

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Cabinet**

5 February 2020

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

#### **Matter for Decision**

#### **Wards Affected:**

Gwynfi

### **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 Gwynfi.

#### **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 invest in flood prevention, redecoration and the repair of the gym and sports hall situated in the lower ground floor of the Gwynfi Miners Welfare Hall (GMWH).

The investment in this project has become essential to the future livelihood of this Community facility as the ingress of ground water and the damage it has caused has denied use of the lower ground floor impacting upon the day to day use of the amenities and sports participation in general. A forced water evacuation system and sump has been installed to protect from further flooding but the project needs to be completed with a drainage channel, redecoration of the gym and sports hall walls and woodwork and repair to the indoor playing surface. The Centre has lost approximately 2,000 visits to the sports hall and gym in the last year whilst these facilities have been awaiting essential attention.

The GMWH is an important community hub in the Afan Valley providing essential key services for young people and older persons alike. It boasts a Library, I.T. services, a Book Club, Youth Club, arts & crafts, film shows and hosts 'Workways Plus' and the GP Referral Programme. The temporary loss of the gym and the sports hall has negatively impacted upon the health promotion workshops and the drive to get more people taking part, more often.

The need for this initiative has come from trying to grow the annual footfall to the Centre from 15,500 to 17,500 as a means of working

towards sustainability. Whilst the sports hall use is given freely to the Youth Club, the facility is seen as a valid contributor to self-sufficiency and an income stream, particularly when used for fund raising events.

The investment will protect existing use and help in developing the growing number of girls and women that have enrolled upon the fitness classes and gym membership.

The project will help improve the health profile of the Valley, work towards successful youth engagement by providing diversionary activity amongst 11 - 23 year olds, and make best use of the shared resources.

The cost of the drainage works, redecoration and the improvement to the sports hall flooring has been determined by seeking quotes from local craftsmen and the local supply chain. The project will cost £5,322 and the whole of this is sought from the Members Fund allocated to Councillor Jane Jones.

### **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 upkeep of the gym and the sports hall are the responsibility of the Halls Management Committee under the Community Asset Management transfer arrangements that exist between the Council and the Charity. The Council continues to perform the duties of landlord, the GMWH Committee as the Lessee.

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 safeguard the continued use of the lower ground floor of the Gwynfi Miners Welfare Hall (GMWH) is

approved and that the Ward Member for Gwynfi contributes £5,322 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 Gwynfi initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted jointly by Councillor Jane Jones and the manager of GMWH. The cost breakdown for the forced drainage, redecoration and sports hall flooring repair has been entered on File for reference. The first stage Impact Assessment documentation associated with this project proposal has also been retained.

### **Officer Contact**

15. Paul Hinder, Project Development & Funding Manager, (ELLL).

Tel: 01639 763390, email: p.hinder@npt.gov.uk

