

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

28th July 2022

Report of the Chief Finance Officer

H. Jones

Matter for: Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Third Sector Grants Application Arrangements - 2023/2024

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with an update on the arrangements for the next round of 3rd Sector Grant funding which will commence April 1st 2023 and for Members to approve the criteria for applications.

Background

2. The Council co-produced the Third Sector Grant Funding Scheme which seeks to align funding decisions with the overall priorities of the Council. During 2021-2022 a review of the Scheme was due to be undertaken but was delayed to the ongoing impact of Covid.

The review has recently been undertaken by officers which concluded two very minor amendments were required to ensure the Scheme remains fit for purpose and relevant (amending the name of the Senior Officer responsible for the Scheme from the Director of Finance & Corporate Services to the Chief Finance Officer / amending the name of the Member responsible for the Scheme from the Deputy Leader to the Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance & Social Justice).

3. The current Third Sector Grant Scheme arrangements were due to end on 31st March 2022 but were extended by Cabinet at its meeting on 28th July 2021 for a further year to 2022/2023 in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Third Sector Grants Application Arrangements - 2023/2024

4. The Scheme clearly states the Council wishes to adopt an outcomes-based approach to the way in which it determines its grant funding arrangements and that applications which demonstrate the following will be particularly welcome:
 1. Contribution to the delivery of key policies and priorities which are contained in the Council's Corporate Plan 2022-2027.
 2. Reducing the demand on Council services. For example, promoting and assisting citizens to use the Council's digital services; promoting participation in discretionary services to increase footfall; or through early intervention and prevention activities that maintain or improve people's well-being
 3. Levering in of additional resources. Applications that demonstrate how Council funding will be used to lever in additional resources in support of Council policies and priorities are particularly welcomed.
 4. Financial sustainability. The Council will wish to be satisfied that the applicant is not dependent on continuing Council funding to achieve financial sustainability.
5. In addition to the above, applications are particularly welcome that focus on activities that will help community groups and societies recover from the pandemic and further develop community capacity/ collaboration - building from the community action that supported the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
6. The Scheme also states the Council is prepared to provide funding for up to 3 years which will provide 3rd sector organisations with the security to apply for funding from other sources and enable a longer term approach to planning and securing sustainability.

Third Sector Grants Application Timetable

7. The grant application process will be open for applications from the 8th August to 14th October 2022. Officers will review and assess the applications received and a report setting out the recommended approved applications will be presented to Cabinet (Policy & Resources) Sub Committee on 15th November 2022.

Financial Appraisal

8. There is currently a budget in 2022/23 of £565,580 available to support the scheme. It is assumed that for 2023/24 this budget will rise in line with the forecast overall increase in Council funding previously indicated by the Welsh Government which is 3.5%. This will mean that the total indicative funding available in 2023/24 to deliver the scheme is £586,000 (rounded up).

Integrated Impact Assessment

9. This report does not propose any major changes to the current Scheme rather it seeks to clarify the criteria for applications for the next round of 3rd Grant Funding commencing 2023.

Valleys Communities Impact

10. The Scheme is open to all eligible organisations across the county borough, including those that operate in valleys communities.

Workforce Impact

11. There is no workforce impact.

Legal Impact

12. All successful grant recipients will be required to sign a Grant Agreement.

Risk Management

13. Without clarifying the criteria where applications are welcomed, there is a risk that the Council will receive applications for funding that are not aligned with its priorities.

Consultation

14. As there are no fundamental changes to the Scheme there is no requirement for external consultation on this report.

Recommendations

15. It is recommended that Cabinet:

- i. approves the following as the criteria for inviting bids for funds governed by the Third Sector Grants Scheme 2023-24:
 - Contribution to the delivery of key policies and priorities which are contained in the Council's Corporate Plan 2022-2027.
 - Reducing the demand on Council services. For example, promoting and assisting citizens to use the Council's digital services; promoting participation in discretionary services to increase footfall; or through early intervention and prevention activities that maintain or improve people's well-being
 - Levering in of additional resources. Applications that demonstrate how Council funding will be used to lever in additional resources in support of Council policies and priorities are particularly welcomed.
 - Financial sustainability. The Council will wish to be satisfied that the applicant is not dependent on continuing Council funding to achieve financial sustainability.
 - In addition to the above, applications are particularly welcome that focus on activities that will help community groups and societies recover from the pandemic and further develop community capacity/ collaboration - building from the community action that supported the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - The Council continues to provide funding for up to 3 years which will provide 3rd sector organisations with the security to apply for funding from other sources and

enable a longer term approach to planning and securing sustainability.

- ii. Notes the minor amendments made to the Scheme (attached at Appendix 1).

Reason for Proposed Decision

16. To ensure funding decisions made for the 2023-24 financial year in relation to grants awarded under the Third Sector Grants Scheme are aligned with the Council's overall priorities.

Implementation of Decision

17. The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices

18. Appendix 1 – The Neath Port Talbot Third Sector Grant Funding Scheme

List of Background Papers

19. None.

Officer Contact

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