

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

19 JULY 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

ALLOCATIONS UNDER TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL CAPITAL GRANT SCHEME 2022-23

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this 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 this report from the Town and Community Council (T&CC) Capital Grant scheme for 2022-23.

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**:-

- **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.
- **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** – ensuring 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

- 3.1 Since 2017-18 funding under the T&CC Capital Grant scheme has prioritised applications supporting projects directly linked to the Council's Community Asset Transfer (CAT) programme in recognition of reducing Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC's) resources and the options available to T&CCs to deliver alternative services, and increasingly the scheme will seek to support proposals that align with the BCBC's Decarbonisation, Net-Zero 2030 agenda.
- 3.2 With the stated desire to more closely align the T&CC Capital grant scheme with the CAT process the approvals in 2021-22 were as follows:

Applicant	Project	T&CC Capital Grant	CAT Fund
Brackla	Essential repairs to Brackla Community Centre		£25,675.00
Bridgend (1)	Accessibility adaptations and ground works to new Bridgend Town Hall	£15,000.00	
Bridgend (2)	Flooring at new Bridgend Town Hall	£5,500.00	
Cefn Cribwr	Footpath re-surfacing at lane near War Memorial	£15,014.50	
Cornelly (1)	Continued improvements to North Cornelly Community Centre		£7,225.00
Cornelly (2)	Fencing improvements at North Cornelly Playing Fields		£5,000.00
Coity Higher*	Refurbishment of Heol Mair Play Area	£15,002.57	
Coychurch Lower	Phase 2 Refurbishments to Coychurch Play Area	£14,910.54	
Llangynwyd Middle	Contribution towards Drainage Improvements at Llangynwyd Playing Fields		£5,000.00
Total		£65,427.61	£42,900.00

*Funding application submitted by Coity Higher Community Council was subsequently withdrawn as the Council were not able to take a transfer of the Play Area under the CAT programme as the site is not owned by BCBC. The £15,002.57 allocated was transferred back to the T&CC Capital grant funding increasing the balance available in 2022-23 to £65,002.57.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 BCBC has £50,000 allocated for 2022-23 and subsequent years in the approved Capital Programme to support applications from T&CCs for capital projects. With the decommitment of the Coity Higher project above the budget available for 2022-23 is £65,002.57
- 4.2 Town and Community Councils were made aware of the T&CC Capital Grant, 2022-23 on 21 December 2021. The grant closed for applications on 28 February 2022.
- 4.3 The proposals received from T&CCs for the 2022-23 T&CC Capital Grant allocation are outlined at Table 1 below, along with comments from BCBC officers.

Table 1: 2022-23 T&CC Capital Grant applications

Applicant	Project Cost	TCC Fund Contribution	Summary of proposal	Comments
Cornelly Community Council	£19,166	£9,583	Continued refurbishment of community centre: aluminium windows	To be supported as in line with Community Asset Transfer approach
Coychurch Higher Community Council	£8,600 - £10,000	£5,000	Creation of wetland area as first stage of larger, multi-stage project	CC is working with BCBC officers to take forward scheme and implement on-going management plan
Maesteg Town Council	£17,895	£8,947.50	New boilers and thermostatic valves at Maesteg Town Council Offices	Whilst new boilers may improve the situation, BCBC's direction of travel is away from fossil fuel boilers where possible. Decarbonisation Programme Manager to explore options with applicant.

4.4 Funding of up to £65,002.57 is available for allocation under the T&CC Capital scheme in 2022-23. Applications received are within the available budget.

4.5 It is proposed that applications for funding from Cornelly Community Council (£9,583) and Coychurch Higher Community Council (£5,000) be approved and that the Decarbonisation Programme Manager liaise with Maesteg Town Council to support a review of options available with the potential to revisit an application in future years.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no effect upon the Council's policy framework or procedure rules as a result of this report.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

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, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

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 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 is 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 Funding of up to £65,002.57 is available for allocation under the T&CC Capital scheme in 2022-23. Applications received are within the available budget.
- 8.2 Taking into account the information provided in the applications the proposed approvals under the T&CC Capital scheme 2022-23 are detailed at Table 2 below, totalling £14,583. The remaining allocation of £50,419.57 will be rolled forward in to future rounds of funding through the T&CC Capital scheme.

Table 2: Proposed 2022-23 allocations

Cornelly	£19,166.00	£9,583.00	Continued refurbishment of community centre: aluminium windows
Coychurch Higher	£8,600 - £10,000	£5,000.00	Creation of wetland area as first stage of larger, multi-stage project

- 8.3 Funding offers will be conditional on compliance with the stated terms and conditions of the T&CC Capital Grant scheme and feedback will be available to the applicants.
- 8.4 Within the overall T&CC funding capital allocation from previous years there are a number of applications that are yet to claim any funding. In recent times delays have been witnessed due to the impact of Covid-19. However, as Table 3 below highlights, a number of allocations pre-date the pandemic.

Table 3: Historic allocations

	12/13	14/15	15/16	16/17	18/19	19/20
Cefn Cribwr				£16,000		
Cornelly					£40,000	
Coychurch Lower	£2,501					
Maesteg	£20,000	£3,109	£5,000	£20,000		
Pencoed						£20,000
Total	£22,501	£3,109	£5,000	£36,000	£40,000	£20,000

8.5 It is proposed that the Council communicates with the T&CCs listed in Table 3 and requests an update on proposed delivery and expenditure. It is proposed that if Town and Community Councils respond indicating that projects are either no longer taking place or cannot be delivered within the 2022/23 financial year then funding offers are withdrawn for the specific applications listed above. If this does happen then any funding associated will be returned to the T&CC Capital Grant Scheme and be available for future rounds of applications for new proposals.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

9.1.1 Approve allocation of capital funding within the existing Capital Programme of £14,583.00 to Town and Community Councils (T&CC) to develop projects in line with the specific allocations detailed at 8.2 from the Town and Community Council Capital Grant Scheme;

9.1.2 Note that funding of £50,419.57 will be rolled forward to support projects in 2023-24, and;

9.1.3 authorise officers to communicate with the T&CC listed in Table 3, section 8.4, and request an update on proposed delivery and expenditure. It is proposed that if Town and Community Councils respond indicating that projects are either no longer taking place or cannot be delivered within the 2022-23 financial year then funding offers are withdrawn for the specific applications listed above. If this does happen then any funding associated will be returned to the T&CC Capital Grant Scheme and be available for future rounds of applications for new proposals.

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5 July 2022

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Background documents

None