



## RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

**SUBJECT:** Older Person's Grant Fund - Revised Budget Implementation Arrangements

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

To advise Members on the current operation of the Older Person's Fund and seek approval of changes for the use of the budget to ensure a greater positive impact for older people and communities in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

### **DELEGATED DECISION (Date):**

That the Older Person's Grant Fund be transferred from Regeneration and Planning to the Public Health and Protection Department for 2016/17.

That the Older Person's Grant be available for projects that support the objectives of the Joint Commissioning Statement for Older People and which promote the health and well being of older persons.

  
**Chief Officer Signature**

C. SINGARINI  
**Print Name**

12/04/16  
**Date**

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution



Michael Dorey

**CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE**

11/04/16

**DATE**

[Signature]

**OFFICER CONSULTEE SIGNATURE**

11/04/16.

**DATE**

Directorate:	Community and Children's Services
Contact Name:	Louise Davies
Designation:	Head of Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Community Safety
Tel.No.	01443 425385



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015/16**

**REPORT TO ACCOMPANY DECISION OF  
GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**Part 1**  
**(Non-Confidential)**

**Older Person's Grant Fund –  
Revised Budget Implementation  
Arrangements**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended Officer decision of the Group Director, Community and Children's Services as described below.
- 1.2 The purpose of the report is to update Members on the current operation of the Older Person's Fund and seek approval of changes for the use of the budget to ensure a greater positive impact for older people and communities in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that

- 2.1 The Older Person's Grant Fund be transferred from Regeneration and Planning to the Public Health and Protection Department for 2016/17.
- 2.2 The Older Person's Grant be available for projects that support the objectives of the Joint Commissioning Statement for Older People and which promote the health and well being of older persons.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Older Person's Grant Fund is available to constituted Older Person's groups operating in Rhondda Cynon Taf. It provides small scale financial support to organisations whose main aim is to provide people, solely over the age of 50, with social opportunities and/or support and help.
- 3.2 The Fund has been administered by Regeneration and Planning since 2001/02 and the budget is currently £20,000 per year. This is a recharge across all Service areas and does not form part of Regeneration and Planning's core revenue budget.



- 3.3 Currently the Fund can be used for the following purposes:
- Costs associated with group activities such as coach trips, Christmas dinners and classes;
  - Small items of equipment; and
  - Other purposes beneficial to the group.
- 3.4 There is no lower or upper grant limit but it is intended to be a minor grant reflective of the group's level of membership. The Fund is operated on the basis of an annual bidding round which is usually held during May, and the budget is allocated on an agreed methodology which establishes an amount per head. Where application requests exceed this nominal amount, any subsequent grant award is capped.
- 3.5 In 2015/16 the Fund has provided financial support to 63 organisations.

#### **4. PROPOSED CHANGES**

- 4.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council and Cwm Taf University Health Board have agreed a Joint Commissioning Statement for Older People's Services (2015-2025). The Statement outlines the commitment to ensure seamless and integrated health and social care services for the older population and describes the approach that will be taken to meet responsibilities under the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014.
- 4.2 In light of this Statement, discussions have taken place between Regeneration and Planning and Community & Children's Services (Public Health) concerning a more targeted focus for the use of the £20,000 budget from 2016/17 onwards.
- 4.3 It is proposed that the resources now be used by Community and Children's Services to encourage innovative projects, in particular combating loneliness and isolation, enabling older people to live independently in their homes and assist people to live a healthier lifestyle.
- 4.4 In practice this would be best achieved by enabling existing older people groups to apply for small sums of money (a maximum of £1,000 per project) that meet a set of criteria.
- 4.5 A small committee will be set up to set the criteria. This will consist of the Strategy for Older People Co-ordinator, the Older People's Champion and the Chair of OPAG (the Older People's Advisory Group). Criteria for eligibility will focus on Health and Wellbeing. Examples of projects that could be successful are promotion of self management skills to maintain independence. Although it would not specifically target Christmas dinners as per the existing scheme, part of





the criteria for use of the money would include the potential to support more sustainable luncheon clubs.

- 4.6 This fund will compliment the ICF funding from Welsh Government which is aimed at supporting grass roots level activity that supports the more vulnerable older people in our communities. However, the fund will continue to be managed directly by Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC. Applications and distribution of the funds will be handled by the Public Health & Protection Department under the direction of the Older Persons Strategy Co-ordinator.
- 4.7 In summary, the proposed change to the budget will add value to the Health and Wellbeing work being undertaken in Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 4.8 Regeneration and Planning will need to inform all the organisations currently in receipt of support from the Older Person's Fund that the Fund will no longer be available in its current format. The Older Persons Strategy Co-ordinator will then work actively with groups to access the Older Person's Fund, supporting projects that help achieve the objectives of the Joint Commissioning Statement and promote well being.

