

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Cabinet**

9 December 2019

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

#### **Matter for Decision**

#### **Wards Affected:**

Margam

### **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 Margam.

#### **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 assist the Friends of Margam Park (FOMP) in developing a new 'Visitor Experience' and Exhibition space within the restored Turbine House, Margam Park.

This project has been under preparation for some years as the storage and archive of sensitive documents and artefacts by the FOMP in the small room attaching to the Castle Courtyard has proven to be wholly inadequate. The complete restoration of the Turbine House with grant aid won from CADW etc. has given FOMP the opportunity to re- house to create a first point of contact meet & greet experience at the Turbine House.

The project provides the FOMP with a permanent home which allows them the advantage of a 'wet weather' venue for guided walks, a better environment for their volunteer programme and an opportunity to enrich education through making their collections and digital archive more accessible and freely available.

The proposal involves the purchase of essential display cabinets, I.T., a reception desk, storage cabinets, archiving software, a flatbed scanner, hanging rail display systems, the sympathetic exhibit of diorama, interpretation and location maps which will help customers plan their visit and orientate.

The need for this initiative has arisen from the inadequacy of existing storage arrangements. There is an opportunity to build upon the

50,000 volunteer hours the FOMP already contribute to the Park in marshalling events/guiding tours, whilst growing both the historical interest in the Park and the membership of the FOMP.

The project costs for office furniture, display and exhibition areas and the digital archive room have been arrived at through competitive tendering. The project will cost £24,355. Prior to making the bid to the Members Fund the FOMP have successfully secured £18,000 from the Caegarw Solar Farm Community Fund and a further £2,675.94 from the Margam Green Energy Biomass Community Benefit Fund. The FOMP are applying to Councillor Rob Jones' Members Fund for the funding shortfall of £3,679.06. Should the £3,679.06 be awarded Councillor Jones' Members Fund allocation will be reduced to a zero balance.

Items purchased for the 'Visitor Experience' will be the sole responsibility of the FOMP. The maintenance, insurance and upkeep of the Turbine House and its contents are protected under a 25 Lease issued by the NPTCBC Estates Dept.

### **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 upkeep of the exhibition space, its ancillary equipment and the furniture and fittings will be under the custodianship of 'The Friends'. The internal fabric and external envelope of the Turbine House is covered under a fully insuring and maintaining Lease.

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 develop the customer experience /visitor centre at the Margam Park Turbine House is approved and

that the Ward Member for Margam contributes £3,679.06 under the Members Community Fund.

### **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 Margam initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Robert Jones. The cost breakdown for the office furniture, display and exhibition space and digital archive 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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