

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

25 September 2019

Head of Transformation - A.Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Blaengwrach

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 Member.

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. Installation of an additional item of fixed play equipment at the Vale of Neath Leisure Centre Play Area.

This bid has been developed to 'Enhance Existing Council Services', and to assist the Streetcare Services in maintaining and enhancing the play provision at this popular venue.

The proposal is to add to the equipment that already exists on site by installing a 'Junior Comet' roundabout. The roundabout will be installed into an existing platform, which is to receive a 40mm skim of impact absorbing safety surfacing in order for it to meet compliance. Streetcare Services intend to make further improvements to this play area via a grant from the Welsh Governments 'All Wales Play Opportunities Fund.' This will include new benches and bins, and enhancements to existing equipment through painting the steel uprights and replacing faded play panels. This application to the Members Fund heralds the start of those improvements and will put the play area on a better footing in readiness for the changes to be made.

The play area has seen little investment in recent years due to budgetary constraints imposed on the Local Authorities Streetcare Services. Items of play equipment deemed to be unsafe or time expired by previous RoSPA Inspections have been removed and not replaced, resulting in vacant pads of safety surfacing and a dearth of dynamic, challenging play apparatus. The roundabout will be installed

onto one of the vacant pads, making good use of the existing space, and adding to the current provision by providing equipment for spinning/ rotating, which the play area is currently lacking.

The long term community benefits associated with the project include improved health and wellbeing and better physical, social and cognitive development amongst children. The addition of the 'Junior Comet' will greatly enhance a facility which provides a safe and secure environment for play and recreation for all year round community use.

The request for grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £4,630.32 from Councillor Carolyn Edwards' allocation, which is the total net value of the project.

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.

This proposal has the full support of NPTCBC's Streetcare Services. They will be responsible, as they are now, for the ongoing insurance, maintenance and inspection of the Park, including the new roundabout, for the foreseeable future.

The 'Junior Comet' will be of robust construction. It conforms to the relevant British and European standards i.e. steel components to EN 10087:1998, polyester powder paint to EN 13438:2005. The fixings are anti-vandal and corrosion resistant. Due to this there should not be any issues in terms of repair/replacement for the length of the warranty period.

The NPTCBC Streetcare Services will continue to carry out routine maintenance, grass cutting, litter picking and site supervision, to ensure the play area is kept clean and safe.

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 Installation of an additional item of fixed play equipment at the Vale of Neath Leisure Centre Play Area be approved, and that Cllr Edwards' allocation of £4,630.32 under the Members Community Fund be awarded.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

12. To approve the Application for funding that has been received under the Members Community Fund. Full Funding Applications can be made to the Members Community Fund until the 24.02.2020 in readiness for Cabinet decision on the 11.03.2020. The Fund will then close. Funds left unallocated will be returned to Reserves.

Implementation of Decision

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

List of Background Papers

14. This Blaengwrach initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Carolyn Edwards. The Quotation provided by 'Wicksteed' has been retained for future reference. The first stage Impact Assessment documentation associated with this project proposal has also been retained.

15. Officer Contact

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