

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet Board

16th May 2018

Report Mr. Andrew Thomas the Head of Transformation (ELLL)

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

All Wards

Members Community Fund

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval to implement the Members Community Fund that is to be financed in 2018/19 from Council Reserves. Permissions are sought to set aside £10,000 for each Ward Member to facilitate investment in projects that support the delivery of the Council's policies and priorities.

Executive Summary

2. The Members Community Fund is to be used to address local needs and to fund projects and initiatives that will contribute towards creating vibrant and sustainable communities. Money left unspent in 2018/19 will roll over to 2019/2020. The Fund will close on the 31.03.2020.

The Project Development & Funding Unit (PDFU) within ELLL will be charged with the governance of the Fund and will act as the Grant Management Organisation.

Bids can be received by the PDFU from Councillors at any time. The PDFU will give advice upon sourcing match funding, project management, procurement, site investigation works and whatever is deemed necessary unique to the project proposal under investigation.

Bids can be made for projects that enhance existing Council services, assist voluntary sector provision or form part of a larger initiative that is in need of additional financial support.

Eligible projects will include those that enrich the environment, promote non - statutory education and learning, assist Health & Well Being, and promote culture and / or recreation in all its forms.

Background

3. A working budget of £640,000 has been allocated from Council Reserves to the Members Community Fund. An additional 5% Administration fee will be charged to the Fund by the PDFU.

The Fund is to be invested in priority projects within each of the County Borough Council's 42 Wards.

Ward Councillors are to present workable project proposals to the PDFU within ELLL for consideration. These proposals will be scrutinised to ensure they are credible, practical, feasible, accurately costed and sustainable.

Ward Councillors can bid for between £500 and a maximum of £10,000 for any one or a combination of projects. Submissions that

demonstrate how Council funding will be used to lever in additional resources in support of Council policies and priorities are encouraged.

The governance of the Members Community Fund is underpinned by a raft of supporting 'Guiding Principles', Guidance Notes for Members and an Application Form (see attached Background Papers). These papers contain essential information on eligibilities/ineligibilities, legal requirements and how best to deal with potential conflicts of interest. In light of experience these Principles can change and the Members Community Fund maybe, with Cabinet approval, further refined.

Project submissions will be presented cyclically to Cabinet Board for determination and award. Upon approval by Cabinet Board the PDFU will work with the Councillor(s) concerned to further develop the proposal from inception to practical completion.

Financial Impact

4. The Members Community Fund is resourced from Reserves and there is sufficient budget to sustain activity in 2018/19 and the roll over, if necessary, to 2019/2020.

The Fund has the potential to positively impact on existing Council services. It is intended that the Members Community Fund will endeavour to maximise other funding streams and draw in additional funding which will add value to inward investment within each of the Wards under determination. The PDFU will work with the Ward Councillor(s) to identify sources of external grant aid that can match fund the initial injection of financial support from the Members Fund.

In order to win favour in Cabinet Board all projects must be sustainable and should not ordinarily create ongoing operational/revenue costs for the Council. Projects must have a robust exit strategy that places no additional financial burden on the Council.

Equality Impact Assessment

5. There is no requirement under the Constitution for an Equality Impact Assessment on this item.

Workforce Impacts

6. There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Impacts

7. Section 56 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 provides sanction for Members to carry out both Executive and Non - Executive functions, but only within their own Ward.

The delivery of the Members Community Fund will come within the purview of the Local Government Act 2000 which introduced well-being powers which enable every Local Authority to have capacity to do anything which it considers likely to promote an improvement to economic, social or environmental well-being in the area.

The Council's Constitution should be referred to for explicit guidance on governance.

Risk Management

8. There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

Consultation

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

Recommendations

10. It is recommended that the Members Community Fund is formally adopted to be fully operational in 2018/19.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

11. To ensure that the positive outcomes associated with this investment can be wholly realised in Neath Port Talbot.

Implementation of Decision

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

List of Background Papers

13. Members Community Fund - 'Guiding Principles Paper'
 - 'Guidance Notes for Member Applicants'
 - 'Application Form'

Draft versions of the above three documents have been tabled at Corporate Directors Group on the 27.03.18 and 24.04.18 - Also at Cabinet Members Briefing on the 28.03.18 and 9.05.18.

Officer Contact

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