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| Meeting of: | CABINET |
| Date of Meeting: | 22 OCTOBER 2024 |
| Report Title: | ALLOCATIONS UNDER TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL CAPITAL GRANT SCHEME, ROUND 2 2024-25 |
| Report Owner / Corporate Director: | CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES |
| Responsible Officer: | IEUAN SHERWOOD GROUP MANAGER ECONOMY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABILITY |
| Policy Framework and Procedure Rules: | There is no effect upon the Council's policy framework or procedure rules as a result of this report. |
| Executive Summary: | <p>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 second round of the Town and Community Council (T&CC) Capital Grant for 2024-25.</p> <p>The following projects are proposed for approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pyle Community Council • Cefn Cribwr Community Council • Porthcawl Town Council • Coity Higher Community Council (application 1) • Coity Higher Community Council (application 2) • Garw Community Council • St Brides Minor Community Council |

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 second round of 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 the Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) 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 by Cabinet on 16 April 2024 for round 1 of the fund in 2024-25 were:

Table 1: 2024-25 Town and Community Council Grant, round 1 approvals

| | T&CC | Project Cost | TCC Fund Contribution | Summary of proposal |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---|
| | Coity Higher 2 | £27,042.00 | £13,521.00 | Install All-Weather Surfacing at Coity Play Park |
| | Garw Valley | £29,207.00 | £14,603.50 | Refocusing Parc Calon Lan as a Green Initiative Hub |
| | Brackla | £20,000.00 | £10,000.00 | Urban Tree Planting Scheme around Brackla |
| | | £76,249 | £38,124.50 | |

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 2023-24 the budget available for 2024-25 was £219,186.00. Following approval of round 1 applications of £38,124.50, the budget available for round 2 was £181,061.50.

3.2 Town and Community Councils were made aware of the T&CC Capital Grant round 2, 2024-25 and the new basis of assessment which included the Council's seven corporate priorities on 25 April 2024. The grant closed for applications on 31 August 2024.

3.3 A total of eight applications were returned by T&CCs:

Table 2: 2024-25 T&CC Capital Grant round 2 applications

| | T&CC | Project Cost | TCC Fund Contribution | Summary of proposal |
|----------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--|
| A | Pyle CC | £8,000.00 | £4,000.00 | To install dropped kerbs at 9 identified sites in Pyle/Kenfig Hill |
| B | Cefn Cribwr CC | £16,000.00 | £8,000.00 | Refurbishment of Tennis Courts at Cae Gof, Cefn Cribwr |
| C | Porthcawl TC | £20,000.00 | £10,000.00 | To create a natural habitat and ecosystem for butterflies |
| D | Coity Higher CC App 1 | £27,355.00 | £13,677.50 | To create toddler/infant play area in Llys Gwyn Pendre |
| E | Coity Higher CC App 2 | £11,501.12 | £5,750.56 | Refurbishment of path between Coity Castle & St Mary's Church |
| F | Garw Valley CC | £32,970.63 | £15,257.50 | To replace retaining wall, steps and handrail at the Strand, Blaengarw |
| G | St Brides Minor CC | £8,971.41 | £4,485.70 | Lighting on footpath in Bryncethin |
| H | Llangynwyd Middle CC | £13,000.00 | £6,500.00 | Relaying tarmac on paths in Parc Tir Iarll |
| | | | | |
| | | £137,798.16 | £67,671.26 | |

3.4 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 Operations - Community Services, the Group Manager Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability, the CAT Officer, the Accountant - Communities and the Governance and Compliance Project Officer.

3.5 The proposals received from T&CCs for the 2024-25 T&CC Capital Grant round 2 allocation are outlined at Table 3 below, along with comments from the panel:

Table 3: Assessment by T&CC Funding Panel

| Ref | Assessment Criteria / Alignments | | | Comments of Panel |
|------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| | CAT | Net-Zero | Corporate Priorities | |
| | | | | |

| | | | | |
|----------|--------------|-----|-------------|---|
| A | No | Yes | 1,4,6,7 | Not linked to CAT process but could encourage less vehicle movement. Aligns to several corporate priorities. |
| B | CAT complete | Yes | 1,2,4,5,6,7 | Proposal aligns with Council's current approach to CAT. Net Zero alignment Aligns to many corporate priorities. |
| C | No | Yes | 1,2,4,5,6,7 | No obvious CAT alignment but clear Net-Zero opportunities. Aligns to many corporate priorities. |
| D | Yes | Yes | 1,4,5,6,7 | Aligns with CAT and Net Zero. Aligns to several corporate priorities. |
| E | No | Yes | 1,4,5,6,7 | No CAT alignment Net Zero alignment Aligns to many corporate priorities |
| F | No | Yes | 1,3,4,5,6,7 | No CAT alignment Net Zero alignment Aligns with several corporate priorities |
| G | No | Yes | 4,5,6,7 | No CAT alignment Net Zero alignment Aligns with several corporate priorities |
| H | No | No | 1,7 | Whilst the proposal may respond to suggested need the applications does not clearly highlight any alignment to CAT or Net Zero and has limited alignment to the corporate priorities. |

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.

3.6 It is proposed that based upon the assessment of the T&CC Funding Panel that the applications in Table 4 below are approved.

Table 4: 2024-25 T&CC Capital Grant round 2 proposed approvals

| Ref | T&CC | Project Cost | TCC Fund Allocation | Comments |
|----------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|--|
| A | Pyle CC | £8,000.00 | £4,000.00 | |
| B | Cefn Cribwr CC | £16,000.00 | £8,000.00 | Advise applicant to ensure all permissions and consents are in place and in particular |

| | | | | |
|----------|--------------------|------------|------------|---|
| | | | | landlord consent and understanding over maintenance |
| C | Porthcawl TC | £20,000.00 | £10,000.00 | Advise applicant to ensure all permissions and consents are in place. Of note, land holding department(s) agreement. Maximum grant offer £10,000. |
| D | Coity Higher CC | £27,355.00 | £13,677.50 | Advise applicant to ensure all permissions and consents are in place and responsibility in relation to on-going maintenance. |
| E | Coity Higher CC | £11,501.12 | £5,750.56 | Advise applicant to ensure all permissions and consents are in place and responsibility in relation to on-going maintenance. |
| F | Garw CC | £32,970.63 | £15,257.50 | Advise application that on-going maintenance is their responsibility. |
| G | St Brides Minor CC | £8,971.41 | £4,485.70 | Advise applicant to ensure all permissions and consents are in place and |

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|--------------|--|--------------------|-------------------|---|
| | | | | responsibility in relation to on-going maintenance. |
| | | | | |
| Total | | £124,798.16 | £61,171.26 | |

3.7 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 decisions 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 £181,061.50 is available for allocation under the T&CC Capital Grant round 2 in 2024-25.
- 8.2 Taking into account the information provided in the applications the proposed approvals under the T&CC Capital Grant round 2 2024-25 are detailed at Table 4 above, totalling £61,171.26. It is proposed the remaining allocation of £119,890.24 can be made available for the T&CC Capital Grant next financial year.
- 8.3 Funding offers will be conditional on compliance with the stated terms and conditions of the T&CC Capital Grant and comments in table 4 above 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 £61,171.26 under the T&CC Capital Grant scheme round 2, 2024-25 to develop projects in line with the specific applications detailed at Table 2 and 3.

Background documents: None