



CABINET – 1ST JUNE 2016

SUBJECT: VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS CAPITAL ALLOCATION 2016/17

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval for the 2016/17 capital budget allocation to the Voluntary Sector Capital Grants Fund as required in section 4.8.2 and table 10 of the Budget Proposals 2016/17 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/2021 report which was considered by Full Council on the 24th February 2016.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Budget Proposals 2016/17 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/2021 report (subsequently referred to as the Budget Report) details the capital budget allocation to each service area for 2016/17.
- 2.2 It also gives an indicative allocation for 2017/18 and 2018/19. Section 4.8.2 of the Budget Report outlines the requirement for further review and or business cases to be presented to Cabinet in order to justify the capital allocation to five service areas within the Regeneration and Planning Division. Since the Budget Report of 24th February was approved, responsibility for the Voluntary Sector Capital Grants budget has moved from Regeneration and Planning to Public Protection, with effect from 1st April 2016. The remainder of this report focuses on this budget only.
- 2.3 Following consultation with Interim Head of Finance, this report only seeks approval of capital funding for 2016/17. Subsequent years' indicative capital budget allocations are to be considered on an annual basis

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Voluntary Sector Capital Grants scheme supports the Single Integrated Plan, Caerphilly Delivers, and in particular contributes to the Prosperous, Healthier, and Greener Caerphilly themes. The scheme also supports the Council's Anti Poverty Strategy.
- 3.2 It is a requirement of the Voluntary Sector Capital Grants scheme that any projects shall have a positive impact upon the social, economic, environmental or cultural well-being of the area or community concerned. In particular the scheme contributes to the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015:
- A resilient Wales
 - A prosperous Wales
 - A healthier Wales
 - A more equal Wales

- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

The Voluntary Sector Capital Grants scheme is also consistent with five ways of working set out in the sustainable development principle, as defined in the Act. The scheme is integrated in that it contributes to a number of the Well-being goals and supports the objectives of other stakeholders within the community. Implementation of the scheme exemplifies collaboration across organisational boundaries; working together for the good of our communities in pursuit of shared objectives. Grant awards generally take a long term view looking to protect and improve the local environment and infrastructure for future use. Applications are welcomed from local grassroots community or voluntary organisations based in Caerphilly county borough reflecting a broad opportunity for involvement. There is an emphasis on prevention to secure a sustainable future for local communities and projects are welcomed that will enhance employment prospects and skills of local people, particularly the young and those at a disadvantage, and promote equality of opportunity.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The capital programme 2016/17 – 2018/19 is set out in Appendix 6 of the Budget Report which was approved by Council on February 24th 2016. However, the report identified that the capital allocation for five projects within the Regeneration and Planning Division are provisional and require further review and/or business cases to go before Cabinet in order to release funds to the service area.
- 4.2 Responsibility for the Voluntary Sector Capital Grants budget moved from Regeneration and Planning to Public Protection on 1st April 2016. Section 4.8.2 of the Budget Report indicates that £170,000 has been provisionally included for the Voluntary Sector Capital Grants scheme in the proposed Capital Programme for 2016/17. Subsequent years' indicative capital budget allocations are to be considered on an annual basis.
- 4.3 The Voluntary Sector Capital Grants budget is currently used to operate a grant scheme for the community/voluntary sector across the whole of Caerphilly County Borough, known as the Community Regeneration Fund. The purpose of the grant scheme is to foster and enhance viable and sustainable communities and to enable community/voluntary sector organisations to bid for funding, to enable the sector to take forward initiatives they have developed for the benefit of the local community or service users. The grant scheme recognises the importance of the community/voluntary sector and the value the Council places on their ability to identify and take forward projects that meet the needs of their local communities.
- 4.4 The Voluntary Sector Capital Grants scheme is managed as a competitive application process, with a minimum of three application rounds per annum, subject to the availability of resources. A Panel, chaired by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development, with representation from the community and voluntary sector and the Corporate Policy Unit, considers all the applications. Recommendations from the Panel in terms of funding to be awarded were previously approved by the Head of Regeneration & Planning using delegated powers – this responsibility has transferred to the Head of Public Protection from 1st April 2016. Capital grants of up to £25,000 per project are available, but most of the awards are for smaller amounts. Organisations are restricted to one award per individual project.
- 4.5 This is the only source of larger scale capital funding available to the voluntary sector from the local authority, and without this funding many of our local community based services would fall into disrepair, or new services and venues would not be offered to local residents. In addition, this funding will be of increased importance to the sector in the future, due to the Council's policy of asset transferring Council owned buildings into community ownership by way of lease or permanent transfer where an appropriate and sustainable business case can be made. This grant scheme will help to ensure that these buildings are fit for purpose and

meet the needs of the local communities concerned. A full description/business case is appended to this report.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 An EqIA screening has been completed in accordance with the Council's Strategic Equality Plan and supplementary guidance and no potential for unlawful discrimination and/or low level or minor negative impact have been identified, therefore a full EqIA has not been carried out.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 As noted in the Budget Report, Cabinet must approve the provisional allocation in order for it to be released to the Public Protection Division.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The report has been sent to the consultees listed below and all consultation responses have been reflected in this report

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That Cabinet approve the 2016/17 capital allocation of £170,000 to the Voluntary Sector Capital Grants scheme.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To ensure approval of the 2016/17 capital allocation to the Voluntary Sector Capital Grants scheme in accordance with the Budget Report 2016/17.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Act 2000

Author: Vicki Doyle, Corporate Policy Officer

Consultees: Cllr Ken James, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning & Sustainable Development
Dave Street, Corporate Director, Social Services
Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services
Christina HARRY, Corporate Director Communities
Gail Williams, Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services
Stephen Harris, Interim Head of Corporate Finance
Nadeem Akhtar, Group Accountant, Corporate Services
David A. Thomas, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)
Kathryn Peters, Corporate Policy Manager
Robert Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection

Background Papers: Report to Council 24th February 2016: "Budget Proposals 2016/17 and
Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/2021"

Appendix 1 – Voluntary Sector Capital Grants Business Case