



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON THURSDAY, 27TH JANUARY 2011 AT 5.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor J.O. Evans – Chairman
Councillor R. Bidgood – Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

Mrs E.M. Aldworth, D. Cullen, G.J. Hughes, K. Lloyd, M.J. Prew, J.A. Pritchard

Together with:

N. Scammell (Head of Corporate Finance), A. Morgan (Group Accountant, Revenue Advice and Support), R. Thomas (Committee Services Officer)

Also in attendance:

M. Bridgman, Assistant Director, Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO),
S. Davies, Grants Co-ordinator, Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs A. Blackman, W. David, A.G. Higgs, K. James, Mrs G.D. Oliver.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A declaration of interest was received during the course of the meeting as follows:

- (1) Councillor J.A. Pritchard declared an interest in agenda item number 3(1), Review of Administration and Support to Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel (as she is the county borough's representative on GAVO's Executive), she took no part in the vote.

2. MINUTES

Members noted the minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 15th July 2010 (minute nos. 1 - 7, on page nos. 1 - 3).

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Applications for Financial Assistance, Islwyn Community Credit Union (minute no 3.2.1)

Members were informed that the award recorded had been based on an application for both the current and previous year. Following the last meeting of the Panel the Assembly Government had amended the regulations to further assist small businesses and the amount required had been reduced with effect from 1st October 2010. Therefore the amount paid to the Islwyn Community Credit Union had been reduced by £332.22.

4. REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT TO GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

The Chairman welcomed Mike Bridgman and Sandra Davies of the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) to the meeting.

The report and accompanying presentation invited Members to discuss alternative administration support for the Panel as a result of a meeting between the Head of Corporate Finance and representatives of GAVO on the 16th September 2010 to discuss options in respect of GAVO providing administration support to the Panel, under a Service Level Agreement (SLA).

The presentation highlighted GAVO's expertise in respect of the needs, role and infrastructure of voluntary organisations and the third sector and its ability to promote available funding, evaluate and monitor applications received. It was proposed that successful applications would be monitored for a 12 week period to provide a clear audit trail in addition to signposting both successful and unsuccessful applications to other funding sources, if applicable.

Additionally, a SLA with GAVO would free up resources in Corporate Finance that could be utilised on new grant funded streams. GAVO estimate that their charge for support is likely to be between 8-10% of the total grants administered under any future SLA. This figure is negotiable.

In closing Mr Bridgman advised the way in which the administration and support was given, was for the Panel to determine and he invited questions from the Panel.

Members noted the content of the presentation and a full discussion ensued, during which the Panel was assured that applications for smaller awards will be treated in much the same way as that of larger applications. Notably the monitoring processes will be amended according to the type and size of the application. Members received further information relating to the costs involved and the value added by working in partnership with GAVO.

Consideration was given to the way in which applications will be determined, of the need to inform applicants of the restricted budget and for the criteria to direct money to appropriate groups.

The Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel noted the report and agreed that GAVO provide administration support to the Panel, under a SLA. The Panel asked the Head of Corporate Finance to prepare the following for consideration at a special meeting of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel, to be held prior to the end of the financial year:

- (1) a draft Service Level Agreement in line with Option 3, as detailed within the presentation; and
- (2) statement of proposed costs to cover GAVO's charge for support.

5. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

5.1 Statement of Expenditure

Members noted the statement of expenditure detailed within the report.

5.2 Applications for Financial Assistance

Consideration was given on the following applications for financial assistance.

5.2.1 RESOLVED that the following applications for financial assistance be approved:-

	£
(a) Newbridge Ladies Bowls	75.00
(b) Caerphilly Causeway Prospects	100.00
(c) Enable - Supporting Caerphilly Children's Centre	100.00
(d) Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod	500.00
(e) Bargoed and District Art Society	100.00
(f) Caerffili and District Twinning Association	100.00

5.3 General Criteria Awards

Members noted and agreed the applications received in the course of the year, and the award to be applied to each as follows:

	£
(a) Cwmfelinfach Allotments & Leisure Gardens	50.00
(b) Bedwas Trethomas & Machen Band Society	500.00
(c) Risca Senior Citizens Association	250.00
(d) Darren Morgan	250.00
(e) Keiran Wright	130.00
(f) Cefn Fforest Boys & Girls Club	225.00

5.4 Welsh Church Acts Fund

Members noted the additional funding of £30,697, allocated for 2010/2011, and the grants awarded by Officers in accordance with the agreed criteria for 2010/2011.

The meeting closed at 6.00 p.m.