

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

5 February 2020

Report of the Head of Transformation - A.Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Sandfields East

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 respective Ward Members.

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. Refurbishment of changing facilities at Aberavon Green Stars RFC.

This proposal has been developed to 'Assist Voluntary Sector providers.'

The proposal brought to the Members Fund is to make good and conclude the refurbishment of the changing rooms, shower block and toileting facilities at the Aberavon Green Stars RFC Pavilion. The Club have recently benefitted from a Welsh Rugby Union Facilities Grant, which was used towards a £26,000 project to install an energy efficient boiler, new showers and a modern kitchen. An award from the Members Fund would be used to complete these works by employing a contractor to reinstate the areas disturbed by the renovation works, paint the walls, ceilings and woodwork, and to install water proof resin flooring.

Aberavon Green Stars have been the custodians of the Pavilion under a fully insuring and maintaining Lease from NPTCBC since 2016. They have since endeavoured to modernise and upgrade the facilities so that it can be used to enhance the game of Rugby, and as a meeting venue for local voluntary groups and businesses.

The community benefits associated with this project include increasing use and footfall at the Club by offering modern day

facilities, and protecting the future of the Club by making it more sustainable in saving on utility costs.

£800 has been requested from Cllr Matthew Crowley's Members Fund allocation towards a project worth £1,796.40. Aberavon Green Stars RFC will be contributing the remaining £996.40 from their unallocated reserves.

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 Pavilion is the responsibility of Aberavon Green Stars RFC under a long term Lease agreement with NPTCBC. The Club have a dedicated team of volunteers who maintain the Pavilion and playing surfaces. All of the work carried out by the Club thus far has been with the intention of improving facilities, making them more economical to manage, and encouraging additional income from hires which can be invested back into the Club.

This project places no forward financial 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 for refurbishment of changing facilities at Aberavon Green Stars RFC is approved, and that Councillor Matthew Crowley's allocation of £800 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 Sandfields East initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Matthew Crowley. The Constitution for Aberavon Green Stars RFC, their Bank Account details, signatories, the quotation that have been developed to support the bid and their Insurance Policy have 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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