

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 20 June, 2016

Leader of the Council

External Funding: Wood to Wheel - The Story of a Mill, Heritage Lottery Fund

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Cabinet of an external funding grant application, and to seek approval for the work being undertaken and acceptance of the grant and associated conditions.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet accepts 'Wood to Wheel - The Story of a Mill' funding and the grant terms and conditions from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
2. That subject to Heritage Lottery Fund approval, Cabinet authorises the inclusion of the capital element of the grant, being £67,000 into the Capital Programme.
3. That subject to Heritage Lottery Fund approval, Cabinet authorises the virement of £3,000 from the Barry Regeneration Partnership Project Fund to this scheme to be used as matchfunding.

Reasons for the Recommendations

1. To allow grant funding to be accepted in order to deliver the 'Wood to Wheel - The Story of a Mill' programme.
2. To include the grant funded project within the Capital Programme.
3. To approve the virement between capital schemes.

Background

2. The Cwmcidi Saw Mill (Nant Talwg Mill) and twin leats were constructed in 1835 to serve the Porthkerry Estate. Historically the mill was used as a saw mill for cart and wheel construction, and as a blacksmiths. In the early 1990s the mill walls were excavated and artefacts and the walls consolidated to prevent further degradation by a local history group AXIS. An interpretation panel was also put inside the Mill at this

time. The panel however, was placed in an awkward position and is unreachable for much of the winter; it is very dated, worn, and in need of replacement.

Relevant Issues and Options

3. Since the 1990s the Mill site has slowly deteriorated, with constant blocking up of the upstream culvert with logs and silt and subsequent erosion of the Mill base. Erosion is also undermining the walls of the Mill and causing further erosion of the mortar on the fabric of the mill.
4. In 2009 Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust undertook a survey of the Mill and made a number of recommendations, the most serious issue for them was the erosion caused by the stream of the barrel-vaulted stonework of the culvert. In the last two years the stream has eroded the bank of the downstream culvert and this has meant that the erosion of this culvert along its length has increased rapidly. It will not take much further erosion before the whole culvert will collapse.
5. The purpose of the grant bid ([Appendix A](#)) is to stabilise, enhance and interpret the old saw mill for the benefit of visitors, schools and the local community; involving schools, historical groups, volunteers and the local college.
6. The grant would enable woodland management on 25 hectares of surrounding woodland, demonstrating traditional and modern methods of wood management, using contractors, demonstrations, staff and volunteers.
7. It is also hoped that a number of school visits, 10 in total, would increase the children's awareness of the need to manage woodlands sustainability and also the history of the site. School visits will be coupled with two community event days that will increase community awareness of the need to manage woodlands sustainably.
8. The total funding sought for the Wood to Wheel grant is £77,000 with an additional £6,000 being made available in match funding, giving a total project cost of £83,000.
9. The programme is comprised of seven parts and is made up of capital and revenue elements:
 - The Stabilisation of ruins - £37,000 (Capital)
 - Interpretation panels/signs for Saw Mill alongside other heritage sites in the park - £3,000 (Capital)
 - Access improvements; provision of steps and foot path to Saw Mill - £20,000 (Capital)
 - Access improvements; provision of steps at Leat - £10,000 (Capital)
 - Wood to Wheel event days - £5,000 (Revenue)
 - Woodland Contractor - modern methods - £4,000 (Revenue)
 - Traditional contractors, shire horses etc - £4,000 (Revenue)
10. Details of the bid have been circulated to the External Funding Steering Group and no concerns have been raised with regard to the bid.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

11. The total scheme cost of £83,000 is split £70,000 on capital works and £13,000 relating to revenue expenditure. This includes £6,000 match funding and is made up of £3,000 capital matchfunding which can be made available from the Barry

Regeneration Partnership Project Fund and £3,000 in revenue match funding from the Welsh Government/ Local Authority Single Revenue Environment Grant. The balance of £77,000 will be requested from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

12. The Mill site is in an extremely poor state and requires £37,000 to stabilise the existing ruins. Funds are not currently available in existing budgets to cover these costs. The work requires specialist contractors and is beyond the scope of existing officers. If the work is not carried out the Mill site will collapse completely and a unique piece of Porthkerry and Barry's history would be lost.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

13. The project will provide all visitors, the local community and schools with information about Porthkerry's unique heritage and will illustrate the benefits that woodlands bring through improvements to biodiversity and good sustainable management. The events planned through this project could not be provided under current budgets.

Legal Implications (to include Human Rights Implications)

14. On grant funding being approved or secured the Council will enter into appropriate terms and conditions with the relevant funding body.

Crime and Disorder Implications

15. There are no crime and disorder implications arising as a direct result of the 'Wood to Work - The Story of a Mill', Heritage Lottery Funding.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

16. The project will work to improve access to an area of unique history and heritage in the Vale of Glamorgan for all residents and visitors. Specifically improvements to the Mill and woodland will enhance accessibility for young people and families to a site of significant historical and environmental value in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Corporate/Service Objectives

17. The project will both work to support a number of the Well-being Objectives outlined in the Corporate Plan 2016-2020, these include under Well-being Outcome 2, An Environmentally responsible and prosperous Vale:
 - Objective 3, Promoting regeneration, Economic Growth and Employment.
 - Objective 4, Promoting sustainable development and protecting our environment.Under Well-being Outcome 3, An aspirational and culturally vibrant vale:
 - Objective 6, Valuing culture and diversity.Under Well-being Outcome 4, An Active and Healthy Vale:
 - Objective 7, Encouraging and promoting active and healthy lifestyles.
18. In addition to supporting these Corporate Plan Objectives, the funding will further support Priority Outcomes 1, 3, 5 and 7 of the Community Strategy. Ensuring that people of all ages are actively engaged in the Vale, that Vale residents and organisations respect the local environment and work together to meet the challenge of climate change, that children and young people are well informed and supported to access a broad range of services, and that the underlying causes of deprivation are

tackled and the regeneration of the Vale continues. Further, funding will contribute to delivery against Improvement Objective 4, Encouraging and promoting active and healthy lifestyles.

Policy Framework and Budget

19. This is a matter for Executive decision.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

20. As part of the application for grant funding for this bid, both the Heritage Lottery Fund and Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust have been consulted and are supportive of the grant bid. Relevant Ward members for the project and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Education have been consulted.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

21. Corporate Resources

Background Papers

None

Contact Officer

Huw Isaac, Head of Performance and Development

Officers Consulted

External Funding Steering Group
Operational Manager - Legal Services
Mel Stewart, Site Ranger, Porthkerry Country Park
Corporate Management Team

Responsible Officer:

Huw Isaac, Head of Performance and Development