

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. Application to enhance, refurbish and add playground equipment to the Margaret's Terrace Play Area, Gwynfi.

This project proposal recognises the lack of investment made over the years and works towards revitalising a play area that has equipment that whilst safe, is aged and is in lacking appeal. This investment will provide exciting, dynamic and challenging fixed play equipment for 3 - 11 year olds.

The Margaret's Terrace play area has suffered from the austerity measures and as the only play area in Gwynfi, is deserving of upgrading with modern day play equipment.

This Application is to provide five new pieces of equipment which includes swing units, rockers and a roundabout, complete with 116 square metres of Impact Absorbing Safety Surfacing.

The need for this initiative has been tabled by the NPTCBC 'Street Care' Services. The RoSPA inspection of the playground and its equipment has revealed ongoing deficiencies and these now need to be corrected. A recent Play Sufficiency Assessment carried out on behalf of the Welsh Government points to the need for investment. The local Councillor has been canvassed by the children from Pen Afan Primary school and their parents.

The investment will safeguard the facility from further deterioration, help in keeping young people physically active and stimulated and provide a state of the art leisure amenity that will serve many generations over its lifespan.

The costs of supplying and installing the equipment and its Safety Surfacing have been arrived at by the 'Street Care' Services working closely with a preferred Playscape Company. 'Street Care' Services will assist the project by helping with groundworks and the disposal of arisings. This will save on the overall project costs and help to keep the value of the work, as stipulated by the Main Contractor, to a manageable and affordable level. The project will cost £29,613.25. The 'Gwynfi Park Minders' have donated £24,958.77 from grant aid acquired from a local Wind Farm developer and the shortfall of £4,654.48 is sought from the Members Fund allocation that remains within Councillor Jane Jones' portfolio.

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 the project will be subjected to a Post Installation Inspection to ensure it has a clean bill of health and it is in a safe condition to use. The 'Street Care' Services will continue to insure and maintain the facility as they do now, as the play area will remain within the custodianship of the Local Authority. The new equipment will be largely maintenance free in the early formative years as all components including steelwork, anodised paintwork and the safety surfacing carry extended warranties for 5, 10 and 25 years.

There will be some 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 re -equip and refurbish the Margaret's Terrace Play Area in Gwynfi is approved and that

Councillor Jones contributes £4,654.48 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 'Street Care' Services. The Quotation received from the preferred Contractor 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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