

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

16 January 2019

Report - Head of Transformation (ELLL) Andrew Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Dyffryn

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 submitted 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.

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. Greening initiative in the Ward of Dyffryn.

A bid to make the area more attractive, encourage biodiversity and increase community spirit by installing 16 raised planters and establishing wildflower areas on sections of the grass roadside verges throughout the Ward.

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

The funding being sought in this application will be used to finance the supply and installation of the planters (1m x 1m with a depth of 45cm) by the NPTCBC's Streetcare Services, growing medium, plants (Roses and Lavender) and native wildflower seeds.

Once installed, members of the community have agreed to adopt the planters as their own (as has been the case with a previously successful pilot project within the Ward) to ensure that they are regularly maintained. Pupils from Abbey Primary School will be involved with the sowing of the wildflower areas.

The demand for this initiative has come to the attention of the local Councillor. Local residents have communicated the need to soften the look of the area and make it more visually attractive in the hope

that it will encourage people to take better care of their surroundings. Although the majority of residents in Dyffryn are model citizens there is unfortunately a high degree of littering, anti-social behaviour and irresponsible parking.

The long term sustainable benefits associated with the project include making the Ward more vibrant and a better place to live, an increase in species habitat for local flora and fauna and denying those residents who would otherwise choose to park recklessly on grass verge areas.

The request for Grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £10,000, the entire allocation attributed to Councillor Martyn Peters, Elected Member for the Ward of Dyffryn.

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 proposed locations for the planters are currently maintained by NPTCBC's Streetcare Services and that arrangement will continue following their installation. The Streetcare Team have agreed to absorb the small amount of additional maintenance associated with strimming the grass around the bases of the planters at no additional cost. Advice has been taken to ensure that the planters will be situated in places that will not create an obstacle or any interference to a visual splay that might otherwise be dangerous to pedestrians or motorists.

The small amount of maintenance associated with the upkeep of the planters will be adopted by volunteers from the local community. Should this arrangement go awry in the long term, the Dyffryn Clydach Community Council will commit their own handyman/ ground staff to ensure they are well kept into the foreseeable future.

The raised planters will be procured through a local company, 'Second Life Products Wales Ltd' of Cwmgors, and constructed from 100% recycled plastic. They are maintenance free, waterproof, UV resistant, vandal resistant and extremely durable.

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. That the project proposal for the Greening Initiative (as detailed within the circulated report) be approved, and £10,000 financial support, from Councillor Martyn Peter's allowance under the Members Community Fund, be awarded.

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 Dyffryn initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Martyn Peters which has been retained for reference.

14. Officer Contact

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