



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 3RD MARCH 2022

SUBJECT: APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND
CORPORATE SERVICES**

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Panel of the applications for Financial Assistance received between 1st October 2021 and 31st January 2022.
- 1.2 To inform the Panel of the applications for Welsh Church Acts Fund received between 1st October 2021 and 31st January 2022.

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 provides details of applications received and approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers between 1st October 2021 and 31st January 2022.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 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 Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers, and which are reported to the Panel for information.

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 2021/22 is shown in the table below:

Budget 2021/22	£188,160.00
Less Discretionary Rate Relief (Estimated at 01/04/21)	£194,757.97
Remaining Budget	(£6,597.97)
Carry forward balance from 2020/21	£137,206.20
Total Available Budget 2021/22	£130,608.23
Total 2021/22 Grants awarded previously	£2,190.00
Balance Remaining	£128,418.23

5.1.2 The projected Discretionary Rate Relief for 2021/22 is **£194,757.97**, which is £6,597.97 over the budget available for 2021/22. Allowing for the projected spend on Discretionary Rate Relief (estimate as at 1st April 2021), the available balance for schemes is £130,608.23, which includes carry forward balances. Spend of £2,190 in 2021/22 was reported at the last Panel meeting, leaving a balance of **£128,418.23**.

5.1.3 Between 1st October 2021 and 31st January 2022, 15 new General Criteria awards have been made totalling **£2,490**. These have been approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer 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
21-GC013	Cefn Hengoed OAP Association	OAP Association without own building	£150
21-GC014	Darran Valley History Group	Community Groups	£100
21-GC015	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales abroad	£250
21-GC016	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales at home	£130
21-GC017	1st Trinant Brownies	Boys & Girls Clubs/YMCA/Scouts/Cubs/Brownies/ Guides/Boys Brigade/Crusaders (up to 50 members)	£100
21-GC018	1st Trinant Rainbows	Boys & Girls Clubs/YMCA/Scouts/Cubs/Brownies/ Guides/Boys Brigade/Crusaders (up to 50 members)	£100
21-GC019	Bargoed and District Art Society	Arts Society	£100
21-GC020	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales at home	£130
21-GC021	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales at home	£130
21-GC022	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales abroad	£250

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
21-GC023	Western Valley Camera Club	Community Groups	£100
21-GC024	Players' Theatre	Theatre Groups	£200
21-GC025	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales abroad	£250
21-GC026	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales abroad	£250
21-GC027	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales abroad	£250
		Total	£2,490

5.1.4 After the awards detailed in the table above have been considered, the amount remaining in the current financial year is **£125,928.23**.

5.1.5 As previously agreed by the Panel, grants awarded during the 2021/22 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 2021/22 is **£146,248.14**. This consists of the annual allocation from Monmouthshire County Council (**£63,840**) and unallocated sums from previous years (**£82,408.14**). In addition, as reported in at the previous Panel meeting **£10,000** has been withdrawn from two projects approved in previous financial years which did not progress.

Budget 2021/22	£63,840.00
Carry forward balances	£82,408.14
Funding recycled back into the pot in current financial year due to previously approved projects not progressing	£10,000.00
Total available budget 2021/22	£156,248.14
Total 2021/22 grants awarded previously	£30,128.44
Balance remaining	£126,119.70

5.2.2 Between 1st October 2021 and 31st January 2022, three applications have been received totalling **£14,170**. These have been approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer 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
ORG21-WCF007	Hengoed Chapel Community Project	Construction of accessible path around graveyard	£5,000.00
ORG21-WCF008	St Margaret's Church, Blackwood	Interior repair of church walls and redecoration	£5,000.00
ORG21-WCF010	Bethel Baptist Church, Penyrheol	Renew lighting in main hall	£4,170.00
		Total	£14,170.00

5.2.3 Taking into account the £10,000 recycled back into the funding pot in the current financial year and the new awards made, and if the grants awarded in previous years but not yet drawn down spend to the maximum amounts allocated, there will be a balance of **£111,949.70** remaining.

5.3 **Conclusion**

The report summarises all allocations made under the Grants to the Voluntary Sector and Welsh Church Acts Fund budgets between 1st October 2021 and 31st January 2022.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 There are no assumptions as the 2021/22 budget has been confirmed, together with carried forward underspends from previous years.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 As this report is for information only a full Integrated Impact Assessment has not been undertaken.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 The financial implications are those set out in the report.

9. **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no personnel implications.

10. **CONSULTATIONS**

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

11. **STATUTORY POWER**

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

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Appendices:
Appendix 1 List of General Criteria