

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Cabinet**

25 September 2019

### **Report of the Head of Transformation - A.Thomas**

#### **Matter for Decision**

#### **Wards Affected:**

Aberavon

### **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 jointly by two of the three Ward Councillors for Aberavon.

#### **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 create a school based street art mural on the underpasses beneath Heilbronn Way, Port Talbot.

This bid has been developed as part of a more complex project which will require the input of the PDFU in order to facilitate delivery. The bid has the support of the Street Art Steering Group and 'Street Care Services'.

This initiative has been born out of the work of the Street Art Steering Group and the fact that it can sit harmoniously alongside the development of contemporary art forms and the Cultural offer planned for the Plaza Centre and Transport Hub area in Port Talbot. This project proposal is considered a pilot venture that is to evolve by way of a defined idea, in a managed way, and does not of itself set the precedent to decorate all subways under the same auspices or under the same umbrella policy.

The proposal involves working with local schoolchildren at St. Josephs Junior and Comprehensive Schools, Rhosafan and Sandfields Primary school. A professional street artist (with the requisite indemnities and DBS checks, etc.) is to stage school based Design Sessions over a period of days. This is intended to capture

the children's ideas and arrive at important iconic and historical images of Aberavon and Port Talbot. These images are to be transferred to the three tunnels linking the Shopping Centre to Llewelyn Street, the Civic Centre and Cwmafan Road (a total of 62 linear metres of walkway).

The children will be equipped with Personal Protective Clothing and be tutored on how to transfer the images recorded on canvas in the classroom setting onto the tunnel walls using aerosol spray paint. (This initiative has proven successful in both Pontardawe and under the A465 in Blaengwrach). Following 5 - 7 days' work, which involves the graffiti artist sharpening up and defining the images created by the children, the treated area will be protected by an anti - vandal lacquer which is an armoured film preventing those that wish to deface the artwork from scribing any offensive daub at a later date.

The local Members are very keen to see this initiative come to fruition as it will make the underpasses less intimidating to pedestrians, brighten up the public realm, make the areas that are most heavily trafficked more attractive and vibrant and create new interest. The children involved in the project will take ownership and pride in their work and the concept can hopefully be built upon if a resounding success.

The need for the project stems from having to repel the worsening situation in the Town Centre, one in which many subways, underpasses and below ground pedestrian thoroughfares are being systematically defaced by offensive language and images. This project is an opportunity to see if the tide can be turned in favour of making routes to school, to work and to the shops more welcoming and cared for.

In the run up to starting the project the 'Grime Buster Team' from Street Care Services will complete a thorough clean of the tunnels, their drainage gullies, the light fittings, etc. as a means of ensuring work can be carried out in an otherwise pristine environment.

The request for grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for the whole of the project cost of £12,432.60 which will include for the artists time, the resources for the Design Sessions, the 3 days Workshops, the Personal Protective Equipment for the children for 5 -

7 days' work, the spray paint, the heavy duty under coating varnish and the anti - vandal lacquer. This will be sufficient to create murals on all three tunnels measuring 37m, 17m and 11m.

### **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.

There will be minimal maintenance as the designs will be protected by the lacquer (no flaking or deterioration). The tunnels/pedestrian walkways will be kept clean, swept and lit as is the case now by NPTCBC 'Street Care Services'.

### **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 create three street art murals beneath Heilbronn Way, Port Talbot is approved and that Councillor Nigel Hunt and Councillor Scott Bamsey contribute £6,216.30 each 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 03.02.2020 in readiness for Cabinet decision on the 19.02.2020. 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 Aberavon initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted jointly by Councillors N.T. Hunt and S. Bamsey. The Quotes, Indemnities, Bank Account details, Risk Assessments and compliances furnished by the Street Artist 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](mailto:p.hinder@npt.gov.uk)

