

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

31 July 2019

Report - 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 tabled by one of the Ward Members for Pontardawe.

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. Purchase of equipment in support of the Enterprise Programme for disengaged Comprehensive school pupils and adult volunteers.

This bid has been developed to 'Enhance Existing Council Services' for Outdoor Education.

The 25 acre site at Glantawe Riverside Park has hosted the Enterprise Programme for 7 years and revolves around providing transferable practical life skills and qualifications for long term unemployed, ex-offenders and mentally disabled individuals. The Programme has been recently extended at the request of Primary school staff to include innovative intervention programmes to reduce disengagement in the classroom.

This Application is to further enhance provision by equipping the Glantawe Outdoor Education Academy (GOEA) with sufficient tools, machinery and security to offer a new educational pathway and increased employment currency to Comprehensive school aged children at risk of disengagement. The Programme will be led by a qualified practitioner (paid for from Academy funds) supported by a trainee instructor/supervisor.

The need for this initiative has been established from research carried out with school staff, the Western Bay Youth Justice & Early Intervention Team, Employment Services, NPTCBC Youth Services, Community Alcohol Prevention Groups, the Town Council, Chamber

of Trade and PCSOs. The need for the Programme is further evidenced through parental surveys, Case Studies and a Gap Analysis. The GOEA now operates as an Agored Cymru Approved Centre recognising that the natural environment is a powerful and effective tool for learning. The GOEA provides the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, Forest School and the work associated with the Prince's Trust.

The long term sustainable community benefits associated with the project include the maintenance of an industrial landscape that was previously derelict, the development of work/educational pathways for those most at risk, and a greater appreciation of the natural environment. Programme participants will benefit from improved communication & language skills, physical stamina, independence, confidence building and greater self-esteem making them more employable as young adults.

The request for grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £8,826.36 (which is 56% of the total project cost) and this is to develop an arsenal of essential hand tools, powered implements, protective clothing and improved security arrangements. The cost of the Supervisory Practitioner support will be met from match funding (£6,750 from Charity Funds). The request is made of Councillor Anthony Richards' 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 management of the GOEA remains with the Pontardawe Arena Partnership as they have the leasehold, insurance and maintenance responsibilities for Glantawe Riverside Park.

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 the project proposal to equip the Enterprise Programme for school pupils and adult volunteers is approved and that Cllr Anthony Richards' allocation of £8,826.36, 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 Pontardawe initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Anthony Richards. The Leasehold Agreement, audited Accounts, Insurance Policy and Bank Account details for the Glantawe Outdoor Education Academy have been retained for future reference. The quotations for the tools, consumables and machinery and the first stage Impact Assessment documentation associated with this project proposal has also been retained.

Officer Contact

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