

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Cabinet**

30 October 2019

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

#### **Matter for Decision**

#### **Wards Affected:**

Onllwyn

### **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 Ward Councillor for Onllwyn.

#### **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 the post of 'Community Ranger' or Environmental Enhancement Worker within the Ward of Onllwyn.

This project is a joint initiative between DOVE Community Centre and the Onllwyn Community Council. The post holder will be a reactive resource to call upon to carry out routine maintenance of the ever increasing number of amenities and services that have been developed within Onllwyn. These facilities have come to pass as a result of continued investment drawn in from Wind Farm, Opencast and externally sourced grant aid. The post will develop aspects of gardening, tree surgery, litter picks and rubbish amnesties, develop the provision of hanging baskets and greening initiatives within the village ,and add significantly to the biodiversity project 'Working with Nature'.

The Community Ranger will help to future proof existing amenities and will be instrumental in developing yet more proposed priority projects within the Ward. The Community Council, as the conduit and sounding board for all residents, has many environmental and street scene projects it would wish to develop over the next three years and beyond. These can only be embarked upon with confidence if the ongoing maintenance resource is on tap.

The need for the project has been arrived at and thoroughly investigated by the Onllwyn Community Council's Environmental Sub Committee. This Committee has reacted by making a well thought

through, detailed, comprehensive bid to the Maes Gwyn Wind Farm Community Fund. This bid succeeded and contributes £38,699.75 towards a three year project valued at £48,699.75 net (£50,373.41 inclusive of non - recoverable VAT).

The community benefits associated with this project will translate into a cleaner, greener, more vibrant place to live. It will help promote 'Pride in Place, resilience and quality of life issues. The benefits will be visible, physical and tangible and will manifest as environmental enhancement and an improved streetscape at all levels. This in turn will help regenerate and revitalise the area and celebrate the Birthplace of St. Patrick.

The project costs have been derived from a robust evaluation of salary costs (at 22.5 hours/week), and includes training costs (the use of pesticides, manual handling and powered machinery), vehicle hire, the cost of tools (both hand and motorised), personal protective clothing and equipment for the operative. The project has a funding shortfall of £10,000 and this is sought from the Members Fund and Councillor Dean Cawsey's allocation.

The aforementioned funding package secures the post for three years. Following the three year evaluation of the public benefit associated with the role of 'Community Ranger', if proven to be fundamental to the well-being of Onllwyn, the post will be sustained by further externally sourced grants and precept.

### **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 employability, the outcomes associated with a Work Programme that is to be reviewed quarterly and the resources associated with making this post functional will rest with DOVE and Onllwyn Community Council.

There will be no revenue burden on 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 employ a 'Community Ranger' in the Onllwyn Ward is approved and that Councillor Dean Cawsey's allocation of £10,000, under the Members Community Fund is 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 Onllwyn initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted jointly by Councillor Dean Cawsey, DOVE and Onllwyn Community Council. The cost breakdown for the salary, training, vehicle hire, clothing tools and for the administration of the post 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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