

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>16 APRIL 2024</b>
<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>ALLOCATIONS UNDER TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL CAPITAL GRANT SCHEME 2024-25</b>
<b>Report Owner / Corporate Director:</b>	<b>CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>IEUAN SHERWOOD GROUP MANAGER ECONOMY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABILITY</b>
<b>Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:</b>	<b>There is no effect upon the Council's policy framework or procedure rules as a result of this report.</b>
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<b>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&amp;CC) Capital Grant scheme for 2024-25.</b>  <b>The following projects are proposed for approval:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coity Higher Community Council</b></li> <li>• <b>Garw Valley Community Council</b></li> <li>• <b>Brackla Community Council</b></li> </ul>

## **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 2024-25.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 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 BCBC's Decarbonisation Net-Zero 2030 agenda. In addition, the Council's seven corporate priorities have also been considered when assessing applications

submitted for 2024-25 as recommended by Cabinet when allocating funding under the scheme in 2023-24, and these are summarised below:

1. A County Borough where we protect our most vulnerable
2. A County Borough with fair work, skilled, high-quality jobs and thriving towns
3. A County Borough with thriving valleys communities
4. A County Borough where we help people meet their potential
5. A County Borough that is responding to the climate and nature emergency
6. A County Borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community
7. A County Borough where we support people to live healthy and happy lives

2.2 With the stated desire to more closely align the T&CC Capital grant scheme with the CAT and Decarbonisation Net-Zero, the approvals in 2023-24 under the T&CC scheme were as follows:

Applicant	Project Cost	TCC Fund Contribution	CAT alignment	Net-Zero alignment	Summary of proposal
Coychurch Lower	£5,634.50	£2,814.00	Yes	Limited	Upgrade Coychurch Play Park inc. new play equipment, bench & bike stands
Porthcawl	£150,000.00	£20,000.00	Yes	Yes	Additional DDA compliant play/exercise equipment in Griffin Park
Pyle 1	£63,013.00	£20,000.00	Yes	Yes	Creation of Edible Forest Garden to rear of Pyle Swimming Pool
Pyle 2	£183,350.00	£20,000.00	Yes	Yes	New play park to rear of Ty Talwyn Avenue, Kenfig Hill
Total	£401,997.50	£62,814.00			

### 3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 BCBC has £50,000 allocated for 2024-25 and subsequent years in the Council approved Capital Programme to support applications from T&CCs for capital projects. With the carry forward funds from previous years the budget available for 2024-25 is £219,186.00.
- 3.2 Town and Community Councils were made aware of the T&CC Capital Grant, 2024-25 and the new basis of assessment which included the Council's seven corporate priorities on 25 October 2023. The grant closed for applications on 29 February 2024.
- 3.3 Funding of up to £219,186.00 is available for allocation under the T&CC Capital scheme in 2024-25.
- 3.4 A total of five applications were returned by T&CCs by the deadline:

**Table 1: 2024-25 T&CC Capital Grant applications**

Ref	T&CC	Project Cost	TCC Fund Contribution	Summary of proposal
A	Coity Higher 1	£29,745.00	£14,872.50	Creating a toddler/infant play area in Llys Gwyn Pendre
B	Coity Higher 2	£27,042.00	£13,521.00	Install All-Weather Surfacing at Coity Play Park
C	Garw Valley	£29,207.00	£14,603.50	Refocusing Parc Calon Lan as a Green Initiative Hub
D	Brackla	£20,000.00	£10,000.00	Urban Tree Planting Scheme around Brackla
E	St Brides Minor	£52,351.00	£20,000.00	Multi-Use Games Area adjacent to Sarn Life Centre
<b>Total</b>		<b>£158,345.00</b>	<b>£72,997.00</b>	

- 3.5 The returned funding applications and supporting information were assessed by a funding panel formed by the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment, the Head of Community Services, the Group Manager Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability, the CAT Officer, the Finance Manager (Communities, Education and Family Support) and the Governance and Compliance Project Officer.
- 3.6 The proposals received from T&CCs for the 2024-25 T&CC Capital Grant allocation are outlined at Table 1 below, along with comments from BCBC officers who assessed the applications returned:

**Table 2: Assessment by T&CC Funding Panel**

Ref	Assessment Criteria / Alignments			Comments of Panel
	CAT	Net-Zero	Corporate Priorities	
A	Yes	Limited	7	Furniture not DDA compliant, recommend assistance from Green Spaces team and resubmit

<b>B</b>	Yes	Limited	5 & 7	Approve subject to a site safety inspection, and a review by Green Spaces team
<b>C</b>	Partly	Yes	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7	None of note – approve.
<b>D</b>	No	Yes	2, 5, & 7	Approve subject to additional information on whereabouts of planting and permissions required, and confirmation that planting will attempt to offset Ash Dieback. Also recommend applicant contacts Countryside and Parks teams for advice.
<b>E</b>	No	Limited	4,6 & 7	CAT expression of interest submitted but decision deferred by CAT Steering Group until the future of Sarn Life Centre is decided.

A further application was received after the closing date for the fund and, as such, was not considered by the panel for support through this round of funding.

- 3.7 It is proposed that based upon the assessment of the T&CC Funding Panel that the applications in Table 3 below are approved.

**Table 3: 2024-25 T&CC Capital Grant proposed approvals**

Ref	T&CC	Project Cost	TCC Fund Allocation
<b>B</b>	Coity Higher 2	£27,042.00	£13,521.00
<b>C</b>	Garw Valley	£29,207.00	£14,603.50
<b>D</b>	Brackla	£20,000.00	£10,000.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£76,249.00</b>	<b>£38,124.50</b>

- 3.8 It is proposed that the Council's CAT Officer engages with those T&CCs whose funding applications have been unsuccessful so that appropriate support can be provided to ensure that the proposals achieve better alignment with the Council's corporate priorities and themes for possible funding bids in the future.

#### **4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)**

- 4.1 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.

#### **5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives**

- 5.1 BCBC is committed to promoting sustainable development and to discharge its duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. A summary of relating to the five ways of working and how they connection to the Corporate Well-being Objectives is 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 have taken place through BCBC's CAT Officer and information about the funding opportunity was provided to all T&CCs in the County Borough.

## **6. Climate Change Implications**

- 6.1 The T&CC Capital grant scheme has criteria specifically designed to support BCBC Climate Change and Decarbonisation ambitions. Assessment of applications considered the relevance of proposals to the criteria and the proposed approved schemes have been agreed by the Cabinet member for Climate Change and the Environment.

## **7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications**

- 7.1 There are no safeguarding or corporate parent implications arising from this report.

## **8. Financial Implications**

- 8.1 Funding of up to £219,186.00 is available for allocation under the T&CC Capital scheme in 2024-25.
- 8.2 Taking into account the information provided in the applications the proposed approvals under the T&CC Capital scheme 2024-25 are detailed at Table 3 above, totalling £38,124.50. It is proposed the remaining allocation of £181,061.50 can be made available later in the 2024-25 financial year for a second round of funding under the T&CC capital grant scheme.
- 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.

## **9. Recommendations**

It is recommended that Cabinet approves:

- 9.1 The allocation of capital funding within the existing Capital Programme of £38,124.50 under the T&CC Capital Grant scheme 2024-25 to develop projects in line with the specific applications detailed at Table 3.
- 9.2 A second round of the T&CC Capital Grant to be made available in the 2024-25 financial year to enable T&CCs to have the opportunity to access the remaining funding of £181,061.50 for projects aligning to corporate priorities and themes.

**Background documents:** None