

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

31 July 2019

Report - Head of Transformation - A.Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Neath 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 one of the Ward Members for Neath 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 install new electrical connections, Broadband and essential storage facilities

This bid has been developed to 'Assist Voluntary Sector providers' by way of setting up a Community hub.

The Church Hall at St. Peter's & St. Paul's supports many community based organisations including the Art Club, Yoga class, Brownies, Rainbows, Youth Club, W.I. and Rock Choir.

This Application is to enhance activities to include Job Club, I.T. training ('Silver Surfers'), Homework Club and language learning. This is difficult without the necessary circuitry for computer servers, sockets, data outlets and Wi Fi connections. The project proposal also includes for bespoke storage facilities as the temporary arrangement is not secure and often hirers need to transport equipment from home addresses to the Hall in order for sessions to take place.

The need for this initiative has been established from consultation carried out with existing user Groups, non - Church organisations and the NPTCVS.

As the Church Hall is fully accessible to the disabled, equipped with modern day toileting facilities and a fully fitted kitchen it has proven over the years to be an ideal receiving centre for the community. This

bid will enhance that provision and will increase educational opportunities across the generations. The long term sustainable community benefits associated with the project include expanding the use of the Church Hall and growing activities in response to public demand.

The request for grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £2,532 which is the total project cost and this is to develop Wi Fi, upgrade the electrical system and provide secure, safe storage. The request is made of Councillor Peter Rees' 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 monthly costs associated with the Wi Fi will be met by the Church Council as will the cost of any necessary repair or maintenance.

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 intended to better equip the St. Peter's & St. Paul's Church Hall with I.T. and storage facilities is approved and that Cllr Peter Rees' allocation of £2,532, under the Members Community Fund is awarded (if agreed this would leave Councillor Rees with £5,074.65 remaining in his Folio).

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 Neath South initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Peter Rees. The audited Accounts, Insurance Policy and Bank Account details for the Church Council have been retained for future reference. The quotations for the Broadband connections, electrical circuitry and stud partition walls with shelving have been entered on File for reference .The first stage Impact Assessment documentation associated with this project proposal has also been retained.

Officer Contact

15. Paul Hinder, Project Development & Funding Manager, (ELLL).

Tel: 01639 763390, email: p.hinder@npt.gov.uk

