

Foundational Economy Challenge Fund Community of Practice Monthly Highlight Report

The purpose of this report is to give Challenge Fund managers a quick overview of project progress. It can help flag up any issues where assistance might be needed or any key developments that could be further shared. Your help in completing the forms promptly and returning to admin@cynnalcymru.com by the relevant deadline would be much appreciated. This information is being collected for Welsh Government only. Details will not be disclosed in any of the regular community of practice discussions unless you choose to share them.

FECF Project Lead:	Gwyneth Ayers
Project Name:	Carmarthenshire County Council Food Procurement Project
Organisation:	Carmarthenshire County Council – on behalf of Carmarthenshire Public Services Board (PSB)

Overview

This report follows the progress since the previous report submitted to Welsh Government in October.

Procurement Focused Activity

As part of the ongoing work undertaken by CLES in relation to the procurement arrangements, a draft report including action plan with recommendations has been received for advancing progressive procurement in Carmarthenshire with a view to enabling and developing local community wealth.

Workshops have been held for both key practitioners, strategic leads and elected members, from Carmarthenshire County Council, Hywel Dda University Health Board, Coleg Sir Gâr and University of Wales Trinity Saint David. Specific feedback sessions with individual partner organisations are still ongoing. These were conducted to share findings to date and explore a path to implementation as well as to help shape thinking and inform the development of a series of initial, early stage tools and guides that can support the implementation of progressive procurement in Carmarthenshire.

A guide and toolkits have been produced for conducting LM3 analysis of the supply chain, and training has been provided to procurement officers on the use of this methodology. Feedback on the commissioners and suppliers' toolkits has also been provided to assist with their development.

A briefing paper on the national TOMs Wales framework has been prepared with the aim of introducing the concept of embedding social value into the organisations' procurement and management processes. This also ties in with the work undertaken to date on how value can be measured and how a strategic move from the current method of placing emphasis on cost can be implemented to place greater emphasis on community benefits and maximising the value of procurement spend in local communities.

Supply Chain Focused Activity

Food supply chain experts have now been appointed to support the project team to drive forward the supply chain element of the project. An inception meeting has been held between the project lead, the project officer and the food supply chain expert advisors. Introductions between the expert advisors and all relevant catering personnel from Carmarthenshire County Council and the PSB partners has been made and a number of meetings have already taken place to establish current working practices.

A project plan has been developed to assist with the delivery of the outcomes to include consideration of healthy eating practices, development of future supply chain and engagement of suppliers.

A number of connections have been established with associate projects to facilitate shared learning and collaboration. Meetings have been conducted with stakeholders to better understand barriers of entry from both demand (logistics) and supply (yield, accreditation) sides.

Intelligence gathering has commenced on steering group stakeholders with the aim of hosting an imagination event to ensure realistic targets are set. An engagement plan has also been commenced to link suppliers with current support available for public procurement e.g. Business Wales.

Additional work on data mapping of supply and demand across PSB anchors and other organisations has commenced to analyse leakage and how/ where to plug gaps in the present and in the future.

A summary of UK best practice food models has been collated with key lessons learnt being considered as part of the approach.

Healthy eating requirements have been researched and the current menus in place at schools and care homes have been obtained for further scrutiny. Monthly meetings are taking place with the catering teams with the ultimate aim of identifying opportunities to influence public sector facility menus to reflect healthy eating practices and opportunities for local sourcing of products.

Project Support

Project Advisory Group meetings have been held and are scheduled to take place monthly until project end to ensure the project is suitably advised by experienced officers who can provide valuable guidance.

The Project Lead and Project Officer are contributing to the Foundational Economy Procurement Community of Practice and are engaging and sharing experiences to date through these networks. Information is also constantly being shared amongst PSB partners as well as wider anchor institutions. Connections with other organisations and projects have been established and information sharing occurs with a number of these on a frequent basis. The findings from the initial work with CLES will be shared with other Carmarthenshire PSB partners and with other networks through the Foundational Economy Challenge Fund as required, once endorsed by Carmarthenshire County Council.

Budget and Claims

The first claim was submitted by the deadline and payment has been received in full from WG. We will review project expenditure in January 2021 as delivery methods especially relating to stakeholder engagement, may need to change due to the current COVID-19 restrictions and this could impact total project expenditure. A Project Officer and Food Supply Chain expert advisors are in place and expenditure will be incurred against these budget headings until project end.

Key deliverables in month gone (November)	Key activities for next month (December):
Appointment of Food Supply Chain Expert Advisors and conduction of the inception meeting	Receive final CCC report from CLES
Commencement of work on the food supply chain element of the project	Discuss next steps and methodology for implementation of report findings
Project update provided to Project Advisory Group	Receive draft report of PSB partners from CLES
Informal briefing session provided to Exec Board Members	Discuss PSB partner draft report
LM3 analysis guide and training	Further analysis on local suppliers
Briefing paper on the National TOMs framework presented to PSB members	Facilitate meetings between PSB partners and food supply chain expert advisors
	Research UK best practice models and relevant food supply chain guidance and policies already available

Sharing of information with other organisations directly and through the Community of Practice	Explore TOMs further and consider impact of implementation of this framework
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Risks, Issues or Areas where support is needed

Due to COVID there will likely be a need to change the method of stakeholder engagement to be virtual sessions rather than face to face. This will be reviewed continually as circumstances and guidance changes. Whilst a risk, this situation is not expected to hinder project delivery but may effect project expenditure.

RAG Summary of Project Status

Green

Please also attach any project publicity / social media / reports etc that you would be happy to share.