

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Cabinet**

19 February 2020

### **Report of the Head of Transformation - A.Thomas**

#### **Matter for Decision**

#### **Wards Affected:**

Bryncoch North & Bryncoch South

### **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 as a joint initiative by the three Ward Members for Bryncoch North and Bryncoch South.

#### **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. To provide two new benches, refurbish a third, plant trees and set up a volunteer Litter Picking Group for the betterment of the two Wards.

This proposal has been developed in partnership with the 'Street Care' Team, the arborist and the Bryncoch Community Association.

This project has been born out of the need to station street benches at strategic locations so that residents can sit and relax whilst making the extended journeys on foot to town. The trees will be added to soften the landscape. The Bryncoch Community Association would wish to set up a group of 12 volunteers properly equipped with grabbers, Hi Viz vests, gloves and litter trollies, etc. to allow them to complete random litter picks through the area, working in conjunction with the NPTCBC street cleansing Division.

The project involves locating one new bench on hard standing at Tyn - Yr- Heol Road, one on a grass verge in Waunceirch and refurbishing a third on Penywern Hill. The trees (*Prunus* spp.) will be planted at the Waunceirch site.

The litter picking equipment will be purchased by the Bryncoch Community Association and the volunteers will be protected by the Association's all risks Insurance Policy.

The need for the project has been arrived at through representations made by residents to individual Councillors and has been brought to their attention at consultation events. Although modest this project proposal is considered locally to be of immense value in keeping the area well-presented and litter free.

The community benefits associated with this project will translate into a cleaner, greener, more vibrant and welcoming place to live. It will help promote 'Pride in Place', resilience and quality of life issues. The benefits will be visible, physical and tangible and will manifest as environmental enhancement and an improved streetscape. The volunteers will educate all residents of the advantages of not dropping litter, making them more environmentally aware.

The total cost of the project is £2,604.30. Benches and trees will be sourced via Neighbourhood Services. The litter picking equipment will be competitively procured from a reputable supplier. The request for grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for the whole of the project cost. Councillor Griffiths, Hale and Williams would each wish to contribute £868.10 which would leave them each with a zero balance in their Members Fund allocation.

Going forward there will be very little maintenance required on the benches as they are of a recycled plastic version that has been tried and tested across the County. Ongoing husbandry and care for the trees will be with Street Care Services.

### **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 maintenance of the trees will fall within the existing management regime of NPTCBC. The work carried out by the team of litter picking volunteers will be self - sustaining.

## **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 equip Bryncoch North and South with benches, trees and a litter picking crew, is approved and that Councillor Griffiths, Hale and Williams contribute their Members funding equally to arrive at a project cost of £2,604.30.

## **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 Bryncoch initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted jointly by Councillor Wyndham Griffiths, Jo Hale and Chris Williams. The quotation for the supply and installation of the benches, the supply and planting of the trees and the procurement of the litter picking equipment 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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