

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

20th December 2023

Report of the Chief Finance Officer

H. Jones

Matter for: Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Third Sector Grant Funding – Award of Grants for 2024-2025

Purpose of Report

1. To present to Members the outcome of the assessment of the Third Sector Grant applications received for 2024-2025 and to seek approval on the award of grants to those organisations recommended for funding.

Executive Summary

2. The application process for 2024-2025 third sector grant funding opened on 7th August 2023 and closed on 13th October 2023.
3. A total of 39 applications were received totalling £734,707, significantly higher than the approved budget available of £239,000.
4. The applications were assessed by the Third Sector Grants Group, whose membership is made up of Directorate representatives already involved in the grant funding process and are responsible for the administration of the Third Sector Grant Scheme.
5. Two options have been brought forward for Members consideration.
6. Appendix 1 sets out the **recommended option**, funding 14 organisations at a slightly increased level for 2024-2025.
7. Appendix 2 sets out a second option which would provide funding for 24 organisations, a larger number of organisations, with a reduced allocation.

8. Appendix 3 lists the organisations not recommended for funding. This list reflects the organisations not supported as part of the recommended Option 1 approach.
9. Appendix 4 (for information) contains those organisations which have been provided funding for three years who the council has previously identified as Strategic Partners.

Assessment of Grant Applications for 2024-2025

10. The approved budget available for third sector grant funding for 2024-2025 is £239,000.
11. The 39 applications received requested a total of £734,707, significantly higher than the approved budget available.
12. The Third Sector Grants Group undertook an assessment of the 39 applications received. Out of the 39, 24 satisfied some or all of the criteria contained within Principle 1 of the Neath Port Talbot Third Sector Grant Funding Scheme. Due to the level requested within the applications officers have provided members with two options which are contained in Appendix 1 and 2.
13. The approved budget available is now fully committed with the amount of recommended funding totalling £239,000.
14. Those that did not satisfy some or all of the criteria and contained in Appendix 3 – Applications not recommended for approval.

Monitoring Arrangements

15. All single year grant recipients for 2024-2025 are required to submit evidence of outcomes and performance achieved by end of January 2025.

Financial Appraisal

16. Cabinet have previously approved a funding allocation of £239,000 for the third sector grant scheme in 2024-2025.
17. All grants payable are subject to successful delivery of outcomes as set out in the application forms / final grant offer letters and agreed by the council with each applicant.

Integrated Impact Assessment

18. An Equality Impact Assessment was completed as part of the initial development of the Grant Scheme in 2016 and a further Integrated Impact Assessment was completed as part of the changes to the Scheme in 2018. The Scheme was reviewed further in July 2022 with only minor amendments made.
19. All applications have been considered in alignment with the current Scheme and therefore no further assessment is required.

Valleys Communities Impact

20. Some of the applications will be delivering projects to support valley communities.

Workforce Impact

21. There is no workforce impact.

Legal Impact

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

Risk Management

23. The successful grant recipients will assist the council to provide important services within the county borough or specific areas.

Consultation

24. There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

25. It is recommended that Members:
 - Approve the award of funding to the Third Sector organisations as set out in Appendix 1 of this report.

Reason for Proposed Decision

26. To approve grants to third sector organisations in line with the council's Scheme.

Implementation of Decision

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

Appendices

28. Appendix 1 – Third Sector Applications 2024-2025 – Option 1 – Prioritising anchor organisations - Applications recommended for approval
29. Appendix 2 – Third Sector Applications 2024-2025 – Option 2 – Reduced allocation for larger number of organisations
30. Appendix 3 - Third Sector Applications 2024-2025 - Applications not recommended for approval
31. Appendix 4 – Grant proposed to Third Sector Strategic Partners for 2024 – 2025

List of Background Papers

32. Neath Port Talbot Third Sector Grant Funding Scheme.

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