

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

6 APRIL 2021

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

ALLOCATIONS UNDER TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL CAPITAL GRANT SCHEME 2020-21 & COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER FUND

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval to allocate capital funding to Town and Community Councils to develop projects in line with the recommendations contained within the report from the Town and Community Council (T&CC) Capital Grant scheme for 2021-22 and Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Fund.

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

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

1. **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 focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
2. **Helping people and communities to be more health and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on BCBC and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
3. **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 BCBC's well-being objectives.

3. Background

Town & Community Council Capital Grant scheme

- 3.1. The Council (BCBC) has allocated £50,000 for 2021-22 and subsequent years in the approved Capital Programme to support applications from T&CCs for capital projects.
- 3.2. Since 2017-18 funding under the T&CC Capital Grant scheme has prioritised applications supporting projects directly linked to BCBC's CAT programme, and

Cabinet has approved match funding of £302,373 in respect of 15 CAT related projects during this period in recognition of reducing Local Authority resources and the options available to T&CCs to deliver alternative services.

- 3.3 With the stated desire to more closely align the T&CC Capital grant scheme with the CAT process the approvals in 2020-21 were as follows:

T&CC	Total Project Value	Requested Funding	Project Summary
Coity Higher	£29,022.00	£14,511.00	Refurbish Litchard Park Play Area
Garw Valley	£26,000.00	£13,000.00	Essential external maintenance of Bettws Life Centre in partnership with Awen Cultural Trust
Laleston	£158,987.40	£20,000.00	Refurbishment of Bryntirion & Laleston Community Centre
Newcastle Higher	£15,303.00	£7,651.00	Tarmac, lighting and upgrades of Penyfai playing fields
Porthcawl	£107,791.00	£20,000.00	Refurbishment of John Street Public Toilets
Pyle	£22,999.00	£11,000.00	Provision of play equipment at Waun Cimla Park
Total	£334,102.40	*£86,162.00	

* £50,000 allocation under the T&CC Capital Grant scheme 2020-21 + £36,162 Balances Carried forward from previous years

- 3.4 BCBC was allocated funding under the Welsh Government's Play Accessibility initiative and the improvements planned by Pyle Community Council upon the play area at Waun Cimla Park costing £22,999 have been funded from this source instead. This has meant that the £11,000 allocated to Pyle Community Council in 2020-21 is available to be added to the T&CC Capital Grant scheme in 2021-22.
- 3.5 Applications to the T&CC Capital grant scheme 2021-22 were made available in January 2021 with the deadline for receipt of completed applications of 26 February 2021 being established. Funding of up to £65,427.61 is currently available for grants in 2020-21:

Source of Funding	Amount Available
T&CC Capital Grant Annual Allocation	£50,000.00
Uncommitted funding from previous years	£4,427.61
Reinstatement of funds allocated to Pyle Community Council in 2020-21 (see paragraph 3.4)	£11,000.00

CAT Fund

- 3.6 The £1 million Sports Pavilion Fund originally established in February 2014 to promote the transfers of sports facilities was re-designated as the CAT Fund and the scope for funding widened under the MTFs 2019-20 to 2022-23 in February 2019 to also include building works on other Council facilities such as community centres and

public toilets. In February 2020 the Cabinet also approved that the CAT Fund should also be extended to include pitch and drainage improvements for playing fields. These measures were designed to ensure that the CAT programme is supported and as many assets as possible can be appropriately maintained, kept open and provide long-term community benefits.

3.7 Funding applications up to £50K are usually agreed by the CAT Steering Group with all sums in excess of this threshold being referred to Cabinet for approval.

3.8 To maximise the support that could be provided in 2020-21 as the T&CC Capital Grant scheme was oversubscribed, the CAT Fund was also able to be utilised as applications met the criteria for this fund, which enabled as many projects to be progressed as possible. This resulted in £65,000 being allocated under the CAT Fund for the following 4 projects having a combined total project value of £140,000:

T&CC	Total Project Value	Requested Funding	Project Summary
Cefn Cribwr	£40,000.00	£20,000.00	Renovation of Cae Gof Pavilion in support of the local rugby and football clubs
Cornelly	£10,000.00	£5,000.00	Continued upgrade of North Cornelly Community Centre
Maesteg	£50,000.00	£20,000.00	Establishment of Grant Fund to support sports clubs undertaking CATs in the Llynfi Valley
Pencoed	£40,000.00	£20,000.00	Continued upgrade of Pencoed Pavilion
Total	£140,000.00	£65,000.00	

3.9 Cabinet and the CAT Steering Group has, to date, allocated funding totalling £503,327.61 via the CAT Fund which is summarised in the table below and detailed at **Appendix A**:

Purpose of Funding	Amount Allocated
Building Refurbishment / Development	£343,995.32
Drainage & Pitch Improvements	£26,564.80
Maintenance Equipment	£112,767.49
Miscellaneous	*£20,000.00
Total Allocation	£503,327.61

* Match funding allocated to Maesteg Town Council to support sports clubs progress CAT related projects under via £50K CAT Fund

3.10 The Cabinet has previously confirmed their commitment to replenishing the CAT Fund as and when necessary, subject to the availability of finite capital resources, to encourage transfers and meet demand particularly where value for money can be clearly demonstrated post CAT.

4. Current Situation / Proposal

- 4.1. The proposals received for the 2021-22 T&CC Capital Grant allocation are outlined below:

T&CC	Project	Total Project Cost	Requested Funding	CAT Related
Brackla	Essential repairs to Brackla Community Centre	£51,350.00	£25,675.00	Yes
Bridgend (1)	Accessibility adaptations and ground works to new Bridgend Town Hall	£30,000.00	£15,000.00	No
Bridgend (2)	Flooring at new Bridgend Town Hall	£11,000.00	£5,500.00	No
Cefn Cribwr	Footpath re-surfacing at lane near War Memorial	£30,029.00	£15,014.50	No
Cornelly (1)	Continued improvements to North Cornelly Community Centre	£14,450.00	£7,225.00	Yes
Cornelly (2)	Fencing improvements at North Cornelly Playing Fields	£10,000.00	£5,000.00	Yes
Coity Higher	Refurbishment of Heol Mair Play Area	£30,005.15	£15,002.57	Yes
Coychurch Lower	Phase 2 Refurbishments to Coychurch Play Area	£42,098.99	£20,000.00	Yes
Llangynwyd Middle	Contribution towards Drainage Improvements at Llangynwyd Playing Fields	£10,000.00	£5,000.00	Yes
Total		£228,933.14	£113,417.07	

CAT Related Projects

- 4.2 In considering proposals and their connection with the CAT programme it should be noted that 6 out of 9 projects are in respect of assets subject to transfers that have already been completed or transfers currently being finalised.
- 4.3 Brackla Community Council completed the transfer of the Brackla Community Centre in 2015 under a 99-year lease and at that time no funding was available to support the CAT. Usage of the Community Centre has grown in recent years with 25 weekly user groups each ranging in size from 5-50, covering all age ranges – from a weekly Bump and Baby Group, to children and adult Karate, a 50+ Keep Fit class and several weekly University of the Third Age Groups currently using the facility. The Community Council have recently commissioned a condition survey which has identified essential building works and fire safety and accessibility improvements. Brackla Community Council has determined that improvements should be progressed in stages with Phase 1 works having a total cost of £51,350 being prioritised with a contribution of £25,675 requested from BCBC.
- 4.4 Cornelly Community Council have previously been allocated £50,000 (roof replacement) and £10,000 (toilet refurbishment), in respect of North Cornelly Community Centre under the T&CC Capital Grant scheme in 2017-18 and 2019-20

respectively and a further £5,000 (electrical improvements) under the CAT Fund in 2020-21. Cornelly Community Council are looking to make further accessibility improvements so that users can more easily utilise the green space and the play area adjoining the Community Centre and are seeking funding of £7,225 towards a scheme costing £14,450.

- 4.5 Cornelly Community Council are also progressing the transfer of North Cornelly Playing Fields including the pavilion and have submitted an additional funding application to enable repairs to the fencing so that the site can be afforded greater protection while retaining defined entry and exit points so that public open space can be safeguarded. The project is estimated to cost £10,000 with a contribution of £5,000 requested from BCBC.
- 4.6 Coity Higher Community Council have previously indicated a desire to take over the day to day running of all the play areas managed by the Parks Department in their area and have previously been allocated funding under the T&CC Capital Grant scheme in respect of the play areas at Pendre Fields (£14,999.97) and Coity Castle (£15,416.27) in 2019-20 and Litchard (£14,511.00) in 2020-21 to replace play equipment. The Community Council's latest refurbishment proposal is in respect of the Heol Mair Play Area which is estimated to cost £30,005.15 and is currently managed by the Parks Department under a Deed of Dedication that may require BCBC to manage the project, if approved, while issues surrounding ownership of the play area are subject to further investigation.
- 4.7 Coychurch Lower Community Council are currently finalising the CAT of Coychurch Play Area and have secured funding of £55,251.46 working in partnership with BCBC under the Welsh Government's Play Accessibility initiative to progress the first stage of the project. The Community Council are looking to also undertake Phase 2 refurbishments to the play area at Coychurch and are seeking funding of £20,000.00 towards a project having a total value of £42,098.99.
- 4.8 Llangynwyd Rangers Boys and Girls Club are progressing a CAT of Llangynwyd Playing Fields. Llangynwyd Middle Community Council are seeking to support the project by making a contribution of £5,000 towards drainage improvements with match funding from BCBC of a further £5,000 requested. The Club have recently commissioned an independent drainage survey with the results expected to be finalised shortly which is likely to form the basis of future funding applications under the CAT Fund and other external funders such as Sports Wales and the Football Association of Wales Trust.
- 4.9 It should also be noted that the CAT Fund can only be used to support the transfer of CAT Priority 1 assets which is currently restricted to playing fields / pavilions, community centres and public toilets. As such the T&CC Capital grant scheme is the only source of grant funding administered by BCBC that can be used to support improvements to play areas, classed as being CAT Priority 2, which accounts for 2 out of the 6 related CAT applications.

Non CAT Related Projects

- 4.10 Bridgend Town Council is planning to relocate from its current offices at Carnegie House following the purchase of the former Registry Office at Ty'r Ardd at Sunnyside

from BCBC so that it can be redeveloped as a new Bridgend Town Hall. The Town Council have submitted two funding applications under the T&CC Capital Grant scheme to support improvements to the new Bridgend Town Hall which includes £15,000 towards accessibility adaptations and ground works and £5,500 for flooring for projects having a combined total cost of £41,000.

- 4.11 In 2012 Cefn Cribwr Community Council created a new village war memorial on Mynydd Bach Common which included tarmac resurfacing of Mountain Lane from Ty Fry Road to the memorial to allow unhindered access. The Community Council are looking to re-surface the footpath near the War Memorial as the next stage of the project which will cost £30,029.00 with a contribution of £15,014.50 sought from BCBC.

Collaborative Working

- 4.12 BCBC wishes to further expand its collaboration with T&CCs both formally and informally, to foster a culture of joint working, recognising the extremely important role that T&CCs can play in helping to manage and maintain facilities and services that otherwise may come under threat as BCBC continues to experience ongoing cutbacks to its overall budget. BCBC also acknowledges that in some cases, because of their direct link to local communities and community groups, T&CCs may be better placed to work in partnership at a local level to develop long-term sustainable solutions.
- 4.13 Paragraph 3.5 has confirmed that funding of up to £65,427.61 is available for allocation under the T&CC Capital scheme in 2021-22, however, funding applications from T&CCs outlined at paragraph 4.1 total £113,417.07 for 9 potential projects having a combined estimated project value of £228,933.14. While we are not currently in a position to fully fund all applications submitted by T&CCs in 2021-22, BCBC wishes to ensure that as many projects as possible can be progressed so that local communities can benefit in line with our corporate priorities. To maximise the support that can be provided to T&CCs this year it is proposed that the CAT Fund should once again also be utilised. Taking into account the information provided in the applications the proposed approvals under the T&CC Capital scheme 2021-22 and CAT Fund should be as follows:

Applicant	T&CC Capital Grant	CAT Fund
Brackla		£25,675.00
Bridgend (1)	£15,000.00	
Bridgend (2)	£5,500.00	
Cefn Cribwr	£15,014.50	
Cornelly (1)		£7,225.00
Cornelly (2)		£5,000.00
Coity Higher	£15,002.57	
Coychurch Lower	£14,910.54	
Llangynwyd Middle		£5,000.00
Total	£65,427.61	£42,900.00

- 4.14 It should be noted that it is proposed that Coychurch Lower Community Council should only be allocated £14,910.54 of the £20,000.00 requested as this takes into account the support already provided to them by BCBC under the Play Accessibility initiative.
- 4.15 All funding offers will be conditional on compliance with the stated terms and conditions of the T&CC Capital Grant scheme or CAT Fund and feedback will be available to the applicants.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 There will be no direct effect on the Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 An initial assessment has identified that there are no equality issues related to this report.

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

- 7.1 BCBC is committed to promoting sustainable development and to discharge our duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The required Assessment Template has been completed and a summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is outlined below:

- Long-term: The projects proposed for support are those that have been identified by T&CCs themselves in response to current need and therefore propose to implement action that meets the requirements of current generations. A process of local needs identification followed by local led delivery in response to it will enhance the capacity of local organisations to take forward further schemes in the future.
- Prevention: The projects that are proposed for support if left undelivered may create a worsening of conditions currently being experienced by local residents. In addition if the schemes were to be delivered in future years any further deterioration may result in increased costs.
- Integration: The T&CC Capital grant scheme and CAT Fund will achieve this way of working by recognising the projects that are proposed for support are those that have been identified by the T&CCs themselves as best placed to utilise available funding to meet local needs in a holistic way.
- Collaboration: The proposals have been developed and will be delivered through a strong partnership between BCBC and those T&CCs that have applied for funding.
- Involvement: The T&CC Capital grant scheme and CAT Fund are delivered in close partnership with a range of local stakeholders. Discussions and development with the T&CCs has taken place through BCBC's CAT Officer and information about the funding opportunity was provided to all T&CCs in the County Borough.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. Following the 2020-21 allocations a balance of £65,427.61, based on the base budget of £50,000, non-committed funding of £4,427.61 from previous years, and reinstatement of £11,000 allocated and subsequently funded from an alternative source (see paragraph 3.5) is available for allocation under the T&CC Capital Grant scheme for the financial year of 2021-22. The CAT Fund has a current balance of £496,672.39 available for allocation.
- 8.2 It is proposed that £65,427.61 is allocated under the T&CC Capital Grant scheme 2021-22 and £42,900.00 under the CAT Fund as outlined in paragraph 4.13. On this basis there would be no balance to be carried forward to 2022-23 under the T&CC Capital Grant scheme as it is proposed that all funding is allocated.
- 8.3 The deadline for applications for the T&CC Fund for 2022-23 and its budget of £50,000 will be February 2022 and it is currently envisaged a decision will be made in March 2022. It is proposed that the criteria for future funding rounds be more closely aligned with the 2030 Decarbonisation agenda and a further report will be presented to Cabinet before the application process for 2022-23 is launched.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1. It is recommended that Cabinet:-
1. Approve the 9 T&CC projects outlined at paragraph 4.13 based on the allocations detailed which total £108,327.61 (£65,427.61 - T&CC Capital Grant scheme 2021-22 and £42,900.00 – CAT Fund).
 2. Receive a further report in relation to amendments to the T&CC Fund and its future aligned with the 2030 De-carbonisation agenda.

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March 2021

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Background documents:
None

COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER (CAT) FUND APPROVED ALLOCATIONS

Community Group	Council Asset	CAT Fund				
		Total Allocation	Building Refurbishment / Development	Drainage / Pitch Improvements	Maintenance Equipment	Miscellaneous
Bryncethin RFC	Bryncethin Playing Fields	£120,000.00	£110,000.00		£10,000.00	
Caerau FC	Hermon Road/Metcalf Street Playing Fields	£60,000.00	£50,000.00		£10,000.00	
Rest Bay Sports	Rest Bay Playing Fields	£55,220.00	£45,220.00		£10,000.00	
Pencoed Town Council	Pencoed Pavilion	*£95,000.00	*£95,000.00			
Carn Rovers	Cwm Garw Playing Fields	£20,333.77	£10,333.77		£10,000.00	
Cefn Cribwr Community Council	Match funding for Refurbishment of Cae Gof Playing Fields Pavilions	£20,000.00	£20,000.00			
Cornelly Community Council	Match funding for North Cornelly Community Centre	£5,000.00	£5,000.00			
Maesteg Town Council	Match funding towards the establishment of a £50K CAT Fund for Sports Clubs	£20,000.00				£20,000.00
Wyndham Bowls Club	Waunllwyd Bowls Pavilion & Green	£9,746.90			£9,746.90	
Kenfig Hill & Pyle Bowls Club	Pyle Bowls Pavilion & Green	£4,526.76			£4,526.76	
Bridgend Municipal Bowls Club	Bridgend Municipal Bowls Pavilion & Green	£7,531.78			£7,531.78	
Pontycymer Bowls Club	Waunbant Bowls Pavilion & Green	£5,612.40			£5,612.40	
Caerau / Caerau Welfare Bowls Clubs	Caerau Welfare Park Bowls Green	£9,630.00			£9,630.00	
Cefn Cribwr Athletic Club	Cae Gof Bowls Pavilion & Green	£5,232.38			£5,232.38	
Gilfach Goch / Gilfach Goch Ladies Bowling Clubs	Evanstown Welfare Park Bowls Pavilion & Green	£7,138.98			£7,138.98	
Ogmore Vale Bowls Club	Caedu, Ogmore Park Bowls Pavilion & Green	£10,000.00			£10,000.00	
Maesteg Bowls Club	Maesteg Welfare Park Bowls Green	£10,000.00			£10,000.00	
Cefn Cribwr Athletic Club	Cae Gof Playing Fields (Bowls Pavilion, Bowls Green + 2 x Rugby Pitches	£138,587.02	£103,441.55	£26,564.80	£8,580.67	
Total		£503,327.61	£343,995.32	£26,564.80	£112,767.49	£20,000.00

* Maximum contribution towards building works £75K approved by Cabinet on 21/05/19 and a further £20K approved under Delegated Authority on 27/03/20 by the Cabinet Member, Communities with improvements still being progressed