



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL  
NEATH PORT TALBOT SOCIAL CARE HEALTH & WELL-BEING  
CABINET BOARD**

**15<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**Report of the Head of Adult Services – A. Thomas**

**Matter for Decision**

**Wards Affected** All Wards

**GRANT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF WARM  
SPACES FUNDING**

**Purpose of the Report**

To request that the Head of Adult Services be given delegated authority to award monies comprising the Welsh Government's Warm Hubs Fund and enter into grant agreements with a number of organisations to tackle the cost-of-living crisis through the provision of Warm Hubs/Spaces across the Neath Port Talbot Area.

**Executive Summary**

Neath Port Talbot Council ("The Council") is committed to supporting local resident in need of help and support during the cost-of-living crisis. One element of the support being offered is the provision of Warm Hubs for which the council has received a £55,905 Warm Hub Funding from Welsh Government.

In order to allow for prompt allocation of the Warm Hubs Funding to successful applicants, permission is requested for the Head of Adult Services to be given delegated authority to enter into grant agreements with those organisations whose applications best meet the Warm Hubs Funding requirements.

## **Background**

The Council have been allocated a significant amount of additional money via the Welsh Governments Warm Hubs Fund. This one-off fund is to support local communities to develop (or expand and enhance existing) Warm Hubs as places where individuals are provided with a welcome, accessible, safe and warm environment.

Warm Hubs are intended as places in local communities where people can find a safe and warm environment during the day to reduce isolation and loneliness, help people facing poverty and to stay as well as possible this winter.

The Warm Hubs Fund gives the Council a unique opportunity to work with partners, (voluntary, faith groups and community organisations) to develop (or expand and enhance existing) Warm Hubs, to ensure that the spaces offer provision based on local need. Where possible and relevant the Warm Hubs will link into/compliment wider community activities, to provide a co-ordinated approach to tackling poverty and the cost of living. The focus of support can include:

- Basic refreshments and snacks (as a minimum).
- Provision of advice and support services, such as health and well-being, digital accessibility and financial support.
- Enrichment activities such as exercise, arts and cultural activities.

The application process is due to be launched in December 2022 and will be open for applications until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023. This opportunity will be circulated directly to organisations who have registered their Warm Hub with the Council. A directory of Warm Hubs is currently being compiled and will be available for people to access via the Council's website.

Applications will be evaluated by a panel against the following criterion that links to the application form: <https://forms.office.com/r/EkXCwtpRFG>

- Organisational status / Charitable objectives (Q10 and 11).

- That the funding will address the Funding Criteria (Q13, 15 and 16).
- Number of beneficiaries (Q17 and 18).
- Accessibility and equal opportunities (Q19).
- Full financial breakdown of the funding requested (Q21 and Q22).

The panel will consist of representatives from across the Council, including Social Services, and the Education Directorate and external strategic partners including NPT Council for Voluntary Services (CVS), and a service user representative.

For an organisation to be successful in being awarded Warm Hubs Funding their application will need to evidence how the money will directly support Warm Hubs and the people who attend them. Examples of eligible spend includes but is not limited to:

- Provision of refreshments, snacks and if relevant to the location more substantive meals.
- Additional expenses associated with extending the opening hours of existing facilities or contributions to heat and light if facilities are opened specifically.
- Additional costs relating to cleaning costs, refuse removal (for example, community halls).
- Equipment to support adaptation of spaces, chairs, tables.
- Contribution to internet costs (particularly to support advice service provision in community areas / centres) - it is not anticipated that this will include costs relating to hardware.
- Facilities for charging mobile phones / IT equipment.
- Small items such as kettles, cups, plates etc.
- Enrichment items / activities.
- Transport to / from Warm Hubs - depending on local need.
- Volunteer costs.
- Raising awareness / promotion of Warm Hubs.

Successful applicants will be issued with a grant agreement. It will be a condition of the grant for organisation to submit proportionate data and update reports for Officers to report back to Welsh Government on a monthly basis.

The Warm Hubs Fund needs to be fully allocated by the end of the 22/23 financial year. Taking into consideration the number of applications anticipated, it is suggested that applications are for up to £1200. Each application will be assessed on its merits and in context of provision across Neath Port Talbot.

It is requested that the Head of Adult Services be granted delegated authority to award funding to, and enter into agreements with, those organisations that the panel have evaluated as best meets the requirements of the Warm Hub Fund and local provision.

### **Financial Impacts**

Approval of these proposals will not have an adverse impact on the Councils base budget, as the successful bids will be allocated monies from the Welsh Government Warm Hubs Fund.

### **Integrated Impact Assessment**

A first stage impact assessment (Appendix 2) 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. A summary is included below:

- The proposal brings additional resources to support vulnerable people and there will be no reduction in services already provided.

- The Warm Hubs initiative is designed to support people to address many of the challenges experienced by groups referred to within the equality legislation.
- Warm Hubs are required to be inclusive and accessible to all people regardless of disability and care and support needs. Bidders will need to demonstrate how they will ensure this.
- Biodiversity not applicable to this proposal.
- The proposal is in line with the 5 ways of working.

### **Valleys Communities Impacts**

No impact – the proposed bids have no spatial impact on our valleys communities and does not link to the impacts identified in the Cabinet's response to the Council's Task and Finish Group's recommendations on the Valleys.

Although, this proposal is not linked to the above policy, it will give valley communities the opportunity to submit applications for activities that will strengthen community assets and local people.

### **Workforce Impacts**

No implications.

### **Legal Impacts**

The Warm Hubs Funding is subject to Welsh Government grant conditions, with which the Council is obliged to comply. The process of the award of the funding by the Council via the Warm Hubs Fund will be in line with the grant conditions. The allocation of the funding will require a grant agreement, which will oblige the recipient to comply with the grant conditions. The grant agreement will entail the recipient only being permitted to use the grant monies for the specific purposes for which they are made available by the Council. The Council will have the right to claw back monies, if they are not used or if misused.

Grants are outside of the procurement regime and are excluded from the Council's Contract Procedure Rules under rule 7.1.21.

### **Risk Management Impacts**

No risk management impacts.

### **Other Impacts**

Organisations may submit applications for projects that could have a positive impact on the Council meeting its wider general duties such as, Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

### **Consultation**

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

### **Recommendations**

For the Head of Adult Services to be provided delegated authority to award monies comprising the Welsh Government's Warm Hubs Fund and enter into grant agreements with organisations whose applications for Warm Hub Funding has been evaluated as best meeting the Warm Hub application requirements.

### **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

To maximise the benefits of the Warm Hubs Fund to the residents of Neath Port Talbot by awarding Warm Hubs Funding in a timely way to the successful applicants.

### **Implementation of Decision**

The decision is proposed for immediate implementation.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: First Stage Integrated Impact Assessment.

**Background Documents**

The application form can be found at:

<https://forms.office.com/r/EkXCwtpRFG>

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