

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

5 February 2020

Report of the Head of Transformation - A.Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Port Talbot

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 Ward Councillors for Port Talbot.

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. Application to better equip the 'Thrive Women's Aid' refuge with creature comforts that will create a more welcoming, homely setting for those displaced by domestic violence.

This project proposal is to add 6 x 32" Ready Smart TVs (one to each of the 6 bedrooms within the refuge), as a means of improving the level of comfort, giving greater privacy than is otherwise afforded by using a communal lounge and offering diversionary activity for those suffering the psychological impact of domestic abuse.

The refuge offers shelter, safety, a level of escapism and personal space for those leaving their abusive partner. The provision has supported approximately 70 women and their children over the last year.

The setting has basic furnishings, is clean , has been redecorated and the décor is calming and soothing which is important for those suffering the trauma of being displaced from the family home with sometimes literally only the clothes they are standing in. The TV's would add significantly to the sense of being more at home and more relaxed.

The need for this initiative has come direct from residents and the Support Team. Consultation has revealed that 80% of those surveyed cited that a television in their bedroom would make their stay more

comfortable, would be a useful distraction from thinking about the situation they are in, and make the rooms less quiet.

The cost of supplying, mounting and installing the TVs has been competitively quoted for. The project will cost £1,597.14 and the whole of this cost is sought from the Members Fund attributed to Councillor Saifur Rahaman.

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.

Upon completion of the project the maintenance of the installation will be met from the accommodation budget specifically set aside for repair of existing fixtures within the refuge.

There will be no future revenue expenditure for the 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 provide ancillary equipment to the 'Thrive Women's Aid' refuge in Port Talbot is approved and that Councillor Rahaman contributes £1,597.14 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 Port Talbot initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted jointly by Councillor Saifur Rahaman and the Deputy Director at 'Thrive Women's Aid' '. The Quotation received for the supply, mounting and installation of the TVs 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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