

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Cabinet**

10 July 2019

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

#### **Matter for Decision**

#### **Wards Affected:**

Port Talbot

### **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 tabled by the respective Ward Members.

#### **Executive Summary**

2. The Members Community 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.

## **Background**

3. Start-up costs for a monthly market at the Transport Hub, Port Talbot.

This bid has been developed to 'Enhance Existing Council Services', and has been produced in partnership with the NPTCBC Regeneration and Economic Development Team.

The proposal is to establish a monthly market to operate on the last Thursday of each month, culminating in a Christmas Market and 'Christmas Lights Switch-On' event during the month of December 2019. The funding will be used to cover the costs associated with additional street cleaning, marketing, shed hire, security, and for professional fees to the creative regeneration agency, 'Urban Foundry', who will assist in delivering the inaugural market.

The need for this project was highlighted by members of the public during an initial Feasibility Study that was undertaken earlier this year. The Feasibility Study was used to ascertain local opinion on what key measures would improve Port Talbot town centre. The most popular response was, 'increased promotional activity and events,' with many individuals expressing a desire to participate in events related to seasonal holidays such as Christmas and Easter.

The long term sustainable benefits associated with the proposal include increasing footfall into Port Talbot town centre, promoting Port

Talbot as a place to live, work and enjoy recreational time, and providing a platform for Welsh produce and crafts.

The total cost of the proposal is £9,446. The NPTCBC Regeneration and Economic Development Team have committed £558 towards the project, the remaining £8,888 has been requested from the Members Fund. The three Port Talbot Councillors would each wish to equally support this initiative by contributing £2,962.66 from their respective portfolios.

### **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.

It is anticipated that following the initial injection of grant aid for start-up costs, the market will become self-sustaining via the income generated by traders, and by increasing the number of pitches from 20 in the first year, to 30 in the second. The NPTCBC Town Centre Manager will be responsible for the ongoing sustainability of the monthly market.

### **Integrated Impact Assessment**

5. A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010), the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well - being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment has indicated that a more in - depth assessment is not required as the summary concludes there are positive outcomes for the sustainable development principle, collaboration and involvement, with no impact on equalities or the Welsh language.

### **Valleys Communities Impacts**

6. No implications

## **Workforce Impacts**

7. There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

## **Legal Impacts**

8. 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**

9. There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

## **Consultation**

10. There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

## **Recommendations**

11. That the project proposal for start-up costs for a monthly market at the Transport Hub, Port Talbot, is approved and that Councillor Keogh's, Councillor Rahaman's and Councillor Freeguard's allocations of £2,962.66 under the Members Community Fund is awarded.

## **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

12. 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**

13. The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

## **List of Background Papers**

14. This Port Talbot initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Dennis Keogh, Councillor Saifur Rahaman and Councillor Sharon Freeguard. The Application Form has been retained for future reference, as have documents associated with the first stage Impact Assessment.

15. Officer Contact

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