

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

3rd October 2018

Report - Head of Transformation (ELLL) Andrew Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Margam

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 has considered and approved four proposals to date. 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. Supply and installation of two benches in Abbots Close, Margam.

A bid to supply and install two benches for community use on an area of grass verge in Abbots Close.

This bid has been developed to 'enhance existing Council Services' and has the full support of NPTCBC's Streetcare Services.

The benches will be of robust construction comprising 100% recycled plastic so they will not rot, splinter or crack. They are very durable and can stand up to any attempts made to vandalise or destroy them. Minimal maintenance is required to keep them in good condition. The benches will be installed onto concrete platforms thus negating the need to mow or strim underneath them.

The need for this initiative has come to the attention of the local Councillor. Representations have been made by constituents that benches are needed to allow people a place to rest when walking in the community. Cllr Jones has shared the proposal with residents of

Abbots Close and they are keen to see it become a reality. There have been no objections to the scheme.

The verge forms part of the new 'Safe Routes to School' initiative associated with Ysgol Cwm Brombil.

The long term sustainable benefits associated with the project include the beautifying of the area, increased social interaction between members of the public using the benches as a meeting point or a place to just 'sit and chat' and improved health and wellbeing.

The request for Grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £1,159.94 which will be 12% of the allocation attributed to Councillor Rob Jones, Elected Member for the Ward of Margam. This is the first proposal received to the Members Community Fund from Cllr Jones and if it prevails he will have £8,840.06 remaining in his Members Fund allocation to develop further priority projects.

Financial Impact

4. 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.

The area of verge is currently maintained by NPTCBC's Streetcare Services and that arrangement will continue following installation of the benches. The Streetcare Team have agreed to absorb the small amount of additional maintenance associated with mowing the grass around the concrete bases at no additional cost. There is no need for further investment to sustain this development.

The verge has previously benefited from a CAT Scanning exercise to identify underground services and none have been found which could suspend, hinder or add cost to the installation of the benches.

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). That Cabinet approve to fund this project proposal given that there is a request for 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 Margam initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Rob Jones and additional research conducted by the PDFU, this information has been retained for reference.

14. Officer Contact

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