

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

Democratic Services
Gwasanaethau Democrataidd

Decision Notice

CABINET - URGENCY ACTION , MONDAY, 19TH JULY, 2021

Please see below approval of decision as follows:

1. **Funding for Tackling Food Poverty and Addressing Food Insecurity 2021/22 - 97TD - Urgency Action (Pages 3 - 14)**

To seek authority from Cabinet to submit an application for EU Transition funding to tackle food poverty and address food insecurity in Neath Port Talbot during 2021/2022.

Having had due regard to the first stage Impact Assessment it is agreed that the funding application be submitted as set out in the attached report.

For Immediate Implementation

Yours sincerely

Tammie Davies

p.p Chief Executive

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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

July 16 2021

Report of the Head of Human & Organisational Development,
S.Rees

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All

Proposal to submit an Application to access EU Transition funding for tackling food poverty and addressing food insecurity 2021/22

Purpose of the Report:

To seek authority from Cabinet to submit an application for EU Transition funding to tackle food poverty and address food insecurity in Neath Port Talbot during 2021/2022.

Background:

Funding has been allocated by the Welsh Government to the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to distribute to all Local Authorities in Wales. The purpose of the funding is as set out in the Tackling Food Poverty and Addressing Food Insecurity EU Transition Funding Bid, but in brief it is to enable local authorities to:

- Support an increased number of people facing food poverty by strengthening community food initiatives across the

authority including a focus on activity that helps to address the root causes of food poverty.

For 2019/2020 Neath Port Talbot Council received a total of £71,683 split into £46,255 for capital and £25,428 revenue funding. Initially, the allocation was intended to cover the period 19th November 2019 to 31st March 2020 but for a number of reasons, including due to the impact of the Covid pandemic, the deadline for spending these monies was extended to 31st March 2021. The Neath Port Talbot monies were used in a variety of ways, including:

- To pay for fridges, freezers, storage, kitchen equipment and additional food supplies at a number of local food banks.
- Buy welcome hampers, food supplies and equipment for Neath Port Talbot's only night shelter.
- To pay for cooking lessons for families in a local school with a professional cook.
- Buy tablets and laptops to provide a service for older residents who are not able to use or access the internet to do online shopping.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the 2020/2021 EU Transition Funding was not allocated until April 2021 when Neath Port Talbot Council received a total of £113,544, of that £55,826 is revenue and £57,718 is capital funding. The deadline for spending this is 31st March 2022. The allocation is based on the apportionment agreed with the Society of Welsh Treasurers which includes Local Authority members of the Local Authority Distribution Sub Group (DSG).

Funding for 2021/2022:

A different approach has been taken to funding arrangements for 2021/2022. Rather than using the WLGA to administer the process, the Welsh Government is directly managing a grant scheme for 2021/2022. Council's will not directly receive funding, but will instead be encouraged to work with third sector organisations to apply to

access the Welsh Government grant scheme. A total of £2million is available across Wales, £1million revenue and £1million capital. The deadline for receipt of applications is 19th July 2021.

A multi-agency officers meeting was convened on Friday 9th July to discuss collaboration opportunities and devise a proposal for a Neath Port Talbot bid. To align with the branding for the Council's Let's Talk engagement activity, an application for a project called, Let's Eat has been drafted.

The bid is for a total of £103,273 EU Transition funding for tackling food poverty and addressing food insecurity in Neath Port Talbot 2021/22

The Let's Eat proposal is intended to secure funding for two geographically distinct yet associated projects:

- *Food for thought*, a community fridge, based in the former primary school at Tir Morfa, Sandfields. A community fridge can be accessed by anyone and everyone who wants to share food, volunteer or get involved with other food, environment or related activities the group have to offer.

We are looking to utilise an accessible space, open to all, community led, with the focus on the environment to reduce food waste. We will be looking to develop activities around this provision such as cooking workshops and grow your own foods by utilising the onsite allotment.

Estimated for costs for this work-stream: £10,273

- *The Scran Van*, a kitchen and mobile food provision, to support residents to access affordable and nutritious meals. Working with local businesses, we will repurpose their surplus food stocks and accept food donations. We will fully equip a kitchen in Bryn Community Centre, and use that to prepare affordable nutritious meals. We intend to buy and equip a van to store and deliver the meals to residents in Margam, Taibach, Port Talbot, Cwmafan & Bryn, Cymmer, Glyngorwg and Gwynfi. The

project will be overseen by a Co-ordinator, volunteers will be trained to support deliver the project.

Estimated costs for this work-stream: £93,000

Financial Impacts:

Initial set-up costs for both work-streams will be wholly funded by Welsh Government Grant monies during 2021/22. There may be opportunities to supplement any grant monies received with additional funding which will be explored should the bid be successful.

It is anticipated that income generated through the sale of affordable meals will be re-invested into the community kitchen initiative.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

A first stage impact assessment, attached at Appendix 1, has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment, attached at Appendix 1, has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required at this time as no negative impacts have been identified. Should the bid for grant funding be a success there will be opportunities to undertake further assessments for both proposed projects during the implementation phase.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

The needs of residents of all areas of Neath Port Talbot will be given equal consideration therefore there will be no negative impact on valleys communities.

Legal Impacts:

No implications.

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendation:

Having had due regard to the first stage Impact Assessment it is recommended that Cabinet Members agree that the funding application is submitted as set out in the report.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To enable Neath Port Talbot Council to formally submit an application for EU Transition funding to help tackle food poverty in the area.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for immediate implementation to meet the application deadline.

Officer Contact:

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Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

Initiative description and summary: Submission of an Application to access EU Transition funding for tackling food poverty and addressing food insecurity 2021/22. A bid has been prepared to access Welsh Government grant funding to support the development and implementation of two projects in Neath Port Talbot to tackle food poverty. One will be a fixed-base community fridge project in Sandfields. The other a mobile kitchen and food provision working from Cwmafan but covering Area 5 (Margam, Taibach, Bryn and Cwmafan and the Afan Valley).

Service Area: Multiple services will be involved in the delivery of the project.

Directorate:

The Corporate Policy Unit in the Chief Executive's Directorate will oversee the project, manage the funding and complete monitoring reports to the Welsh Government on a quarterly basis.

Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning will manage the community fridge project in Tir Morfa, whilst the food van will be co-ordinated by an elected Member.

Page 9

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	✓				M	While it is anticipated that these projects will have a positive impact for anyone who is facing food poverty or experiencing any difficulties in accessing affordable,

						nutritious food, during the pandemic many food banks reported an increase in demand for support from older adults. Both these initiatives are community based, the mobile provision will from an outreach service which will be a particular benefit to some of our older, more vulnerable residents.
Disability	✓				M	The mobile element of these initiatives should reduce any negative Again, during the height of the pandemic, through our Safe and Well service it became apparent that those dealing with mental health issues sometimes struggled to prepare healthy meals. The provision of hot, affordable meals should help alleviate some of the stress surrounding this.
Gender Reassignment			✓			
Marriage/Civil Partnership			✓			
Pregnancy/Maternity	✓				M	
Race	✓				M	The mobile provision will cater for a range of specific cultural and dietary requirements.
Religion/Belief	✓				M	The mobile provision will cater for a range of specific cultural and dietary requirements.
Sex	✓				M	Anecdotally, there was an increase in demand for support to access food from older, male residents. Both initiatives will be available and supplement the support already available to this client group.
Sexual orientation			✓			

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	✓					There will be Welsh speaking staff in the fixed-base provision in Tir Morfa.
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English			✓			

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		✓				It is likely there will be no change as a result of this proposal
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.		✓				It is likely there will be no change as a result of this proposal

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	✓		<p>Although the grant funding is relatively short-term (from August 2021 until 31st March 2022) it is intended that both projects will eventually become self-sufficient. The community fridge facilitate the co-ordination of supplies from local food businesses and enhance our existing allotments to sustain the growth of fresh fruit and veg. The mobile kitchen provision will offer affordable meals. The ongoing income generated from sales will be re-invested into the project.</p> <p>Both projects are intended to empower the local community to take ownership of these new resources, continuing to reduce food waste and provide an accessible way to access food for all.</p>
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	✓		Both projects are community based. The well-being of children, young people and adults will be supported as these projects increase opportunities for people to access to fresh, nutritious food. Collaboration with local businesses to reduce their food waste and new opportunities for volunteering and paid employment will also help develop the local economy.
Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative	✓		A wide reaching, multi-agency meeting was convened to discuss possible opportunities for the EU transition funding for food poverty. It was agreed that two separate work-streams would form the basis of the bid and several Councillors, Council Officers, partners and private sector organisations were involved in the development of the proposals. Should the bid be successful, ongoing collaboration will be required to initiate and sustain the projects to ensure they achieve their intended outcomes.
Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions	✓		
Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse	✓		Food poverty is an increasing issue in Neath Port Talbot. These initiatives will prevent some families from falling into food poverty in the first instance whilst helping reduce food waste. For those already in food poverty, these initiatives will offer additional support and opportunities for training, volunteering and employment.

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

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	✓
Reasons for this conclusion	
<p>A full assessment is not required at this time as the first stage assessment did not identify any negative impacts from the initiatives.</p> <p>Should the bid for grant funding be a success there will be opportunities to undertake further assessments for both proposed projects during the implementation phase.</p>	

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

Page 13

	Name	Position	Date
Completed by	Fiona Clay-Poole	Corporate Policy Officer	15.07.2021
Signed off by	Hywel Jenkins	Director of Finance & Corporate Services	15.07.21

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