

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

19 February 2020

Report of the Head of Transformation - A.Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Bryn and Cwmavon

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 Members for Bryn and Cwmavon.

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. Purchase of a CNC (Computer Numerically Controlled) Laser Cutter for 'Bspoked Enterprises.'

This bid has been developed to 'Enhance Existing Council Services.'

Bspoked Enterprises is Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's employment and training service for adults with disabilities. The service supports people to build confidence, develop skills and become more independent through creating handcrafted items. Service users are encouraged to learn the process of how a product gets to a consumer, starting with developing a design concept, manufacturing items, marketing and selling. This gives them the opportunity to diversify their skill set, and instils the confidence needed to gain employment or volunteering placements.

All items produced by Bspoked Enterprises are made using donated materials such as glass bottles, fabric, wooden pallets and bicycle parts. The materials are upcycled into household goods such as clocks, ornaments, photo frames, jewellery and wall displays, and sold via their on-site shop and online.

The proposal brought to the Members Fund is to purchase a CNC Flat-Bed Laser Cutter and the accompanying software to enable precision cutting of wood, plastic and metal. The Cutter can be used to produce complex three dimensional shapes including signage, furniture and instruments.

The need for the proposal has been identified by Councillor Charlotte Galsworthy of Bryn and Cwmavon. The machinery currently used by Bspoked is inadequate for the amount of use it receives, expensive to maintain and ineffective to the point that some items need to be discarded and re-made. The provision of a modern-day CNC Cutter would enable Bspoked Enterprises to increase the volume of items created, give products a more professional finish and generate additional income to help sustain the Bspoked service.

The long term benefits to Bspoked include enabling the group to create products more efficiently, expanding the range of items produced, providing another aspect to the training delivered in the workshop, and helping to further the Bspoked ethos of promoting independence.

The long term community benefits associated with this acquisition include the ability of Bspoked to provide more sophisticated products that are demanded by community groups, these include displays for special events, items that assist nature conservation and essential equipment for third sector entities. Production will be expanded to allow community groups to prosper and in turn make a valid contribution towards building sustainable communities and the quality of life.

The request for grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £3,921.45 from Councillor Charlotte Galsworthy's allocation, which is the total value of purchasing the CNC Cutter and associated desktop software. If this application succeeds Cllr Galsworthy will have £4,078.55 remaining in her Members Fund allocation to invest in community projects.

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 CNC Laser Cutter will be owned and maintained by Bspoked Enterprises. It will be used daily to create a wide range of products and will generate an additional income stream to help pay for any future maintenance. The Laser Cutter will be securely stored at the Bspoked Enterprises workshop in Neath Abbey Business Park.

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 the project proposal to purchase a Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) Laser Cutter for 'Bspoked Enterprises' be approved, and that £3,921.45 of Cllr Charlotte Galsworthy's allocation under the Members Community Fund be 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 initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Charlotte Galsworthy. The quotations for the Laser Cutter and desktop software have been

retained for future reference. The first stage Impact Assessment documentation associated with this project proposal has also been retained.

15. Officer Contact

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

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

