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(Tel: 01443 864210 Email: evansca1@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Date: 26th February 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel** will be held in the **Sirhowy Room - Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Wednesday, 4th March, 2020** at **5.00 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

All Committee meetings are open to the Press and Public, observers and participants are asked to conduct themselves with respect and consideration for others. Please note that failure to do so will result in you being asked to leave the meetings and you may be escorted from the premises.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chrissy'.

Christina Harrhy
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

	Pages
1 To receive apologies for absence.	
2 Declarations of Interest.	

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Correspondence may be in any language or format | Gallwch ohebu mewn unrhyw iaith neu fformat



Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

To receive and note the following minutes:-

3 Grants to the Voluntary Sector held on 19th December 2019.

1 - 6

To receive and consider the following report(s) from the Head of Corporate Finance & Section 151 Officer: -

4 Applications for Financial Assistance.

7 - 36

Circulation:

Councillors C. Andrews, M. Davies, A. Farina-Childs, A. Gair, R.W. Gough (Vice Chair), D.T. Hardacre, A.G. Higgs, L. Jeremiah, Mrs A. Leonard, Mrs G.D. Oliver (Chair), D.W.R. Preece, J.E. Roberts, R. Saralis, J. Taylor and A. Whitcombe

And Appropriate Officers

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GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH
ON THURSDAY, 19TH DECEMBER 2019 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor R. Gough – Chair (Presiding)

Councillors:

Mrs C. Andrews, M. Davies, A. Farina-Childs, J. Roberts, R. Saralis and A. Whitcombe.

Together with:

S. Harris (Interim Head of Corporate Finance), V. Doyle (Policy Officer) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Ms A. Gair, D. Haradacre, A. Higgs, L. Jeremiah, Mrs G.D. Oliver (Chair), D.W.R. Preece and J. Taylor.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

3. MINUTES – 24TH JULY 2019

The minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 24th July 2019 (minute nos. 1 – 6) were received and approved as a correct record.

4. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The report informed the Panel of the applications for financial assistance received between 1st June 2019 and 30th September 2019.

The report advised the Panel of the budget allocations for both the Voluntary Sector budget and the Welsh Church Acts Fund and provided details of applications received between 1st June and 30th September 2019.

Members noted the budget available for 2019-20 is £141,159.38, which included the estimated reduction for Discretionary Rate Relief (£171,430.61) and budget carried forward from 2018-2019 (£128,952.99). The Panel noted that the available balance for schemes is £133,699.38, which includes the carry forward balances.

It was noted that since the last meeting, a total of 17 new applications were received totalling £2,790.00. These applications were awarded to applicants by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers.

The Panel were asked to reconsider an application, which was presented at the last meeting from Cambrian Educational Foundation for Deaf Children, with a grant amount being unspecified and further information was to be sought. Since the last meeting, the applicant has responded and outlined that in previous years an award was granted for £200 and there had been no applicants from Caerphilly County Borough, however, in June 2019 an award of £499 for a laptop for an individual residing in Caerphilly was awarded. Following consideration and discussion, the Panel unanimously agreed to award £200 to Cambrian Educational Foundation for Deaf Children.

The Panel were asked to consider 1 application received between 1st June and 30th September 2019, which does not meet the General Criteria, as outlined at Appendix 1 of the report, and make appropriate recommendations to the Head of Corporate Finance for approval.

The Panel discussed the merits of the application as set out in 5.1.6 of the report, which had not met the criteria as set out in Appendix 1 of the report:

(a) Cefn Hengoed Ladies Choir £5,000

The Panel discussed the application from Cefn Hengoed Ladies Choir which would support the applicants to sing in the Carnegie Hall in New York in June 2020. The Panel noted that the application requested support of £5,000. Members discussed the application at length and agreed that, as this was an exceptional achievement on behalf of the choir, and subject to securing additional funding from elsewhere, the Panel would award £1,500 to the Choir. This was it was unanimously agreed.

As previously agreed by the Panel, grants awarded during the 2019-20 financial year that exceed the budget allocation will be funded from the brought forward balances.

The Panel were referred to paragraph 5.2 within the report, referring to the Welsh Church Act Fund and it was noted that the budget available totals £173,163.61 including the annual allocation from Monmouthshire County Council (£64,751), underspends from previous years (£108,232.86) and amounts re-absorbed back into the funding pot from completed projects where the amount spent is less than originally allocated (£179.75).

However, between 1st June 2019 and 30st September 2019, a total of 5 applications were received totalling £26,427.99, which were approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers and reported to the Panel for information, as outlined in 5.2.2 of the report.

The Panel were asked to note that the award to the Aber Valley Communities Partnership for £10,000 was granted as a result of the application being originally submitted in the 2018/19 financial year when the upper limit for grants was £10,000. Members noted that had the award been limited to the current maximum grant this would have been detrimental to the organisation.

Members were asked to note that, since the publication of the report it was noted that Appendix 2 contained some personal information of the applicant and as such the report has been removed from the website and relevant steps are being undertaken to comply with Data Protection and Data Breach, and a process has been put in place to ensure future reports presented to the Panel of this nature are made exempt to protect personal information of applicants.

The Panel considered the application which was received between 1st June and 31st October 2019 from an individual to provide funding for a desk top computer and relevant computer software and clothing to take part in completion of university study and work placements as

part of the training.

The Panel discussed the report and application at length and in taking all information into account, the Panel felt that the application did not meet the criteria previously agreed for 'the advancement of education' and therefore were not able to support the application.

Following consideration and discussion, the Panel agreed that the application did not meet the relevant criteria and it was moved and seconded that the grant be rejected. By a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officers report:-

- i) that Panel recommended that the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers approve the requests for Financial Assistance that do not meet the General Criteria, with the amounts agreed at the meeting;
- ii) that applications received that meet the criteria for Financial Assistance and the Welsh Church Acts Fund be noted, which have already been approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers, and which are reported to the Panel for information;
- iii) that a recommendation for rejection be made to the Head of Corporate Finance, for approval under delegated powers, in relation to a request from an individual under the Welsh Church Acts Fund.

5. REVIEW OF CRITERIA GRANTS

The report provided the Panel Members with the opportunity to review the agreed amounts for General Criteria Grant Awards according to the set categories.

The report also requested Members to consider the submission from a local resident and make recommendations as to whether to take account of any suggestions in the revision of the General Criteria.

The Panel were asked to note that at the last meeting of the Panel on 24th July 2019, a discussion took place in relation to the need to review the General Criteria amounts to be awarded for applications submitted by individuals and organisations via the Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget. The last time any amendments were made to the amounts awarded under the different categories was in July 2015.

The Panel were provided with details of the set amounts that can be awarded against the individual categories in a table in 5.2 of the report, and the Panel were requested to make recommendations as to whether the all the General Criteria categories should be maintained moving forward and whether the grant amounts should be increased given that they have remained at the same level since 2015. The recommendations will be reported to Cabinet for approval, with a view to implementing the changes from 1st April 2020. The Panel discussed the criteria at length and in noting that, should any applications be presented that do not comply with the Criteria, these be considered by the Panel. In discussing the amount awarded, the Panel were of a mind to provide a 10% inflationary increase to the designated amounts, which will be reviewed on an annual basis, commencing 1st April 2020.

The Panel were also asked to consider a submission from a local resident which was raised on 26th September 2019 at the meeting of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee and requested that the content be brought to the next meeting of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel. Members noted that the information outlines where the funding for the Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget comes from, who can apply for it, where the money is spent, conclusions and a number of recommendations and the information is provided via Freedom

of Information requests. The Panel were asked to consider the submission from the resident and make recommendations or otherwise for suggested changes, which will be included in the report to Cabinet.

The Panel considered each point of the submitted recommendations:

Improving Publicity for the scheme – The Panel noted that discussions have taken place with Communications to publicise the work and awards of the Grants and unanimously recommended that every opportunity be taken for achievements, as a result of the Grant Awards, to be presented at Council.

Simplifying the application process by making the form easier to fill in and making it available as a word document online – Officers explained that a Word document is available upon request electronically or hard copies, however, it was felt that in order to conduct due diligence and make clear grant criteria, it was not felt appropriate to provide the application form online. Members did however discuss the simplification of the form and it was unanimously agreed that Officers consider streamlining the form to ask only for essential information.

Reducing the number of categories of recipient from the current 27 to 8 – The Panel, having considered this request, felt that it would not be appropriate to reduce the categories at this time.

Reviewing the levels of awards in each category- The Panel, having discussed the allocation amounts, unanimously agreed to increase the awards by 10% and review annually in line with inflation.

Introducing an automatic grant scheme with an annual declaration or changing the scheme to a two-yearly one – The Panel discussed this at length and Officers highlighted that it is imperative that appropriate checks and balances are conducted year on year to ensure that organisations are still in existence and awards are relevant.

Transferring grants to individuals to the Council's 'Sport Caerphilly' section – The recommendation was considered at length, however the Panel felt that this would create unnecessary bureaucracy and additional pressures on services as well as creating additional checks and balances for categories of sport.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be agreed. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officers report:

- i) it be recommended that all the General Criteria grant categories be maintained moving forward and a 10% increase be applied to the amounts, which is to be reviewed annually and awarded from 1 April 2020;
- ii) that, as a result of the submission from a local resident, publicity be improved for the scheme and Officers review and streamline the form to remove any unnecessary information requested in the application process;
- iii) Mr Evans be provided with feedback following consideration of his submission by the Committee.

The meeting closed at 5.46 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2020, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR

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GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 4TH MARCH 2020

SUBJECT: APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION & CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Panel of the applications for financial assistance received between 1st October 2019 and 31st January 2020.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report advises Panel members of the budget allocations for both the Voluntary Sector budget and the Welsh Church Acts Fund and provides details of applications received between 1st October 2019 and 31st January 2020.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Panel members note the applications received that meet the criteria for Financial Assistance and the Welsh Church Acts Fund, which have already been approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers, and which are reported to the Panel for information.
- 3.2 That Panel members make a recommendation for approval or otherwise in relation to a request from an individual under the Welsh Church Acts Fund. This recommendation will then be considered and approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers.
- 3.3 That Panel members note the withdrawal of grants from two organisations as they have exceeded the time limit for spending the grants awarded.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that the applications received under this report are determined in accordance with the Council's scheme of delegation criteria.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR BUDGET

5.1.1 The Panel's budget for 2019-20 is as shown in the table below:

Budget 2019-20	£183,637.00
Less Discretionary Rate Relief (Estimated)	£171,428.22
Remaining Budget	£12,208.78
Carry forward balance from 2018-19	£128,952.99
Total Available Budget 2019-20	£141,161.77
Total 2019-20 Grants awarded previously	£11,950.00
Balance Remaining	£129,211.77

5.1.2 The projected Discretionary Rate Relief for 2019-20 is **£171,428.22**. Allowing for the projected spend on the Discretionary Rate Relief and the amount awarded between 1st April and 30th September 2019 (including the Panel recommendation of an award of £200 to Cambrian Educational Foundation for Deaf Children and £1,500 to Cefn Hengoed Ladies Choir at the December meeting), the available balance for schemes is **£129,211.77**, which includes the carry forward balances.

5.1.3 Between 1st October 2019 and 31st January 2020, 28 new General Criteria awards have been made totalling **£4,600**. These have already been approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers and are reported to the Panel for information only. The awards are summarised in the table below:

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
19/GC052	Oakdale OAP Association	OAP Association without own building	£150
19/GC053	Bedwas Writers' Circle	Writers clubs	£100
19/GC054	St John Cymru (Rhymney Division)	St John Ambulance (up to 50 members)	£100
19/GC055	Helping Hands	Community groups	£100
19/GC056	Sporting individual representing Wales	Snooker	£250
19/GC057	Sporting individual representing Wales	Badminton	£250
19/GC058	Sporting individual representing Wales	Badminton	£250
19/GC059	Sporting individual representing Wales	Snooker	£250
19/GC060	Rhymney Valley Music Club	Community groups	£100
19/GC061	Sporting individual representing Wales	Football	£250
19/GC062	Bargoed Male Voice Choir	Choirs	£100
19/GC063	Sporting individual representing Wales	Taekwondo	£250
19/GC064	Sporting individual representing Wales	Taekwondo	£130
19/GC065	Sporting individual representing Wales	Taekwondo	£130
19/GC066	Sporting individual representing Wales	Swimming, indoor rowing & archery	£250
19/GC067	Valley Daffodils	Community groups	£100
19/GC068	1 st Trinant Brownies	Brownies/Guides (up to 50 members)	£100
19/GC069	1 st Trinant Rainbows	Brownies/Guides (up to 50 members)	£100
19/GC070	Cwm Calon Community Association	Community groups	£100
19/GC071	Sporting individual representing Wales	Athletics	£130
19/GC072	Sporting individual representing Wales	Athletics	£130

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
19/GC073	Sporting individual representing Wales	Snooker	£250
19/GC074	Rhymney Valley Athletics Club	Junior sports club (over 50 members)	£200
19/GC075	Sporting individual representing Wales	Taekwondo	£250
19/GC076	Cefn Hengoed OAP Association	OAP Association without own building	£150
19/GC077	Sporting individual representing Wales	Indoor Bowls	£130
19/GC079	St Martin's Ward OAPs	OAP Association without own building	£150
19/GC080	Caerphilly & District Floral Society	Garden clubs	£150
		Total	£4,600

- 5.1.4 In the period between 1st October 2019 and 31st January 2020, no applications were received that do not meeting the General Criteria as set out in Appendix 1.
- 5.1.5 After the awards detailed in the table above have been taken into account, the amount remaining in the current financial year is **£124,611.77**.
- 5.1.6 As previously agreed by the Panel, grants awarded during the 2019-20 financial year that exceed the budget allocation will be funded from the brought forward balances.

5.2 WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND

- 5.2.1 The total Welsh Church Acts Fund budget available for 2019-20 is **£183,641.74**. This consists of the annual allocation from Monmouthshire County Council (**£64,751.00**), unallocated sums from previous years (**£108,232.86**), underspends on completed projects (**£4,888.04**) and two grants that have been withdrawn through exceeding the time limit to claim (**£5,769.84**).
- 5.2.2 The two approved grants that have been withdrawn due to exceeding the 18-month time limit to claim (as set out in the Terms and Conditions) are Trinity Presbyterian Church, Cefn Fforest (**£4,000**) and Markham Community House & Centre (**£1,769.84**).

Budget 2019-20	£64,751.00
Carry forward balances	£108,232.86
Adjustments within year (underspends)	£4,888.04
Grants withdrawn as exceeded time limit	£5,769.84
Total available budget 2019-20	£183,641.74
Total 2019-20 grants awarded previously	£43,659.39
Balance remaining	£139,982.35

- 5.2.3 Between 1st October 2019 and 31st January 2020 a total of three additional applications have been received totalling **£10,085**. These have already been approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers and are reported to the Panel for information only. The awards are summarised in the table overleaf.

Ref	Name of organisation	Description	Amount awarded
ORG19/WCF011	Glan-y-Nant Allotments	Replacement meeting space/storage container	£2,262
ORG19/WCF012	Caerphilly Male Voice Choir	New piano, hard travel case & PA system	£2,943
ORG19/WCF014	St Mary's and St Andrew's Church, Pentwyn	Repointing of boundary wall & coping stones	£4,880
		Total	£10,085

5.2.4 Between 1st October 2019 and 31st January 2020 one application has been received from an individual for £1,500. A copy of the application is attached at Appendix 2, which it is recommended is treated as exempt from publication and Panel members consider excluding the press and public if Members they wish to discuss Appendix 2 at the meeting. Panel members are asked to consider the application and make a recommendation on whether to support the applicant and if so, the level of grant to be awarded. The recommendation will then be considered and approved as appropriate by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers.

5.2.5 If all grants awarded in 2019-20 but not yet drawn down spend to the maximum amounts allocated, there will be a balance of **£129,897.35** remaining, less any award in relation to 5.2.4 above.

5.3 Conclusion

The report summarises all allocations made under the Grants to the Voluntary Sector and Welsh Church Acts Fund budgets to 31st January 2020 for the 2019-20 financial year. It also asks Panel members to make recommendations in relation to Financial Assistance applications not meeting the General Criteria (if appropriate), and one application received in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund from an individual.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 There are no assumptions as the 2019-20 budgets have been confirmed, together with carried forward underspends from previous years.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

7.1 Corporate Plan 2018-2023

7.1.1 The report supports Objective 5 of the Corporate Plan 2018-2023 – Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

7.1.2 Applications from individuals to the Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget enable them to represent the county borough at a Wales or UK level or abroad, in their chosen sporting field. Taking part in sports will enable these individuals to be physically active and help to ensure that they lead healthy lifestyles.

7.1.3 Voluntary and community sector organisations make an important contribution to public service provision across the county borough. Grants offered to these organisations via the Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget and the Welsh Church Acts Fund will help to ensure that they are able to provide the services required by residents within our local communities. This will ensure that residents are able to look after their own health and well-being.

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 8.1 Voluntary and community sector organisations make an important contribution to public service provision across the county borough and are key participants in the 'Caerphilly We Want' Well-being Plan published on 3rd May 2018 under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Well-being Plan has four priorities – Positive Change, Positive Start, Positive People and Positive Places.
- 8.2 The grants detailed in this report link to several of the Well-Being Goals within the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:
- A prosperous Wales – grants offered to the voluntary and community sector will help these organisations and the buildings they own and manage to become more financially sustainable and help them to provide much needed services to their local communities.
 - A healthier Wales – providing opportunities for residents to receive local services that are suited to their needs will help to improve their physical and mental well-being.
 - A more equal Wales – providing local services in community settings will help to ensure that residents are able to fulfil their own potential, regardless of their background or personal circumstances.
 - A Wales of cohesive communities – community buildings are often at the heart of the local community, which helps to ensure that our communities can thrive and there is a focal point where residents can come together.
 - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language – the activities that are provided by the community and voluntary sector encourage residents to participate in the arts, sports and recreational activities.
- 8.3 The grants also support the five ways of working detailed in the Act as follows:
- Involvement – if residents are involved in activities and receive services in their local community, this will help to ensure that the community continues to thrive in the long term and is able to provide the opportunities and services required by its residents.
 - Collaboration – working together for the good of the community will help to ensure they continue to meet the needs of residents, which will improve community cohesion and encourage resilience to respond to any challenges that may occur.
 - Long term – ensuring that organisations and local buildings are fit for purpose will help to safeguard the services and facilities offered in local communities and help to ensure that they continue into the future.
 - Integration – communities often have a better understanding of what the needs of residents are locally and can work with organisations to help meet those needs.
 - Prevention – encouraging residents and communities to help themselves will ensure that they are able to respond effectively to situations and challenges they may face and help to prevent issues getting worse or starting in the first place.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report so no Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The financial implications are those set out in the report.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no personnel implications.

12. CONSULTATIONS

12.1 There are no consultation responses which have not been reflected in this report.

13. STATUTORY POWER

13.1 Local Government Act 1972 and 2003 and the Council's Financial Regulations.

Author: Vicki Doyle – Policy Officer (doylevm@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Consultees: Stephen Harris – Interim Head of Business Improvement Services & Acting S151 Officer (harrisr@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Andrew Southcombe – Finance Manager (southak@caerphilly.gov.uk)
David Roberts – Principal Group Accountant (roberda@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Huw Jones – Senior Auditor (joneshd@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Kathryn Peters – Corporate Policy Manager (peterk@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Appendices:

Appendix 1 List of General Criteria

Appendix 2 Application from an individual in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund which is exempt from publication as it contains personal and financial information about an individual

Appendix 1 - General Criteria

Category	New Criteria	Value
a	OAP Association with own building	£300
b	OAP Association without own building	£150
c	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales at home	£130
c1	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales Top Up Grant	£120
d	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales abroad	£250
e	Jazz Bands	£100
f	Choirs	£100
g	Junior Sports Club (up to 50 members)	£100
g1	Junior Sports Club (over 50 members)	£200
h	Boys & Girls Clubs/YMCA/Scouts/Cubs/Brownies/Guides/Boys Brigade/Crusaders (up to 50 members)	£100
h1	Boys & Girls Clubs/YMCA/Scouts/Cubs/Brownies/Guides/Boys Brigade/Crusaders (over 50 members)	£200
l	St John Ambulance (up to 50 members):- Cadets/Badgers	£100
j	St John Ambulance (over 50 members):- Cadets/Badgers	£200
m	Brass and Silver Bands	£400
n	Allotments	£100
o	Arts Society	£100
p	Writers Clubs	£100
q	Theatre Groups	£200
r	Community Groups	£100
s	Beekeepers Groups	£100
t	Garden Clubs	£150
u	Tenants & Residents Association	£100
v	Websites - Initial design stage only	£100
w	Pigeon Clubs	£200
x	Clubs run From Churches/Chapels	£200
y	Sports Club (up to 50 members)	£100
z	Sports Club (over 50 members)	£200
aa	Other - up to max	£400

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GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 4TH MARCH 2020

**PUBLIC INTEREST TEST – EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS
SCHEDULE 12A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

SUBJECT: APPENDIX 2 – APPLICATION FROM AN INDIVIDUAL IN RELATION TO THE WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND

REPORT BY: HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

I have considered grounds for exemption of information to be presented to the Committee and make the following recommendations to the Proper Officer:-

EXEMPTIONS APPLYING TO THE REPORT:

Information relating to a particular individual(s) -paragraph 12 Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972.
Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person – paragraph 14

FACTORS IN FAVOUR OF DISCLOSURE:

There is a public interest in the way in which the Council awards its grant funding.

PREJUDICE WHICH WOULD RESULT IF THE INFORMATION WERE DISCLOSED:

The report contains detailed personal and financial information relating to a particular individual.

MY VIEW ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST IS AS FOLLOWS:

That paragraph 12 should apply. My view on the Public Interest Test is that whilst there is a need to ensure transparency and accountability of a Public Authority for decisions taken in relation to the award of grant funding, this must be balanced against the fact that these matters have not yet been concluded and there is a reasonable expectation of an individual that personal and financial information will remain private. It is considered that this outweighs the need for the information to be made public.

The information is not affected by any other statutory provision which required the information to be made publicly available.

On that basis I feel that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Members are asked to consider this factor when determining the public interest test, which they must decide when considering excluding the press and public from the part of the meeting when it considers appendix 2 to the report.

RECOMMENDED DECISION ON EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE:

On that basis I feel that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs that in disclosing the information, and that the report should be exempt.

Signed:  Date: 25/2/20
Post: Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

I accept/~~do not accept~~ recommendation made above.

Signed:  Date: 25/2/20
Proper Officer

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 12, 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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