

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO CABINET

23 JULY 2019

### REPORT OF THE INTERIM HEAD OF FINANCE

#### GRANTS FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICY

##### 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval of the Grants Financial Management Policy (Appendix A).

##### 2. Connections to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priorities:-

1. **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

- 2.2 The Grants Financial Management Policy puts in place processes to ensure the appropriate use of grant funding to support the Council in the delivery of its services. It also puts in place processes to ensure that any grant funding received complies with audit requirements, and seeks to ensure integration with other policies and processes.

##### 3. Background

- 3.1 The Council has in place a Grants Policy as approved by Cabinet in March 2016. However, as a result of changes in the organisational structure, the number and type of grants being received and the disbandment of Programme Management Board (PMB), the Policy required updating.

- 3.2 Grant funding can assist in the delivery of Corporate Priorities through providing funding to support new initiatives and ongoing activities. Therefore it is important to have a Policy that does not hinder the process of applying for grants, but ensures that it allows sufficient financial scrutiny of applications.

##### 4. Current Situation / Proposal

- 4.1 The Grants Financial Management Policy, attached as **Appendix A**, has been updated to reflect recommendations from Wales Audit Office (WAO) Reports, including their Certification of Grants Report which is presented to Audit Committee on an annual basis. The Policy includes revised references to structures within the Council and improved links to other policies such as the Project Management Toolkit, Welsh Language Policy and European Funding Guidance. It has been reviewed by

key staff within Directorates and Corporate Management Board has approved the attached version.

- 4.2 The purpose of the Policy is to set out the procedures for officers to ensure the effective and appropriate use is made of grant funding that is available to, and secured by, the Council, whether as a recipient or supplier of such funding. As reported in the Statement of Accounts for 2018-19 (unaudited), excluding Housing Benefit and General Capital Grant from Welsh Government, the Council received £55.374 million in grant funding. Ensuring that proper financial management arrangements are in place will minimise the risk of any potential loss of grant to the Council by ensuring robust governance arrangements are in place.
- 4.3 Part of the governance arrangements noted above include having in place authorised finance signatories to formally accept any offer of grant. A schedule of these signatories is attached at **Appendix B**.

## **5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules**

- 5.1 This report is to approve an updated Grants Financial Management Policy.

## **6. Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

## **7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Implications**

- 7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. As the report is for information it is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of wellbeing goals/objectives as a result of this report.

## **8. Financial implications**

- 8.1 The financial implications are outlined within the main body of the report and associated Appendix A.

## **9. Recommendations**

- 9.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve the Grants Financial Management Policy (Appendix A) and the list of authorised signatories (Appendix B).

**Gill Lewis**  
**Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer**  
**June 2019**

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**Background documents:** Grants Policy – March 2016  
WAO Certification of Grants Report – January 2019  
Statement of Accounts 2018-19 - unaudited