



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 14TH MARCH 2019

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF CCBC REGENERATION GRANTS

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. The attached report was presented to Cabinet on the 27th March 2019. The report sought Cabinet approval to consult on proposals to merge several grant programmes, Following a review undertaken on the revenue and capital grant schemes currently administered by the Council's Regeneration Division, it is recommended that existing grants be amalgamated into a combined "**Caerphilly Enterprise Fund**" that focuses delivery on developing business growth and creating employment opportunities. To accommodate this, Officers propose merging several grant programmes including the Community Regeneration Fund and focusing their budgets into the Caerphilly Enterprise Fund.
2. Cabinet were advised that the current grant schemes (summarised in paragraph 2.1 in the report) are administered by both the Urban Renewal and the Business Support and Funding Teams within the Regeneration Division. They offer financial support to both the commercial/business sectors and community/voluntary sectors. As there are a mixture of revenue and capital funded grants there is a requirement to manage and keep them separate. The potential to combine the grants into a single "Caerphilly Enterprise Fund" will offer improved support to start-up businesses, stimulate economic growth, fill identified supply chain voids and support job creation.
3. Officers propose discontinuing the Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) programme and focusing its budget into the Caerphilly Enterprise fund. The good work that the voluntary sector and community groups undertake is fully recognised and greatly appreciated but it is apparent that there are a number of external funding mechanisms that they are able to bid into to secure monies for localised community projects. Reference was made to Appendix 1 that sets out the current grants available to these groups. If the CRF fund is closed, Officers will continue to offer support and guidance to groups looking for funding and will actively signpost them to suitable available external grants. The voluntary sector has expressed concerns in relation to the proposals and it was confirmed that Officers will be attending the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee on the 14th March 2019, to address the concerns raised.
4. Following consideration of the report Cabinet unanimously recommended that Officers undertake a wider consultation exercise with the Voluntary Sector, Community Groups and the Business Sector on the contents of the report and following the consultation exercise, a further report be presented to Cabinet.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Review of CCBC Regeneration Grants – presented to Cabinet on the 27th March 2019 – Agenda Item 5.