



VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUB-COMMITTEE - 20TH MARCH 2013

SUBJECT: VOLUNTARY SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES QUESTION ON ADVANCE PAYMENTS

Where possible, to help organisations who show a need for funding in advance, can it be agreed for organisations that prove a need, to be paid in advance?

Response

Caerphilly County Borough Council is unable to provide loans or advance payments as such payments contravene the financial regulations of the Council. However, the Council is open to working with the Voluntary Sector to make small cash sums of money go further, and used to reap optimal benefits, as long as this is within the current financial regulations and constitution. For example the Council is exploring with their own bank, *The Co-operative Bank*, to see if the Bank can offer better banking deals to voluntary organisations. However this may be dependent on voluntary organisations having a good track financial record, and may exclude new organisations. The Council is willing to make interim grant payments to voluntary organisations following the satisfactory completion of specific areas of work (excluding European funding), say for example once a £500 component has been delivered, an interim payment of £500 could be made on what could be a larger project i.e. a project for £5k where an organisation has just £500 of available cash may work with 10 stage payments, if the contractor selected by the organisation can be flexible and raise 10 invoices at 10 stages of the project. Officers should be approached for their advice so that they can give an opinion on a project by project basis.

Corporate Finance