

AGENDA ITEM 7

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

24th NOVEMBER, 2015.

RCT TOGETHER PROCESS – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST / COMMUNITY ENABLING FUND.

REPORT OF GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE & FRONTLINE SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DEPUTY LEADER.

AUTHOR(S): Debra Hanney, Community Asset Development Officer, (01443) 425715/744546 / Emma Wilkins, Cabinet Business Officer.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides Members with the recommendations of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Steering Group in respect of Progressing the identified Expressions of Interest for further consideration and the granting of funds from the Community Enabling Fund.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Endorse the Expressions of Interest already identified by the Voluntary Sector Liaison Steering Group (as identified in Appendix A of the report) and that the Expressions of Interest be considered further for Community Asset and Service Transfers and the initial submitting Organisation be invited to submit a detailed Business Plan, with promotion of the EOI on the 30 day Window of Opportunity on the RCT Together webpage.
- 2.2 Endorse the allocation of funds from the Community Enabling Fund to those applications identified in Appendix B of this report

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The need to progress the Expressions of Interest received and identified for further consideration, and to allow publication of the EOIs

to allow other organisations a fair and equitable opportunity to submit their own proposals, which could enable complementary and collaborative approaches in maximising use of Council Assets.

3.2 The need to determine the award of the Community Enabling Fund.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 The RCT Together Approach for progressing Community Asset Transfers was launched on 25th March 2015.

4.2 To date seventy eight Expressions of Interest have been received from a variety of existing and newly established community and voluntary groups with proposals ranging from taking over a small paddling pool to taking on the partial leasehold of a Leisure Centre. We have also received a number of service transfer requests for which we have yet to fully consider as to their suitability and viability.

4.3 Working collaboratively with RCT Officers from the Community Asset and Service Transfer Panel and members of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Steering Group (A Cabinet Steering group created under the Leaders Scheme of Delegation) we have been looking to refine the current Community Asset Transfer processes in line with good practice and guidance obtained from the Welsh Government, and other local authority areas, and also to reflect the service transfer requests we have received.

5 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

5.1 At its meetings on the 2nd November the Community Asset and Transfer panel considered the Expressions of Interest received to date and recommended that the Expressions of Interest identified within Appendix A of the report be considered by the Voluntary Sector Liaison Steering Group at its meetings on the 17th November for further progression.

5.2 With Cabinet Committee approval, these recommendations will be promoted through the 'Window of Opportunity'. Here all RCT Together Expressions of Interest proposals for Community Asset and Service Transfers that have received agreement to progress to the Business Plan stage will then be promoted for a 30 day period to allow other Community and Voluntary Organisations a fair and equitable opportunity to submit their own proposals, which could enable complementary and collaborative approaches in maximising use of Council Assets.

- 5.3 Promotion of the Expressions of Interest would be in respect of publication on the RCT Together webpage, Sell2Wales / online Journal European Union (OJEU) and the websites of the Voluntary Sector Members, sitting on the Voluntary Sector Liaison Steering Group.

6 COMMUNITY ENABLING FUND

- 6.1 At the Council meeting on the 25th March, 2015 it was agreed that a Community Enabling Fund of £0.100M be created to support communities to come together and actively participate in delivering of services.
- 6.2 Applications will be considered from non profit distributing voluntary and community groups or companies for activities, services and facilities which benefit residents within Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 6.3 The maximum amount to be awarded to a project is £10,000.
- 6.4 To date one application from the Community Enabling Fund has been awarded and there are a further 8 applications pending approval within attached Appendix B.
- 6.5 At its meeting on the 2nd November, the Community and Asset Transfer Panel considered the applications received to the Fund and at the meeting of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Steering Group on the 13th October and 17th November the Group will recommend to Cabinet whether the applications received in Appendix B should be taken forward.

7 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed at this time, as the report is only seeking endorsement to take forward Expressions of Interest received. Further detailed analysis of each of the EOIs taken forward will be undertaken by officers with the applicants, including full Business Plan proposals, which would highlight if there were any equality implications.
- 7.2 Once Cabinet has endorsed the progression of any EOI's to a Business Plan Stage then Officers would undertake the appropriate individual Equality Impact Assessment.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Consultation has been taken forward through the Community Asset and Transfer Panel and the Voluntary Sector Liaison Steering Group. Publication of the Expressions of Interest on the RCT Together Website

will further allow other Community and Voluntary Organisations a fair and equitable opportunity to submit their own proposals, which could enable complementary and collaborative approaches in maximising use of Council Assets.

9 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 9.1 If a community asset transfer is identified as a preferred course of action for the future of a property, further analysis would need to be undertaken by officers in respect of any potential VAT issues, plus revenue and capital costs, that may be required in order to facilitate a transfer as well as the opportunity cost of any potential disposal proceeds which could be used for re investment in service delivery.
- 9.2 Where a transfer is proposed, for either empty buildings or for buildings from which services are currently delivered, it should be noted that completion of a transfer could be a lengthy process and there could be financial implications directly arising from holding the properties and from implementation of the process.
- 9.3 Due diligence on the suitability of the successful applicant and their business plan as well as their ability to raise investment will need to be undertaken in order to ensure that proposals are achievable, and where there is a requirement for council services to be delivered that this is able to continue in the long term.
- 9.4 Progression of EOI's to a Business Plan stage will also provide the sufficient level of detail needed to determine the level of financial savings/benefits each individual proposal can evidence via a Community Asset or Service Transfer.

10 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 10.1 The Council has a legal obligation to obtain the best consideration reasonably obtainable from its land disposals in accordance with section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972. Pursuant to the General Disposal Consent (Wales) 2003 the Council has power to dispose of land at undervalue of up to two million pounds if it considers that the disposal is in the interests of the economic social or environmental well being of its area, taking account of its Community Strategy.

11 LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/ SIP.

- 11.1 Making Best use of the Budget - RCT Together is the Council's forward-thinking approach to engaging with its residents and

communities about how they can work together to explore alternative delivery models, which could maintain services and facilities in the future. This means making best use of Council buildings and encouraging working in partnership with others, where this will be of benefit. '

- 11.2 Applicants are asked in their EOI's to make any links between their proposals and Council plans / priorities, so this information is available on an individual case basis as well as for the wider RCT Together approach. Individual Expressions of Interest can be provided with this document (See brief summary of Expressions of Interest attached in Appendix A).

12 CONCLUSION

- 12.1 Appendix A outlines a summary of the Expressions of Interest, which would be promoted on the RCT Together Webpage at the earliest opportunity ensuring the principles of openness, fairness and transparency are complied with. These timelines would also satisfy any potential Procurement/OJEU considerations, reducing the risk of challenge. In conjunction with this, the Organisation who submitted the original Expression of Interest will be asked to submit a Business Plan.
- 11.2 Appendix B outlines a summary of the Applications to the Community Enabling Fund which require approval.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity.

Contact Officer

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Appendix A

RCT Together - Expressions of Interest

- Organisation advised to submit a Business Plan
- Expression of Interest promoted via Window Of Opportunity

Organisation	Spectacle Theatre (EOI 7)
Asset or Service	Un-utilised space within Tylorstown Leisure Centre
Background	<p>Spectacle would like to use the space as a professionally run safe place where we can engage with marginalized people, be they young or elderly through the use of the Theatre Arts.</p> <p>We would want to engage volunteers in running the space as part of Spectacle Theatre Ltd</p> <p>We see it as an imagination space for individuals and the community</p> <p><i>1 'The Imagination Space'</i></p> <p><i>Spectacle</i> is planning to create a new place where community engagement through the Arts can take place. This new place will be called '<i>the Imagination space</i>' a place where new ideas can be shared and practiced. <i>Spectacle</i> will use '<i>the Imagination space</i>' to engage with groups and individuals that are at risk of becoming, or are isolated or marginalised. Through partnership working we will enable people to become more resilient by exploring common concerns such as the environmental, social, economic, and cultural aspects of our lives and how these can be improved. The intention is to enable people not only to cope with change but to engineer it and take control over how delivery of local services affects them.</p> <p>2 A performance space for professional and Community activity through theater arts (This is our latest European Theatre project Six countries - eight companies)</p> <p><i>PRIORITY 1 - Supporting <u>Schools</u> to tackle early school leaving (ESL) and <u>disadvantaged</u> as well as to address all students from the lowest to the highest end of academic spectrum</i></p> <p><i>PRIORITY 2 - Enhancing the <u>Quality</u> of early childhood education and care (ECEC)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i><u>Enhancing skills of ECEC professionals to improve children' social integration and personal development</u></i> • <i><u>Improving collaboration of schools with <u>parents</u></u></i> • <i><u>Early detection of behaviour and emotional problems, with appropriate <u>intervention</u> overcome aggressive and self-destructive behaviours</u></i> <p><i>PRIORITY 3 - <u>Reducing disparities in learning outcomes affecting disadvantaged learners</u></i></p>

	<p>3. A new form of YOUTH Theatre that is really inclusive</p> <p>4. A space to learn, train build skills and gain confidence to enter the job market or education</p> <p>5. A meetings space; Such groups as The Community Voice Youth Forum , perhaps a new space that was welcoming to young GBLT people , young people with mental health concerns</p> <p>a space that is welcoming to all</p>
CEF Requested	Yes to develop activity - no amount specified
CAST Recommendations	Do they need a lease in order to secure/lever in funding to support any room configurations? Yes this is likely but this will be determined by consultation carried out with their service users.
VSLSG Recommendations	Progress to Business Plan with continued support from RCT Together to support and strengthen group's development.

Organisation	Interlink (EOI 22)
Asset or Service	Community Building in the Porth Area
Background	<p>The aim of the proposal is to promote wellbeing through developing a Wellbeing Centre to act as a community hub to include therapeutic interventions, the arts, social activities and enterprise. Interlink RCT is helping to coordinate in a newly established consortium currently consisting of third sector organisations in the Cwm Taff area. We are unable to confirm a full list of services until we have fully involved the local community, as the services need to meet the desires and aspirations of local people and not duplicate other local services. We are interested in a long-term lease on a <i>community building in the Porth area</i> as it is an ideal location to act as a central hub within the community with good transport links and could potentially integrate with services provided at Porth Plaza and other local facilities.</p> <p>The facility aims to respond to on extensive research project – the MENTAL HEALTH EARLY INTERVENTION FEASIBILITY STUDY (by the Welsh Institute of Health and Social Care) on behalf of Interlink and Cwm Taf UHB, December 2013, funded through a Wellbeing Bond. This identified a wide range of interventions that should be accessible to Valleys communities to address wellbeing.</p> <p>We recently completed a study 'Isolation to Integration' into tackling loneliness and isolation based on listening to the experiences of older people.</p> <p>We aim to secure advice from the local authority or independent building surveyor in terms of any required internal or external building repairs required. We would expect to build the services with volunteers and local organisations, and therefore would expect to be able to quickly move into the premises if an agreement could be reached and lease approved by RCTCBC.</p>

	<p>The proposal supports the focus on developing inclusive services for the local community to build confidence, support social interaction, improve wellbeing and tackle loneliness and isolation for adults and older people.</p> <p>The Wellbeing Center will provide social activities, adult learning, classes, workshops, training and trading to promote confidence building, volunteering and local jobs. The Wellbeing Centre will create a social space for the whole community, offering a welcoming environment for people to come together, learn and connect together and improve people's sense of wellbeing. We work closely with local people and organisations to ensure the building will have a sense of ownership and be involved in the development of services and management of the facility. We would secure funding from a range of grant giving organisations to develop the facility in the future as well as generate income from the activities themselves. We will develop a robust and financially sustainable service that meets the current and future needs of the community.</p> <p>The proposal aligns with Welsh Government policies such as 'Together for Mental Health', and '5 Ways to Wellbeing'; the Future Generations Bill and Social Services and Wellbeing Act.'</p>
CEF Requested	<p>Yes £10,000 - feasibility study</p> <p>We would need some advice from relevant professionals but we would require;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An up to date report on the state of the building and any required repairs and improvements • Funding to complete the identified repairs and improvements • Funding to cover legal fees in terms of the lease
CAST Recommendations	To progress to Business Plan Stage
VSLSG Recommendations	<p>VSLSG advise need to look at spec on feasibility study required in order to support the development of the Business Plan.</p> <p>Advice to look at other live EOI's who may want to share space under Health & Wellbeing agenda</p>

Organisation	Dark Skies Wales (EOI 64)
Asset or Service	Land at Maerdy Colliery Site
Background	Dark Skies Wales proposal to develop UK's largest planetarium to be known as the National Planetarium of Wales - Castell Nos at a site located in the Rhondda Fach on the former Maerdy Colliery Site.

	<p>The planetarium will be a brand new visitor attraction for the area, capable of seating over 350 people. The facility will become the largest in the UK and one of the largest in the world. Furthermore, the facility will host its own observatory allowing live images to be broadcast directly to the planetarium. It will house a purpose built suite of teaching rooms dedicated to the advancement of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects. It will aim to become a centre for excellence in the teaching of STEM subjects whilst offering the public the opportunity to experience STEM in action.</p> <p>The location of the planetarium will boost the local and national economy through the regeneration of a former colliery site into a world leading tourist attraction. The development will transform the now derelict Maerdy colliery site and introduce 64 skilled jobs to one of Europe's most deprived areas. It is intended that the National Planetarium of Wales - Castell Nos will be financed from the private sector, with a mixture of equity and debt finance, together with grant aid support from the Welsh Government where available. This reflects the status of the Rhondda Valleys as an agreed assisted area. It will be run as a profit making social enterprise and will provide a good return on investments to its investors. It will also create an important new addition to the tourism and leisure product offered to visitors in Wales with strong educational links.</p>
CEF Requested	<p>£10,000 for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sketches of facility • Feasibility Study • Support managers role
CAST Recommendations	<p>Panel felt the EOI proposal was both ambitious and aspirational.</p> <p>Concerns were raised regarding their ability to manage their existing Community Economic Development Grant which has £3k outstanding owed to the Council.</p> <p>To progress to Business Plan Stage, the Panel advises that the outstanding sum must be reimbursed to the authority or (subject to appeal) the position rectified.</p> <p>From the perspective of a fully developed Business Plan to enable the proposals to be progressed a comprehensive Feasibility Study on every facet of the project proposals will be necessary. It is anticipated that the organisation will shortly be submitting a CEF application to support the cost of the study.</p>
VSLSG Recommendations	<p>VSLSG advise existing Community Economic Development Grant issue to be resolved. Group need to demonstrate and strengthen governance. May need to partner up with other more robust organisations. Arrange a follow up meeting</p>

Organisation	Friends of Penyreglyn Primary (EOI 66)
Asset or Service	Baglan Playing Fields
Background	<p>We wish to bring the Baglan playing field and changing room facilities into the school. To enhance PE and enhance what the space can provide the School and wider Community.</p> <p>It will reduce costs in maintenance for the Council at a time of huge budget cuts. And will allow us as a school full use of the area and facilities. Also we can with the option to look at resurfacing the area (artificial-3g) which will allow both full use for the School and wider Community Organisations and local Rugby & Football teams. This will enhance what we can offer our children in recreation as a part of PE within the national curriculum which encourages a Healthy lifestyle by activity in sport of all types.</p>
CEF Requested	Not at this time
CAST Recommendations	<p>Progress to Business Plan Stage but to provide a steer they need to engage with existing users and have a balanced delivery programme.</p> <p>The group need to be clear how they will manage and maintain the facilities.</p>
VSLSG Recommendations	Defer until Treherbert Community Education Centre proposal has been delivered. Advise to arrange a follow up meeting with Interlink and Partners

Organisation	Age Connects Morgannwg (EOI 73)
Asset or Service	Community Building in the Cynon Valley
Background	<p>We would like to explore the potential of using a community building in the Cynon Valley as our operating base for core services and to develop our social enterprise activities such as nail-cutting, healthy living and a dementia friendly community café. The lease on our current premises comes to and end in May 2018 so we are beginning the process of exploring alternative premises that fulfil our strategic aspirations.</p> <p>We believe that a <i>community building in the Cynon Valley</i> offers us an opportunity to involve new partners in the sustainable delivery of our aims and objectives. We believe we could offer work based training, learning, development and employment opportunities to people of all ages and abilities via our social enterprise activities and volunteering programme. We believe that by working with local schools, colleges and like-minded organisations we can transform a <i>suitable community building</i> into a thriving hub that promotes intergenerational learning and opportunity for all.</p>
CEF Requested	No
CAST Recommendations	To progress to Business Plan Stage.

VSLSG Recommendations	Advice to progress to Business Plan. Advice for RCT Together team to look at connecting the other EOI's with this proposal for greater maximisation of buildings and sustainability.
Organisation	Friends of Maerdy Woodland (EOI 74)
Asset or Service	An area of land adjacent to the former Maerdy Colliery Site
Background	<p>We would like to involve the community in the development of an area that has remained barren over the last 30 years, or so. For this to happen, we would love to convert a specific area into a venue whereby we would put on live music, outdoor and educational visits, open air cinema, arts and craft workshops, boot sales, fetes, seasonal events, etc. We will try to deliver an idea that has the potential to flourish long into the future; a low maintenance area with full disabled access and plenty of appeal. We would also wish to liase on a feasibility study with R.C.T on a footpath/cycle way linking to Treherbert and the Dare Valley Country Park. Also, we wish to interpret the environment with environmental art, signage and walking maps (guided walks). We are open to proposals from all bodies, especially health related and crime prevention activities. Finally we seek to work flexibly with other businesses in this area to create a site of excellence in social and environmental integration with the business community.</p> <p>We believe that something new is definitely needed within our community. To have the opportunity to landscape the surrounding area, reopen green spaces and footpaths, add polytunnels, plant and replant saplings with a multitude of broadleaf trees, create a refreshments area, tempt tourists and visitors, maintain rivers and heritage, and basically open up the area to everybody. Ultimately, we have it in mind to link-up The Taff Trail with Treherbert Woodland Group, Treorchy, and with the Rhondda Heritage Tunnel in Blaencwm. From our connection with The Taff Trail, we would definitely create exceptional viewing points and platforms to boast the natural beauty and aesthetics of the surrounding areas. Cycling, bird watching, baby walks, hiking, geo-tagging, guided walks, disabled access, wash areas and lavatories, refreshment areas, recycling bins, shelters and nature walks would be part of our focus.</p>
CEF Requested	Yes £10,000 - Most of the funding in the first year would be concentrated on the main venue. We would have to consider hardcore materials (cobble and chippings) for drainage to be the bulk of our funding, but would also require funding for footpaths improvements, parking, gates, fences and landscaping. In our favour, the drainage all around that area is excellent. This is primarily because of a massive drainage system that was created in the 1970's. Any inspection of this would be welcome. It is felt that the area we have in mind for our venue could comfortably accommodate 500 people, and far more if we are permitted to extend our project.
CAST Recommendations	To progress to Business Plan Stage

VSLSG Recommendations	Progress to Business Plan. Advices to link with Welcome to Our Woods Group around governance structures.

Organisation	Treherbert Paddling Pool Group (EOI 75)
Asset or Service	
Background	<p>To take over the management of the paddling pool in Treherbert Park and to utilise the land for community purposes when the pool is closed.</p> <p>It will bring a valuable resource back into use. It will offer volunteering opportunities and provide a focal point for the community. As a group we expect that opening the pool will reduce anti social behaviour and support community cohesion.</p> <p>It is intended to establish a Charitable Incorporated Body to run the paddling pool which will be made up of the resident of Treherbert Ward.</p>
CEF Requested	Yes - To help with the costs to establish the project including training costs for the volunteers.
CAST Recommendations	To progress to Business Plan Stage
VSLSG Recommendations	Agree to progress to Business Plan

Organisation	Ferndale Grassroots (EOI 76)
Asset or Service	Pavilion at Darran Park, Ferndale
Background	<p>As part of our community plan, we would like to develop one of the underused buildings in the local park, (Darran Park) and maximise community usage. There are several options we would like to explore to increase the use, including a small cafe/refreshment area during the summer months, and a child care provision during school time. Part of this proposal would be to ensure that any existing groups that currently use the pavilion, would be able to continue to do so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As outlined in the new SSWB Act, there is an emphasis on communities delivering their own services and if the pavilion was an available space, Grassroots would attempt to make a community hub to build a stronger community. • The surroundings of the park, would provide the perfect environment for health and well being groups, and could link with Community first plans in terms of Healthy Communities. • Although managed by Grassroots, the options highlighted in this document would require a staffed resource. This would mean employment and training opportunities for local people.
CEF Requested	Yes for Feasibility Study and Start Up Costs
CAST	There does not appear to be the demand for this proposal in this area

Recommendations	<p>according to the latest Childcare Sufficiency Audit.</p> <p>May be more economical to bus children to local childcare provision with capacity.</p> <p>Need more detail of proposal via Business Plan</p>
VSLSG Recommendations	Agree to progress to Business Plan

NB. Where possible RCT Council will favour complementary and collaborative proposals which demonstrate maximising the use and sustainability of community assets and services.

Groups will be advised in writing if their Expressions of Interest can be progressed (or not) to the Business Plan Stage.

APPENDIX B**COMMUNITY ENABLING FUND****APPROVED PROJECTS**

Ref	Organisation	Grant Approved
1	Muni Arts Centre	10,000

APPLICATIONS SEEKING APPROVAL THIS MONTH

Organisation	Valleys Kids (CEF 2)
Background	Currently have a 6 month licence in which to raise funds to purchase Penygraig Library. Aim to retain the building as a community resource with the ground floor offering a book lending service, computer suite, work, school placement and volunteering opportunities as well as community shop. A later phase will include adaptation of the upper floor to provide a childcare resource which will support local community engagement.
Total Project Cost	£158,800 for 3 phased programme including purchase price
CEF Request	Require £10,000 from Community Enabling Fund to support Phase 1 set up costs including internal refurbishment, alarm installation, solicitors fees, internet connectivity, IT equipment and volunteer training.
Match Funding	Secured £20,000 from Rhondda Trust and has applied to Jayne Hodge Foundation, Tudor Trust and Garfield Western Funders
CEF Recommended	£10,000
Comments	CAST Panel support proposal VSLSG agree to support proposal

Organisation	Friends of Ferndale (CEF 3)
Background	Taken on management of Maerdy Library and aim to develop the building into a community learning and resource centre. The Centre has reopened and will provide learning and health/wellbeing opportunities, book lending service, access to IT and internet, support with accessing employment and training opportunities, after-school clubs advice services, community events and meeting space. The Friends have employed a Community Development Worker who is based at the Centre.
Total Project Cost	£11467.84 (incl vat)
CEF Request	Initial ICT set up costs and furniture for reception area.
Match Funding	Applied to Rural development Grant and Wind Farm
CEF Recommended	£10,000

Comments	CAST Panel support proposal VSLSG - Agree to request
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Organisation	Treherbert Regeneration Ltd (CEF 4)
Background	Aim to reopen former Treherbert Community Education Centre as a community hub offering youth provision, internet cafe, charity shop, meeting and training facilities. The basement of the building is occupied solely by Cylch Meithrin Tynewydd.
Total Project Cost	£3001.25
CEF Request	£3001.25
Match Funding	None identified. Meeting scheduled with RCT Regeneration Team and Interlink on 10 th November to support re: funding. Matchfunding now being sought for capital refurbishments which will be currently
CEF Recommended	£3001.25 (to cover £1751.25 1 st years insurance and £1500 legal fees)
Comments	<p>A revised application has now been received which has reduced the original request for funding by £7000 which has eliminated the funding required for some of the proposed capital works. These will now be sought via a combination of matchfunding through the Welsh Church Act.</p> <p>This will allow the group time to further develop their Business Plan and pilot a delivery programme providing updated evidence.</p> <p>Their main priority is to sign the lease and secure the insurance and legal fees to enable them to do this and start occupying the building and delivering services.</p> <p>Received 16.11.15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Income and Expenditure Projections • 2 x Quotes now received for insurance • Explanation and Overview of changes to original explanation • • VSLSG - Approve request subject to details provided on governance structure, updated Business Plan, evidence of engagement with Zoe Lancelott in Youth Engagement and Participation Service, and evidence of agreed costed programme of delivery programme.

Organisation	Camau Cyntaf i Ddysgu - 1st Steps to Learning (CEF 5)
Background	To develop and reconfigure the upper floor of the Leisure Centre to enable the development of a much needed Childcare Facility in Llantwit Fadre area to cope with the numbers of children currently on waiting list.
Total Project Cost	£24,150
CEF Request	£10,000 Contribution towards architect, surveyor and design costs to assess potential of Phase 2 development
Match Funding	£15,000 from own funds
CEF Recommended	£5465 for preparation of tender
Comments	<p>CAST Panel agreed to fund the lower of the two quotes for services less the cost of the project management fees.</p> <p>There is identified demand for childcare in this area especially via the Welsh Language. Currently run 7 other Flying Start childcare contracts well.</p> <p>Need to evidence they are building synergy with partners and what their level of involvement</p> <p>Want to see the detail of the landscape to be taken as part of the 1st floor extension. What external space do they need?</p> <p>What are the potential cost implications for the council in remodelling and reconfiguring the existing gym to the ground floor.</p> <p>VSLSG - Yes recommend full amount.</p>

Organisation	Arts Factory Ltd (CEF 6)
Background	Arts Factory propose employing an additional member of staff to increase our capacity to take on additional contracts – in particular an additional Service Level Agreement with the Council to provide opportunities for individuals with learning disabilities.
Total Project Cost	£10,000
CEF Request	£10,000 required for staffing costs. NB. Advice is to award £4k only as the 40% Match towards an Enterprise Support Fund application. Enterprise Fund Application form has already been sent to Arts Factory
Match Funding	None required
CEF Recommended	See comments below
Comments	<p>Query whether the Enabling Fund is the most appropriate funding route.</p> <p>VSLSG - They support the need for funding but do not feel the</p>

	<p>Enabling Fund is the appropriate funding route.</p> <p>Advice is to continue further engagement with group on development of Enterprise Support Fund application.</p>
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Organisation	Too Good To Waste (CEF 7)
Background	To extend services into the Rhondda Fawr through the redevelopment of the former Treorchy Community Education Centre (purchased in September 2015). Aim to develop the building into a showroom for the charity to assist with income generation, creating of workshops providing training and employment opportunities.
Total Project Cost	£12,060 (£10,050 net of VAT)
CEF Request	£9,450 Professional fees to produce a fully costed budget for the proposed building works for re-development of former Treorchy Community Education Centre.
Match Funding	£600 from own funds
CEF Recommended	£9,450
Comments	<p>CAST Panel felt the Business Plan and supporting information was very detailed and comprehensive and all information requested was provided.</p> <p>VSLSG - Yes recommend full request</p>

Organisation	Beddau & Tynant Community Library (CEF 8)
Background	<p>The organisation has taken on responsibility for the management and running of the Beddau and Tynant Library building. The Library provides a book lending service as well as educational and training opportunities for the local community.</p> <p>A recent energy survey was undertaken advising them to upgrade the current heating system, change light bulbs and fit a room divider to enable zoning of heating system to reduce running costs.</p>
Total Project Cost	<p>Three quotes have been received:</p> <p>£4160 from Energyfish for boiler and 5 radiators and fix of flue issues £4650 from mark Stone for boiler and 10 radiators</p>

	£4912 from Helplink for boiler and 9 radiators
CEF Request	Installation of an energy efficient boiler and radiator system.
Match Funding	Not identified.
CEF Recommended	Advice is to proceed with £4160 quote from Energyfish
Comments	<p>CAST Panel advise a 50% match should be sought from Welsh Church Act to reduce demand from Enabling Fund.</p> <p>VSLSG - Yes to request for full amount but to explore drawing down WCA Fund if in appropriate timescale.</p>

Organisation	Cynon Valley Museum Trust (CEF 9)
Background	<p>The Trust is in the process of transition of the Cynon Valley Museum and Gallery from RCT CBC. The aim will be to work closely with other organisations to provide a range of music and art exhibitions and activities, provide space for community services (including afterschool activities), provide learning, volunteering and employment opportunities as well as community cafe.</p> <p>They aim to have close engagement with the local community and organisations in Rhonda Cynon Taf by providing various benefits as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased community awareness of their local history, cultural heritage and arts in the Cynon valley. • Maximise the use of the venue for community services, including breakfast networking, afterschool activities and also education projects for all ages. • A range of music and art exhibitions and activities will be put on each year with a wide range of local crafts in the display area. Local artists will be able to display and sell their work. • There will be a café where all people of the community can meet informally and the area can be hired out as required. • Provide employment and volunteering opportunities for the local community, encouraging people to engage with others in the community. • Offer opportunities for learning across all age levels (including the welsh language) and promote intergenerational activities.
Total Project Cost	£10,000

CEF Request	£10,000 <i>Appointment of a Transition Consultant for 4 months to support the organisation with taking the Museum through the final transition phase so it can be fully opened to the public.</i>
Match Funding	Heritage Lottery Funding application drafted and being submitted by end of November 2015 for £50k per annum to cover running costs and a Museum Development Manager. HLF application dependent on securing appropriate match funding.
CEF Recommended	£10,000
Comments	Panel support proposal 1) as a match for Heritage Lottery Fund application which will enable them to secure £50k per annum for 2 years to secure a Museum Development Manager 2) to provide the transition support they need to develop a funding and marketing strategies and their governance arrangements. VSLSG - Agree with conditions 1) clear demonstration of governance and an open and transparent approach 2) need to develop core business partners

COMMUNITY ENABLING FUND APPLICATIONS PENDING

Organisation	Estimated CEF Request	Status
Aberdare Cricket Club	10,000	In development
Interlink	10,000	In development
Autism Life Centre	10,000	In development
Spectacle Theatre	10,000	Identified CEF request as part of EOI process
Dark Skies Wales	10,000	
Blaenllechau Community Involvement Group	To be confirmed	
Friends of Maerdy Woodland	10,000	
Treherbert Paddling Pool Group	To be confirmed	
Ferndale Grassroots	To be confirmed	