

# **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 strengthen and support the internet and Wi-Fi connectivity in the community building, the IT suite and the homeless hostel at the YMCA, Port Talbot.

This project proposal is to improve the radio access, cabling and network within the YMCA by setting up a series of boosters that will improve reception and speed and run programs saved to cloud servers.

The community rooms and the hostel offer limited reception and the YMCA struggles to rent out rooms to businesses as the existing Wi-Fi is inefficient. The YMCA has a client base of 800 members and provides housing for homeless young men.

Improved internet connections will increase the take up of activities and ensure that none of the YMCA clients are 'digitally excluded'. The new installation will be of particular benefit to hostel residents as reliable internet access is essential to completing journals for Universal Credit and applying on line for benefits, contact services and remaining in touch with friends and family. This in turn assists mental wellbeing, rehabilitation and the rebuilding of relationships that might otherwise be strained by crisis.

The need for this initiative has come from various agencies and partner organisations. It will be of benefit to young men that are

displaced, those that feel isolated and those that often come to the YMCA with a range of mental health and addiction issues.

The cost of dual band access, cabling and an engineered solution to ineffective connectivity has been competitively quoted for. The project will cost £1,906.22 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.

There is very little maintenance with the wiring and the boosters. The YMCA will cover all the ongoing costs. If the BT or Virgin Media provider costs prove to be elevated above current levels an additional levy will be attributed to room rental to ensure the project is sustainable.

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 strengthen and support internet and Wi- Fi connectivity in the YMCA in Port Talbot is approved and that Councillor Rahaman contributes £1,906.22 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 management of the YMCA. The Quotation received for the radio access, adapter, cabling and the engineering work 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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