

Document E2

Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2014-2020

Scheme Management Unit Decision Report

1. Project Details:

For RDP Applications

Scheme:	RCDF
Measure:	7
Sub Measure:	7.7
Applicant:	The Pumpkin Patch Cookery and Gardening School
Project Title:	The Pumpkin Patch Cookery and Gardening School and cafe
Focus Area:	6b
LDR/Non LDR:	LDR
PPIMS Case ID Number:	81123

Total Project Cost:	£160,000
Grant Amount:	£128,000
Intervention Rate:	80%
Project Start Date:	Approval Letter Start Date: 24/10/2016 PPIMS (Delivery Profile) Start Date: 21/06/2017
Project End Date:	Approval Letter End Date: 31/10/2019 PPIMS (Delivery Profile) End Date: 31/07/2019

2. Project Description:

The Pumpkin Patch is an existing cookery and gardening school that is currently being run from the family home in the Tywi Valley by owner, and qualified teacher Lisa Fearn. The business has now grown to a point whereby the current facility is too small and is unable to meet the demands of its client base or develop further. The proposed project concerns investment in a purpose built cookery school and life skills centre which will enable the business to expand & further develop its activities.

The applicant is a sole trader micro enterprise with 1.5 employees. The applicant expects job creation of up to 4.5 jobs as a result of the proposed investment.

The turnover for the business for year ending 2014 ..**Exempt under Section 43.** The company is not currently VAT registered, but is going through the process of becoming VAT registered. (A special condition has been added to the approval letter to cover the issue should they become VAT registered.) The applicant has applied for total project costs of £160,000 (the maximum available on this scheme) with an 80% RCDF grant request of £128,000.

The need for grant is assumed by the nature of the scheme and project applicants. The private element of funding has been detailed and evidence provided for the main element.

There was initially some question over the applicants eligibility for the scheme. However confirmation has been received from Welsh Government Official (1) that the applicant is eligible for the scheme under Sub-Measure 7.7 – support for investments targeting the re-location of activities and conversion of buildings or other facilities located inside or close to rural settlements with a view to improving the quality of life or increasing the environmental performance of the settlement.

The policy reports for tackling poverty and digital inclusion have not identified any issues that would prevent approval of the project.

The applicant has identified markets including school children, adults, children with special educational needs, emotional and behavioural difficulties. They also...**Exempt under Section 43.** Once the project has been 'completed' and the new premises occupied by the Pumpkin Patch Cookery & Gardening School, the work will continue with an increased number of workshops, demonstrations and the running of a coffee shop, healthy family meal take away provision and supper club nights. Increased marketing will keep the business moving forward, increasing sales and offering new and improved services and workshops to meet the demand of an increasing customer base.

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The re-housing of the cookery school offers a vital opportunity for The Pumpkin Patch to expand and grow the business. They will be able to offer what is currently available, but in a purpose built, safe environment; be able to offer what is currently available, but in a purpose built, safe environment; be able to expand the range of workshops available to groups in all age groups. The out of town coffee shop and take-away will attract visitors to the centre, especially those requiring free parking and easy access such as those with prams and buggies and the elderly.

Following the anticipated success of the Cookery School...**Exempt under Section 43.**

The multi-purpose cookery centre will become a skills centre and used for numerous workshops, but always with an educational purpose.

3. Assessment

Selection Criteria	Financial Appraisal Score	Technical Appraisal Score	Strategic Fit and CCT Appraisal Score	PDO Recommended Score
Strategic Fit	n/a	n/a	Medium	Medium
Delivery	n/a	Medium	n/a	Medium
Finance & Compliance	Medium	n/a	n/a	Medium
Indicators & Outcomes	n/a	Medium	n/a	Medium
Value for Money	n/a	Medium	n/a	Medium
Project Management	n/a	High	n/a	High
Suitability of Intervention	n/a	High	n/a	High
Long Term Sustainability	n/a	Medium	n/a	Medium
Cross Cutting Themes	n/a	High	Medium	Medium

4. Appraisal Summary

The applicant has identified the risks to the project and provided adequate explanations to address them. The cross-cutting themes have been

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considered and addressed within the application. There are no outstanding issues identified by the financial, policy or technical reports that would prevent approval of the project.

5. Are there any differences between the original EOI and application?

None

6. Are there any outstanding issues to be addressed by the PDM or PC?

None

7. Special Conditions

A special condition has been added to the approval letter to cover any future issue if the applicant should become VAT registered. The PC has agreed inclusion of the condition.

‘The applicant has advised the Grantor that The Pumpkin Patch Cookery and Gardening School is not currently registered for VAT. Should the VAT status of The Pumpkin Patch Cookery and Gardening School change in the future the applicant must notify the Grantor in writing immediately, as this may require repayment of all ‘irrecoverable VAT’ costs on this project. Failure to advise the Grantor of a change in The Pumpkin Patch Cookery and Gardening School VAT status will be considered a breach in contract and could result in claw back of some, or all, of the grant.’

8. Do you recommend approval or rejection of the project?

I recommend approval of this project in line with the reports received from the policy, financial and technical teams. The applicant has addressed all queries with adequate responses and there are no outstanding issues.

Completed by PDO: (print name)	Welsh Government Official (2)
Signature:	Electronic copy only
Date:	15/06/2017

9. PDM Management Checks/Comments

Management checks have been completed, the appraisal process has been followed and I agree with the PDO's recommendation to approve the application.

Completed by PDM: (print name)	Welsh Government Official (3)
Signature:	Electronic copy only
Date:	20/06/2017