

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

CABINET

7 JUNE 2016

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL CAPITAL FUND ALLOCATIONS 2016/17

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval to allocate funds from the Town and Community Council Capital Fund in line with the recommendations contained within the report.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 This proposal will contribute to the corporate priorities of supporting a successful economy and making better use of resources.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council has an approved annual capital allocation of £100,000 in its capital programme that is intended to support applications from Town and Community Councils for capital projects.
- 3.2 Historically the fund has been used to support a range of different projects that have been brought forward by Town and Community Councils and while specific criteria are issued to all Town and Community Councils approvals have not all necessarily been linked to this Council's corporate priorities or objectives, which have in any case now changed and become more tightly focused on three specific priorities. This year the fund was increased from its historic level of £50,000 per annum to a total fund of £100,000 for 2016/17, with the intention that Town and Community Councils would be encouraged to link their bids in particular to the Community Asset Transfer [CAT] process. This change was in recognition of the fact that moving forward this Council would be less able to deliver services to the level that it has done historically and there would be an increasing role for Town and Community Councils in helping to deliver some local services. In this scenario it is anticipated that an allocation of capital funding might help mitigate some of the concerns those Councils might have about taking responsibility for facilities that might otherwise become a liability.
- 3.3 However, it was also recognised that for this first year under the new arrangements there were likely to be applications to the fund from Town and Community Councils for both more traditional type projects and Community Asset Transfer related projects, and therefore there is scope this year to fund appropriate projects of both types.

4. Current Situation /Proposal

- 4.1 **Appendix 1** sets out the detail of the applications received this year. In total seven applications have been received seeking contributions of £112,250 towards total project costs of £301,000. It should be noted therefore that the total requests come to an amount more than the funding available. It should also be noted that only one of the applications received this year relate directly to Community Asset Transfer. It would appear that the timing of this year's submissions was too soon to capture some of the CAT proposals being prepared by Town and Community Councils. For this year therefore it is proposed that the applications that it is deemed merit support are granted an allocation of funding even though they relate to more 'traditional' type schemes and that a more concerted push is given so that next year's submissions are more closely aligned to this Council's preference to support CAT.
- 4.2 Both historically and for this year all of the applications from Town and Community Councils relate to areas of service within the Communities Directorate and so the administration of the grant process has passed from the finance department to the Communities Directorate.
- 4.3 **Appendix 2** sets out the proposed approvals for grant this year with a brief explanation of why an application has been approved or deferred.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework& Procedure Rules

- 5.1 There is no effect on the policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 No equalities impact assessment is necessary as part of the grant allocation process, although individual schemes that have been supported may have a positive impact on equalities groups in some instances.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 Whilst the budget is £100,000, an additional allocation of £7,500 was agreed by the Cabinet Member for Resources during 2015/16, reducing the available budget for 2016/17 to £92,500. An application for the 2015/16 fund by a Town and Community Council was submitted within the required timescales but it was not physically received by Finance and hence did not feature in the original assessment. It was therefore agreed that as due process had been followed by the Town and Community Council that the cost of the scheme would be met in the first instance from underspends/slippage on 2015/16 schemes but that if these schemes came in on budget then £7,500 of the 2016/17 fund would be brought forward to fund the scheme.
- 7.2 Appendix 2 recommends allocation of £83,000, therefore there is a current balance of £9,500 which will either be allocated pending further information from those schemes where a decision has been deferred or will be rolled over into the 2017/18 allocation.

8. Recommendation

8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

Approve the capital fund allocations from the Town and Community Council Fund as set out in **Appendix 2** of the report, and seek more information and consider further those applications that have currently been deferred , and either report back to Cabinet seeking approval for further allocations or carry forward the balance of £9,500 into the 2017/18 financial year.

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Background documents:
File of Applications received from Town and Community Councils

APPENDIX 1

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL CAPITAL FUND APPLICATIONS 2016/17

Council	Description	Total Project Cost	BCBC Contribution Requested (from T&CC Fund)
1. Maesteg Town Council	Safe Route to School/ Community Route Extension	58,000	20,000
2. Pyle Community Council	Pandy Crescent Refurbishment	58,000	20,000
3. Brackla Community Council	Replace Boilers at Brackla Community Centre	23,500	11,750
4. Cornelly Community Council	Gateway Project at 'Fairfields', North Cornelly on the Cycle Route including Public Art	40,500	17,500
5. Porthcawl Town Council	Redesign Speed Bumps at New Road Porthcawl	75,000	20,000
6. Llangynwyd Middle Community Council	Erect 4 x Speed Awareness Signage on the main road in Cwmfelin and Llangynwyd	14,000	7,000
7. Cefn Cribwr Community Council	Bring Bedford Close, Cefn Cribwr to an adoptable highway standard	32,000	16,000
	Total	301,000	112,250

APPENDIX 2

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL CAPITAL FUND APPLICATIONS 2016/17

Council	Description	Total Project Cost	Recommended BCBC Allocation (from T&CC Fund)	Comment
1. Maesteg Town Council	Safe Route to School/ Community Route Extension	58,000	20,000	Funding request approved, application aligned to safe routes to schools plan
2. Porthcawl Town Council	Redesign Speed Bumps at New Road Porthcawl	75,000	20,000	Funding request approved, application aligned to overall transport plans and allows improved bus access to amenities
3. Cefn Cribwr Community Council	Bring Bedford Close, Cefn Cribwr to an adoptable highway standard	32,000	16,000	Funding request approved, significant contribution from relatively small Council and only realistic way of bringing this area to adoptable standard. It does however marginally add to this Council's overall maintenance burden.
4. Llangynwyd Middle Community Council	Erect 4 x Speed Awareness Signage on the main road in Cwmfelin and Llangynwyd	14,000	7,000	Funding request approved, may assist in improving traffic management in a known 'hot spot' area
5. Pyle Community Council	Pandy Crescent Refurbishment	58,000	20,000	Funding request approved, application is linked to CAT process with the CC seeking a long term lease for this area from BCBC, the CC have identified an annual budget for maintenance
		Total Approvals	83,000	
6. Cornelly Community Council	Gateway Project at 'Fairfields', North Cornelly on the Cycle Route including Public Art	40.5k	0	Application for funding deferred, while this is a worthy local project there are concerns that it does not meet current corporate priorities and potentially will marginally add to this Council's maintenance burden as there is no indication

				that the community council has allowed specific ongoing revenue funds for maintenance
7. Brackla Community Council	Replace Boilers at Brackla Community Centre	23.5k	0	Application for funding deferred. The Community Council are responsible for the community centre on a full repair basis following a recent transfer and therefore further consideration needs to be given to whether there is justification for a capital contribution in these circumstances
		Unallocated funding to carry over to 2017/18	9,500	NB, funding of £ 7,500 used to fund a scheme from the 2015/16 applications as detailed in the financial implications of the report