



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

July 16 2021

**Report of the Head of Human & Organisational Development,
S.Rees**

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All

Proposal to submit an Application to access EU Transition funding for tackling food poverty and addressing food insecurity 2021/22

Purpose of the Report:

To seek authority from Cabinet to submit an application for EU Transition funding to tackle food poverty and address food insecurity in Neath Port Talbot during 2021/2022.

Background:

Funding has been allocated by the Welsh Government to the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to distribute to all Local Authorities in Wales. The purpose of the funding is as set out in the Tackling Food Poverty and Addressing Food Insecurity EU Transition Funding Bid, but in brief it is to enable local authorities to:

- Support an increased number of people facing food poverty by strengthening community food initiatives across the

authority including a focus on activity that helps to address the root causes of food poverty.

For 2019/2020 Neath Port Talbot Council received a total of £71,683 split into £46,255 for capital and £25,428 revenue funding. Initially, the allocation was intended to cover the period 19th November 2019 to 31st March 2020 but for a number of reasons, including due to the impact of the Covid pandemic, the deadline for spending these monies was extended to 31st March 2021. The Neath Port Talbot monies were used in a variety of ways, including:

- To pay for fridges, freezers, storage, kitchen equipment and additional food supplies at a number of local food banks.
- Buy welcome hampers, food supplies and equipment for Neath Port Talbot's only night shelter.
- To pay for cooking lessons for families in a local school with a professional cook.
- Buy tablets and laptops to provide a service for older residents who are not able to use or access the internet to do online shopping.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the 2020/2021 EU Transition Funding was not allocated until April 2021 when Neath Port Talbot Council received a total of £113,544, of that £55,826 is revenue and £57,718 is capital funding. The deadline for spending this is 31st March 2022. The allocation is based on the apportionment agreed with the Society of Welsh Treasurers which includes Local Authority members of the Local Authority Distribution Sub Group (DSG).

Funding for 2021/2022:

A different approach has been taken to funding arrangements for 2021/2022. Rather than using the WLGA to administer the process, the Welsh Government is directly managing a grant scheme for 2021/2022. Council's will not directly receive funding, but will instead be encouraged to work with third sector organisations to apply to

access the Welsh Government grant scheme. A total of £2million is available across Wales, £1million revenue and £1million capital. The deadline for receipt of applications is 19th July 2021.

A multi-agency officers meeting was convened on Friday 9th July to discuss collaboration opportunities and devise a proposal for a Neath Port Talbot bid. To align with the branding for the Council's Let's Talk engagement activity, an application for a project called, Let's Eat has been drafted.

The bid is for a total of £103,273 EU Transition funding for tackling food poverty and addressing food insecurity in Neath Port Talbot 2021/22

The Let's Eat proposal is intended to secure funding for two geographically distinct yet associated projects:

- *Food for thought*, a community fridge, based in the former primary school at Tir Morfa, Sandfields. A community fridge can be accessed by anyone and everyone who wants to share food, volunteer or get involved with other food, environment or related activities the group have to offer.

We are looking to utilise an accessible space, open to all, community led, with the focus on the environment to reduce food waste. We will be looking to develop activities around this provision such as cooking workshops and grow your own foods by utilising the onsite allotment.

Estimated for costs for this work-stream: £10,273

- *The Scran Van*, a kitchen and mobile food provision, to support residents to access affordable and nutritious meals. Working with local businesses, we will repurpose their surplus food stocks and accept food donations. We will fully equip a kitchen in Bryn Community Centre, and use that to prepare affordable nutritious meals. We intend to buy and equip a van to store and deliver the meals to residents in Margam, Taibach, Port Talbot, Cwmafan & Bryn, Cymmer, Glyngorwg and Gwynfi. The

project will be overseen by a Co-ordinator, volunteers will be trained to support deliver the project.

Estimated costs for this work-stream: £93,000

Financial Impacts:

Initial set-up costs for both work-streams will be wholly funded by Welsh Government Grant monies during 2021/22. There may be opportunities to supplement any grant monies received with additional funding which will be explored should the bid be successful.

It is anticipated that income generated through the sale of affordable meals will be re-invested into the community kitchen initiative.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

A first stage impact assessment, attached at Appendix 1, 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, attached at Appendix 1, has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required at this time as no negative impacts have been identified. Should the bid for grant funding be a success there will be opportunities to undertake further assessments for both proposed projects during the implementation phase.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

The needs of residents of all areas of Neath Port Talbot will be given equal consideration therefore there will be no negative impact on valleys communities.

Legal Impacts:

No implications.

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendation:

Having had due regard to the first stage Impact Assessment it is recommended that Cabinet Members agree that the funding application is submitted as set out in the report.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To enable Neath Port Talbot Council to formally submit an application for EU Transition funding to help tackle food poverty in the area.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for immediate implementation to meet the application deadline.

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