



Report of the Director of Social Services

Social Care and Tackling Poverty Service Transformation Committee –
23 October 2023

Enabling Communities Grant

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| Purpose: | The report is to update the committee on a recent workshop regarding the development of a new grant process. |
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| For Information | |

1. Background

- 1.1 During a Cabinet meeting in May, a report was agreed under Financial Procedural Rule 5 for Additional Revenue Provision for Residual Economic Recovery Fund 2023/24
- 1.2 One of the approved schemes to be funded from residual balance of ERF 23/24 was a Levelling Up Proposed Investment of £1 million to target and support areas of multiple deprivation.
- 1.3 This funding will target and support areas of multiple deprivation through a 'levelling up' approach which can restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging. It will help local leaders and communities to work together, especially in those places that may lack local agency.
- 1.4 We are committed to levelling up inequality across our communities. Inequality comes in many forms and disproportionately affects areas of disadvantage, although not exclusively.

- 1.5 On the 24th July 2023, representatives from the Partnership and Commissioning Service presented information on Levelling Up funding to the committee. The advice from the Committee was to deliver a workshop to discuss potential options for use of the funding, and report back to the Social Care and Tackling Poverty Service Transformation Committee.

2. Workshop

- 2.1 The workshop took place on the 4th October 2023 and the presentation can be found under Appendix 1.

- 2.1.1 Committee members explored the possibilities of developing one grant process which will deliver the principles and learning currently provided by the following three schemes; Swansea Spaces, COAST and Holiday Food:

Swansea Spaces: Welsh Government funding of £83,831.00 for organisations to provide warm hub provision in response to the cost-of-living crisis;

COAST: Uk Shared Prosperity funding of £581,765.76 for organisations to provide fun, enjoyable activities aimed at improving wellbeing for children young people and families and the 50+;

Holiday Food: Levelling Up funding of £140,080.27 for organisations to provide food provision in response to the Welsh Government withdrawal of FSM holiday payments.

- 2.1.2 Utilising the one grant would provide one portal for applicants to apply for grant funding for the provision of all of the elements currently provided by these three schemes.

- 2.1.3 Feedback and evaluation from participants and projects have highlighted that there is a need for the three schemes and a positive impact has been evidenced for each element of them.

- 2.1.4 This approach would reduce administration for both council officers and providers.

3. Benefits/Opportunities of approach

- 3.1 Build on existing use of the council's web-based systems to receive and collate applications by hosting it on council webpage.

- 3.2 Use all networks to promote opportunities.

- 3.3 Reduce chance of duplication of requests for funding and work effort by bringing together grant schemes.

- 3.4 Reduce administration for both council and partners.
- 3.5 Tackling Poverty and Commissioning teams working together will ensure cross working opportunities are undertaken, effective management process carried out to include the evaluation and monitoring process. It will allow for a wider network of stakeholders to be communicated with, allowing the messages to reach a further audience.
- 3.6 This approach will contribute to Swansea Council's priorities of:
- Tackling poverty
 - Vulnerable children and families
 - Tackling discrimination
 - Domestic abuse and violence
 - Human rights awareness

4. Conclusions and next steps

- 4.1 Following the workshop, committee members concluded that developing one grant scheme that encompassed all the elements of the three schemes of COAST, Swansea Spaces and Holiday Food and that launching it as one "Enabling Communities" grant was the best approach.
- 4.2 The grant would be launched in November, making it available over the winter period.
- 4.3 Delivery of the grant schemes would be between December 2023 and March 2024 with an evaluation and reporting period in April 2024.
- 4.4 The new grant process will combine the three schemes and each scheme will adhere to the original purpose and guidance of targeting geographical and non-geographical areas of need by providing warm and welcoming spaces, food for school age children and young people and activities for children, young people and families and the 50+ community.

5. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 5.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

5.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development is the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals.

5.3. Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

5.4 The IIA screening process outlined there is no reputational risk to the council or any negative impact on any protected characteristics. The impacts are positive. (Appendix 2 – IIA)

6. Legal Implications

6.1. There are no legal implications.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. Whilst there are no direct financial implications arising from this report, it may lead to decisions being taken at a later date that may have costs attached. Any such costs will need to be managed within departmental resources at that time with due regard to the Council's medium term financial plan.

Background papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Presentation to STC 4th October

Appendix 2 - IIA Screening Form