



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

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

18th April 2024

Report of the Head of Adult Services – A. Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected All Wards

**GRANT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF WARM AND
WELCOMING SPACES SPF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
GRANT FUNDING**

Purpose of the Report

To request that the Head of Adult Services be given delegated authority to award monies comprising the Sustainable Communities Growth Fund (SCGF) and enter into grant agreements with several organisations to tackle the cost-of-living crisis through the provision of warm and welcoming 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 and welcome spaces for which the Council successfully received a £30,000 grant from the SCGF (Levelling up Fund).

To allow for prompt allocation of the 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 and welcome spaces funding requirements.

Background

The Council submitted a successful bid for £30,000 from the SCGF as part of the Levelling up monies. This one-off fund is to support local communities to develop (or expand and enhance existing) warm spaces as places where individuals are provided with a welcome, accessible, safe and warm environment.

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

The funding provides the Council with a unique opportunity to work with partners, (voluntary, faith groups and community organisations) to develop (or expand and enhance existing) warm and welcome spaces, based on local need.

Best practice indicates that to be effective warm spaces need to consider the following elements:

- Travel to and from the venue is affordable.
- Providing a purpose for people to attend. Whereby the warm space can offer something people want to engage with, such as cooking, crafts, exercise.
- The provision is part of a wider package of support. The warm space is an opportunity to signpost to other support, from mental health services and help with benefits to giving people energy advice and warm packs.
- People are made to feel cared for. A space should be welcoming as well as warm.

- Link into/compliment wider community activities, to provide a co-ordinated approach to tackle poverty and cost of living.

The application process is due to be launched in May 2024 and will be open for applications until 30th July. This opportunity will be circulated directly to organisations who have registered their warm space with the Council. A directory of Warm Hubs has been compiled and is available for people to access via the Council's website.

- Applications will be evaluated by a panel against the following criterion.
- Based in Neath Port Talbot or directly benefit the people of Neath Port Talbot.
- Be a constituted community group, a registered charity or not for profit organisation.
- Have aims and objectives in line with the grant scheme.
- Have a bank account in the name of the group/organisation with at least two unrelated people to approve transactions.
- Be willing to share your experiences and demonstrate how the funding has benefited the organisation and those that attend.
- Evidence a public acknowledgement of the funding using appropriate logos of all funding partners. All logos will be provided with the grant offer letter.
- Only one grant application per group or organisation will be considered for this grant.

The panel will consist of representatives from across the Council, including Social Services, and the Education Directorate and external strategic partner, NPT Council for Voluntary Services (CVS), and a service user representative. 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 and Welcome Spaces SPF Sustainable Communities Grant Funding and local provision.

Financial Impacts

Approval of these proposals will not have an adverse impact on the Council's base budget as the successful bids will be allocated monies from the SCGF.

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 and welcome spaces initiative is designed to support people to address many of the challenges experienced by groups referred to within the equality legislation.
- Warm and welcome spaces 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 funding is subject to SCGF grant conditions, with which the Council is obliged to comply. The process of the award of the funding by the Council via the Warm and Welcome Spaces 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 SPF SCG Fund and enter into grant agreements with organisations whose applications for warm and welcome spaces funding has been evaluated as best meeting the grant application requirements.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

To maximise the benefits of the Warm and Welcome Spaces funding to the residents of Neath Port Talbot by awarding 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.

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