

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

25 September 2019

Report - Head of Transformation - A.Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Neath South/Cimla

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 Councillors representing the Wards of Neath South and Cimla.

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 completely refurbish, part re - equipment and make safe the play area on Cimla Common.

This bid has been developed to 'Enhance Existing Council Services' and to assist 'Street Care' Services in maintaining and safeguarding the provision at this popular play venue.

The proposal will make best use of the compound enclosed by bow top fencing and self-closing dog proof gates. There can be no extension to the play area which is located on Common land. Some of the play apparatus no longer functions as prescribed, the repair work to existing Safety Surfacing that protects the equipment is suspect and play panels are worn and tired. These items will be remedied with this project proposal.

This Application is to equip the play area with a new Inclusive See - Saw, a two seater Springer, two new litter bins with covers; new play panels and a new 30mm skim of Impact Absorbing Safety Surfacing across 137.5 square metres of play space. This can only be achieved within the footprint by removing items of low play value and repositioning some of the existing play apparatus.

The scheme has been arrived at by seeking quotes from NPTCBC approved suppliers and installers. The products that are to be used are sufficiently street tough. The steelwork to be used has a 25 year warranty, the Safety Surfacing 15 years and there is an extended 5 year warranty on anodised paintwork.

Long term there will be very little ongoing maintenance .As a consequence of installing new equipment the play area should receive a clean bill of health in its annual RoSPA Inspection (this inspection would ordinarily highlight deficiencies, wear and corrosion of static and moving parts).

The need for this initiative has been established from representations made to local Councillors. There has been a local call to 'revamp' the play area and residents were in the throes of setting up an Action Group before the timely intervention of Ward Members.

The long term sustainable community benefits associated with the project include extending the play value of the facility, adding more age appropriate play apparatus and safeguarding the future of the Park .In so doing children and young people will be able to keep physically active in a fun filled, safe and secure risk managed environment.

The total project cost (excluding recoverable VAT) is £19,411. The request for grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £18,676.65 with the remaining match funding (£734.35) to be made available from the PDFU Enabling Fund. The Members contribution will comprise the remaining £5,074.65 held within Councillor Peter Rees' portfolio, £10,000 from Councillor Jamie Evan's portfolio and £3,602 from the portfolio held by Councillor Adam McGrath.

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 insurance and maintenance of the Cimla Common play area will remain with the NPTCBC. The Park will continue to be inspected and litter picked by 'Street Care Services. For the sake of

continued safeguarding and to protect the Council from liability the play area to receive its annual RoSPA independent Service Engineer visit, as is the case now.

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 revitalise the Cimla Common play area is approved and that Councillor Rees' allocation of £5,074.65, Councillor Evan's allocation of £10,000 and Councillor Mc Grath's allocation of £3,602, 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. 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 Neath South/Cimla initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted jointly by Councillors Rees, Evans and Mc Grath. The Quotes for the supply and installation of the equipment 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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