

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

6 March 2019

Report of the Head of Transformation A.Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Pontardawe

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 one of the Pontardawe 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. Purchase of an A3 flatbed scanner for Swansea Valley History Society.

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

Since its inception in 1978, Swansea Valley History Society has amassed a large quantity of documents and ephemera of historical value to the Ward of Pontardawe and the surrounding areas. They now wish to purchase an A3 flatbed scanner in order to facilitate the creation of a digital archive which will be held in trust by the Society for future use by the general public.

The need for this equipment relates directly to the core aim of the History Society which is to protect and promote the heritage of the Swansea Valley. Many of the documents and photographs in the Society's care are fragile and susceptible to damage. The provision of a scanner would allow them to produce digital versions of these items thus negating the damage caused by repeated handling. It will also allow the Society to copy items that are loaned to them for future reference. Following completion of the digital archive the History Society will transfer the original documents to the West Glamorgan Archive Service repository in Swansea for safekeeping.

Of chief importance and the long term community benefit associated with the project is the protection and preservation of the rich heritage of the Swansea Valley. The creation of the digital archive will make the collection more readily available and easier to access by the public.

The request for Grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £1,365.00 from Councillor Linet Purcell's allocation which is the full cost of the flatbed scanner (no match funding).

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 scanner will be the responsibility of the Swansea Valley History Society, who have made an ongoing commitment to ensuring that it is appropriately cared for and maintained for the foreseeable future.

This scheme has no financial implications for 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 procurement of an A3 flatbed scanner for the Swansea Valley History Society be approved and that Cllr Purcell's allocation of £1,365.00 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 Pontardawe initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Purcell. The Constitution, Audited Accounts, Quote, Bank Account details and Insurance documentation for 'Swansea Valley History Society' have been retained for future reference.

14. Officer Contact

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