

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

30 October 2019

Report - Head of Transformation - A.Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Baglan

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 three Ward Members for Baglan.

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 establish a new Community Allotment initiative at the Council owned Crawford Road Allotment site, Baglan.

This project has been brought to the attention of the local Councillors by the newly Constituted Baglan Community Horticultural Society. This embryonic Group has set itself up to work with disengaged young people, those referred from WCADA and the Probation Services, people with Learning Difficulties and children from Blaenbaglan Primary school. The intention is to use horticulture and the growing cycle to nurture those that are disadvantaged and to promote learning through kinetic experiences rather than through academia.

In order for the outcomes of the project to be fully realised the Society has entered into a License Agreement with the NPTCBC Estates Dept. and has permissions to externally and internally refurbish the storage shed, bring the Waiting List for vacant plots up to date and to generally work towards self-management of the site. The Society is now insured with the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd (NSALG). The initiative will need to be equipped with hand and motorised tools to ensure that all plots are maintained to a high standard by both the partner agencies and client groups.

The proposal also includes for resources, materials, composts, fertiliser and consumables which will be under secure storage in the

refurbished allotment shed (pesticides and the like kept in a lockable compartment to meet COSHH regulations).

The need for the project has been arrived by the allotmenters working with 'Street Care' Services. The newly formed Society has applied successfully to the St. Modwen's Baglan Energy Park Solar Farm. A well thought through, detailed, comprehensive bid to St. Modwen's has yielded £2,976.66 towards a project cost of £12,162.66 (inclusive of non - recoverable VAT).

The community benefits associated with this project will translate into a cleaner, greener; more vibrant place to live, work and enjoy. There will be health gains, both physically and mentally. It will help promote 'Pride in Place', resilience, a nurturing, and caring attitude amongst participants and improve the quality of life. A spin off advantage for the project will be that surplus fruit and vegetables grown by plot holders will be donated to the local Food Bank operating from the Collection Point at the Community Church in Lodge Drive, Baglan.

The project costs attributed to the external and internal refurbishment have been derived from competitively tendering the project amidst three local building Contractors. The Operational equipment and Stock List for consumables has been arrived at from reputable wholesalers. The project has a funding shortfall of £9,186 and this is sought from the allocation left jointly within Councillor Clement - Williams and Councillor Renkes Members Fund.

The project will be sustained under the License Agreement that has been drawn up by the Council for the Society. Day to day maintenance falls to the Society. The Council will continue to provide skips for recyclables and non - recyclables and the fabric of the building will be covered under the Council's ongoing block policy.

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.

All consumables and resources associated with the Start Up costs for the project are covered by the initial injection of grant aid. The

Condition Survey for the building suggests little in the way of structural maintenance and the Society are bound by the fully maintaining Lease to keep the building and the access path leading to it in good order and in no worse a condition that when first adopted.

There will be minimum revenue expenditure for the Council going forward.

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 develop a Community Allotment initiative in the Baglan Ward is approved and that Councillors Clement -Williams and Renkes each allocate £4,593 under the Members Community Fund to make this project a reality. This investment will reduce the Members Fund balances in the Baglan Ward to zero, with all three Councillors having invested in Traffic Calming, road signage, Saint Catharine's Church and greening initiatives.

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 Baglan initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted jointly by Councillors Clement - Williams and Renkes. The cost breakdown and Quotes for

the refurbishment, Stock List, operational tools and commodities has 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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