

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

CABINET

28 FEBRUARY 2017

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL - CAPITAL FUND UPDATE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval to allocate the remaining funds from the Town and Community Council Capital Fund in line with the recommendations contained within the report.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 This proposal will contribute to the corporate priorities of supporting a successful economy, encouraging individuals and communities to be less reliant on the Council and making better use of resources.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council has an approved annual capital allocation of £100,000 in its Capital Programme that is intended to support applications from Town and Community Councils for capital projects.
- 3.2 For 2016/17 the fund was increased from its historic level of £50,000 per annum to a total fund of £100,000, with the intention that Town and Community Councils would be encouraged to link their bids in particular to the Community Asset Transfer process [CAT]. This change was in recognition of the fact that moving forward this Council would be less able to deliver services to the level that it has done historically and there would be an increasing role for Town and Community Councils in helping to deliver some local services. In this scenario it is anticipated that an allocation of capital funding might help mitigate some of the concerns those Councils might have about taking responsibility for facilities that might otherwise become a liability.
- 3.3 A report to Cabinet on 7th June 2016 set out the detail of the applications received this year. A total allocation of £83,000 was approved by Cabinet, leaving a current balance of £9,500 from the £100,000 capital allocation this year as a further sum of £7,500 was allocated to a scheme carried over from 2015/16.
- 3.4 Two applications originally received from Town and Community Councils were not approved by Cabinet in June 2016. Brackla Community Council submitted a proposal with total project costs of £23,500 to replace the boilers at Brackla Community Centre. This application for funding was deferred on the basis that the Community Council was responsible for the Community Centre on a full repair basis as the Centre had recently been transferred to the Community Council. The report indicated that further consideration needed to be given to whether there was

justification for a capital contribution in these circumstances. In addition, an application from Cornelly Community Council was also deferred. Their total project costs totalled £40,500 for a gateway project at 'Fairfields', North Cornelly on the existing cycle route, including public art.

4. Current Situation / Proposal

- 4.1 As proposed, further consideration has now been given to each of these projects, in the case of Brackla Community Council it is clear that at the time of the CAT transfer of the Community Centre there were a number of outstanding building repair issues. The Community Council have been able to evidence the significant expenditure they have already incurred to improve the building. However, the provision of adequate working boilers to heat the building is fundamental to its long term sustainability. In these circumstances an allocation from this Council of £9,500 towards the total costs of £23,500 will be of significant assistance and is in the spirit of supporting CAT type applications. It is unfortunate that in this instance the timing of the CAT transfer of the Community Centre pre-dated the request to Town and Community Councils for applications for funding. The recommendation that the Council does support Brackla Community Council on this occasion with regard to Brackla Community Centre should be regarded as a 'one off' situation and in no way alters or amends the terms of lease approved with the Council as part of CAT. It is our understanding that the Community Council will be able to achieve the capital spend this financial year.
- 4.2 In the case of Cornelly Community Council the scale of the proposed project means it is less likely that the small amount of remaining funding the Council has this financial year will make a significant impact. It is also unlikely that any scheme could be completed this financial year. In addition the project, while very worthy and welcome, does not link directly to CAT as set out in the funding criteria. This means that while the application is still eligible this year it is not regarded as a high priority. In these circumstances it is better that Cornelly Community Council revisit their proposals and seek to submit an application for the 2017/18 fund that better meets the priority criteria. It is recommended therefore that no allocation is made to Cornelly Community Council this year.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that requests to Town and Community Councils for applications for the 2017/18 fund will be sent out early in the new financial year.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

- 5.1 There is no effect on the Council's policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.1 No equalities impact assessment is necessary as part of the grant allocation process, although individual schemes that have been supported may have a positive impact on equalities groups in some instances.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 An allocation of £83,000 to various Town and Community Councils was approved by Cabinet in June 2016. There is currently a remaining balance of £9,500 for 2016/17, which it is proposed is allocated to Brackla Community Centre.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
Approve a funding allocation of £9,500 to Brackla Community Council from the Town and Community Council fund towards total project costs of £23,500 to replace boilers at Brackla Community Centre.

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Background documents:
Cabinet Report 7th June 2016