

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

9 FEBRUARY 2021

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS GRANT

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval from Cabinet to enter into an agreement with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC), the County Council of the City and County of Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council regarding the Additional Learning Needs Transformation Grant 2020-2021.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

1.2 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

- **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** - taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
- **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** – taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
- **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

1.3 The Additional Learning Needs Transformation Grant 2020-21 (ALN Grant) is a Welsh Government grant-funded scheme to support the delivery of the additional learning needs transformation programme, including the preparation for and management of the implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 (ALNET Act).

3.2 RCTCBC, acting as the lead local authority, submitted an application to Welsh Government for the ALN Grant on behalf of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), the County Council of the City and County of Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and the Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council and third party providers (who are further education sector and local health boards in the regions of the councils).

- 3.3 The purpose of the ALN Grant is to support local authorities to develop and promote innovative, multi-agency and cross-sector working practices to support learners with additional learning needs (ALN) in readiness for the implementation of the ALNET Act.
- 3.4 The ALN Grant must be used to support partnerships between local authorities and other agencies involved in supporting learners with ALN such as schools, further education institutes, early years' providers, specialist post-16 providers, local health boards and the third sector.
- 3.5 In December 2019, Cabinet approved entering into a similar agreement on similar terms for the Additional Learning Needs Transformation Grant 2019-2020.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The application for the ALN Grant was successful and an award of funding for up to £934,562 was made to RCTCBC as lead local authority which will be allocated to each council in accordance with the ALN Implementation Plan.
- 4.2 As lead local authority, RCTCBC is required to accept the terms and conditions of the ALN Grant as set out in the offer letter from Welsh Government. In order to deliver the project and ensure compliance with the terms and conditions set out in the offer letter, RCTCBC requires the Council, along with the 3 other local authorities listed at section 3.2 of this report, to enter into an agreement in relation to the ALN Grant. This agreement shall set out the roles and responsibilities of the councils and how the funding shall be allocated.
- 4.3 Representatives from the various parties meet on a monthly basis with the ALN Transformation Lead at the ALN Transformation Project Board. During this meeting, the ALN Implementation Plan and grant spend is monitored.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 There is no impact on BCBC's policy framework or procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics and an EIA of low priority is considered appropriate at this stage. It is considered that there will be no negative impacts from this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

- 7.1 A Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 assessment has been completed. A summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is as follows:

Long-term

Supports the development of training needs and preparation for the implementation of the ALNET Act.

Prevention

The focus of the ALNET Act is meeting needs of learners with ALN at an early stage and preventing situations escalating resulting in needs not being met.

Integration

The integration of all stakeholders is promoted with the introduction of the ALNET Act.

Collaboration

The ALNET Act and the preparation of its introduction promotes places an emphasis on collaboration in order to achieve a person-centered approach.

Involvement

There is diversity concerning the involvement of stakeholders such as schools, parents/carers, Central South Consortium, local health, further education institutes, early years' providers and specialist post-16 providers.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 The total value of the grant for 2020-21 is £934,562. However, the amount available to local authorities is £809,562 as there is a retained element of £125,000 for the employment of the regional ALN Transformation Lead and associated costs and administration and finance support. The allocation of grant spend for Local Authorities is £248,487 of which BCBC expects to receive £60,885. The remainder of the grant is allocated to Schools, Further Education and Health.
- 8.2 The funding is awarded to RCTCBC as the designated lead authority and on behalf of the Central South Region which also includes Bridgend County Borough Council, the County Council of the City and County of Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - approves the Council entering into the agreement with RCTCBC, the County Council of the City and County of Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and the Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council regarding the Additional Learning Needs Transformation Grant 2020-2021; and
 - delegates authority to the Corporate Director Education and Family Support to negotiate and agree the final terms of the agreement with the other Councils and enter into and arrange execution of that agreement, subject to such delegated authority being exercised in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Chief Officer - Legal, HR and Regulatory Services.

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Background documents: ALN Transformation Plan