

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

25 September 2019

Head of Transformation - A.Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Cymmer

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 Ward Councillor for Cymmer.

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 divide the usable space within the Upper Afan Valley Sports Hall into two zones through the acquisition of partition dividers.

This bid has been developed to 'Assist Voluntary Sector providers' and to assist with the continued management of the Sports Hall which has now been leased to the Trustees of the Afan Community Fitness Suite (a Charitable Incorporated Organisation or C.I.O).

The Afan Fitness Suite is, with the closure of the Cymmer Afan Comprehensive School, to be relocated to the Cymer Afan Primary School Sports Hall. A 25 year Lease has been drawn up with the NPTCBC Estates Dept. and it remains for the Trustees to use a designated portion of the sports hall to house the displaced exercise equipment. Under the Terms of the Lease the greater part of the sports hall is to be made available to the federated Primary schools and to deliver exercise classes for local residents.

The intention is to divide the sports hall to allow maximum use of the Centre by individuals wishing to benefit from the equipped gym and also at the same time to provide for team sports, boxercise, indoor cycling, circuit training, karate and football.

There is a need to make the provision safe, more usable, multi - functional and appealing. It is recommended that the gym area is equipped with safety matting (already secured from a successful bid to Llynfi Afan Wind Farm), floor to ceiling netting (subject of a bid to

the Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm Fund) and partition dividers, the subject of this bid to the Members Fund.

The scheme has been brought to the attention of the local Member by local residents and the Trustees of the Afan Community Fitness Suite. The proposal is in sync with the need to develop footfall of the sports hall and to safeguard its future.

The NPTCBC Building Surveyors have been involved in procuring this project and Quotes for a 17 metre run of rebound screen with requisite kick plates have been generated from the Select Tender List.

The request for grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £5,000. The total project cost is £5,502.72 (inclusive of VAT which is non - recoverable). The Trustees will contribute the match funding of £502.72 from gym membership payments.

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 maintenance of the project will be the responsibility of the Trustees. Maintenance costs will be met from the proposed increased footfall, which will be generated through heightened marketing on social media and the promotion of the Hall and the classes it offers via Open Days.

There will be no revenue burden on 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 negative implication.

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 diversify the provision at the Upper Afan Valley Sports Hall is approved and that Councillor Scott Jones contributes £5,000 under the Members Community Fund.

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 Cymmer initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor S. Jones and the Trustees of the Afan Community Fitness Suite. The Constitution, Insurances, Leasehold Agreement, Bank Statements, bank signatory details, etc. that accompany a bid made to the Members Fund by a Third Sector Organisation, have been entered on record. The first stage Impact Assessment documentation associated with this project proposal has also been retained.

Officer Contact

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