

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

5th December 2018

Report - Head of Transformation (ELLL) Andrew Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Gwaun Cae Gurwen and Lower Brynamman

Project Proposal made to the Members Community Fund - Community Transport Initiative serving the Wards of Gwaun Cae Gurwen and Lower Brynamman

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 Ward Member for Gwaun Cae Gurwen.

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 seven 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. To support the initial development of a sustainable, reliable community transport initiative serving the Wards of Gwaun Cae Gurwen and Lower Brynamman.

The bid is to 'Enhance existing Council services' by consolidating the offer of community transport in the Amman Valley and by making better use of DANSA services that are operated from the Dulais Valley.

The project involves the appointment of a Community Transport Development Worker to operate the booking system, to train as a driver of the existing community car operated by DANSA and to work

alongside NPTCBC Social Services to develop the 'Building Safe and Resilient Communities' initiative in Gwaun Cae Gurwen.

Following investment, the Project Worker will liaise with the local NPTCBC Area Coordinator to implement ways of making more effective use of the community car to build upon existing resources, identify opportunities and implement initiatives that can improve and extend transport provision in the local area. The payroll and finance aspects for the Worker will initially come within the purview of Canolfan Maerdy. The Worker will be peripatetic, with the DANSA car based at the GCG Community Hall (which has secured car parking).

The need for this initiative has come to the attention of the local Councillor and there is recognition that 30% of the population in GCG are without cars, the taxi service and public transport links between villages are either expensive or limiting. This is a hindrance to those wishing to access medical services, Doctor's appointments or community events. The community car is rarely available through lack of trained drivers, the need to book 48 before intended use and the current inability of DANSA to have a local presence to facilitate recruitment and development of the service.

The project has already secured £10,000 from the 'Celtic Energy' Revised Opencast Additional Community Contribution Fund. Also there is a further allocation of £4,491 from the Gwaun Cae Gurwen Community Council Revised Opencast Fund. The project has been accurately costed at £24,491. The Member for Gwaun Cae Gurwen would wish to invest the whole of her Community Fund allocation of £10,000 (which is 41% of the total project cost) into this initiative. The investment is considered a prudent one as it will assist in the creation of 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. 59% 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. The Amman Valley Community Transport Group, following the first year of investment, will be supported by DANSA and the revenue gains associated with mileage charges. Community Transport Wales will provide further support to improve the situation in the Amman Valley. There will be no additional revenue 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). 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 Sonia Reynolds. The initiative has the full backing of DANSA, 'Workways', the Community Transport Association, Social Services (LAC), Canolfan Maerdy, Y Lolfa, Y Banwen, the GCG Community Council, Health Clinic and GP Surgery. This evidence has been retained for future reference along with the Job Description that has been developed for the new Community Transport Worker. The PDFU has worked closely with 'Connecting Communities in Wales' Project Manager and our own Integrated Transport Manager to arrive at this bid and that exchange of correspondence has been retained for reference.

14. Officer Contact

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