

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Cabinet**

06 March 2019

### **Report of the Head of Transformation - A.Thomas**

#### **Matter for Decision**

#### **Wards Affected:**

Neath 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 three Neath East 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. To re- equip and refurbish Evans Road play area, Melin.

This bid has been developed as part of a more complex project which would require input from the PDFU to facilitate its delivery.

The proposal is to completely modernise and adapt the play area to include for new pieces of play apparatus, attend to existing ground erosion , replace worn park benches and litter bins, renew play panels and worn components whilst addressing all of the defects highlighted in a RoSPA Independent Inspection dated 18.02.18.

The project will add a new 'Twin Turret' multi play unit, basket swing, Spring Mobile, See - saw and a roundabout dish. Best use will be made of existing play equipment that is still serviceable and this will be relocated to make the park more inviting and vibrant. Swing seats, cargo nets and play panels will be renewed. All metal components on existing equipment to be rubbed down to be free of corrosion and repainted. The area will be made dog proof by inclusion of a self-closing gate. Repairs will be made to existing rubber crumb Safety Surfacing to avoid trip hazards.

The design of the project has been arrived at with the consents of the three Neath East Councillors and the Parks & Cemeteries Principal Officer. The preferred Contractor is 'Sutcliffe SW'.

The need for the project has arisen from there being little Council investment in the site over recent years and as a consequence the play area now looks tired. A continued lack of investment in non - statutory play at Evans Road could lead to the loss of the play provision. The proposal offers the most generous opportunities for public enjoyment and upon completion will be of maximum appeal to the widest of audiences. Beneficiaries will include children and young people drawn from the nearby Infant School and the Melin Junior School, also their parents and grandparents. The RoSPA Report has identified a requirement for timely investment as bearings and moving parts are in need of attention. It is important that the Council continues to provide a safe and secure quality play environment at Evans Road.

The long term sustainable benefits associated with the proposal include making Neath East a more vibrant and sustainable community whilst providing a doorstep amenity for many hundreds of children and young people. The investment will arrest further deterioration of the play area. Items of new play equipment are of inclusive design and will help those that are less able to fully participate. Beneficiaries will be engaged and this new play provision will offer diversionary activity with a consequential positive impact on local anti - social behaviour.

The total cost of this scheme is £43,937 (exclusive of VAT which is recoverable). The project has already secured £13,937 in Section 106 monies attributed to 'Coastal' and 'Tai Tairian' developments at Old Furnace House and Evans Road. The three Neath East Councillors wish to invest the whole of their £10,000 allocation to make up the £30,000 shortfall on the project.

### **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 will be sustained in the long term as the Parks & Cemeteries Department will, as is the case now, be responsible for ongoing maintenance, inspection and insurance for the foreseeable future.

The fixed play equipment will be of robust construction. All apparatus is tested and certified under the European DIN Standard EN1176 & EN1177 and carries extended five and ten year warranties. As a consequence the Council will not be exposed to costly repairs of any new and refurbished play equipment for many years, potentially saving money that would otherwise have been spent on keeping worn, dilapidated equipment 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 the complete redevelopment of Evans Road play area in the Melin be approved and that Councillor Sheila Penry's allocation of £10,000, Councillor Sandra Miller's allocation of £10,000 and Councillor John Miller's allocation of £10,000 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 East initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted jointly by Councillors Penry, Miller and Miller. The Section 106 Agreements, the Quotation and Design from 'Sutcliffe SW' and the RoSPA Inspection Report dated 14.02.18 have been retained for future reference.

## **14. Officer Contact**

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