

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Cabinet**

31 October 2018

### **Report - Head of Transformation (ELLL) Andrew Thomas**

#### **Matter for Decision**

#### **Wards Affected:**

Pelenna

#### **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 six 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. Renewal of defective heating boiler- Tonmawr RFC, Dan - y - Coed, Pelenna.

The bid is to 'Assist Voluntary Sector providers' by securing the future of the Tonmawr RFC as the hub of the community.

The project involves replacement of the boiler which services all of the hot water supply in the Club. A recent Service Engineer's inspection has condemned the boiler as dangerous and the necessary Safety Certificate was withheld on the premise there is risk of explosion with continued use.

Following the loss of 'Tonmawr 2000' Sport and Fitness Centre and the Primary School, the Tonmawr RFC Clubhouse is now the central hub for sport, social and community activities. The main thrust of the Club is sport and rugby pathways development for over 100 participants from Under 7's to Seniors. The Club is the receiving centre for the Senior Citizens Club, Pelenna Male Voice Choir, the

Church Group, Mother & Toddler Group, Neath Schools Under 11's and Under 15's schoolboys and District competitions, and is the base for 40 regular volunteers that perform a host of activities within the community.

The need for this initiative has come to the attention of the local Councillor and there is recognition that without this timely intervention the Rugby Club would struggle to function as the main focal point of the community, possibly with many community hires being lost.

The project has already secured £12,360 from the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) Facilities grant. The project has been accurately costed at £15,450 (net of VAT which is recoverable). The Member for Peleenna would wish to invest £3,090 (which is 20% of the net total project cost) of his Members Community Fund allocation. This request from Councillor Martin Ellis is the second bid made to the £10,000 ring fenced for priority projects in Peleenna (£4,627.50 already having been awarded to a successful pitch drainage scheme in Oakwood). With this award of £3,090 the Councillor would retain the remaining Members Fund balance of £2,282.50 which again could be used at another time to pursue a further priority project, destined to create a more vibrant and sustainable community.

### **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. 80% of the costs attributed to this proposal have been secured from external agencies.

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. Upon installation the new boiler, header tank, pump, thermostat and gas connections will be under warranty for two years. Long term the installation will be inspected and maintained by a qualified heating engineer at the Rugby Club's expense.

## **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 initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Martin Ellis. The initiative has the full backing of the WRU, 'Insport' disability sport, TACT Cymru, the Ospreys regional age groups and the wider community. This evidence has been retained for future reference. The PDFU has worked closely with the Senior Committee of Tonmawr RFC to arrive at this bid and that exchange of correspondence has been retained for reference.

## **14. Officer Contact**

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