of the Panel's recommendations for the 25-26 SPF programme. I am satisfied with the propriety of the decision sought. “

List of Appendices:

1. Outline of the 2025/26 SPF projects

List of Background Documents:

1. Cabinet Item 8 April 2025: '2025/26 Shared Prosperity Fund in Gwynedd'
[Agenda for The Cabinet on Tuesday, 8th April, 2025, 1.00 pm](#)