

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

12th September 2018

Report - Head of Transformation (ELLL) Andrew Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Lower Brynamman

Project Proposal made to the Members Community Fund

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Cabinet approval to fund a project proposal that requests financial support under the Members Community Fund. The project has been tabled by the respective Ward Member.

Executive Summary

2. The Members Community Fund was approved in its present form at Cabinet Board on the 16.05.18 and was launched at an All

Members Seminar on the 14.06.18. The Fund is to be used to address local needs and to support projects and initiatives that will contribute towards creating vibrant and sustainable communities.

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

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.

Cabinet considered three proposals for funding on the 25.07.18. A further project proposal now seeks funding and has been formally submitted to the PDFU. The bid has been checked for completeness, accuracy and deliverability and is 'fit for purpose' and ready for determination by Cabinet.

Project Proposal

3. Canolfan Maerdy Welfare Support

A bid to extend the working hours (by 6 hours/week x £8/hour x 100 weeks, plus 20% on - costs) of a part time Community Development Coordinator to facilitate the operation of a locally based drop - in wellbeing and welfare support service.

This initiative offers a holistic approach tailored to the needs of the individual. It will empower those that are least able and those lacking confidence to receive support in claiming on- line benefits, understanding eligibilities, help with housing advice and provide essential financial management.

Participants will be able to self - refer, but the Scheme will receive referrals from the local GP surgery, a network of health and social care professionals, the local community and the local Councillors.

This proposal aligns with the NPT Public Service Board's Wellbeing Plan 2018 -2023, and has the support of the Department for Work and Pensions, 'NPT Age Connects', 'Workways' and the Citizens Advice Bureau. It is considered to be the only local community based provider of advice and support concerning Universal Credit entitlement. This initiative will fill an evidenced gap in local provision.

The request for Grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £5,760 which will be 58% of the allocation attributed to Councillor Arwyn Woolcock in the Ward of Lower Brynamman.

Financial Impact

4. From the outset it was intended that the Members Community Fund would 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. This project proposal benefits from £4,000 in-kind room hire and marketing from Canolfan Maerdy and also an additional £4,500 from the Tesco 'Fair Share' Community Food Scheme.

In order to win favour in Cabinet all projects must be sustainable. Projects must have a robust exit strategy that places no additional revenue or financial burden on the Council. This proposal will encourage those receiving the service to give voluntary hours back to the community café, preparing food and support to other interest groups. An earlier three week pilot has proven that money raised in the café and from interest groups will pay for the project once firmly established, making it sustainable after two years.

The longer term sustainable benefit associated with early intervention will include improved health, financial security and improved money management for the client group. This will translate into better public health outcomes, avoidance of fuel poverty & homelessness and the promotion of self - care.

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. 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. Under section 56 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 sanction is given for both Executive and Non - Executive Members to invest within their own Ward.

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. In line with the earlier agreed Council policies and priorities, the proposal has been thoroughly scrutinised and is deemed to be credible, well thought through and sustainable. The project proposal is recommended for approval and financial support under the Members Community Fund.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

11. To approve the Application for funding that has been received under the Members Community Fund. The Members Community

Fund will continue to receive bids until the due deadline date of 31.03.2020.

Implementation of Decision

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

List of Background Papers

13. This Lower Brynamman initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Arwyn Woolcock and this has been retained for reference. The stakeholder has submitted the relevant Constitution, audited Accounts, Insurances and the Leasehold Agreement that are a requirement of supporting any Third Sector entity with the Members Community Fund. Canolfan Maerdy has also equipped the PDFU with the Output Report for the Pilot project and this has been evaluated and retained for future reference.

14. Officer Contact

Paul Hinder, Project Development & Funding Manager, (ELLL).

Tel: 01639 763390, email: p.hinder@npt.gov.

