

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

31 July 2019

Report - Head of Transformation - A.Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Bryncoch North/Bryncoch South

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 three Councillors representing the Wards of Bryncoch North and Bryncoch South.

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. To provide electrical hook ups at two locations within Bryncoch. The hook ups are to service two Christmas trees and the festive activities that are planned for .Also the installation to be used for the illumination of other community events that are to be staged by the Bryncoch Community Association.

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

The Bryncoch Community Association is a new Voluntary Sector Organisation constituted to promote community activity and participation in Bryncoch North and South. It has the powers to raise funds and provide events.

This Application is to equip two County Highway verges with Mains cable jointing, permanent pits, a cut 20'Christmas tree and a root balled 7' coniferous tree both to Lon Brynteg and Llys Gwynfryn in Bryncoch (at the two extremities of the Ward).

The entire scheme has been arrived at by seeking quotes from Festive Lighting Contractors and will include for connections to a feeder pillar, the provision of a cut- out and timer unit, trenching and

ductwork. Quotes have been secured for sets of LED festive lights and transformers.

Long term the intention is to dispense with the need to annually replenish the cut trees and decorate the living trees as they reach maturity. Provision has been made in the bid for the initial investment in the trees.

The need for this initiative has been established over a period of years and has been identified by carrying out robust community consultation. The local Primary Schools and the Environmental Group are to play an active role in arriving at a programme of events which will include fund raising, Easter themed events, summer fayres and the decorating of the trees.

There has been extensive involvement of the NPTCBC Estates Management and Highways & Drainage Services in arriving at the permissions to site the trees in such a way as not to interfere with traffic and underground services. Permissions have been given pending the need for CAT scanning and the verges being marked before finalizing the exact position for the permanent pits and the trees.

The long term sustainable community benefits associated with the project include the bringing together of the whole community and involving the schools. The success of this Application will lay the foundation for further community and environmental projects, charitable work and fund raising.

The request for grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £9,228 which is the total project cost. The request is made by the three Bryncoch North/Bryncoch South Ward Councillors contributing £3,096 each from their individual Members Fund allocation.

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 ongoing annual replenishment of the trees, the dressing and undressing of the trees with decorations, future testing of the electrical connections and maintenance will be the responsibility of the Bryncoch Community Association. Beyond the life of this Grant, this expense will be met from local business sponsorship, donations and fund raising events

There are no financial implications for NPTCBC.

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 this project proposal to provide festive activities for the wider community in Bryncoch North and South is approved and that Councillor Wyndham Griffiths', Councillor Jo Hale and Councillor Christopher Williams' allocation of £3,076, under the Members Community Fund is awarded. In the event of this proposal being agreed £868.10 will remain in each of the Bryncoch Councillor's Members Fund portfolios.

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 Bryncoch initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted jointly by Councillors Griffiths, Hale and Williams. The Constitution, Bank Statements, Insurance Policy and Bank Account details for Bryncoch Community Association have been retained for future reference. The Quotes for

the work associated with the Christmas trees, the location plans and the written permissions granted by the Highways & Drainage Services have been entered on File for reference .The first stage Impact Assessment documentation associated with this project proposal has also been retained.

Officer Contact

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