

Public

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-nedd

Democratic Services
Gwasanaethau Democrataidd

Chief Executive: K.Jones

Date: 27th July 2021

Dear Member,

CABINET - WEDNESDAY, 28TH JULY, 2021

Please find attached the following two urgent items for consideration at the next meeting of the **Cabinet - Wednesday, 28th July, 2021.**

10. **Urgent Items**

Any urgent items (whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Chairperson pursuant to Section 100b (4)(B) of the Local Government Act 1972

11. **Extension of Third Sector Grants Application Arrangements to 2022/2023 (Pages 1 - 16)**

12. **Proposal to provide free Town Centre Car Parking for the month of August 2021 (Pages 17 - 26)**

Yours sincerely

p.p Chief Executive

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NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

28th July 2021

Report of the Director of Finance & Corporate Services

H. Jenkins

Matter for: Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Extension of Third Sector Grants Application Arrangements to 2022/23

Purpose of Report

1. To seek member approval to extend the current Third Sector Grant Scheme arrangements for a further year to 2022/23. The current 3 year scheme ends 31 March 2022 but given the ongoing response to the Covid19 pandemic Members are asked to approve an extension of the current scheme into 2022/23.

Background

2. The Council co-produced the Third Sector Grant Funding Scheme (attached for reference) currently in operation. The Scheme seeks to align funding decisions with the overall priorities of the Council.
3. In previous years, the Council's Corporate Plan has been the main reference document for applicants to refer to when submitting applications for funding. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has seen the Council over the past 14 months shift its focus to more immediate matters that require attention as part of the Council's emergency response. As members are aware Public consultation

is taking place over the summer to enable the Council to update its Corporate Plan for 2022-23 onwards.

4. Consideration therefore needs to be given as to the basis on which the Council would wish to invite applications for funding in line with the Scheme for the 2022/23 financial year.
5. The grants which have been provided for three years are to partners the Council has identified as Strategic Partners. There are eight Strategic Partners and new three year grants were approved by Cabinet in December 2018 for these organisations covering the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2022.

Proposal

6. The Council's well-being objectives remain relevant in the short term. It is therefore suggested that:
 - Applications are invited for 12 months funding or less and should be specifically focused on activities that will help to further develop community capacity/ collaboration and building from the community action that has supported the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - Those organisations in receipt of multi-year grant agreements be asked to set out in clear terms how they intend to support the further development of community capacity building.
7. It was proposed last year that a fundamental review of the Scheme is undertaken in early 2021-22 to ensure the Scheme remains relevant in subsequent financial years. However due to the ongoing impact of Covid this work has not taken place and it is now proposed that this work be undertaken in early 2022/23.
8. The grant application process will be open for applications from the end of August to 15th October 2021 to new applications and updates from Strategic Partners.

Financial Appraisal

9. One of the principles of the Third Sector Grant Funding Scheme is that the amount of funds available will vary in line with the Local Government Settlement for the preceding financial year. In 2021/22 the final settlement for Neath Port Talbot Council showed a year on year increase of 4.2%. It is therefore proposed in this report that the Third Sector Grant Budget for 2022/23 be increased by 4.2% to £563,300.

Table 1

Budget	2022/23
Base Year Budget including one-off grants 2021/22	£540,500
Additional Budget Allocation for 2022/23	£22,700
Total Base Budget 2022/23	£563,200

10. Final decisions on the grant Budget and distribution will be made in December 2021. If members at that time agree an uplift to Strategic Partner Organisations of 4.2% this will allow a budget of circa £200,000 for new applications. This is inclusive of £33,300 carried forward from last year.

Integrated Impact Assessment

11. This report does not propose any changes to the current Scheme rather it seeks to clarify the short term priorities being pursued by the Council in the absence of a revised corporate plan.

Valleys Communities Impact

12. The Scheme is open to all eligible organisations across the county borough, including those that operate in valleys communities.

Workforce Impact

13. There is no workforce impact.

Legal Impact

14. All successful grant recipients will be required to sign a Grant Agreement.

Risk Management

15. Without clarifying the Council's priorities in the short term, there is a risk that the Council will receive applications for funding that are not aligned with its priorities, leading to frustration on the part of applicants and unnecessarily consuming officer and member time.
16. There is also a risk that the Council will lose an opportunity to encourage community action across the county borough and to strengthen community capacity for the longer term.

Consultation

17. As there are no changes being proposed to the Scheme itself there is no requirement for external consultation on this report.

Recommendations

18. It is recommended that Cabinet
 - a. approves the following as the criteria for inviting bids for funds governed by the Third Sector Grants Scheme in 2022-23:
 - Applications are invited for 12 months funding or less and should be specifically focused on activities that will help to further develop community capacity/ collaboration and building from the community action that has supported the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - Those organisations in receipt of multi-year grant agreements be asked to set out in clear terms how they intend to support the further development of community capacity building
 - b. approves the proposal to undertake a more fundamental review of the Scheme in early 2022-23.

Reason for Proposed Decision

19. To ensure funding decisions made for the 2022-23 financial year in relation to grants awarded under the Third Sector Grants Scheme

are aligned with the Council's overall priorities and reflect the specific circumstances of the Covid-19 emergency response situation.

20. To ensure that there is an opportunity in early 2022-23 to revise the Scheme to reflect the situation at that time, ensuring that the Scheme remains relevant in supporting the Council's priorities.

Implementation of Decision

21. The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices

22. Appendix 1 – The Neath Port Talbot Third Sector Grant Funding Scheme

List of Background Papers

23. None.

Officer Contact

24. Hywel Jenkins, Director of Finance & Corporate Services.

Email: h.jenkins@npt.gov.uk

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Neath Port Talbot Third Sector Grant Funding Scheme

Introduction

During 2013, the Council undertook a review of existing grants to third sector and community sector organisations in Neath Port Talbot. As well as making recommendations as to where funding could be reduced in order to achieve Council savings targets, the review identified a number of recommendations to improve the way in which grants are administered. These were approved by the Council's Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee on 13th December 2014.

In January 2014, the Welsh Government published their revised Third Sector Scheme. The Welsh Government Scheme underpins the relationship between Welsh Government and the Third Sector in Wales and discharges duties under section 74¹ of the Government of Wales Act 2006.

This Neath Port Talbot Scheme has been developed to take forward the recommendations in the 2013 Council review. It has been developed using the principles set out in the Welsh Government's Scheme reflecting Welsh Government's expectation that councils will embrace good practice in their relationships with the Third Sector.

Aims

Neath Port Council has had a long and productive relationship with the Third Sector. The Council has grant funded Third Sector organisations to support our communities in a wide range of ways. The Council recognises and values the contribution of the many volunteers and third sector organisations that play an important role in supporting the wellbeing of local people and communities.

¹ In this Section, Welsh Ministers are required to make or review a voluntary sector scheme which sets out how they propose to promote the interests of relevant voluntary organisations'

However, times have and continue to change. The severe and enduring cuts to local authority budgets mean we must target available funds in a manner that supports the Council's priorities. Indications are that austerity measures will continue at least into the medium term. Grant assistance arrangements must reflect this.

This document is available in Welsh

This Scheme aims to:

- Make the grant funding process clear, transparent and equitable;
- Ensure the administrative arrangements that support grant funding efficient and effective; and
- Foster genuine partnership working between the Council and the Third Sector to promote the wellbeing of local people and communities.

Scope

This Scheme covers:

- Grant funding provided from the Council's own revenue resources, except for those funds provided from the Member Community Action Fund; and
- Grants of benefits "in kind" e.g. rent-free/discounted rent periods granted to organisations in the Council's property portfolio.

Grants distributed from Welsh Government directly to the third sector by way of specific grant are governed by the Welsh Government Third Sector Scheme, the principles of which are reflected in this Scheme.

This scheme does not cover grants provided to the Council by other parties as the specific conditions of those grants would need to be applied.

Definition of the Third Sector:

The Council has adopted the definition provided in Section 74 of the Government of Wales Act for the purpose of this Scheme:

"...bodies other than local authorities (or other public bodies) whose activities:

- are carried on otherwise than for profit; and
- directly or indirectly benefit the whole area or any part of Neath Port Talbot

The Council acknowledges that this definition covers a very diverse range of organisations that share a set of values and characteristics which include:

- Independent, non-governmental bodies;

- Bodies established voluntarily by people who choose to organise themselves;
- Bodies which are “value driven” and motivated by social, cultural or environmental objectives, rather than simply to make a profit; and
- Bodies committed to reinvesting their surpluses to further their social aims and for the benefit of people and communities.

Third Sector organisations include community associations, self-help groups, voluntary organisations, charities, faith-based organisations, social enterprises, community businesses, housing associations, development trusts, co-operatives and mutual organisations.

Grant Funding – Commissioning Arrangements

The Council wishes to adopt an outcomes-based approach to the way in which it determines its grant funding arrangements. It will be the intended results of activity to be grant funded, not the activity itself that will be the key consideration in determining whether the Council will provide grant assistance, subject to the Council being provided with sufficient assurance on associated governance arrangements.

Grants can provide financial support to third sector organisations to enable them to undertake activities the Council wish to support. They may be aimed at assisting with the core costs of running and developing an organisation or more specifically to help it carry out a particular project or service. Generally, the Council will consider awarding a grant where organisations undertake activities that support the Council’s policies and priorities. Where the Council wishes to obtain goods or services for direct benefit or use then the Council would expect those arrangements to operate under the Council’s procurement policies and procedures.

The Council will set out its priorities on an annual basis as part of its corporate planning cycle. Grant assistance will be administered in accordance with the principles set out in this Scheme. Grants may be awarded for up to three years

Applications for grant assistance will need to be made via a standard form that will be publicly available and published on the Council’s website. Any timetable for submitting and agreeing grants will also be set out on the website. The Council will provide the contact details of officers who can offer support and

advice to organisations who may be considering making a grant application. Where a funding bid is complex, organisations are encouraged to discuss their proposed bid prior to submitting an application. The Council will formalise grant assistance through a legally binding grant agreement. The agreements will contain standard grant conditions to promote consistency and fairness and to minimise administrative costs for all parties. Where the Council decides not to award grant assistance, the Council will provide written feedback to the applicant, summarising the reasons why the grant application has been refused. There will be no right of appeal against the Council's decisions.

Review and Monitoring

The Deputy Leader of the Council is the portfolio holder for relationships with the Third Sector and ultimately responsible for this Scheme. The Senior Officer responsible for the Scheme is the Director of Finance and Corporate Services. This Scheme will be used by all departments of the Council. Its operation will be monitored by the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee and reviewed no less frequently than every three years.

Neath Port Talbot Third Sector Grant funding Scheme

Principles

The key principles that will govern our approach to grant funding the Third Sector and what is expected from the Third Sector in return are set out in this section.

Principle 1 – Supporting Council policies and priorities

i) Demonstrate contribution to the delivery of key priorities

Grant applications will need to demonstrate how proposals will support the delivery of the Council's policies and priorities. These are summarised in Council's Corporate Plan, associated well-being objectives and other priorities; **and**

ii) Reduce demand on Council Services – this could be done in a variety of ways, including promoting and assisting citizens to use the Council's digital services rather than through more traditional channels (such as face to face or by telephone); promote participation in discretionary services to increase footfall, increased revenues or reduced subsidy (for example the Council's theatres, parks and other charged-for services); or through offering early intervention and prevention activities that maintain or improve people's well-being; **and/or**

iii) Lever in additional resources (multiplier effect)

Applications that demonstrate how Council funding will be used to lever in additional financial resources in support of Council policies and priorities are particularly welcomed; **and**

iv) Sustainable organisations

Applicants will need to demonstrate financial sustainability. The Council will wish to be satisfied that the applicant is not dependent on continuing Council funding to achieve financial sustainability.

Principle 2 – Respect for the Sector’s independence

The Council recognises Third Sector organisations are value driven, motivated by social, cultural or environmental objectives and committed to reinvesting their surpluses to further their social aims and for the benefit of people and communities. The Council respects the sector’s independence.

The Council acknowledges and encourages the Third Sector’s ability to raise funding through non-statutory routes and deliver services that complement or are additional to those provided by statutory agencies and which, in particular, operate to prevent or reduce demand on public services.

Principle 3 – Early and constructive dialogue

The Council is committed to early discussions with the Third Sector to support a strategic approach to delivering key priorities and to allow for better planning of services. The Council will seek to provide opportunities to discuss applications well in advance of the formal application deadline.

It is expected that in return, the Third Sector will engage constructively in this dialogue and respect the limitations on dialogue imposed by the need to ensure fairness and transparency in respect of grant funding decisions.

Principle 4 – Timely decisions

The Council recognises that early decision making in respect of funding can support better business and workforce planning. The Council’s commitment is the notification of decisions about future funding at least three months prior to the expiry of an existing funding agreement or the start of a new agreement. Where funding has been granted for more than one year, a review will be completed 3 months before the commencement of the second or third year to confirm funding will continue. If an offer in principle has been made, this must also be confirmed three months prior to the expiry of the current funding.

Principle 5 – Security of funding

In a climate of reducing resources and escalating need, security of funding is an issue felt across all sectors. The Council acknowledges that sometimes short term funding can cost more administratively and will be prepared to consider longer term funding commitments wherever possible to minimise administration costs. The Council will be prepared to provide funding for up to 3 years which will provide Third Sector organisations with the security to apply

for funding from other sources and enable a longer term approach to planning and securing sustainability.

Principle 6 – Fair funding levels

It is reasonable to expect that funding pressures placed upon local authorities will be reflected in the level of grant funding available to the Third Sector. Therefore, where the Council has granted funding for more than one year, the amount of grant available in each year of the agreement will vary to reflect the financial settlement the Council receives from the Welsh Government. The Council will generally seek to notify organisations of the uplift or reduction to be applied by 31st December each year. The level of funding agreed will be subject to review at the end of each financial year to reflect the overall level of resources available to the Council for the ensuing period.

Principle 7 – Value for money

Tax payers' money must be used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Council aims to achieve the best possible level of outputs and outcomes of acceptable quality at the lowest cost. Third sector organisations who receive grant assistance are expected to ensure the economic, efficient and effective use of public money. Applications and associated monitoring arrangements will need to demonstrate:

- i. The need for intervention
- ii. The purpose to which funding will be put
- iii. The outputs and outcomes to be achieved
- iv. Other sources of funding accessed
- v. How activities will be evaluated
- vi. Financial probity and sustainability

Principle 8 – Full Cost Recovery

The Council acknowledges the principle of full cost recovery. The Council recognises that other funders sometimes render certain expenditures ineligible and the award of grant assistance from the Council may be sought to complete a funding package.

Principle 9 – Commissioning Principles

Grant arrangements will be outcomes focused linked to the Council's policies and priorities which will be summarised in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Principle 10 – Payments

The Council will make grant payments in advance (i.e. before the grant recipient has incurred the expenditure) as it recognises that most Third sector organisations do not hold large reserves and do not have the resources available to undertake work and receive payment afterwards. The payment will be made after the commencement of the relevant financial year. The frequency and timing of payments will be set out in the grant agreement. Electronic payment is preferred to minimise administrative burdens on both the Council and Third sector organisations.

Principle 11 – Fair and Reasonable Treatment

This Scheme commits the Council to consult openly and meaningfully with the Third Sector on changes to this Scheme and associated arrangements. The Council will aim to provide a minimum period of 12 weeks consultation period where changes to the Scheme and its associated arrangements are proposed. Additionally, the Council will aim to provide 12 weeks' notice before changes are made to the Scheme or decisions are made which would lead to a withdrawal or significant reduction of grants.

In return, Third Sector organisations are asked to cooperate fully during this consultation / notice period and use it as an opportunity to positively contribute to the discussion with departments or policy / service areas.

The Council upholds the need for clarity in what is being funded by defining and agreeing outcomes with recipients of funding. These outcomes should be set out transparently in the funding agreement to ensure fair and reasonable treatment of organisations and shared and agreed expectations for service delivery.

Principle 12 – Joint approach to monitoring, evaluation and audit

The processes of monitoring and evaluation must be consistent, proportionate and reasonable. The Council will set out the details for monitoring and evaluation in procedural guidance and in its grant agreements. The Council

expects its internal audit service to have access to documents and information (including access to interview senior officers and board members) relating to monies provided by the Council. Recipients of funding agree to give assistance, information and explanation to the internal audit service or such other officers as the Council may so require as a condition of funding.

Principle 13 – Identifying Expertise and Developing Capability to Deliver

The Council is committed to working with the Third Sector to identify areas of expertise and to support organisations and individuals to take the lead in or contribute to the implementation of new policies. The Council welcomes applications for grant funding that build capacity and capability within the Third Sector across Neath Port Talbot to secure the sustainability of services.

Principle 14–Diversity and Equality

The Council recognises the diverse needs of people and communities across Neath Port Talbot and the variety of services required to meet these needs. Diversity in this context is about maintaining a range of accessible services to meet a variety of individual and collective needs; locally based and run services, as well as larger services; and different models of services to meet different needs.

The Council is required under the Equalities Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations amongst and between people of different protected groups.

The Council is also committed to promoting the Welsh Language and culture and to support the Welsh Government’s policy objectives of increasing the number of people who speak Welsh on a daily basis.

Third Sector organisations will be expected to demonstrate in their applications how they promote both diversity and equality in the planning and delivery of their services.

Principle 15– Innovation

The Council is committed to working with the Third Sector to identify innovative practices that improve the delivery of public services, including where appropriate, exploring new funding models.

Principle 16– Good Governance and Due Diligence

The Council will apply good governance and due diligence in the way it administers this Scheme and expects Third Sector grant recipients to demonstrate good governance and due diligence both in the application process and through monitoring arrangements. The Council will seek specific assurances about governance arrangements, including the development accessed by trustees or directors during the application process and in any annual review process.

Principle 17– Monitoring the Scheme

The Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee will provide the mechanism for joint monitoring of this Scheme. The Council commits to reviewing this Scheme no less frequently than every 3 years.

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

28th July 2021

Director of Environment and Regeneration
Nicola Pearce

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Proposal to provide free town centre car parking for the month of August 2021

Purpose of Report

- 1 The Leader of Council requested advice from officers to explore the potential opportunity of providing free town centre car parking within Neath Port Talbot during the month of August 2021.
- 2 The advice contained within this report identifies the potential benefits, considerations and associated costs with this proposal.

Executive Summary

- 3 Officers have been asked for advice on the costs and benefits associated with the provision of free town centre car parking for the month of August 2021.
- 4 Town centres have seen significant impact and disruption as a result of Government restrictions imposed on social gatherings and on the operation of business premises. The Council has provided a range of support over the pandemic period including: administering financial support schemes; promoting 'Buy Local' to encourage local people to spend money in the local economy; provision of advice on the application of Covid restriction during lockdown and opening up phases. It is acknowledged that the proposal to introduce free car parking over a short period of time will demonstrate the commitment the council has to supporting our town centres through this difficult

time and also provide some limited assistance to those families who are experiencing financial hardship as a result of the pandemic. The proposal would see an estimated loss of income of approximately £86.5k in addition to the repayment of seasonal ticket income of £5,500. The overall cost will therefore be £92,000 which will not be recoverable from the Welsh Government LA Hardship Fund. Members must therefore consider whether the benefit to our town centres outweighs this financial cost.

Background

- 5 Since the pandemic first took hold and the country was subjected to a number of national lockdowns, our town centres have struggled to remain a destination for shoppers. Whilst this has been affected by the pandemic, it has also been exacerbated by the increased use of online shopping opportunities.
- 6 Following the reopening of non-essential retail in July 2020, this authority introduced a number of measures to make our town centres more attractive and safer places to visit. We introduced a 'Buy Local Campaign' focussing on the unique qualities of our independent traders. We also supported traders in implementing safe operating procedures, providing access to standard safety signage and implementing measures within the public realm to enable customers to queue safely outside retail premises without impeding pedestrian movements. These measures were also supported for the first few weeks with town centre rangers who provided advice and guidance to traders and the general public.
- 7 In addition to the above, the council provided free car parking within our town centres until the end of August 2020. Again this was intended to encourage increased visits into the town centres.
- 8 Officers have now been asked to provide advice on the costs and benefits of free parking provision within our town centres for the month of August 2021.
- 9 As stated above, it is clear to see that many traders within our town centres have experienced a decline in the number of customers which has in turn impacted upon the viability of their businesses, with many retailers closing down. This is not unique to Neath Port Talbot nor is it the case that only small independent retailers being impacted - the large national retail stores with long established

retailers including Debenhams and GAP are all closing stores across the country. Whilst the council cannot influence these commercial decisions, we can support our town centre retailers by making our town centres a more attractive destination. With this in mind we have submitted bids to the UK Government's 'Levelling Up Fund' to improve the public realm within our town centres and invest in commercial properties, which if successful, should deliver a positive impact. However, even if approved, the schemes would take time to deliver and consequently other short term measures should be explored to sustain our town centres.

- 10 Members will be aware that the council has been able to recover most lost income which are as a direct result of the pandemic. One such area where lost income has been experienced is within parking services. To date we have successfully argued that car parking income has dropped as a direct result of the pandemic, and this lost income has been recoverable from the Welsh Government Hardship fund. However the Welsh Government have clearly indicated that local decisions which affect income are not recoverable. As a consequence if the Council choose to provide free parking within the town centres, we would have to absorb those costs as they would not be recoverable.
- 11 In terms of calculating this cost, in August 2019 prior to the pandemic, town centre car parking and associated income was in the region of £86.5k during the month of August. As stated above, we have no comparable data for 2020 due to the impact of the Covid pandemic. Nevertheless from historic information available to us, we have calculated that car parking income and associated enforcement income, which would normally be achieved for the month of August amounts to £86.5k. As Members are aware, some members of the public hold permits for these car parks and it would be a reasonable expectation from those permit holders to be compensated for the free month. When a similar proposal was approved last year, arrangements were put in place to add an additional month to existing permits as opposed to providing a refund. The cost of adding this additional month is £5,500. If a local decision was taken to provide free town centre car parking during the month of August, we will not benefit from either direct car parking income or the recoverable difference. This proposal will therefore result in an overall loss of income of £92k.

- 12 Previous analyses of parking concessions for our town centres showed a limited impact on footfall, however, the pandemic creates unique challenges and we are unable to quantify what impact such a scheme might have. The provision of free car parking for a restricted period does however demonstrate to retailers, town centre visitors and the public, that the council has confidence in its town centres and is supporting our retailers with a range of local initiatives to reinforce the attractiveness of our town centres.
- 13 Members will therefore need to consider whether the loss of earned and recoverable income to the value of £92k will provide value for money and will sufficiently demonstrate to town centre retailers and the wider public, that the council is indeed focussed on supporting them through this difficult period of time.
- 14 We are aware that some of authorities are exploring local policies to support their communities during the summer. The City and County of Swansea are implementing their own local initiative to provide free bus transport to all Swansea residents travelling within the boundaries of Swansea from Friday to Monday for the month of August. Whilst this is an environmentally sustainable proposal to roll out, it requires cooperation from all public transport providers and the cost of implementing such a policy is currently unknown. Members should also note that there is insufficient time to deliver such a solution within Neath Port Talbot for the same time period.

Financial Impact

- 15 The combined loss of direct income and recoverable income for town centre car parking amounts to £92k. These costs would need to be covered from within the councils existing budget/reserve.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 16 A Screening Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. After completing the assessment it has been determined that this proposal does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment.
- 17 There are no equality impacts associated with this report.

Workforce Impact

18 There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Impact

19 There are no legal impacts associated with this report

Risk Management

20 Apart from the financial risk which is covered above, there is also a risk that the council will be placed under greater pressure to maintain free car parking on a permanent basis which would be unaffordable in the longer term.

Consultation

21 There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendation:

22 Members consider the advice contained within this report and determine whether they wish to implement free car parking within town centre car parks, throughout Neath Port Talbot, for the month of August 2021.

Reason for Proposed Decision(s)

23 To demonstrate the councils commitment to support our town centres.

Implementation of Decision

24 The decision is an urgent one for immediate implementation, subject to the consent of the relevant Scrutiny Chair (and is therefore not subject to the call-in procedure

List of Background Papers

25 None

Officer Contact

26 Nicola Pearce – Director of Environment and Regeneration
Tel: (01639) 686668 Email:n.pearce@npt.gov.uk

Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

Initiative description and summary: Advice to Members in relation to the provision of free town centre car parking for the month of August 2021
Service Area: Parking Services
Directorate: Environment and Regeneration

2. Does the initiative affect:

	Yes	No
Service users	✓	
Staff	✓	
Wider community	✓	
Internal administrative process only		✓

3. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't Know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)/How might it impact?
Age		✓				Free car parking for all users.
Disability		✓				Free car parking for all users.
Gender Reassignment		✓				Free car parking for all users.
Marriage/Civil Partnership		✓				Free car parking for all users.
Pregnancy/Maternity		✓				Free car parking for all users.
Race		✓				Free car parking for all users.
Religion/Belief		✓				Free car parking for all users.
Sex		✓				Free car parking for all users.

Sexual orientation		✓				Free car parking for all users.
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4. Does the initiative impact on:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language		✓				This policy does not discriminate against peoples language preferences
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English		✓				This policy does not discriminate against peoples language preferences

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5. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity		✓				This policy will have no direct impact although it must be noted that encouraging the use of private vehicles as opposed to active travel or public transport is not an environmentally sustainable method of transport. It should also be noted that it is only for a very short period of time i.e. one month.
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e.						This policy will have no direct impact although it must be noted that encouraging the use of private vehicles as opposed to active travel or public transport is not an

supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.		✓				environmentally sustainable method of transport. It should also be noted that it is only for a very short period of time i.e. one month.
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6. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people		✓	This is advice to enable a temporary policy initiative to support our town centres during the ongoing pandemic.
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives		✓	This is advice to enable a temporary policy initiative to support our town centres during the ongoing pandemic.
Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative	✓		This report will benefit town centre visitors who choose to travel by car. Given its potentially limited duration, for one month only, it has not been possible to consult and therefore involve town centre traders and visitors.
Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions	✓		This report provides advice only
Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse	✓		This proposal should support our town centre traders enabling them to become more viable economically.

7. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	✓
Reasons for this conclusion	
There is no reason for a full integrated impact assessment as the initiative will only operate for one month within the council's town centre car parks.	

A full impact assessment (second stage) is required	
Reasons for this conclusion	

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	Name	Position	Date
Completed by	David W. Griffiths	Head of Engineering & Transport	23.7.21
Signed off by	Nicola Pearce	Director of Environment and Regeneration	23.7.21