



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

25 September 2019

Report of the Director of Social Services, Health and Housing – A.Jarrett

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: Upper Amman Valley ward areas; Gwaun Cae Gurwen, Lower Brynaman and Cwmllynfell.

BUILDING SAFE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES GRANT FUNDING

Purpose of the Report:

This report requests that members approve a £200,000 grant fund which will be used as part of the Building Safe and Resilient Communities (BSRC) pilot programme in the Upper Amman Valley. The funds will be used as part of an “invest to save” model to facilitate a grant scheme for community development opportunities in the area.

Executive Summary:

The BSRC programme is jointly led by: Andrew Jarrett, Director of Social Services, Health and Housing and Gaynor Richards, Director of NPT Council for Voluntary Service and covers two pilot areas: Briton Ferry/Melin and Upper Amman Valleys. BSRC is a change program endorsed by the Public Service Board (PSB) that focuses on a place based, asset based approach to community development in line with the NPT Wellbeing Plan 2018-2023.

A £300,000 community grant scheme (Innovate and Create Fund) to support the Neath East, Briton Ferry East and West and Melin pilot area has already been secured via The ‘Our Neighborhood’ Regional Transformation bid to Welsh Government. However, NPT is also piloting the program in the Upper Amman Valley. In order to be able to effectively evaluate the success of the programme across both urban and rural parts of the Borough it is essential that similar approaches are implemented in each area. Therefore, this paper requests that Members approve £200,000 to be used as a grant scheme to support community organisations in the Upper Amman Valley. It is considered that an investment of these funds into the community at this stage will lead to savings in the future for the Local Authority.

Background:

In September 2017, officers of the Local Authority attended “The Deal Conference” in Wigan to gain a better understanding of a programme in that area which focused on co-production with members of the community to create better outcomes for the residents of Wigan Council. There was also a multi- agency visit to Wigan from NPT including Members, officers, the police and senior managers from health and the third sector. The idea behind the Wigan Deal was that the Council, other local organisations and members of the community would work together to build community resilience. This, in part, was achieved through the investment of funds to support the development of community activity and volunteering opportunities which would prevent the need for statutory service intervention in the future. Wigan were clear that they had achieved significant benefits and savings from using this approach.

As officers and members in Neath Port Talbot reflected on the visit to Wigan and researched other places where an asset based community development approach was being used they resolved to adopt a similar approach for our own citizens. Under the leadership of the PSB, Building Safe and Resilient Communities became a significant programme which sought to change the culture of the relationship between the community and the organisations that served it. A pot of money was set aside for use at such a time that the programme needed it.

The two pilots are important learning opportunities for the Public Services Board, providing an opportunity to test this very different approach on a smaller scale, to learn what works and what doesn't and to gauge what level of benefits/could be achieved compared to traditional approaches. If successful all agencies committed to scaling up the approach. The initial steps that the Board identified as necessary are set out in the published Well-being Plan. Andrew Jarrett and Gaynor Richards have agreed to jointly lead this work on behalf of the PSB and have set up a Leadership Group to aid them in this work. The Leadership Group has also designated responsibilities to a multi-agency Strategic Management Group, which will be responsible for the development of the BSRC work plan.

Over the past 12 months, the Leadership and Strategic Management Groups have been working closely together to establish a strong foundation for the programme as part of the preparatory phase of roll out. In close collaboration across partner agencies, the correct systems, structures and strategic supports have now been agreed upon and implemented. There are now staff in place to support the roll out of the programme, including a Community Development Officer, a Volunteer Development Officer, a Grants Administrator, Business Support and a Program Manager. Progress has been made towards agreeing the Work Plan, with high level arrangements around who, what and by when having been agreed. Integral components of the work plan have already begun such as

asset mapping, community engagement opportunities and the development of a training plan.

As we enter the next phase of roll out, BSRC is now ready to become more outward facing and visible to our communities. This will include the establishment of Neighbourhood forums, as well as more community engagement activities and volunteer recruitment.

An important part of the next phase of the programme is the use of a 'community fund' to help create the community infrastructure that can offset the work of social care. There is already a £300,000 grant pot available for the Briton Ferry/Melin pilot area secured through the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) "Our Neighborhood Approach" Transformation programme. The "Our Neighborhood Approach" is a Regional collaboration between Health, Social Care and the third sector, linked to the GP Cluster Systems Changes being rolled out across all of Swansea Bay Health Board. The funds secured for Briton Ferry/Melin will need to be spent by August 2020 as per Welsh Government instruction. CVS is leading on the grant application scheme and has set four grant panel dates to phase the roll out of the monies across the upcoming year. The Grant Application Criteria for the Briton Ferry/Melin area is attached as Appendix 2 for information.

In order to clearly evaluate the success of this place based, asset based approach across two distinctively different pilot areas, it is important that similar resources and opportunities are made available to both communities. As a result, it is recommended that a grant pot is made available to the Upper Amman Valley, funded by the Local Authority, of up to £200,000. The grant applications for the Upper Amman Valley will be run in a similar way to the arrangements already agreed in Briton Ferry/Melin area, although with much closer oversight from the Council who will be providing the monies. The Grant Criteria paperwork (Appendix 2) will be adopted. Although initially this will have a financial implication on the Local Authority, it is envisaged that the benefits of investing into the community will return a longer term savings, both financially and on the general demand on the Local Authority.

Financial Impacts:

The cost of the scheme is £200k, this will be funded from the community resilience reserve. It is non-recurring. The remaining reserve balance will be £1.8m.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken (Appendix 1). It has identified that there will be a positive impact on all residents, regardless of protected characteristic, as the grant scheme will be available to community organisations/social enterprises who will be developing services across demographics.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

The recommendation has no spatial impact on our valleys communities. The BSRC pilot program will have a natural and positive impact on the community as it will support community development cultivating the growth of local assets, volunteering opportunities, access to local resources and the overall wellbeing of all citizens.

Workforce Impacts:

No implications.

Legal Impacts:

No implications.

Risk Management Impacts:

The risk associated with failing to implement the proposed recommendations is that the benefits outlined earlier in this report will not be realised.

Crime and Disorder Impacts:

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the Council in the exercise of its functions to have “due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent:

- a) Crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
- b) The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area; and
- c) Re-offending the area”

It is expected that the BSRC programme will contribute positively to the prevention of crime and disorder, including substance misuse as it supports communities to become more resilient in line with the Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Counter Terrorism Impacts:

It is hoped that where people are encouraged to feel a part of a strong, stable and resilient community it will be less likely that they will be drawn into terrorism. This needs to be tested as a part of the pilot programme.

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Impacts:

Section 2(1) of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 introduced a general duty where a person exercising relevant functions must have regard (along with all other relevant matters) to the need to remove or minimise any factors which:

- (a) increase the risk of violence against women and girls, or
- (b) exacerbate the impact of such violence on victims.

The proposals contained in this report are likely to have a positive impact on the above duty for the reasons already given.

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Members approve the use of £200,000 of the Community Resilience Reserve for appropriate investment into community organisations and social enterprises in the three wards set out in this report.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

The proposed decision will allow for resources to be available across the BSRC pilot programme. Without the proposed decision being made, the benefits described above from investing into our communities will be unlikely to materialise.

Implementation of Decision:

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

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Integrated Impact Assessment

Appendix 2 – Grant Application Criteria

List of Background Papers:

None.

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Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

Initiative description and summary: Building Safe and Resilient Communities Upper Amman Valley Grant Scheme

Building Safe and Resilient Communities is a placed based, strengths based pilot programme focusing on building on existing assets in the community and supporting the development of social enterprises. Pilot programme focuses on two areas of the Local Authority: Briton Ferry/Melin and the Upper Amman Valley.

As part of the initiative, a grant scheme is proposed which will invest in local community organisations, eventually yielding longer term savings for the Local Authority. The current Impact Assessment considers the impact of any grant funds made available in the Upper Amman Valley to Community Volunteer Organisations and Social Enterprises.

Service Area: Adult and Children's Social Services

Directorate: Social Services Health and Housing

2. Does the initiative affect:

	Yes	No
Service users	x	
Staff		x
Wider community	x	
Internal administrative process only		x

3. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't Know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)/How might it impact?
Age		x				<p>The initiative will not impact on any individual purely because of their age. The grant opportunities will be made available to all community organisation offering services across age ranges. The focus of the initiative is to support the development of existing and new assets, community services and social enterprises that will positively impact on all residents in the area, regardless of age.</p> <p>People will see no reduction in the availability of services but there may be an increase to the type of service that is delivered. However this positive impact is not as a result of a protected characteristic</p>
Disability		x				<p>The initiative will not impact on any individual purely because of their disability. The grant opportunities will be made available to all community organisation offering a variety of services. The focus of the initiative is to support the development of existing and new assets, community services and social enterprises that will positively impact on all residents in the area, regardless any known disability</p> <p>People will see no reduction in the availability of services but there may be an increase to the type of service that is delivered. However this positive impact will not be as a direct result of a protected characteristic</p>
Gender Reassignment		x				<p>The initiative will not impact on any individual purely because of any gender reassignment. The grant opportunities will be made available to all community organisation offering a variety of services. The focus of the initiative is to support the development of existing and new assets, community services and social enterprises that will</p>

						<p>positively impact on all residents in the area, regardless their gender assignment</p> <p>People will see no reduction in the availability of services but there may be an increase to the type of service that is delivered. However this positive impact will not be as a direct result of a protected characteristic</p>
Marriage/Civil Partnership		x				<p>The initiative will not impact on any individual purely because of their marital/civil partnership status. The grant opportunities will be made available to all community organisation offering a variety of services. The focus of the initiative is to support the development of existing and new assets, community services and social enterprises that will positively impact on all residents in the area, regardless of whether they are married or in a civil partnership</p> <p>People will see no reduction in the availability of services but there may be an increase to the type of service that is delivered. However, this positive impact will not be as a direct result of a protected characteristic</p>
Pregnancy/Maternity		x				<p>The initiative will not impact on any individual purely because of any pregnancy. The grant opportunities will be made available to all community organisation offering a variety of services. The focus of the initiative is to support the development of existing and new assets, community services and social enterprises that will positively impact on all residents in the area, regardless of whether they are pregnant or on maternity.</p> <p>People will see no reduction in the availability of services but there may be an increase to the type of service that is delivered. However, this positive impact will not be as a direct result of a protected characteristic</p>

Race		x			<p>The initiative will not impact on any individual purely because of their race. The grant opportunities will be made available to all community organisation offering a variety of services. The focus of the initiative is to support the development of existing and new assets, community services and social enterprises that will positively impact on all residents in the area, regardless of their race</p> <p>People will see no reduction in the availability of services but there may be an increase to the type of service that is delivered. However this positive impact will not be as a direct result of a protected characteristic</p>
Religion/Belief		x			<p>The initiative will not impact on any individual purely because of their religion or belief system. The grant opportunities will be made available to all community organisation offering a variety of services. The focus of the initiative is to support the development of existing and new assets, community services and social enterprises that will positively impact on all residents in the area, regardless of religion/belief</p> <p>People will see no reduction in the availability of services but there may be an increase to the type of service that is delivered. However, this positive impact will not be as a direct result of a protected characteristic</p>
Sex		x			<p>The initiative will not impact on any individual purely because of their sex. The grant opportunities will be made available to all community organisation offering a variety of services. The focus of the initiative is to support the development of existing and new assets, community services and social enterprises that will positively impact on all residents in the area, regardless of sex</p> <p>People will see no reduction in the availability of services but there may be an increase to the type of service that is delivered.</p>

						However, this positive impact will not be as a direct result of a protected characteristic
Sexual orientation		X				<p>The initiative will not impact on any individual purely because of their sexual orientation. The grant opportunities will be made available to all community organisation offering a variety of services. The focus of the initiative is to support the development of existing and new assets, community services and social enterprises that will positively impact on all residents in the area, regardless of their sexual orientation</p> <p>People will see no reduction in the availability of services but there may be an increase to the type of service that is delivered. However, this positive impact will not be as a direct result of a protected characteristic</p>

4. Does the initiative impact on:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language		x				The grant scheme will be made available in Welsh and English to allow residents/organisations the opportunity to use their chosen language
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English		x				The grant scheme will be made available in Welsh and English to allow residents/organisations the opportunity to use their chosen language

5. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity		x				Not applicable
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.		x				Not applicable

6. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people	x		Building Safe and Resilient Communities (BSRC) is a pilot programme that focuses on a strength's based, placed based approach to developing the resilience of communities which will have long term sustainability. With the grant fund being made available, the programme will be able to support the development of social enterprises within the Upper Amman Valley, improving the services and opportunities available to residents of that area. As such, the community will thrive and flourish, providing people with local support at an early stage and promoting their long term well being
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	x		BSRC and the proposed grant scheme supports the Council's wellbeing objective of integration as everyone will be given an equal opportunity to participate and benefit from the program and grant scheme
Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative	x		The BSRC programme is focused on community development and is involving local residents, "community champions" and local businesses/organizations to develop the strengths already in existence in the Upper Amman Valley. The grant scheme will give opportunity for the community to be involved in develop its own support services
Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions	x		BSRC is a collaborative approach across the Public Service Board, which is co-led by the Director of Social Services, Health and Housing and the Director of NPT Council for Volunteer Service. The programme is focused on finding sustainable solutions for our communities which all services/organisations can endorse and support

Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse	x		The BSRC programme, and especially the proposed grant scheme, will support the early intervention and prevention of community needs escalating to a point whereby they impact on public services and statutory services. By investing in the communities, opportunities to support the wellbeing of residents will be made available at an earlier stage through social enterprises and volunteer organisations.
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7. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	x
Reasons for this conclusion	
Although Building Safe and Resilient Communities is a pilot programme that will be provided to people with a protected characteristic, people will see no reduction in the availability of services. Any impact will be positive, evidenced through the building on existing assets and the availability of services across all demographics. As such, overall this proposal will have a natural and positive impact on people with a protected characteristic.	

A full impact assessment (second stage) is required	
Reasons for this conclusion	

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Completed by	Nune Aleksanyan	Programme Manager– Building Safe and Resilient Communities PO – Community Support Services	<i>N.Aleksanyan</i>	22 nd August 2019
Signed off by	Andrew Jarrett	Director of Social Services, Health and Housing		



**Neath Port Talbot Public Service Board
Building Safe and Resilient Communities (BSRC) Innovate and
Create Development Fund
Working together for a Better Community**

1. **Area of Benefit** – Briton Ferry and Melin (Neath Port Talbot).
2. **Criteria** – The Innovate and Create Fund – is to help the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Sector realise their projects and ideas that help address the need of local residents and help build sustainable connected resilient communities.

The Innovate and Create Fund has two funding streams:

- Cultivate grants – grants of up to £20,000 aimed at encouraging local networks and organisations where people help themselves and each other
- Innovate grants – up to £35,000 for projects with ideas that demonstrate an innovative approach.
- To be eligible – all projects must:
 - Be new or build on existing projects
 - Be able to demonstrate sustainability beyond the life of the grant
 - Show that they will reduce pressures on public sector services and/or offer direct savings to public sector pressures

Application deadlines – 27th August 2019 22nd October 2019, 2nd January 2020, and 25th February 2020.

All grants awarded must be spent by August 2020.

3. **Aims** – The Innovate and Create Fund is a local flexible grant that aims to improve the health and well-being of the local population and strengthen the capacity of communities to become resilient, better connected and empowered to address the local issues and increase community based activity.
4. **Support and Guidance** – support and guidance will be provided by Neath Port Talbot CVS's Building Safe Resilient Communities, (BSRC) team. If you simply have an idea for a project please contact the team who will be able to help you formulate and plan your ideas. We are keen to support smaller organisations and will consider your income when making a decision.

It is important to us that you involve your community in the design, development planning. We feel your project will be more successful as a result.

5. **Eligible activities** –

- Projects that bring people together and build relationships in and across communities
- New community events/one off events
- Arts with a special impact
- Children and Young People
- Social change – participation – marginalised excluded groups – revitalising community life
- Transport
- Men's sheds
- Environment – connecting people with the environment, community gardens, nature conservation, countering the effects of damaging activity
- Sport
- Parents groups/parenting schemes
- Combating loneliness and social isolation

We will fund Capital and Revenue, including salaries.

6. **Assessment Criteria** – The Application Form for the Innovate and Create Fund invites applicants to demonstrate how they meet the criteria against which project will be scored. The questions that need be answered are listed below.

- Please identify the main outcomes your project will aim to deliver and how your project will do this. How do you intend to measure the outcomes? (Outcomes are the changes or difference your project will make to address identified areas).
- Who will benefit from your project?
- How does your project increase the capacity within communities and make people and communities more resilient?
- Please state whether your (or another organisation) are already delivering all or part of the project you propose. If you are already delivering, explain how your project differs from current provision (e.g. different beneficiaries, different approach or in a different location).
- With reference to any work to date, can you be confident that your project and targets are credible and deliverable.
- Please tell us your plans for longer term sustainability. How do you see your project progressing after this funding comes to an end?