

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

16 January 2019

Report - Head of Transformation (ELLL) Andrew Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Neath North

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 Members.

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. Development of accessible washroom and changing facilities (compliant with the Equality Act 2010) at the Neath YMCA building, Lletty Nedd, Neath.

This bid has been developed to 'Assist Voluntary Sector provision.'

The proposal is to renew and upgrade the existing male washroom facilities at the Neath YMCA by installing a new toilet, wash hand basin, hand rails, disabled call system and emergency lighting. The investment will also include the provision of a fully accessible showering and changing area with new heating, automatic lighting, an appropriate ventilation system, benches, mirrors, lockers and a hand dryer.

This scheme has been defined and specified by a LABC (Local Authority Building Control) certified designer, 'Moore Interiors Ltd' of Swansea. This will ensure that the completed works meet all of the necessary requirements and guarantee that the new facilities are fully accessible.

The plumbing and electrical works associated with the project will be undertaken by local reputable tradespeople. Work associated with the fabrication of new interior walls and ceilings will be undertaken pro bono by individuals enrolled on the 'Buildback Programme', an

initiative led by 'Dragon Training and Recruitment' of Swansea. This programme is managed in partnership with Neath Port Talbot College, the Job Centre and the Construction Industry Training Board, and provides opportunities for the unemployed and disengaged to train in trades within the construction industry. Following completion of the programme participants are guaranteed an interview with a local contractor and many of those who have previously participated in the programme have since been gainfully employed. All materials associated with the 'Buildback Programme' are procured and donated by the Swansea City Football Club Community Trust.

The need for the project has been identified through ongoing consultation exercises with current YMCA users and the wider community via questionnaires, focus groups and social media. The most recent consultation concluded that people see the lack of appropriate washroom and changing facilities as a barrier to taking part in physical activity classes at the YMCA, and that participation would greatly increase if the amenities were improved.

The ongoing community benefits associated with the project include providing improved amenities at a popular community facility making it more appealing and accessible, promoting an increase in sports participation and physical exercise.

The total cost of this scheme is £9,558.75, which includes the £1,600.00 attributed to the voluntary labour provided by participants in the 'Buildback Programme' and £759.75 for their materials. The YMCA have also secured £709.00 from the Neath Sportsmen's Trust and Barclays Bank. The request for Grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £6,490, split equally between the Members Fund allocations attributed to the two Neath North Ward Members - a £3,245 contribution from Cllr Alan Lockyer, and a £3,245 contribution from Cllr Mark Protheroe.

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 YMCA have forecasted a 60% reduction in water and electricity rates and a dramatic decrease in costs associated with the repair and maintenance of the building following the completion of this project. These savings combined with the anticipated increase in participation resulting from the improvements made to the facility will help to ensure the future sustainability of the YMCA.

The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) are the Leaseholders of the building in Lletty Nedd, Neath, and are fully responsible for any ongoing maintenance. The 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 Development of an accessible male washroom and changing facilities at the Neath YMCA (as detailed within the circulated report) be approved, and that £3,245 financial support from Councillor Alan Lockyer's allowance under the Members Community Fund, and £3,245 financial support from Councillor Mark Protheroe'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 Neath North initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Alan Lockyer and Councillor Mark Protheroe which has been retained for reference.

14. Officer Contact

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