



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 28TH OCTOBER 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 February 2019 and 31st March 2020 relating to the 2019/20 financial year.
- 1.2 To inform the Panel of the applications for financial assistance received between 1st April and 30th September 2020 relating to the 2020/21 financial year.
- 1.3 To seek Panel views on two applications from individuals in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund.

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 budget. It also provides details of applications received and approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers between 1st February 2019 and 30th September 2020. Finally, it seeks Panel views in relation to two applications received from individuals under the Welsh Church Acts Fund, with the purpose of making a recommendation to the Head of Corporate Finance for approval or otherwise.

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 requests from two individuals 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 Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget for 2019-20 was as shown in the table below:

Budget 2019-20	£183,637.00
Less Discretionary Rate Relief	£169,047.81
Remaining Budget	£14,589.19
Carry forward balance from 2018-19	£128,952.99
Total Available Budget 2019-20	£143,542.18
Total 2019-20 Grants awarded	£16,550.00
Balance Carried Forward to 2020-21	£126,992.18

5.1.2 Between 1st February and 31st March 2020, 10 new General Criteria awards were made totalling **£1,750**. These were 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/GC081	Sporting individual representing Wales	Taekwondo	£250
19/GC082	The Melody Makers	Choirs	£100
19/GC083	Players' Theatre	Theatre Groups	£200
19/GC084	Caerffili and District Twinning Assoc	Community Groups	£100
19/GC085	Rhymney Ladies Flower Guild	Garden Clubs	£150
19/GC086	Rhymney Castle Select SRFC	Pigeon Clubs	£200
19/GC087	Ystrad Mynach Male Choir	Choirs	£100
19/GC088	Sporting individual representing Wales	Shooting	£250
19/GC089	Brithdir 55 Club	Community Groups	£100
19/GC090	Cwmcarn OAP Hall & Welfare Assoc	OAP Assoc with own building	£300
		Total	£1,750

5.1.3 In the period between 1st February and 31st March 2020, no applications were received that were outside the General Criteria as set out in Appendix 1.

5.1.4 After the awards detailed in the table above have been considered, the total amount allocated in 2019-20 was **£18,300**, leaving a balance of **£125,242.18** to be carried forward to 2020-21.

5.1.5 The Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget for 2020-21 is shown in the table below:

Budget 2020-21	£186,759.00
Less Discretionary Rate Relief (Estimated)	£167,865.00
Remaining Budget	£18,894.00
Carry forward balance from 2019-20	£125,242.18
Total Available Budget 2020-21	£144,136.18
Total 2020-21 Grants awarded previously	£0.00
Balance Remaining	£144,136.18

5.1.6 The projected Discretionary Rate Relief for 2020-21 is **£167,865**. Allowing for the projected spend on Discretionary Rate Relief, the available balance for schemes is **£144,136.18**, which includes carry forward balances.

- 5.1.7 Between 1st April and 30th September 2020, 8 new General Criteria awards have been made totalling **£1,100**. These have 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
20/GC001	Tredomen Allotment Association	Allotments	£100
20/GC002	Llanbradach OAP Welfare Committee	OAP Assoc with own building	£300
20/GC003	Bethel Quilters	Community Groups	£100
20/GC004	Pontlloftyn Allotment Association	Allotments	£100
20/GC005	Ravenswood Allotment Society	Allotments	£100
20/GC006	Oakdale & Penmaen Community Partnership	Community Groups	£100
20/GC007	Cascade Keyboard Group	Clubs run from Churches/ Chapels	£200
20/GC008	The Bee Initiative	Beekeepers Groups	£100
		Total	£1,100

- 5.1.8 In the period between 1st April and 30th September 2020, no applications have been received that were outside the General Criteria as set out in Appendix 1.
- 5.1.9 After the awards detailed in the table above have been considered, the amount remaining in the current financial year is **£143,036.18**.
- 5.1.10 It should be noted that the number of grants awarded in 2020-21 to date is significantly lower than in previous years, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Individuals that would usually make applications in relation to representing Wales either at home or abroad have been unable to as all sporting competitions have been cancelled, and many organisations that provide services to their communities have also been closed to the public.
- 5.1.11 As previously agreed by the Panel, grants awarded during the 2020-21 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 was **£183,641.74**. This consisted 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 were withdrawn due to exceeding the time limit to claim the grant (**£5,769.84**).

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 (to 31-01-20)	£53,744.39
Balance remaining	£129,897.35

- 5.2.2 Between 1st February and 31st March 2020 three applications were received totalling **£14,485.79**. These were 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/WCF15	Pontlloftyn Allotment Association	Remove chain link fence and install palisade fence	£5,000.00
ORG19/WCF16	Crosskeys Silver Band	Various equipment to enable band to play at community events	£4,485.79
ORG19/WCF17	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Maesycwmmer	Replacement heating system	£5,000.00
Total			£14,485.79

- 5.2.3 Between 1st February and 31st March 2020 one application was received from an individual for £1,500. This application was recommended for approval by Panel members at the meeting in March 2020, with the Head of Corporate Finance subsequently supporting the recommendation and awarding £1,500 under delegated powers.
- 5.2.4 The total amount allocated to organisations and individuals during 2019-20 was **£69,730.18**, and the remaining balance of **£113,911.56** will be carried forward into 2020-21.
- 5.2.5 The total Welsh Church Acts Fund budget available for 2020-21 is **£178,843.42**. This consists of the annual allocation from Monmouthshire County Council (**£64,750.62**), unallocated sums from previous years (**£113,911.56**) and adjustments within year in relation to underspends on individual projects (**£181.24**).

Budget 2020-21	£64,750.62
Carry forward balances	£113,911.56
Adjustments within year (underspends)	£181.24
Total available budget 2020-21	£178,843.42
Total 2020-21 grants awarded previously	£0.00
Balance remaining	£178,843.42

- 5.2.6 Between 1st April and 30th September 2020 thirteen applications have been received totalling **£50,420.23**. These have 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
ORG20/WCF002	Bethania Pentecostal Church, New Tredegar	Replacement CCTV system	£2,168.39
ORG20/WCF003	Assemblies of God Pentecostal Church, Newbridge	Building work and purchase of microphones	£1,398.00
ORG20/WCF004	Machen Parish Church	Exterior painting and associated maintenance	£3,670.00
ORG20/WCF005	Libanus Lifestyle (Wales) CIC	Purchase and erect a garden studio	£4,350.00

Ref	Name of organisation	Description	Amount awarded
ORG20/WCF006	CRAI District Scout Council	Purchase of various outdoor equipment	£4,798.95
ORG20/WCF007	TARAGGAN Educational Gardens	Replacement of raised beds and purchase of various tools	£4,993.99
ORG20/WCF008	Agape Community Church, Ty Sign	Construction of a new community centre	£5,000.00
ORG20/WCF009	1st Sirhowy Valley Scout Group	Various equipment for new chill out area	£2,848.42
ORG20/WCF010	Benefice of Egwylsilan and Caerphilly (St Martin's Church)	Creation of Garden of Remembrance for interment of ashes	£5,000.00
ORG20/WCF011	Risca Senior Citizen's Association	Refurbishment of kitchen, ladies toilet & hallway	£5,000.00
ORG20/WCF012	Holy Trinity Church, Ystrad Mynach	Repair of water ingress and making good	£5,000.00
ORG20/WCF013	Wattsville Community Group	Equipment for Youth Club and Mother & Toddler Group	£1,192.48
ORG20/WCF014	Caffi'r Ffynnon (Argoed Baptist Chapel)	Groundworks for tourism/homeless accommodation	£5,000.00
		Total	£50,420.23

- 5.2.7 Three projects which were approved in 2020-21 have already drawn down the grant awarded, and each has had a small underspend in terms of expenditure against the grant amount. Therefore, a total of **£181.24** has been recycled back into the funding pot and can be used to fund other projects.
- 5.2.8 Between 1st April and 30th September 2020 four applications have been received from individuals in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund. Two of these applications were circulated to Panel members via e-mail and the overall recommendation was that both should be approved and awarded £1,500 each, a total of **£3,000**. The recommendation was subsequently supported by the Head of Corporate Finance and approved under delegated powers.
- 5.2.9 Two additional applications from individuals have been received totalling **£2,089.99** but have not yet been considered by Panel members. Copies of these applications are attached at Appendix 2 and 3, and it is recommended that these are treated as exempt from publication and Panel members consider excluding the press and public when discussing Appendix 2 and 3 during the meeting. Panel members are asked to consider the applications and make a recommendation on whether to support the applicants and if so, the level of grant to be awarded. The recommendations will then be considered and approved as appropriate by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers.
- 5.2.10 If the remaining grants awarded in 2020-21 but not yet drawn down spend to the maximum amounts allocated, there will be a balance of **£125,423.19** remaining, less any award in relation to 5.2.9 above.

5.3 Conclusion

The report summarises all allocations made under the Grants to the Voluntary Sector and Welsh Church Acts Fund budgets between 1st February and 31st March for the 2019-20

financial year, and between 1st April and 30th September for the 2020-21 financial year. It also asks Panel members to make recommendations in relation to Financial Assistance applications not meeting the General Criteria (if appropriate), and two applications received in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund from individuals.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 There are no assumptions as the 2019-20 and 2020-21 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.

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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 which is exempt from publication as it contains personal and financial information about an individual – IND20/WCF003

Appendix 3 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 – IND20/WCF004