



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 24TH JULY 2019

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 February and 31st May 2019, and to summarise the total awards made during 2018-19.

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 February and 31st May 2019. It also provides a summary of the number of grants and the total amounts allocated during 2018-19 for both grant schemes.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Panel Members make recommendations for approval or otherwise in relation to the requests for Financial Assistance that do not meet the General Criteria. These recommendations will then be considered and approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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.

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 follows:

Budget 2019-20	£183,637.00
Less Discretionary Rate Relief (Estimated)	£171,430.61
Remaining Budget	£12,206.39
Carry forward balance from 2018-19	£128,952.99
Total Available Budget 2019-20	£141,159.38
Total 2019-20 Grants awarded to date	£0.00
Balance Remaining	£141,159.38

5.1.2 The projected Discretionary Rate Relief for 2019-20 is **£171,430.61**. Allowing for the projected spend on the Discretionary Rate Relief, the available balance for schemes is **£141,159.38**, which includes the carry forward balances.

5.1.3 At the previous Panel meeting in March 2019, Panel members were informed of awards approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers in respect of General Criteria awards. The Panel also agreed to recommend Panel awards totalling **£250.00**, which were subsequently approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers.

5.1.4 Between 1st February and 31st March 2019 a further 16 applications were received totalling **£2,180.00**. These are summarised in the table below:

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
18/GC079	Sporting individual – Football	Representing Wales abroad	£250
18/GC080	Sporting individual – Gymnastics	Representing Wales abroad	£250
18/GC081	Sporting individual – Lawn bowls	Representing Wales at home	£130
18/GC082	Sporting individual - Bowls	Representing Wales at home	£130
18/GC083	Valley Daffodils	Community group	£100
18/GC084	Budokan	Sports club (up to 50 members)	£100
18/GC085	Home Start Caerphilly Borough	Community group	£100
18/GC086	Bargoed and District Art Society	Arts society	£100
18/GC087	Oakdale & Penmaen Community P'shp	Community group	£100
18/GC088	Croeso Club	Community group	£100
18/GC089	Cefn Hengoed OAP Association	OAP association without own building	£150
18/GC090	Ystrad Mynach Male Choir	Choirs	£100
18/GC091	Time For Us	Community group	£100
18/GC092	Sporting individual – Shooting	Representing Wales abroad	£250
18/GC093	Sporting individual – Table tennis	Representing Wales top-up grant	£120
18/GC094	Rhymney Fitness Association	Community groups	£100

5.1.5 There were no applications for Panel awards received between 1st February and 31st March 2019. Therefore, during 2018-19 a total of 94 General Criteria awards and four Panel awards were made, with a total value of **£17,510.00**. This means that at the end of the 2018-19 financial year the available balance for schemes in 2019-20 is **£128,952.99**.

5.1.6 Between 1st April and 31st May 2019 a total of 34 General Criteria awards have been received totalling **£5,810.00**. 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/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
19/GC001	Sporting individual – Fly fishing	Representing Wales at home	£130
19/GC002	Sporting individual – Hockey	Representing Wales abroad	£250
19/GC003	Sporting individual – Acro gymnastics	Representing Wales at home	£130
19/GC004	Sporting individual – Acro gymnastics	Representing Wales at home	£130
19/GC005	Sporting individual – Acro gymnastics	Representing Wales at home	£130
19/GC006	Sporting individual – Roller hockey	Representing Wales abroad	£250
19/GC007	Sporting individual – Acro gymnastics	Representing Wales at home	£130
19/GC008	Moose International Blackwood Lodge 11	Community group	£100
19/GC009	Sporting individual – 8 Ball Pool	Representing Wales at home	£130
19/GC010	Thursday Club	Clubs run from churches or chapels	£200
19/GC011	Sporting individual – Indoor bowls	Representing Wales at home	£130
19/GC012	Sporting individual – Indoor bowls	Representing Wales at home	£130
19/GC013	Gilfach Ladies Bowling Club	Sports club (up to 50 members)	£100
19/GC014	Sporting individual – Kickboxing	Representing Wales abroad	£250
19/GC015	Sporting individual – Kickboxing	Representing Wales abroad	£250
19/GC016	Sporting individual – Kickboxing	Representing Wales abroad	£250
19/GC017	Sporting individual – Kickboxing	Representing Wales abroad	£250
19/GC018	Sporting individual – Kickboxing	Representing Wales abroad	£250
19/GC019	Sporting individual – Table tennis	Representing Wales at home	£130
19/GC020	Sporting individual – Table tennis	Representing Wales at home	£130
19/GC021	Sporting individual – Indoor bowls	Representing Wales at home	£130
19/GC022	Dance Unity Formation Teams	Junior sports club (over 50 members)	£200
19/GC023	Pontlottyn Art Group	Arts society	£100
19/GC024	Sporting individual – Table tennis	Representing Wales at home	£130
19/GC025	Ravenswood Allotment Society	Allotments	£100
19/GC026	Crosskeys Krafters	Clubs run from churches or chapels	£200
19/GC027	Bethel Quilters	Clubs run from churches or chapels	£200
19/GC028	Sporting individual – Taekwondo	Representing Wales abroad	£250
19/GC029	Sporting individual – Table tennis	Representing Wales abroad	£250
19/GC030	Penuel Baptist Church Rhymney	Community group	£100
19/GC031	Pentwyn & District Allotment Association	Allotments	£100
19/GC032	Sporting individual – Taekwondo	Representing Wales abroad	£250

19/GC033	Sporting individual – Table tennis	Representing Wales abroad	£250
19/GC034	Ashfield Road Allotment	Allotments	£100

5.1.7 Between 1st April and 31st May 2019 two applications have been received which do not meet the General Criteria as set out in Appendix 1. Panel Members are asked to consider these applications and make appropriate recommendations to the Head of Corporate Finance for approval or otherwise under delegated powers. A summary of the applications received is shown overleaf.

Ref	Name of organisation	Purpose for which grant is sought	Amount requested
19/P001	Cambrian Educational Foundation for Deaf Children	Computer equipment to enable deaf children to access a whole new world of learning and communication Previous awards: Awarded £200 in 2017	Not specified
19/P002	Kids Cancer Charity	Relief of sickness among children suffering from cancer and children affected by cancer – family respite breaks, play therapy, befriending and bereavement support Previous awards: Awarded £1,650 in 2017 and 2014, £500 in 2012	£1,650

5.1.8 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 Panel members will recall that at the beginning of the 2018-19 financial year the total budget available was **£324,839.89**, due to underspends in the budget from previous financial years.

5.2.2 Between 1st February and 31st March 2019 a total of five applications were received totalling **£30,222.40**. 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	Description	Amount awarded
18/WCF038	Cascade Methodist Church	Rewiring, new light fittings and redecoration	£6,911.75
18/WCF039	Castle View Community Group	Erect wildlife information/ community information noticeboard	£1,436.40
18/WCF040	Bethel Baptist Church (Wattsville)	Replacement roof	£10,000.00
18/WCF041	Ystrad Mynach English Baptist Mission	New ceiling, LED lighting, redecoration & carpets	£6,874.25
18/WCF042	Treowen Village Hall	Refurbishment of hall	£5,000.00

5.2.3 Therefore, during 2018-19 a total of 42 Welsh Church Acts Fund projects were approved

with a total value of **£216,607.03**, after allowing for adjustments in year. This means that an amount of **£108,232.86** is carried forward to the 2019-20 financial year.

- 5.2.4 Panel Members will recall that at the last meeting in March 2019 they were consulted on some proposed changes to the criteria for the Welsh Church Acts Fund, to be implemented from 1st April 2019. The need for this was due to the significant amount of funding that had been allocated during 2018-19, and that this was not sustainable moving forward as the underspend from previous years had been significantly reduced (to £108,232.86 by the end of the financial year).
- 5.2.5 The proposal was to revise the grant criteria so that the maximum grant available would be up to £5,000, at a grant rate of 100% as appropriate. For projects with a total cost of over £5,000 they would still receive this maximum amount, but would need to seek match funding from other sources or their own funds. Panel members supported the proposed change, and their recommendation was reported to Cabinet on 27th March 2019, and was subsequently approved. The revised maximum grant amount has been in operation since 1st April 2019.
- 5.2.6 The total budget available for 2019-20 is **£172,983.86**, including the annual allocation from Monmouthshire County Council (**£64,751**) and underspends from previous years (**£108,232.86**).

Budget 2019-20	£64,751.00
Carry forward balances	£108,232.86
Total available budget 2019-20	£172,983.86
Total 2019-20 grants awarded to date	£15,731.40
Adjustments within year	-£179.75
Balance remaining	£157,432.21

- 5.2.7 Since the start of the financial year, two projects approved during 2018-19 have submitted their claims for expenditure and have spent a total of **£179.75** less than the amounts originally allocated. This amount has been re-absorbed back into the funding pot to be used for other projects. Therefore the sum available is **£157,432.21**
- 5.2.8 Between 1st April and 31st May 2019 a total of five applications have been received totalling **£15,731.40**. 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	Description	Amount awarded
ORG19/WCF001	Cwmcarn Residents & Community Association	Installation of community noticeboard	£476.40
ORG19/WCF002	Wesley Methodist Church Caerphilly	Decorating downstairs area of church	£5,000.00
ORG19/WCF003	Machen Rugby Football Club	Replacement flooring in changing rooms	£5,000.00
ORG19/WCF004	Trelewis Boxing Club	Erection of steel frame for additional equipment	£2,880.00
ORG19/WCF005	Oakdale Baptist Chapel	Replacement of inner and outer doors to church	£2,375.00

- 5.2.9 If all grants awarded in 2019-20 but not yet drawn down spend to the maximum amounts allocated there will be a balance of **£157,432.21** remaining.

- 5.2.10 No previously approved applications have exceeded the 18 month time limit to claim funding (as set out in the Terms and Conditions) since the last Panel meeting.
- 5.2.11 Panel members will also recall that at the last meeting in March 2019 they were consulted on a proposal to widen the criteria for the Welsh Church Acts Fund to allow applications from individuals in relation to 'the advancement of education'. The original proposal was that limited support would be provided for 'exceptional individuals' as a one-off grant of up to £1,500, with all applications reported to the Panel for consideration. The Panel would then make recommendations on whether to support the applications received, and the amount of funding to be awarded. The recommendations would then be considered and approved as appropriate by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers.
- 5.2.12 Following the discussion by Panel members during the meeting, it was agreed to recommend to Cabinet that individuals should be able to apply for a grant up to the maximum amount for up to three years. The recommendations were reported to Cabinet at their meeting of 27th March 2019, and the revised proposal was agreed.
- 5.2.13 Following the Cabinet meeting a separate application form was developed for individuals in order to capture the information required, including why the applicant believes they are an 'exceptional individual' in terms of the advancement of education. The application form is now available, and information has been added to the Council website to advertise the existence of this opportunity for individuals to apply to the Welsh Church Acts Fund.
- 5.2.14 Since 1st April 2019 one application has been received from an individual. A copy of the application received is attached at Appendix 2, and 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.

5.3 **Conclusion**

The report summarises all allocations made under the Grants to the Voluntary Sector and Welsh Church Acts Fund budgets for the 2018-19 financial year, and to date 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, and an 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 This report links to the following Well-Being Goals within the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

- A prosperous Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

8.3 Grants awarded via the WCAF contribute to the following Well-Being Goals for Wales:-

- 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.

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.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 List of General Criteria

Appendix 2 Application from an individual in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund

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