

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 21 March 2024
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Corporate Performance and Resources
Report Title:	Grant Award and Licence Extension to Cowbridge Charter Trust 2024/25 to 2028/29
Purpose of Report:	To seek Cabinet's approval in the awarding of a grant from the 2024/25, 2025/26, 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29 corporate revenue budgets and the award of a corresponding licence for the Cowbridge Town Wall for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2029.
Report Owner:	Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources
Responsible Officer:	Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	This report does not require Ward Member consultation.
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive consideration by Cabinet.
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To award a grant to Cowbridge Charter Trust of £1,500 per annum from the Corporate Grants Budget in Policy for 2024/25, 2025/26, 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29. • To award a licence to Cowbridge Charter Trust for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2029. 	

Recommendations

1. That a grant be awarded to Cowbridge Charter Trust Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) of £1,500 per annum for 2024/25, 2025/26, 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29 and a corresponding licence be entered into for the period.
2. That the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services be granted delegated authority to agree the terms and execute the Licence between the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the Cowbridge Charter Trust CIO in line with Recommendation 1 above.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To enable maintenance works to be carried out to the Cowbridge Town Wall by Cowbridge Charter Trust CIO (CCT).
2. To enable a Licence to be agreed between the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the Cowbridge Charter Trust CIO for the Cowbridge Town Walls.

1. Background

- 1.1 Following a partial collapse of the Town Wall in 2008 the Authority made a grant of £60,000 to CCT who administered the works to return the Town Wall to a safe and attractive condition.
- 1.2 Since the award of the initial grant funding successive grants have been made to CCT to ensure the ongoing repair and maintenance of the Grade II listed Town Walls; the last award having been approved by Cabinet on 19th July 2021 (Minute C637) at a value of £1,128 for 2021/22-2023/24.
- 1.3 In recognition of the significant inflationary costs seen in the construction sector and the specialist nature of these repairs it is proposed to increase the award to £1,500 for the period.
- 1.4 As the previous funding award ended in 2023/24 CCT have now approached the Council for an extension to the funding and licence for the Cowbridge Town Wall it is proposed that this award is extended to 2028/29 in line with the Medium Term Financial Plan period.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 It is considered by the Neighbourhood and Transportation Directorate that the extension of this arrangement offers good value for money for the Council.
- 2.2 The arrangement ensures that the Cowbridge Town Wall receives regular maintenance to ensure the wall remains safe and attractive and minimises the capital cost of repairs to the Council.
- 2.3 A three year grant is requested £1,500 per annum in 2024/25, 2025/26, 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** The allocation of this revenue funding supports the delivery of outcomes identified in the Corporate Plan as set out below.
- 3.2** To work with and for our communities - funding the Community Interest Organisation (CCT) to ensure that their specialist knowledge is utilised to maintain and enhance the Cowbridge Town Walls.
- 3.3** To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment - to ensure that the Cowbridge Town Walls are maintained in a safe and attractive condition.
- 3.4** The allocation of this revenue grant funding is made in accordance with the Five Ways of Working
- 3.5** **Looking to the long term** - the allocation of funding ensures the maintenance of the condition of the Cowbridge Town Walls.
- 3.6** **Taking an integrated approach** – The approach utilised the specialist knowledge of the CCT to deliver this scheme.
- 3.7** **Involving the population in decisions** – Funding of this organisation ensures that the maintenance is delivered in partnership with the Community.
- 3.8** **Working in a collaborative way** – This approach recognises that more can be achieved, and better services can be provided by collaboration providing funding to work with local communities.
- 3.9** **Understanding the root cause of issues and preventing them** – This approach provides proactive funding to ensure that the town walls are maintained.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** This approach prioritises local provision of maintenance for the Cowbridge Town Walls. Ensuring the Cowbridge Town Walls are maintained in a safe and attractive condition.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** Annual financial provision has been made in the corporate policy revenue budget across the Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2028/29.

Employment

- 5.2** There are no employment considerations associated with this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.3** The licence awarded to CCT for the Cowbridge Town Walls will be renewed to enable the maintenance and restorations works to be carried out during the 5

year period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2029 which aligns with the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan period.

6. Background Papers

None.