

## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Liaison Committee meeting held on Friday, 5 February 2021 at 10.00 am held virtually.

### **County Borough Councillors - Community Liaison Committee Members in attendance:-**

Councillor M Webber – Chairperson  
Councillor R Bevan – Cabinet Member Enterprise Development and Housing

### **Community Council Members**

Karyl May – Llantwit Fardre Community Council  
Tony Graham – Chief Executive Pontypridd Town Council  
Catherine Kennedy – Llanharan Community Council  
Emma Nelmes – Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

### **Officers in attendance**

Christian Hanagan – Service Director Democratic Services and Communications  
Peter Mortimer – Regeneration Manager  
Neil Griffiths – Head of Finance  
Emma Wilkins – Council Business Unit Manager  
Sarah Daniel – Senior Democratic Services Officer

## **9 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

## **10 Declarations of Interest**

None received

## **11 Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the meeting of the Community Liaison Committee held on the 6 November 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting

## **12 Verbal Update - Service Director Democratic Services and Communications**

### **VERBAL UPDATE - SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS**

The Service Director of Democratic Services and Communications provided a verbal update to members that covered the following issues:

- The Local Government and Elections Bill had received royal ascent, therefore this Committee will focus on and discuss in the future. Notable points in the Bill include:
  - Engagement and participation 16/17 year olds in voting
  - Diversity
  - Closer working relationships between Principal Authorities and Community Councils

- Access to training to make a difference in the Communities.
- Services – remain in level 4 restrictions therefore services will be reviewed once these have been lifted.
- RCTCBC are supporting the vaccine delivery. The rollout is being shared with Community Councils.
- RCTCBC is coordinating the promotion of the census with a Census Liaison manager appointed. A digital approach will be taken first and promotion of participation by working together.

A member thanked officers for their continued support throughout the pandemic and expressed interest in a joint procurement process on ICT facilities for TCCs to meet requirements of the Local Government and Elections Bill

### 13 Forward Work Programme

The Service Director Democratic Services and Communications presented the report to members. Members were reminded that if they wished to propose any item for discussion at a meeting they could contact Democratic Services team who would consider its inclusion on the Work Programme.

**RESOLVED:** members noted the contents of the report

### 14 Budget Consultation 21/22

The Head of Financial Services presented the report to Members. He advised the Committee that the proposed increase was amongst the lowest in Wales. He advised that arising from the consultation was how important investment into parks and play areas was, especially during recent times. He added that the graduate and apprenticeship programme had been very successful in the council with graduate positions going on into very senior positions within the council.

**RESOLVED: Members noted the update**

### 15 WELSH GOVERNMENT FUNDING - TOWN CENTRES

The Regeneration Manager gave an update to members and stated that Welsh Government has launched new policy on transforming towns which was brought together with a range of support. He advised Members of the sources of support that cover RCT and were available to all communities.

<b>SCHEME</b>	<b>Enterprise Investment Fund</b>
<b>ELIGIBLE AREAS</b>	RCT Wide
<b>ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY</b>	Building works; purchase of equipment/machinery / IT; website development and one off marketing costs.  Original focus of the Fund on supporting growth has now been revised to support business adapt and/or diversify in response to the current economic circumstances.

<b>GRANT RATE</b>	50%
<b>MAXIMUM GRANT</b>	£10,000

<b>SCHEME</b>	<b>Town Centre Maintenance Grant</b>
<b>ELIGIBLE AREAS</b>	Aberdare, Ferndale, Mountain Ash, Pontypridd, Porth, Tonypany, Treorchy
<b>ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY</b>	External works to front elevation e.g rendering, painting, repair to stonework, rainwater goods, signage.  Original remit of scheme has been extended to include small scale external works that facilitate social distancing.
<b>GRANT RATE</b>	75%
<b>MAXIMUM GRANT</b>	£1,000 (additional £300 for skip/scaffold cost)

<b>SCHEME</b>	<b>WG Main Town Centre COVID Recovery Grant</b>
<b>ELIGIBLE AREAS</b>	Aberdare, Ferndale, Llantrisant, Mountain Ash, Pontypridd, Porth, Tonypany, Treorchy
<b>ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY</b>	External interventions which will facilitate social distancing / outdoor trading including canopies, tables, chairs and seating provision, screening, and outdoor serving facilities, courtyard/rear garden improvements.
<b>GRANT RATE</b>	80%
<b>MAXIMUM GRANT</b>	£10,000

<b>SCHEME</b>	<b>VTF Small Town Centre COVID Recovery Grant</b>
<b>ELIGIBLE AREAS</b>	Aberaman; Abercynon; Church Village; Gadlys; Gelli; Hirwaun; Llanharan; Maerdy; Penrhiwceiber; Pentre; Penygraig; Pontyclun; Rhydfelin; Taffs Well; Talbot Green; Ton Pentre; Tonteg; Tonyrefail; Trebanog; Trecynon; Treforest; Treherbert; Tynant; Tynewydd; Williamstown; Ynyshir; Ynysybwl; Ystrad
<b>ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY</b>	Internal and external interventions which will facilitate social distancing / outdoor trading.
<b>GRANT RATE</b>	100%
<b>MAXIMUM GRANT</b>	£10,000

<b>SCHEME</b>	<b>Flood Resilience Grant</b>
<b>ELIGIBLE AREAS</b>	Aberdare, Ferndale, Llantrisant, Mountain Ash, Pontypridd, Porth, Tonypany, Treorchy
<b>ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY</b>	Implementation of anti-flood measures to improve business resilience to deal with any such potential weather events in the future including internal and floodgates to doorways; UPVC floor coverings and skirting; internal moisture resistant wall boarding and raising of power points.

<b>GRANT RATE</b>	75%
<b>MAXIMUM GRANT</b>	£7,500

<b>SCHEME</b>	<b>Welsh Church Act Fund</b>
<b>ELIGIBLE AREAS</b>	RCT Wide
<b>ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY</b>	<p>The Welsh Church Act Fund is available to Churches, Chapels, Places of Public Worship, constituted community groups and charities operating in the County Borough areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr and Bridgend. Organisations must provide activities that have long term direct benefit to residents and communities within these areas and must be open to members of the public at large.</p> <p>It provides support for capital expenditure such as refurbishment of a community buildings or places of worship; Purchase of capital equipment; Other purposes beneficial to the wider community.</p>
<b>GRANT RATE &amp; MAXIMUM GRANT</b>	<p>There are 3 different grant rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% towards total eligible project cost - up to a maximum grant of £2,000</li> <li>• Up to 90% towards total eligible project cost - up to a maximum grant of £10,000</li> <li>• Up to 80% towards total eligible project cost - up to a maximum grant of £50,000</li> </ul>

The chairperson advised that funding was available for all Communities within RCTCBC. The Cabinet Member Enterprise, Development and Housing added that there was funding and other grants available from National and Welsh Government and that rate relief was also available to businesses big and small. He further added that the grants were under continuous review to address the pandemic and flooding events and were strictly monitored internally and externally. A member asked if there was a portal available where they could see all the grants available. The Regeneration Manager advised that information was updated on the business section of the website but that the information conveyed to members today would be put together and sent to all members.

## 16 Diversity in Democracy

The Service Director Democratic Services and Communications presented the report to members to provide them with details of the Diversity in Democracy work being undertaken by RCTs Democratic Services Committee and the opportunity to enhance this work through Town and Community Council engagement.

As part of the work, members were asked to nominate one member representative to the Council's Diversity in Democracy Working Group

RESOLVED: Members nominated Ms. C. Kennedy to the Working Group as appointed at the Town and Community Council Officer meeting;

## 17 Urgent Business

None