

Report of the Director of People
EXTERNAL FUNDING PANEL - 7 October 2015
Community Action Transformation Fund

Purpose:	To decide upon applications to the third round of funding of the Community Action Transformation Fund.
Policy Framework:	Medium Term Financial Plan; <i>Sustainable Swansea – fit for the future</i>
Reason for Decision:	To decide on the third round of applications to the Fund.
Consultation:	Finance, Legal, Access to Services.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The Panel decide which of the applications submitted to the fund it wishes to support.
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Finance Officer:	Mike Hawes
Legal Officer:	Wendy Parkin
Access to Services Officer:	Sherill Hopkins

1. Introduction

1.1 Background, Sustainable Swansea Fit For the Future

The scale of the financial, demographic and sustainability challenge requires the Council to adopt a radically different approach to previous years. An approach that focuses on:

- *The core future purpose of the Council*
- *The transformation of services and the model of delivery*
- *Greater collaboration with other councils and local organisations, community groups and residents*
- *And, above all, sustainable solutions with prevention at the heart of this*

This ambition is set out in *Sustainable Swansea – fit for the future*.

1.2 A number of Budget Principles underpin Sustainable Swansea, two of which are particularly relevant to the Community Action Fund:

- **Different Models of Delivery:** options will assess service provision (cost and outcomes) against other delivery models including: collaboration, outsourcing, partnering, community action
- **Personal Responsibility:** action is required to change behaviour and to increase the number of people and communities helping themselves as part of our approach to sustainability

1.3 Sustainable Swansea has four workstreams to achieve the desired change, one of which is **New Models of Delivery**. Part of the New Models of Delivery workstream is the **Community Action** strand. The aims of this strand are to:

- Build community capacity for self help
- Use community assets to support local action
- Increase and support voluntary sector provision
- Increase co-production

1.4 The City and County of Swansea Agreed to set aside the sum of £300,000 to support the delivery of the aims of the Community Action strand of the Sustainable Swansea Project. In particular, funding will be aimed at proposals from community groups to:

- Develop proposals to run Council services locally and/or
- Facilitate the transfer of community assets

1.5 The first round of Funding allocated £80,000 to four projects. The second round of funding allocated £38,024 the third round closed on the 5th September 2015, for this round the Fund received three applications which are presented to the panel for decision.

2. Principles Underlying the Fund

2.1 The Five underlying Principles of the fund are:

- 1) The Council will either reduce or withdraw from service provision across many current activities due to budget and hence service constraints.
- 2) The Council recognises the value of those services to the Community (either geographically or in the wider sense in terms of a user community), and wishes to encourage the continuation and development of those services through a different model delivered specifically by and through the Community.
- 3) The Council will not be able to support the cost of services going forward however delivered. (Unless they are directly commissioned or procured from the Community based provider)

- 4) The Council is willing to consider applications from interested parties who express an interest in continuing elements of service delivery which may or may not involve the use of current Council assets.
- 5) The Council will not retain any continuing liability for services or assets once transferred

3. Applications and Criteria

3.1 All applications should meet the principals and purposes listed above and can be used for (not exhaustive):

- Support to develop a business case expanding levels of community action, and/or providing a community based model of service delivery
- Funding for a local community engagement exercise to ascertain and develop levels of community involvement and engagement for community led services
- Support the development of co-produced services with the community and voluntary sector
- Work to set up a community trust to provide a community based service
- Training local people to run services or manage a facility, resulting in the Council withdrawing resources over time, or transferring assets.
- Evidenced costs in developing a business plan for future service delivery including market research, accountancy and legal costs.
- Potential initial set up costs, including engagement, training, capacity building.
- Support for professional advice
- It is anticipated a majority of supported projects will be based on revenue funding, however capital funding will be considered if the expenditure can demonstrate a long term saving or that an innovative project can be developed with some investment in capital expenditure.

3.2 The Fund will complement existing initiatives, but will also be used for **different things**, rather than simply be additional money for existing services. In other words, innovative bids which offer new solutions and build on community action.

3.3 Three applications have been received by the closing date for the third round of the fund on 5th September 2015.

1. Ynystawe Cricket and Football Club – Pitches at Ynystawe Park (deferred at last meeting)
2. Whitehead-Ross Educating and Consulting Limited – Satellite Youth Club provision in Clydach and Pontarddulais
3. Coed Bach Park Community Bowls Association – Bowls Pavilion in Coed Bach Park, Pontarddulais

3.4 Applications are summarised in **Appendix A** – full application packs will be available prior to and at the meeting.

4. Equality & Engagement Implications

- 4.1 Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as appropriate on any decisions made at the panel.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The Community Action Transformation fund has a pot of £300,000 to distribute over the two scheduled rounds – Allocated to date totals £118,024, leaving a maximum £181,976 to allocate in rounds three and four. The total amount of approved applications will be noted in preparation for any future rounds.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 The External Funding Panel is a Decision making panel as ratified by Cabinet at its meeting of 18th November 2014.
- 6.2 Any grant awarded will require a contract to be entered into between the applicants and the Council to which both parties will be legally bound.

Background Papers: None.

Appendices: List of Applications – Round 3 – Community Action Transformation Fund.

APPENDIX A

Community Action Transformation Fund

Round 3 September 2015

No	Group	Proposal Synopsis	Amount
01	Ynystawe Cricket and Football Club	<p>The project is for the transfer of asset and responsibility for the Cricket and Football pitches at Ynystawe Park to the club.</p> <p>The grant will be utilised to purchase various items of machinery to enable the club to take over the maintenance and administration of facilities to a high standard for use by football and cricket clubs, schools and the wider local community.</p> <p>Estimated (by Applicant) saving to CCS: approximately £15,000 pa</p>	£23,070
02	Whitehead-Ross Educating and Consulting Limited	<p>Earlier this year young people from across the city were given a chance to have their say on local authority budget proposals which would have seen larger 'Hub' youth clubs remaining while smaller 'satellite' clubs would be closed in Clydach, Gendros, Pontarddulais, St Thomas, Rhossilli and Morrison</p> <p>Closure of the youth clubs was originally proposed because the council's youth service was looking to move towards an approach which targets support to those young people who need support the most. Fortunately the local authority decided to keep these 'satellite' youth clubs open for the time being as the local authority looked at alternative ideas to save £81m over the next three years.</p> <p>WREC is proposing to take on the management and delivery of two satellite</p>	£25,854

		<p>youth clubs in order to help sustain the future of youth clubs in both Clydach and Pontarddulais. Our proposal would see two evening sessions over 50 weeks, with a weekly session in both Clydach and Pontarddulais. Existing local authority-delivered open access provision is currently only run over 39 weeks, leaving the school holidays without any diversionary activities for young people. In contrast this proposal would see clubs open for a full 50 weeks each year.</p> <p>Delivered by approachable Youth Workers, the group offer open access provision one evening a week from 6:30pm - 8:30pm incorporating opportunities for young people to participate in structured activities and access information, advice and guidance, along with a variety of accreditation to raise skills.</p> <p>Estimated (by Applicant) saving to CCS: £1,002.68 saving in Year 1 (despite extended weeks of opening and addition of outdoor pursuit camps) £26,857 saving in Year 2</p>	
03	Coed Bach Park Community Bowls Association	<p>The application is made by Coed Bach Park Community Bowls Association. The Association is recently formed to represent three lawn bowls clubs of long standing, who are based at Coed Bach Park, Pontarddulais, Swansea. The associated bowls clubs being Coed Bach Bowls Club (incorporating Merched Coed Bach Ladies), Graig Merthyr Bowls Club and Pontarddulais Bowls Club.</p> <p>All three clubs play on the bowling green at Coed Bach Park, owned and currently maintained by the City & County of Swansea.</p> <p>The aims of the Association are to preserve the long history of lawn bowls at Coed Bach Park and to ensure the sustainability of the bowling green facility for future generations within the community to enjoy. The application is for some initial works</p>	£14,760

	to the banks surrounding the pitch, groundskeeper training course for members, equipment and maintenance costs	
	Estimated (by Applicant) saving to CCS: £7,200 per annum plus estimated further maintenance in the region of £12,000 to £15,000 for urgent renewal of surrounds.	
TOTAL		£63,684