

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

16 January 2019

Report - Head of Transformation (ELLL) Andrew Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Sandfields East

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. Improvement to the provision currently on offer at Vivian Park Play Area, Sandfields East.

This bid has been developed to 'enhance existing Council services' and has the full support of the NPTCBC Park and Cemeteries Department.

The proposal is to remove and dispose of two pieces of fixed play equipment which are no longer fit for purpose and replace with new, inclusive apparatus including a Basket Swing, 'Curlicue' spinner and a flush fitting roundabout. The preferred contractor, 'Sutcliffe SW', will also refurbish all of the existing equipment in order to prolong its lifespan, i.e. replacing a vertical play net which has exposed wires, installing new play panels, replacing worn chains on the swings and de-scaling and re-painting the corroded metal vertical uprights. The play area will also receive a new layer of brightly coloured wet pour safety surfacing throughout to ensure it is a safe environment for play and recreation.

Vivian Park has seen little in the way of investment in recent years due to budget constraints imposed on the NPTCBC Parks and Cemeteries Department. The most recent RoSPA inspection for the play area highlighted a number of concerns. The safety surfacing was found to be in very poor condition, presenting many trip hazards

where there had been damage to the surface and shrinkage/ separation from the concrete underneath. Items of equipment were assessed as being worn out, heavily corroded and many have fixtures loose or missing. This proposal will cure all of the deficiencies highlighted in the RoSPA Report and guarantee the safety of future users.

Feedback from local residents indicates that the amenity is lacking in appeal and play value. In its current condition it does little to contribute to ongoing developments within the Ward (which includes a new school and two new housing complexes) but with capital investment the play area will augment Sandfields East making it a more vibrant and a better place to live.

The long term sustainable benefits associated with the proposal include providing a safe and secure environment for play, making the play area more inclusive for those who are less ambulant, improved health and wellbeing and better physical, social and cognitive development amongst children.

The total cost of this scheme is £54,905. The project has already secured £28,980 in Section 106 monies attributed to the Ward of Sandfields East, £8,500 from the Welsh Government 'All Wales Play Opportunities' Grant and £1,035 from NPTCBC's Project Development and Funding Unit. The request for Grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for the whole of Councillor Sean Pursey's allocation of £10,000, £3,195 from Councillor Mathew Crowley's allocation and £3,195 from Councillor Edward Latham's - this will complete the funding package and make the proposal a reality.

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 project has the full support of NPTCBC's Parks and Cemeteries Department, who will be responsible for the ongoing insurance, maintenance and inspection of the Park for the foreseeable future.

The fixed play equipment will be of robust construction. All of the play apparatus included in the proposal will have been tested and certified

to the European Standard EN1176. The safety surfacing is certified to EN1177. 'Sutcliffe SW' offers extensive equipment and installation guarantees. As a consequence the Council will not be exposed to the costs of repair/replacement of any of the fixed play equipment or its components for quite some time after work has been completed on the project. The project proposal will provide a revitalised play area. Under warranty, the investment will be secure for many years to come.

The NPTCBC Parks and Cemeteries Department will continue to carry out routine maintenance, litter picking and site supervision, as it does now, to ensure the play area is kept clean and safe.

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 improvements to the provision of play equipment currently on offer at Vivian Park Play Area, Sandfields East, be approved and Councillor Sean Pursey's allocation of £10,000, Councillor Mathew Crowley's allocation of £3,195 and Councillor Edward Latham's allocation of £3,195, 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 Sandfields East initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Edward Latham, Councillor Mathew Crowley and Councillor Sean Pursey. Quotations from 'Sutcliffe SW' and the RoSPA Report dated 14.02.18 have been retained for reference.

14. Officer Contact

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