

Meeting of:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	20 OCTOBER 2026
Report Title:	ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (CIF)
Report Owner: Responsible Chief Officer / Cabinet Member	CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING
Responsible Officer:	DELYTH WEBB GROUP MANAGER STRATEGIC REGENERATION
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.
Executive Summary:	The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval of the delivery mechanisms and proposed allocations for the Community Infrastructure Fund. This includes allocation of funding via two mechanisms, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) delivered schemes and a CIF grant scheme. The report also recommends projects that would benefit from the funding and that governance is undertaken via the established Pride in Place Impact Fund Board.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to set out the delivery mechanisms and proposed allocations for the Community Impact Fund (CIF) approved by Council in the updated Capital Programme on the 22 July 2026. The report also sets out the community projects that could benefit from this fund.

2. Background

- 2.1. Across the County Borough there continues to be a need for greater investment and development in infrastructure within our leisure and community facilities. This would facilitate increased participation, improved accessibility and deliver long term benefits to local residents in all parts of our county.
- 2.2. It became clear during the recent Pride in Place Impact Fund (PIPIF), part of the UK Government investment in local neighbourhoods, that there were a number of significant projects which required further or new investment in order to be able to support the wider needs of our local communities. Some of these projects were ineligible for PIPIF but would provide demonstrable local community benefit if progressed via an alternative funding route. In addition, the PIPIF small grants scheme was heavily oversubscribed with many valuable community projects that could not proceed due to the quantum of funding. So, an alternative funding route could also provide the ability to add additional resourcing to the PIPIF small grants scheme, in addition to those discussed above that were larger or previously ineligible under PIPIF.
- 2.3. The authority understands that community provision is provided by a wide range of local clubs and organisations, which support different opportunities across the County. This is in addition to larger, more strategic provision, provided by the authority and established partners whose offer is wider and more varied, such as the Life Centres and swimming pools provided in partnership with HALO and cultural venues such as Bryngarw Park and Maesteg Town Hall in partnership with AWEN.
- 2.4. To respond to the demand for investment in these valuable community projects, the Leader of the Council requested that a capital sum of £1.5m be made available from BCBC to compliment the UK Government PIPIF programme and be named the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF). This allocation was approved by Council in the updated Capital Programme on 22 July 2026. This CIF fund, once established, could provide the much-needed financial support for several valuable and deliverable community projects.

3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 As the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF), is not an externally grant funded scheme there is greater flexibility to be allocated throughout the County. There will be expectations that the fund will support community-based projects and organisations that have been able to show a demonstrable need for investment and can contribute a positive benefit to the wider community and residents across the County.
- 3.2 Therefore the aims and objectives of the CIF fund can be stated as follows: -
 - To improve the quality and safety of community facilities.

- To increase opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity.
- To Improve accessibility and inclusion for all members of the community.
- To support environmental sustainability wherever possible.
- To encourage partnership working and community involvement.
- To protect and enhance community assets.
- To provide new facilities where there is a demonstrable community need currently unmet by existing assets.

- 3.3 It is proposed that the fund is allocated via two mechanisms. The first is that Cabinet, along with Leaders of the Opposition, propose schemes that meet the objectives set out in 3.2 and that those schemes are delivered by the Council. The second mechanism is that a CIF grant is provided to Community Organisations or Clubs, that were previously unsuccessful during the PIPF grant scheme but have demonstrable community benefit. It would be for those organisations to deliver the project.
- 3.4 There would be an expectation that all the appropriate organisational details and relevant permissions are in place for a CIF grant award to be made and that this would also be based on the project being delivered within 12 months of the offer. Officers will undertake the necessary due diligence to ensure that this is in place before an offer is made. The grant will be based on an agreed viable financial allocation for the project; however the final grant amount will be based on actual project delivery costs. A variance is normal and expected on capital schemes and will be managed on a case by case basis.
- 3.5 Through preliminary discussions between the Leader and the Leaders of the opposition, the following projects or organisations have been identified as suitable to receive funding under this new Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF), should it be approved by Cabinet. This would be subject to further due-diligence, subsidy control assessment and detailed costings to support and/or supplement local schemes.
- 3.6 The proposed BCBC delivered CIF community projects are shown in **Table 1**.

TABLE 1 – BCBC CIF PROJECTS

Number	Project Name	Project Detail	CIF Amount
CIF1.	New and Replacement Skate Park projects	Investment in new and replacement skate parks. To include Bryntirion and Cornelly.	640K
CIF2.	Coity Community Centre Project	Improvements to Coity Community Centre	150K

CIF3.	Maesteg Market Square Greening Scheme	Green Infrastructure & Landscaping to market square	40K
CIF4.	Newbridge Fields North Pavilion Redevelopment	Redevelopment of North Pavilion to include new changing room & shower facilities.	230K
Proposed CIF BCBC Projects Allocation Total			£1.060m

3.7 The proposed CIF Grant Projects are shown in **Table 2**.

TABLE 2 – CIF GRANT PROJECTS

Number	Project Name	Project Detail	Delivered by	CIF Amount
CIF6.	Bridgend Ravens Pitch Renovation	Replacement of Grass pitch with a 3G Surface. Match funded via PIPIF & Welsh Rugby Union.	Bridgend Ravens RFC	150K
CIF7.	Penybont Football Club Access and Infrastructure	Improved access arrangements and car parking. Match funded by Club.	Penybont FC	150K
CIF8.	St Brides Minor and Ynysawdre Community Activity Scheme	Improved community facility, open space enhancements.	St Brides Minor and Ynysawdre CC	40K
CIF9.	Increased contribution to supplement the PIPIF small community grants	Allocate up to max of 10K for small Community Grants that were unsuccessful via PIPIF	Various Groups & Organisations (See Appendix 1)	100K
Proposed CIF Grant Allocation Total				440K

- 3.8 **Table 1** and **Table 2** set out the proposed allocation of the full £1.5m CIF fund, either delivered via BCBC projects or via the new CIF grant scheme. Any underspend would remain at the discretion of the Corporate Director – Communities and Cabinet Member to reallocate. Appendix 1 shows the distribution of both PIPIF and CIF allocated funds across the County.
- 3.9 The governance process to oversee the PIPIF programme has been set up with a Board which oversees the delivery and monitoring of projects. It is proposed that the same board be utilised to oversee the award of finance and that appropriate due diligence is carried out.
- 3.10 It is proposed that Cabinet agree the proposed CIF allocations as set out in **Table 1** and **Table 2** of this report to enable officers to commence further discussions, make grant offers and design schemes as appropriate. It is also proposed that the schemes are reported and monitored through the PIPIF Governance Board.

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. Further consideration will be taken as delivery proposals are progressed.

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

- 5.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment based on the 5 ways of working has been considered:
- Long Term - Investment in, and redevelopment of our town centre and community assets, is critical to developing confidence in and growing the economy, ensuring local investment while providing the ability to operate across the region and beyond. Investment is essential to securing long term sustainability and contribution to the reduction in carbon emissions of our infrastructure and assets.
 - Prevention - Investment in capital assets now will prevent further decline. It will also prevent a decline in local environment and the quality of cultural and business facilities within our communities.
 - Integration – The funds will ensure that local facilities will be enhanced and will need to evidence integration within their local communities. Communities will be able to make better use of existing facilities and will be provided with greater social opportunity, employment and pride in their community.
 - Collaboration - The success of the project will be founded on cross sector working and collaborative effort with our delivery partners, stakeholders and

professional advisors to use creative and cultural activity to improve population well-being.

- Involvement - The success of this project will rest on effective engagement with key public and operational stakeholders.

5.2 There are no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of the Council's well-being goals/objectives.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 Taking action to support decarbonisation is critically important in order to protect and sustain the environment over the long term. Delivery proposals will be asked to demonstrate how they will contribute to these goals.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 Due regard has been paid to the Council's Safeguarding Policy which seeks to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children, young people and adults at risk of abuse or neglect and to ensure that effective practices are in place throughout the Council and its commissioned services. Given the subject matter of this report no negative safeguarding implications have been identified.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There is maximum capital funding of £1.5m available for the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) with the expectation of projects being delivered within 12 months of the offer

8.2 All external organisation awarded financial assistance will need to demonstrate their compliance with all applicable funding conditions.

8.3 Match funding is not required in order to benefit from this fund although the local authority will always encourage local organisations to maximise the impact of the project by securing or contributing to the projects themselves.

9. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet: -

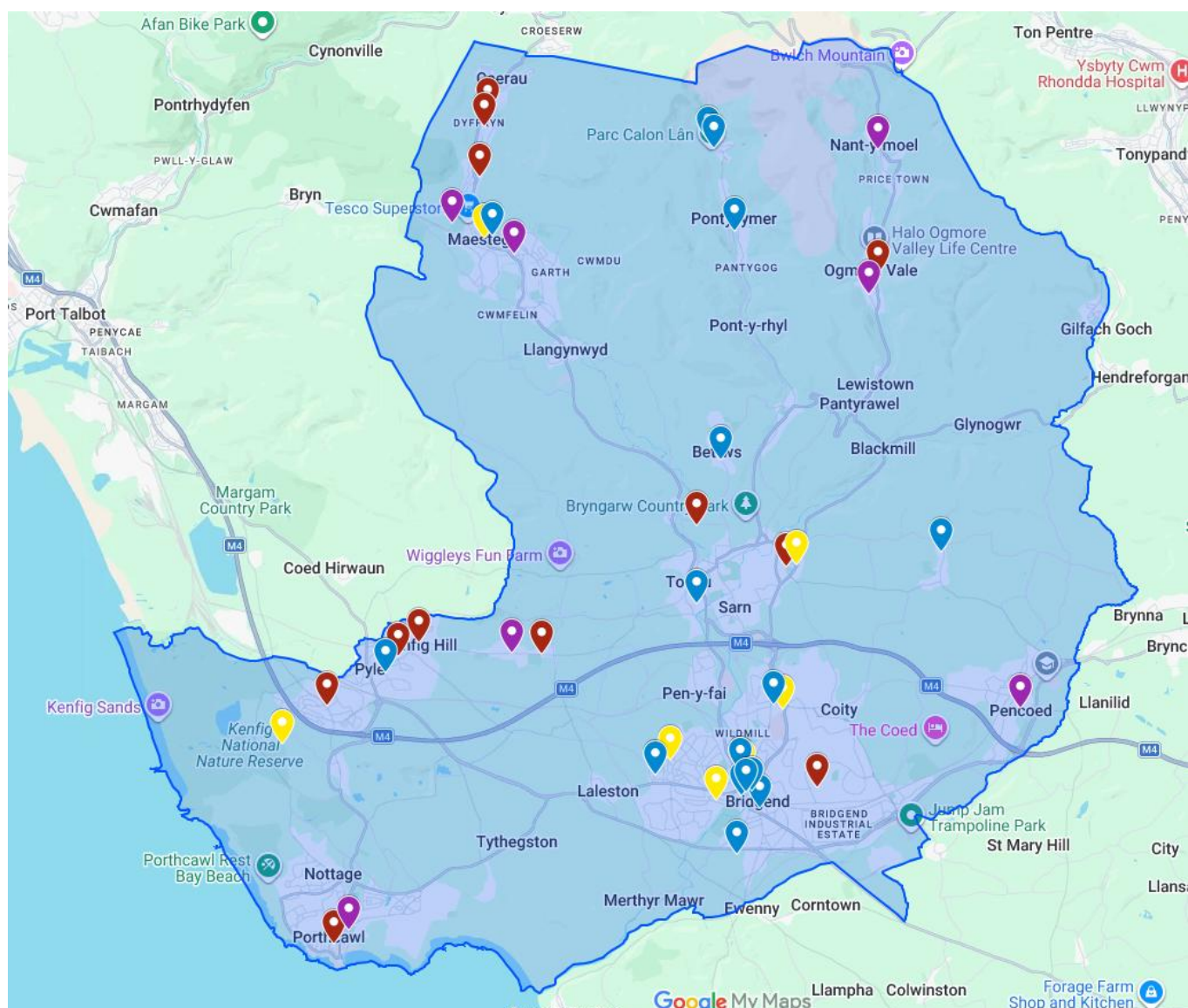
1. Approve the delivery mechanisms and proposed allocations of the Community Infrastructure Fund as set out in section 3 of this report.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of Communities, in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal, Regulatory and Electoral Services and HR, Corporate Director – Finance and Transformation, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, to finalise the programme and delivery mechanisms.

3. To receive a further report in due course to update on the outcomes achieved from the Community Infrastructure Fund.

Background documents:

None

Distribution Map of PIPIF project and proposed CIF projects.



Key to projects

Colour	Fund
Red	PiPIF Small Grants
Blue	PIPIF Large Infrastructure Scheme (LIS) and Strategic Town Centre
Purple	PIPIF Sports and Community Facilities Improvement Project 2 (SCIFP2)
Yellow	Proposed CIF