

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

19 February 2020

Report of the Head of Transformation - A.Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Crynant

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 Member for Crynant.

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. Installation of two grit bins at Mary Street and The Crescent, Crynant.

This application has been developed to Enhance Existing Council Services and has the full support of the NPTCBC Streetcare Department. The proposal has been generated as a response to the decision to remove Mary Street and The Crescent from the Adopted Precautionary Salting Network.

In recent years, gritting vehicle drivers have had great difficulty undertaking precautionary salting operations on these carriageways, primarily due to access being prevented as a result of parked cars. Access is also limited by the length and width of the gritting vehicles, and the requirement to reverse without the aid of a banksman when partial access can be obtained - a direct violation of the Streetcare Services Health and Safety Policy.

In response, an eight week amended service trial was undertaken prior to the start of the 2019/2020 winter season. The trial was used as a mechanism to better establish and try to overcome the issues associated with the precautionary salting of Mary Street and The Crescent. The trial involved a banksman being included on the vehicle to assist the driver should the need to reverse the vehicle arise. The main finding of the trial was that the roads were not always accessible, and even when access could be gained it was very difficult to do so even with the aid of a banksman. Therefore, it has

been necessary to conclude that the Council cannot fulfil its ongoing commitment to grit these sections of the carriageway.

To help offset the impact of the removal of the above sections of highway from the Precautionary Salting Network, the Head of Streetcare Services has agreed to the placement of two new salt bins for the use of residents, to be procured via the Members Community Fund.

The long term community benefits associated with the project include preserving the safety of residents during the winter season, and granting them some recompense for the important service they have lost. The provision of these grit bins will mitigate against the potential for vehicular accidents and trips and falls.

Cllr Sian Harris is applying to the Members Community Fund for the total cost of purchasing the two pre-filled half-tonne salt bins which equates to £654. Once installed, Streetcare Services have agreed to replenish the grit bins whilst servicing existing containers nearby.

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 new grit bins will fall under the management of the NPTCBC Streetcare Services, who have committed to ensuring that they are restocked and kept in a serviceable condition for the foreseeable future.

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 the installation of two grit bins at Mary Street and The Crescent, Crynant, is approved and that Cllr Sian Harris' contribution of £654 is awarded 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 Crynant initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Sian Harris. The first stage Impact Assessment documentation associated with this project proposal has also been retained.

Officer Contact

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