

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>3 DECEMBER 2025</b>
<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL CAPITAL GRANT FUND</b>
<b>Report Owner: Responsible Chief Officer / Cabinet Member</b>	<b>CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>LOUISE CONNOLLY COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER OFFICER</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 outline changes to the Town and Community Council Capital Grant Fund from September 2025.</b>

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Town and Community Council Forum of a new model of delivery for the Town and Community Council (T&CC) Capital Grant Fund.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The T&CC Capital Grant is an annual grant fund that Town and Community Councils can apply to in order to undertake projects that they consider respond to a need they have identified within their communities. It has a recurring annual budget of £50,000 and applications have historically been submitted at the start of each financial year, and, in recent years, in an optional second 'bid window' later in the financial year.
- 2.2 The T&CC Capital Grant prioritises applications that propose projects that directly link to:
- The Council's Community Asset Transfer (CAT) programme.
  - Bridgend Council Borough Council (BCBC) Decarbonisation agenda.
  - The BCBC Corporate Plan Wellbeing Objectives.
- 2.3 A high-level summary of the Town and Community Councils that have received funding offers, and the value of those offers over the past 4 years is set out in table 1 below:

**Table 1 – T&CC Funding offers**

Allocations - T&CC Fund						
	22/23	23/24	24/25		25/26	
Council			Round 1	Round 2		Total Awarded
Brackla			£10,000.00			£10,000.00
Cefn Cribwr				£8,000.00		£8,000.00
Coity Higher			£13,521.00	£19,428.06		£32,949.06
Cornelly	£7,858.00					£7,858.00
Coychurch Higher	£5,000.00					£5,000.00
Coychurch Lower		£2,814.00			£20,000.00	£22,814.00
Garw Valley			£13,678.10	£15,257.50		£28,935.60
Porthcawl		£20,000.00		£10,000.00	£20,000.00	£50,000.00
Pyle		£40,000.00		£4,000.00		£44,000.00
St Brides Minor				£4,485.70		£4,485.70
<b>Total Awarded</b>	<b>£12,858.00</b>	<b>£62,814.00</b>	<b>£37,199.10</b>	<b>£61,171.26</b>	<b>£40,000.00</b>	<b>£214,042.36</b>

### 3. Current situation

- 3.1 The previous delivery model for the T&CC Capital Grant involved 'bid windows'. During the time windows are open, T&CCs worked on and then submitted applications by a set deadline. Once the deadline has passed, a panel would meet to determine whether applications received meet the criteria as advertised for the grant.
- 3.2 Once applications had been considered by the panel, a report was prepared for Cabinet for consideration. The timings of the windows have been such that all T&CCs are notified of the following year's funding in time for precept decisions (where they can determine what funding, if any, the T&CC can provide as match) and officers have aimed to present the report to Cabinet for the first meeting in each financial year.
- 3.3 In July 2025, the Cabinet member for Climate Change and the Environment requested that the T&CC Capital Grant move to a 'rolling programme' rather than set bid windows.
- 3.4 Having reviewed the situation, it has been agreed by Cabinet Corporate Management Board (CCMB) that the fund will move to a 'rolling programme', instead of set bid windows, with the T&CC Grant opening each year on 1<sup>st</sup> April and closing once all funding available for that year has been allocated. This has already been communicated to all T&CCs in writing. If all funding available for the year is not allocated and spent in line with the terms and conditions of the fund, the remaining sums will be rolled forward within the Capital Programme to the following year, as has historically been the case, subject to Council approval.
- 3.5 Instead of having set panel meetings, officers will take more of an 'as and when required' approach towards panel meetings, i.e. if an application is submitted that meets the criteria then the panel would meet to make a decision.

- 3.6 The returned funding applications and supporting information will be 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.
- 3.7 Once the panel has made a decision, the award of grant will be made via the scheme of delegation through powers that already exist, in consultation with Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment, rather than through a Cabinet report.
- 3.8 For grant awards that exceed £10,000, but are no greater than £20,000 (the T&CC Capital Grant maximum award value), this will take place via scheme B1 where functions are delegated to Chief Officers, subject to consultation with the Cabinet Member with the relevant function and call in. Specifically, Scheme B1, 1.4 - *"To approve levels of grant funding where the amount of the funding exceeds £10,000 but does not exceed £50,000 and in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer enter into any funding agreements and/or any further deeds and documents which are supplemental to the funding arrangement"*.
- 3.9 For grant awards that do not exceed £10,000, provision exists within the scheme of delegations, via Scheme B2 where functions are delegated to Chief Officers without consultation and Call In. Specifically, Scheme B2 1.8 – *"To approve levels of grant funding where the amount of the funding does not exceed £10,000 and in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer enter into any funding agreements and/or any further deeds and documents which are supplemental to the funding arrangement"*.
- 3.10 All decisions made via the scheme of delegation are published and notifications of the decisions are therefore public.
- 3.11 It was considered that separate Cabinet reports for every T&CC Grant application may cause unnecessary delays for the TCCs in delivering the projects. It is, however suggested that an annual information report to Cabinet be presented that sets out all the decisions made within the previous 12 months, capturing the positive impact of the T&CC Grant over the year.
- 3.12 As is the case now, the Council's Town and Community Council Liaison Officer and CAT Officer will engage with those T&CCs whose funding applications are unsuccessful, so that appropriate support can be provided to ensure that the proposals achieve better alignment with the T&CC Grant for possible future applications.

#### **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 connect to the Corporate Well-being Objectives is listed below:

- Long-term: The projects proposed by T&CCs themselves are 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 supported by the Fund, 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 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 T&CCs.
- Involvement: The T&CC Capital Grant Fund 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 will be provided to all T&CCs in the County Borough.

## **6. Climate Change and Nature Implications**

6.1 The T&CC Capital Grant has criteria specifically designed to support BCBC Climate Change, Nature 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 If all currently approved projects spend as forecast, it is projected that funding of £151,892.89 will roll forward into 2026-27. In addition, there will be the annual allocation of £50,000, meaning that a total of £201,892.89 will be available for allocation under the T&CC Capital Grant in 2026-27. T&CCs can bid for this new allocation from 1 April 2026. If currently approved projects under spend, then this value may increase.

- 8.2 Going forward, any funding offers made will continue to be conditional on compliance with the stated terms and conditions of the T&CC Capital Grant.

## **9. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Town and Community Council Forum:

- 9.1 Note the changes outlined to the T&CC Capital Grant;
- 9.2 Note that Cabinet will receive an annual information report at the end of each financial year on the delivery of the T&CC Capital Grant.

**Background documents: None**