

**Re:** Area Committee Grants

**To:** Severnside Area Committee

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017

**From:** Cath Fallon, Head of Economy and Innovation

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In response to an information request by Cllr Evans regarding the Area Committee Grants I wish to provide the following statement.

Further to a review of Community Governance in March 2017 Council agreed to pilot a review of Area Committees in Bryn y Cwm. To guide the delivery of the pilot a number of parameters were set which were subsequently agreed at the Bryn y Cwm Area Forum on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017 namely:

- To take forward the agreement to disband the Programme Board and the Community Forum, with the Area Committee to be retained as the sole structure;
- To act as the Area Cluster representative forum for the Bryn y Cwm Area thus reducing any potential for duplication;
- To extend an invitation to include a single representative from each of the Town and Community Councils in the proposed pilot area with each representative having voting rights during the pilot. Also an open invitation to be extended to other Area Committees during the pilot phase.

The pilot will take place over a twelve month period starting in September 2017 after which its success will be measured using the following proposed indicators:

- No. of issues raised by the public appearing as an agenda item and the resulting outcomes;
- No. of recommendations reported to the Authority by a County Councillor on behalf of the Committee; and
- No. of representatives attending regularly from other Area Committees.

In addition, the Bryn Y Cwm Area Committee agreed to take part in a review exercise during the twelve month period. The exercise will include a consultation in relation to the strategic coordination of Area Committee Grant funding, to be distributed equally amongst the five Cluster Areas. It is proposed that funding will be allocated on an annual basis, subject to evidence of how it addresses local needs and priorities, maximises opportunities and impact e.g. use as match funding and attributes to the county's wellbeing objectives.

Further to the pilot on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017 Cabinet approved the restructuring of the Whole Place and Partnerships team to create a newly focussed Community Development and Partnerships Team. Therefore given the Bryn y Cwm pilot and the recent restructure approval, all Area Committee Grants will be suspended, pending the development of new criteria in line with the associated outcomes.

A further statement will be provided once the findings of the pilot have been reviewed.