

Meeting of:	Community Liaison Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 18 January 2024
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Corporate Performance and Resources
Report Title:	Nomination of Representative from Community Councils for the Strong Communities Fund Evaluation Panel
Purpose of Report:	To consider an appointment to the Strong Communities Fund Evaluation Panel.
Report Owner:	Marcus Goldsworthy, Director of Place
Responsible Officer:	Phil Chappell, Operational Manager, Regeneration and Planning
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Due to the corporate nature of this report, no specific Ward Member consultation has been undertaken
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for decision by the Community Liaison Committee.
Executive Summary:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To invite a representative from a Community Council to be a member of the Strong Communities Fund Evaluation Panel. 	

Recommendation

1. That the Community Liaison Committee selects a representative from a Community Council to be a member of the Strong Communities Fund Evaluation Panel up to the 2027 Local Government elections.

Reason for Recommendation

1. To enable Town and Community Councils to have involvement in the evaluation of bids to the Council's Strong Communities Grant Fund.

1. Background

- 1.1 In 2017, the Council established a Strong Communities Grant Fund. This fund provides funding to a range of community-based organisations to pursue activities consistent with the Council's Corporate Plan. The Cabinet approved a further allocation of funds for five years from March 2020. In order for bids to be evaluated in an involving and inclusive way, the Council has determined that bids will initially be reviewed by an evaluation panel with multi-organisational representation, including one representative from a Town Council and one representative from a Community Council. The evaluation panel considers bids and makes recommendations to the Council's Cabinet.
- 1.2 In July 2022 the Community Liaison Committee was invited to select a new representative from a Town Council and one representative from a Community Council to be a member of the Strong Communities Fund Evaluation Panel up to the 2022 Local Government elections.
- 1.3 The Committee subsequently agreed that Councillor Michael Cuddy (Penarth Town Council) be appointed as the Town Council Representative on the Vale of Glamorgan Strong Communities Grant Fund Evaluation Panel up to the 2027 Local Government elections. The Committee also agreed that Councillor David Reed (Llangan Community Council) be appointed as the Community Council Representative on the Vale of Glamorgan Strong Communities Grant Fund Evaluation Panel up to the 2027 Local Government elections.
- 1.4 Councillor David Reed resigned from Llangan Community Council in August 2023 and is therefore ineligible to remain a member of the Strong Communities Fund assessment panel. The Community Council has not responded to invitations to provide a replacement member to represent Community Councils on the panel.
- 1.5 A new representative from a Vale of Glamorgan Community Council should now be invited to take a role in the assessment panel.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

2.1 The Council's Strong Communities Fund enables community groups, the voluntary sector and town and community councils to apply for revenue and capital funding that promotes initiatives within the Vale of Glamorgan consistent with the Council's vision of 'Strong Communities with a bright future'. Eligible schemes include those which are seeking funding to:

- Improve the resilience of organisations/groups or their activities by funding activities which add value to their current work and reduce their reliance on grant funding in the future;
- Provide seed corn funding towards initiatives that can demonstrate longer term sustainability;
- Undertake consultation, feasibility, design and other specialist work to develop proposals for future activity and funding bids; and
- Meet the capital costs of schemes by purchasing plant, machinery, equipment or other assets or undertaking maintenance work that would enable viable services to be provided, for example, through increased income generation potential.
- Open up Section 106 funding to specific communities where developments have taken place. Funding for facilities and open space projects in specific areas will be announced when each round is opened for applications. –
- Encourage projects that include innovative ways of addressing climate change.

2.2 Bids for this funding are sought from the following categories of organisation:

- Community led organisations;
- Third Sector organisations;
- Town and Community Councils; and
- Consortia of the above, including those which have established formal governance arrangements such as social enterprises.

2.3 The evaluation of bids to the fund is undertaken in line with a series of weighted criteria, which includes:

- Linkages with the Council's Corporate Plan;
- Consistency with the Council's Reshaping Services programme; and
- Consistency with the well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

2.4 An Evaluation Panel is responsible for evaluating bids and making recommendations to Cabinet for the award of funding up to three times per year. The Evaluation Panel comprises of:

- Leader of the Council;
- Cabinet Member with responsibility for Regeneration;

- One representative from a Town Council;
- One representative from a Community Council;
- One representative from each of any donors of recurring third party funding;
- One representative from the voluntary sector; and
- One representative from a member organisation of the Public Services Board

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

- 3.1** The invitation to a Town and Community Council to participate in the Strong Communities Fund evaluation panel supports greater involvement and opportunities for collaboration and the integration of different workstreams as follows:
- 3.2** Involvement -The Inclusion of a representative of both Town and Community Councils will involves them in decision making.
- 3.3** Collaboration - the fund supports collaboration with communities, public sector bodies, and external funders.
- 3.4** Integration – The fund is used to support other funding streams such as Section 106 or external grants to ensure social and well-being benefits in the wider Vale of Glamorgan.
- 3.5** Prevention – the fund is used in a way to ensure it is complementary and reduces the risk of delivering piecemeal solutions. The focus will be on delivering projects that make a genuine difference to communities in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- 3.6** Long Term – The funding seeks to Improve the resilience of organisations/groups or their activities by funding activities which add value to their current work and reduce their reliance on grant funding in the future.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** All applications to the Fund are assessed regarding their response to climate and nature emergencies. The Strong Communities Grant Fund eligibility criteria includes specific reference to encourage projects which support innovative ways of tackling the challenges of climate change.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** None as a result of this report.

Employment

- 5.2** None as a result of this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

5.3 None as a result of this report.

6. Background Papers

[Last Nomination of Representatives Report considered by the Committee: 14th July 2022](#)

[Minutes of Community Liaison Committee Meeting on 14th July 2022](#)

[Well-being of future generations: Community Councils Guidance | GOV.WALES](#)

[Vale of Glamorgan Constitution: Section 14: 16 Responsibilities for Council functions - Committees Terms of Reference - Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee Section \(t\).](#)

[Strong Communities Grant Fund: request for approval of funds up to 2025 \(Cabinet 23 March 2020\)](#)

[Strong Communities Grant Fund - Minutes of meeting 23 March 2020 - Cabinet approval of funds for five years to March 2025. \(C282\)](#)