



## **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **CABINET (FINANCE) SUB COMMITTEE**

**15 DECEMBER 2021**

### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER – HUW JONES**

#### **Matter for Decision**

#### **Wards Affected – Blaengwrach**

#### **Report Title – Community Councils Minor Projects Scheme – Application from Blaengwrach Community Council**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. To seek Members' approval to provide a grant to Blaengwrach Community Council under the Council's Community Councils Minor Projects Scheme.

#### **Background**

2. Neath Port Talbot Council has approved a Community Council Minor Projects Grants Scheme in order to assist Community Councils in undertaking minor capital projects. Approved grants are required to be claimed within two years of approval.
3. The Council has received an application for grant aid under the above mentioned scheme from Blaengwrach Community Council. This application is for grant assistance towards the cost of works for a new flat roof over both the Welfare Hall area and the Hall's meeting rooms. The existing roofs have been in place for the last twenty years and has come to the end of their "shelf life". Over the last two to three months, during the increasing inclement weather, water has been seen to be coming into the kitchen/meeting rooms which has restricted the use of both of these areas.

4. This will contribute towards community plan outcomes as it will contribute towards both the Well-being objective 1 (To improve the well-being of children & young people) and Well-being objective 2 (To improve the well-being of all adults who live in the County Borough) of the Corporate Plan 2019/2022 as the Hall is the main meeting hub for the local senior citizens group, the local primary school and several young persons and adults fitness groups (yoga, karate, judo, indoor archery) and the Council are, at present, in consultation with a local radio group with a view to set-up a radio broadcast, involving local adults and children, in the Hall meeting rooms.
5. The estimated cost of the works overall is £15,500 plus recoverable VAT.
6. The balance of the project costs will be financed as follows:-

The Community Council have applied for grant assistance from the Council's Minor Project Grant Scheme. They will be eligible for 70% of the cost of the works excluding VAT which means that the Community Council are entitled to grant assistance in the amount of £10,850 if the cost of the works will be £15,500 as quoted above. The balance will be funded by Blaengwrach Community Council.

### **Proposal and Financial Impact**

7. The application from Blaengwrach Community Council complies with the conditions of grant and is entitled to grant support at 70% up to a maximum of £14,000 in accordance with the Minor Projects Grants Scheme and payment be made on receipt of paid invoices together with a copy bank statement.

### **Integrated Impact Assessment**

8. There are no impacts in respect of the obligations to the Council under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No 1) Regulations 2015, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and support via this grant is a positive impact in respect of the Wellbeing and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

## **Valleys Communities Impacts**

9. Applications for grant are available to Community Councils across the county borough.

## **Workforce Impacts**

10. There are no workforce impacts.

## **Legal Impacts**

11. Grants are provided in line with the approved scheme criteria.

## **Risk Management Impacts**

12. All grant applications are considered on their own merit and in line with the approved scheme criteria.

## **Consultation**

13. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

## **Recommendation**

14. It is recommended that Members approve a grant of 70% of actual costs up to a maximum of £14,000 to Blaengwrach Community Council.

## **Reason for Proposed Decision**

15. The decision is in compliance with the approved policy and to enable community improvements.

## **Implementation of Decision**

16. The decision is proposed for implementation after the 3 day call-in period.

## **List of Background Papers**

17. Application from Blaengwrach Community Council.

## **Officer Contact**

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