

Meeting of:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	8 APRIL 2025
Report Title:	ALLOCATIONS UNDER TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL CAPITAL GRANT SCHEME, 2025-26
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 of the Town and Community Council (T&CC) Capital Grant for 2025-26.</p> <p>The following projects are proposed for approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coychurch Lower Community Council • Porthcawl Town 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 Town and Community Council (T&CC) Capital Grant scheme for 2025-26.

2. Background

- 2.1 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 Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC's) reduced resources and the options available to T&CCs to deliver alternative services. The fund also seeks to support proposals that align with Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) Decarbonisation agenda. In addition, the Council's wellbeing objectives at the time the fund closed have also been considered when assessing applications submitted for 2025-26 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 agendas, the approvals by Cabinet on 22 October 2024 for round 2 of the fund in 2024-25 were:

Table 1: 2024-25 Town and Community Council Grant, round 2 approvals

Ref	T&CC	Project Cost	TCC Fund Allocation
A	Pyle CC	£8,000.00	£4,000.00
B	Cefn Cribwr CC	£16,000.00	£8,000.00
C	Porthcawl TC	£20,000.00	£10,000.00
D	Coity Higher CC	£27,355.00	£13,677.50
E	Coity Higher CC	£11,501.12	£5,750.56
F	Garw CC	£32,970.63	£15,257.50
G	St Brides Minor CC	£8,971.41	£4,485.70
Total		£124,798.16	£61,171.26

3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 BCBC has £50,000 allocated for 2025-26 and subsequent years in the Council approved Capital Programme to support applications from T&CCs for capital projects. With the carry forward of funds from 2024-25 the budget available for 2025-26 is £171,892.90.
- 3.2 At the time of writing the previous cabinet report, a budget of £181,061.50 was available. Following the report, Cabinet approved allocations of £61,171.26 meaning the amount available to roll forward into 2025-26 was £119,890.24.

However, subsequently some projects (detailed below) underspent, meaning that the underspend could move back into the budget as it was no longer committed.

Council	Year	Value Approved	Value Spent	Difference
Bridgend Town (two projects)	2021/22	£20,500	£19,422.74	£1,077.26
Garw Valley	2024/25	£14,603.50	£13,678.10	£925.40
				£2,002.66

The £2,002.66 went back into the fund, giving a new balance of £121,892.90. The additional £50,000 allocation for 2025-26 gives a budget of £171,892.90.

3.3 Town and Community Councils were made aware of the T&CC Capital Grant 2025-26 and the basis of assessment, which included the Council's wellbeing objectives on 18 October 2024. The grant closed for applications on 28 February 2025.

3.4 A total of seven applications were returned by T&CCs:

Table 2: 2025-26 T&CC Capital Grant round 2 applications

	T&CC	Project Cost	TCC Fund Contribution	Summary of proposal
A	Coity Higher	£44,230.00	£20,000.00	To improve roadway and pathway in two allotments
B	Coychurch Lower	£42,569.00	£20,000.00	Multi-phase project to improve community field with gym equipment, bins, bike rack etc.
C	Garw Valley	£12,500.47	£6,250.23	To replace steps, add handrail and lighting in Pontycymer
D	Maesteg	£49,853.00	£20,000.00	To refurbish Blaencaerau Play Area
E	St Brides Minor App 1	£54,416.00	£20,000.00	Creation of a Multi-Use Games Area in Merfield Close, Sarn
F	St Brides Minor App 2	£22,023.67	£11,011.83	To install solar lighting on a footpath in a residential area
G	Porthcawl	£250,000.00	£20,000.00	To improve the listed building and facilities at John Street, Porthcawl
		£475,592.14	£117,262.06	

3.5 The returned funding applications and supporting information were assessed by a funding panel comprising 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 Finance Manager - Communities and the Governance and Compliance Project Officer. The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment declared an interest in relation to application D above and did not take part in discussions in relation to that project.

- 3.6 The proposals received from T&CCs for the 2025-26 T&CC Capital Grant 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	Limited	1,4,5,6,7	No CAT alignment Limited Net Zero alignment Some inconsistencies in application
B	EOI approved	Yes	1,4,5,6,7	CAT aligned Net Zero aligned Clear proposal
C	No	Yes	1,4,5,6,7	No CAT alignment Net Zero aligned A robust application
D	No	Yes	1,5,6,7	Application was submitted after the deadline and therefore cannot be considered for approval
E	EOI submitted	Yes	1,4,5,6,7	CAT aligned Net Zero aligned Further detail required
F	No	Yes	1,4,5,6,7	No CAT alignment Net Zero aligned Links made with corporate priorities
G	Partial	Yes	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	CAT aligned Net Zero aligned Detail provided on all 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.

- 3.7 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: 2025-26 T&CC Capital Grant proposed approvals

Ref	T&CC	Project Cost	TCC Fund Allocation	Comments
B	Coychurch Lower	£42,569.00	£20,000.00	Subject to completion of CAT agreement
G	Porthcawl	£250,000.00	£20,000.00	Subject to assurances over the means of delivery and maintenance.

				TCC funding in place of CAT funding Subject to freehold lease transfer completion.
Total		£292,569.00	£40,000.00	

- 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 wellbeing objectives 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 recommendations 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 £171,892.90 is available for allocation under the T&CC Capital Grant in 2025-26.
- 8.2 Taking into account the information provided in the applications the proposed approvals under the T&CC Capital Grant 2025-26 are detailed at Table 4 above, totalling £40,000. It is proposed the remaining allocation of £131,892.90 can be made available for future applications to the fund.
- 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 £40,000 under the T&CC Capital Grant scheme, 2025-26 to develop projects in line with the specific applications detailed at Table 2 and 3.
- 9.2 The reopening of the fund for a second round at a midway point between April 2025 and March 2026.

Background documents: None