

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 20 March, 2017

Report of the Leader

Armed Forces Covenant Grant

Purpose of the Report

1. To gain Cabinet's approval for the submission of an application for an Armed Forces Covenant grant, relating to the Old Penarthians Rugby Football Club refurbishment scheme.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Cabinet approves the submission of an application for an Armed Forces Covenant grant, totalling £20,000, relating to the Old Penarthians Rugby Football Club refurbishment scheme.
2. If the bid is successful, Cabinet approves that delegated authority is given to the Head of Finance, to accept the grant and Cabinet also approves the Council entering into an appropriate Deed of Grant with the Old Penarthians Rugby Football Club.

Reasons for the Recommendations

1. To apply for the grant.
2. To accept and enter into the necessary legal agreement.

Background

2. On the 23rd June 2011, the Council launched a Community Covenant. The aims of the Community Covenant are to:
 - Encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces Community in their areas.
 - Nurture public understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces Community.
 - Recognise and remember the sacrifices faced by the Armed Forces Community.

- Encourage activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces Community into local life.
 - Encourage the Armed Forces Community to help and support the wider community whether through participation in events and joint projects, or other forms of engagement.
3. The parties signed up to the Community Covenant are :-
 - Vale of Glamorgan Council
 - Armed Forces Community
 - Glamorgan Voluntary Services on behalf of the Voluntary Sector
 - HIVE (St Athans)
 4. Part of this covenant includes access to the Armed Forces Covenant Grant scheme. The grant scheme is administered by the MOD on behalf of Her Majesty's Government. Applications for grants have to be made through a charity or local authority.
 5. The aim of the grant scheme is to financially support projects at a local level, which strengthens the ties or the mutual understanding between members of the Armed Forces Community and the wider community in which they live.
 6. The Armed Forces Covenant runs various grant programmes which have differing financial limits and different criteria for the purpose of the grant.
 7. On 29th February 2012, minute number C1645, Cabinet noted the Armed Forces Community Covenant Scheme and approved delegated powers for grant applications under the scheme below the value of £15,000.

Relevant Issues and Options

8. The Council has been approached by the Old Penarthians Rugby Football Club to submit an application on its behalf for the refurbishment of the clubhouse. The Club is based at St Marks Road, Penarth and plays rugby at Cwrt-y-Vil playing fields adjacent to the clubhouse.
9. The Club has already invested in building refurbishment for part of the clubhouse and now wishes to continue that development by refurbishing the other function room. The scheme has been costed at £49,600 excluding VAT. The Club has already been successful in sourcing a £10,000 grant from the Welsh Rugby Union and would like to submit an application to the Armed Forces Covenant for £20,000. The balance of the funding will be met by the Club. The Club would like to commence work in early June 2017 for completion in time for the next rugby season in August 2017
10. The Club has integrated its activities with those of the Armed Services by extending invitations to rugby seven-a-side teams at their Annual Sevens tournament. The teams who have represented the Services include Covenant Brothers, Breakthrough and Ronan Impact, all of whom have featured numbers of servicemen from Fiji and other South Sea Islands. They have welcomed touring teams from the Royal Navy and the Army and the Club's team has been hosted at the navy base in Portsmouth and the army barracks at Caterham. The Club will extend the use of its changing facilities, clubhouse, kitchen and pitches for the third year running for the Royal Corps of Signals Inter-Unit Rugby Union 7's competition which will be held in April 2017. The Club has also hosted a female Armed Services tournament. The Club

welcomes any servicemen who may be stationed locally to play rugby and also servicemen who are returning home after their duties to play an active part in the Club either through rugby or socially. An active serviceman was at one time the 1st XV club coach and he mixed his duties with club and country. The Club believes that these links show a strong bond between their intentions of being a locally based community sports club who open their doors to servicemen and woman who wish to participate within their area, thereby achieving a community integration which benefits both communities.

11. The application will be made against the Local Covenant grant programme. Under this programme awards can be made up to £20,000 and are for the purpose of Community Integration. Community Integration projects should create strong local links between the Armed Forces community (i.e. current and former members of their armed forces and their families) and civilian communities; and be able to clearly demonstrate how they will have impact in overcoming barriers to better integration; and improving perceptions, attitudes and understanding. The projects should be rooted in their communities and which have grown out of a specific local need.
12. The deadline for the submission of an application in this bidding round is 2nd April 2017, with the decision being made before the end of May 2017.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

13. The value of the application will be £20,000. This will be used to contribute towards the works. All works will be procured by the Old Penarthians Rugby Football Club.
14. The Council will not be required to make any financial contribution to the scheme.
15. The Council will be the grant recipient and will administer the payment of the grant to the Old Penarthians Rugby Football Club, once evidence of expenditure is received.
16. The nominated parties/individual to the bid in the application form are responsible for managing the project.
17. It is the responsibility of the Community Covenant Partnership to ensure value for money and to ensure that the proposed scheme delivers the stated benefits.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

18. The scheme will assist in providing play opportunities within an existing community and support community cohesion.

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

19. A Deed of Grant will be drawn up with the organisation to confirm the terms and conditions of the Grant and the Council's obligations.

Crime and Disorder Implications

20. This project will help to provide the opportunities for activities for families, children and young people within the community.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

21. The scheme will support the vulnerable and increase social cohesion and equality opportunities.

Corporate/Service Objectives

22. The scheme will support work with partners to meet the needs of our residents.

Policy Framework and Budget

23. This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

24. With relevant officers.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

25. The lead Scrutiny Committee is Corporate Performance and Resources.

Background Papers

Draft bid information

Contact Officer

Carolyn Michael
Operational Manager - Accountancy

Officers Consulted

N/A

Responsible Officer:

Managing Director