

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Cabinet**

5th December 2018

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

#### **Matter for Decision**

#### **Wards Affected:**

Pontardawe

### **Project Proposal made to the Members Community Fund - Pontardawe Heritage and Visitor Centre**

#### **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 Cllr Linet Purcell, one of the two Ward Members for Pontardawe.

#### **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.

Another 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. Establish a 'family-friendly' area in the courtyard of Pontardawe Heritage and Visitor Centre.

This application has been developed to 'assist Voluntary Sector providers.'

The bid is to purchase items of equipment including picnic tables, chairs, a wheelchair accessible picnic bench, information display boards and materials to create a heritage themed play area with traditional street games, hopscotch and a wooden 'Canal Boat' for creative and imaginative play. The aim of the project is for children to absorb their local heritage through play, and to make Pontardawe Heritage and Visitor Centre family friendly and accessible to all.

The need for this initiative has come to the attention of Cllr Linet Purcell, one of the two Ward Members for Pontardawe. Pontardawe Heritage and Visitor Centre opened in July 2018 and has since received over 500 visitors. Representations have been made by

members of the Management Committee that in order for visitors to make the most of the time they spend at the Centre, children and young people need to be kept occupied and engaged whilst their parents/guardians digest the information on display.

The long term sustainable benefits associated with the project include an increase in visitor numbers, better provision for children and teachers visiting from schools nearby, a greater understanding of local heritage and culture and helping to secure the future sustainability of the Centre through increased sales of items and refreshments in the Gift Shop.

The request for Grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £971, which is the full cost of purchasing all of the items associated with the project. This is the first proposal received to the Members Community Fund from Cllr Linet Purcell and if it prevails she will have £9,029 remaining in her Members Fund allocation to develop further priority projects in the Ward of Pontardawe.

### **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 Management Committee of Pontardawe Heritage and Visitor Centre are the Leaseholders of the building owned by NPTCBC. They have committed to ensuring that the Centre is appropriately insured and maintained for the next 25 years - this is achieved using income from membership fees, room hire, community events and the onsite sale of gifts and refreshments.

This project places no additional revenue or financial burden on NPTCBC.

### **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 Pontardawe initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Linet Purcell which has been retained for reference.

## **14. Officer Contact**

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

Tel: 01639 763390, email: [p.hinder@npt.gov.uk](mailto:p.hinder@npt.gov.uk)

