

Appendix C.

Background or 'Project Specifics' – Application MF051/T2

To provide continuation funding to a successful Upper Neath Valley Cluster Worker project.

This bid has been developed as part of a more complex project which requires the input of the PDFU and is intended to build upon an earlier pilot study.

The funding will be used to extend an initiative previously sponsored by RDP LEADER funding. The intention is to make the project a full time post with the financial help of the Pen Y Cymoedd Wind Farm Fund. The RDP funding for the post has run its course. The bid to Pen Y Cymoedd has not been made as yet and the investment of the Members Fund is a stop gap proposal.

The project proposal is a joint initiative between the four Community and Town Councils in the Vale of Neath. The first six months of the pilot project has seen the post holder build capacity, social capital, and relationships, grant funding and the delivery of prioritised projects. With continuation funding the momentum can be retained and accelerated and the good practice can be further cemented.

The long term community benefits of the project will include regeneration, transformation, the development of community assets and the exploitation of tourism and visitor attractions in the valley. The post will assist transportation, employability and the collaborative networks that exist in Clyne, Melincourt, Resolven, Blaengwrach and Glynneath.

The scheme has no further financial implications for NPTCBC as once the Members funding has plugged the stop gap, the Wind Farm grant will support the venture for another 18 months. Once this period has lapsed it is anticipated that the post will be self-sustaining from project management fees and the direct or indirect support of the partner Community/Town Councils. The Glynneath Town Council will continue to perform the duties of line manager for the post.

Recommendations

The project is valued at £6,657.06, which is the cost of four months salary and administrative overheads. The Glynneath Ward Members Councillors Morgan and Knoyle would wish to both invest their remaining Members Fund allocation (of £2,828.53) into this initiative. As Resolven also stands to benefit appreciably from this initiative Councillor Dean Lewis would wish to invest £1,000 from his Members Fund allocation.

The project proposal is recommended for approval and financial support under the Members Community Fund.