

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

2 October 2019

Report of the Head of Transformation - A.Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Port Talbot/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 by the six Councillors representing the Wards of Port Talbot and 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 provide festive lighting features to Station Road/Forge Road and an artificial 3D cone walkthrough Christmas tree to the Town Centre Transport Hub. The tree to benefit from decoration of previously purchased Christmas lights.

This bid has been developed to 'Enhance Existing Council Services'.

The Town Centre Manager has worked with the three Port Talbot Ward Councillors and the three Aberavon Ward Councillors to arrive at this initiative. The intention is to build upon the success of the monthly market, (which has also been sponsored by the Members Fund), and use the Christmas Event as an anchor to give the Port Talbot a sense of 'Place'.

This Application is to firstly acquire, then install and safely store the LED garlands and a 7.85m x 2.50m Christmas tree so that they remain a resource to be used year on year (hence avoiding the negative Press we attracted with the Christmas decorations and tree that were gifted to NPTCBC last year).

The aim is for this project to improve the perception of Port Talbot as a place to stage events and to help towards making the town centre

more vibrant and a better place to live, work, do business and enjoy. This project can be a contributing factor in enticing new business and visitors. Positioning the garlands on Station Road and the tree within the Transport Hub develops the Gateway principle for those travelling to or through Port Talbot, be it by train or bus.

The Councillors who are supporting this project see the worth and the positive effect this investment could have in terms of bringing the community together, promoting the town centre and creating a 'feel good factor'.

In the absence of a Town Council or a Chamber of Trade & Commerce in Port Talbot there has been extensive involvement of the Council's Regeneration and Economic Development Dept. including the Port Talbot Town BID Steering Group. Should the BID succeed it will add significantly to economic prosperity, job creativity and sustainable long term investment.

The request for grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £10,000 to be contributed equally from the six folios held by the individual Port Talbot and Aberavon Councillors. The total project cost stands at £15,000 of which £5,000 is being raised from Crowd Funding.

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 annual installation of the cross road garlands, LED lighting features and tree, their dressing and removal to storage will be met from Crowd Funding and Business Sponsorship.

There are no financial implications for 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 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 provide a key anchor Christmas Event in the Port Talbot town centre is approved and that Councillors Ap Dafydd, Bamsey, Hunt, Freeguard, Keogh and Rahaman contribute £1,666.66 from their Councillor's Members Fund portfolios.

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 end of the Financial year. 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 Port Talbot initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by the Town Centre Manager working closely with the local Councillors. The Quotes for supply and installation of the lighting features and tree, and the written permissions granted by the Highways & Drainage Services 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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