

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

19 February 2020

Report of the Head of Transformation - A.Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Peleenna

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 Peleenna.

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 essential items of training equipment for the Mini and Junior Sections of Pontrhydyfen RFC.

Equipment to be procured includes balls, cones, bibs, tackle bags and hit shields.

Pontrhydyfen RFC is a WRU affiliated Club and a feeder Club for the Ospreys. The Rugby Club is indispensable to the Ward of Pelenna as it is one of the few places residents can take place in outdoor recreational pursuits without having to leave their own Ward.

An investment from the Members Fund will help safeguard the long tradition of Rugby in Pontrhydyfen, and will develop increased participation and improved standards of performance amongst those making the transition from Mini and Junior squads, to Youth and then Senior Teams.

The need for the project has come from the existing participants, their parents, the coaches and the WRU. The Club has a growing number of both male and female participants playing in Under 7's, Under 8's, Under 9's, Under 10's and Under 14's squads. At present the Club simply does not possess enough training equipment to serve the children and young people progressing through these age groups, nor does it have the 'right' equipment to conform to the Welsh Rugby Union training guidelines for rugby at mini and junior level.

The community benefits associated with this project include the positive engagement of young people, their parents and grandparents. Also the opportunity to get and keep fit, to pursue a sport that creates friendship, discipline, communication, well-being, team working and an active lifestyle.

The request for grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £791.66 from Councillor Jeremy Hurley's allocation, which is the total cost of purchasing the training equipment. If this application were to be successful, Cllr Hurley's Members Fund allocation for the Ward of Pelenna will be entirely depleted.

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.

Upkeep of the equipment, its use and its servicing will be the responsibility of Pontrhydyfen RFC. The equipment will be used during training sessions under the watchful eye of WRU qualified coaches and when not in use, it will be stored securely.

There will be no revenue implications for the Local Authority going forward.

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 purchase of essential items of training equipment for the Mini and Junior Sections of Pontrhydyfen RFC is approved, and that Councillor Jeremy Hurley's allocation of £791.66, 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 Pelenna initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Jeremy Hurley. The Constitution for Pontrhydyfen RFC, their Bank Account details, signatories, the quotations that have been developed to support the bid and the 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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