

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Cabinet**

30 October 2019

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

#### **Matter for Decision**

#### **Wards Affected:**

Coedffranc Central

### **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 one of the respective Ward Members.

#### **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. Art Therapy sessions and equipment to start a community choir for the 'Growing Together' voluntary group.

This bid has been developed to 'Assist Voluntary Sector Providers.'

'Growing Together' is a voluntary organisation based at 'Ty Santes Fair', the new Community Centre for St Mary's Church in Skewen. The aim of the group is to promote, maintain, improve and advance the health, education, well-being and citizenship of the people of Skewen and the surrounding areas through the organisation of leisure-time activities which are accessible to all. The group currently administers a food bank provision, a coffee club and a lunch club.

The group would like to increase participation and provide additional community activities by purchasing a digital piano and music books with which to start a choir, and by inaugurating weekly Art Therapy sessions which will be delivered by a qualified Art Psychotherapist.

The need for the proposal has been identified by the NPTCBC Local Area Co-ordinator for Adult Services (Social Services, Health and Housing Directorate), and brought to the attention of Cllr Angharad Aubrey. Consultation has revealed that many local residents feel isolated, particularly amongst the older population, and that there is a yearning to find positive distractions to combat feelings of loneliness and low self-esteem. The Choir will provide a jovial activity, and will give participants the opportunity to socialise and connect with others

in their local community. The Art Therapy sessions will focus on positive mental health and will give people who are perhaps more introverted the opportunity to express their feelings through the medium of art.

The long term community benefits associated with the project include improvements in physical and mental health and wellbeing, and providing additional opportunities for community members to become involved in activities, people who might otherwise feel undervalued or marginalised.

The request for grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £4,524.27 from Councillor Angharad Aubrey's allocation, which is the total value of purchasing the piano, music books and 48 weekly sessions for 32 participants with an Art Psychotherapist. If this application succeeds Cllr Aubrey will have £925.73 remaining in her Members Fund allocation to invest in community projects.

### **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 costs associated with the project will be the responsibility of 'Growing Together.' This will be paid for from community fundraising events such as coffee mornings, raffles and jumble sales.

This scheme has 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 the project proposal for Art Therapy sessions and equipment to start a community choir for the 'Growing Together' voluntary group be approved, and that £4,524.27 of Cllr Aubrey's allocation under the Members Community Fund be awarded.

## **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 Coedffranc Central initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Angharad Aubrey. The Constitution, Audited Accounts, Insurance documentation, quotations and bank account details for 'Growing Together' have been retained for future reference. The first stage Impact Assessment documentation associated with this project proposal has also been retained.

15. Officer Contact

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