



## GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 28TH APRIL 2010

**SUBJECT: APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

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### 1. STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE

1.1 The Panel's budget for 2009/2010 was £203,246. The following amounts have been allocated to date:

	£
Discretionary Rate Relief (actual)	164,016
Grants awarded by Panel (21/09/09)	2,757
Grants determined by Officers in consultation with Chairman and Vice Chairman	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>166,673</b>

Therefore, the balance available for grants to the voluntary sector is £36,573.

The total of amounts requested for applications listed in Appendix 2 is £12,741.83. In addition, there are a number which do not specify amounts. The total requested under the General Criteria in Appendix 3 (Members are reminded that no awards were made in 2009/10 as a result of the potential changes in the award criteria) is £22,455. This gives a total sum requested of £35,196.83, which is within the budget available depending upon the unspecified amounts.

### 2. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

2.1 The general criteria for awarding financial assistance were under review and subject of a separate report to the meeting of 21/09/09. Appendix 1 gives details of both the original criteria and the proposed changes agreed at September's meeting. However, difficulties were experienced in establishing the authority required to implement the changes and this delayed the process. Subsequently, growth of £40k was awarded as part of the 2010/11 budget strategy. As a result, the views of Members are now sought as to whether they still wish to proceed with the previously agreed changes. A total of 129 applications have been received relating to 2009/10 with a value of £22,455. This value is based upon the original criteria other than those instances highlighted in Appendix 1.

All other applications for sponsorship and miscellaneous grants are treated on their merits and determined by the Panel.

A total of 24 new applications have been received since the last meeting and are shown in Appendix 2 for consideration

### 3. WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND

3.1 At previous meetings of the Panel it was decided that the following criteria would apply when considering applications for assistance from the Welsh Church Fund:

- (i) A grant of no more than £1,500 be given to partly fund projects of £4,500 and over;
- (ii) Smaller projects less than £4,500 be grant aided up to a third of the total cost;
- (iii) All organisations receiving grants produce the necessary financial records to show the expenditure has been incurred;
- (iv) No organisation be allowed to apply in consecutive years.

The Council's normal annual allocation from the Fund is £46,045, however, Monmouthshire C. C. have advised us that additional funding of £30,697 has been allocated for 2009/10 as a one-off increase giving a total for this year of £76,742. Seventeen new applications are appended below. The total of amounts requested in accordance with the agreed criteria is £28,011.

At the meeting of 13/07/09 Members agreed that in future, officers would approve those groups meeting the Church Act Fund criteria, using delegated powers. Such decisions would then be reported to the Panel for information, where Members could ask for further information if required.

During 2009/10 25 applications were received which meet the criteria, with a total amount to be awarded of £33,529.16 (subject to the necessary proof of payments being produced), of which £19,477 has been released. Three other applications, which potentially meet the necessary criteria, were also received, but estimates of the costs of work and, subsequently, the amount of grant to be awarded is not yet known. A schedule of applications is shown in Appendix 4.

#### **4. DECISIONS OF OFFICERS**

No applications under the general criteria have been processed during 2009/10 due to the proposed review of criteria.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### **6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no personnel implications.

#### **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members assess the applications for awards.

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Consultees: N. Scammell – Head of Corporate Finance  
S. Grant – Finance Manager (Corporate Services)  
N. Roberts – Principal Group Accountant (Financial Advice and Support)  
Cllr. C. Mann – Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Sustainability

Appendices:  
Appendix 1 General Criteria & Changes Agreed 21st September 2009  
Appendix 2 Panel Awards  
Appendix 3 General Criteria Awards  
Appendix 4 Welsh Church Fund Awards