



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 26TH NOVEMBER 2012

SUBJECT: APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

REPORT BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to Members the applications for financial assistance received during the current financial year.

The Panel's budget for 2012/2013 is as follows:

Budget 2012-13	£247,732.00
Less Discretionary Rate Relief (Projected)	£210,000.00
Remaining Budget	£37,732.00
Carry forward balance from 2011-12	£89,600.86
Total Budget 2012-13	£127,332.86
Total Grants awarded to date	(£32,956.51)
Balance Remaining	£94,376.35

- 1.2 The total of amounts requested for applications listed in **Appendix 2** is **£36,258.00** (22 No.) The total requested under **Appendix 3** is **£12,110.00** (38 No.). This currently gives a total sum requested of **£48,368.00**. These awards are based on the revised criteria as agreed at the meeting on 19th July 2012.
- 1.3 If all grants requested are awarded as per their requests the balance remaining will be £46,008.35. If there was no carry forward amount of £89,600.86 the budget would be over committed at this panel meeting.
- 1.4 At the previous Panel Meeting members requested feedback on the “Discretionary Rate Relief” awarded during the last few years. A summary of awards is shown in Appendix 1. Based on information obtained to date an estimated outturn of this Rate Relief for 2012-2013 is £210,000.00 as shown in 1.1 above.
- 1.5 We need to ensure processes are in place to safeguard the financial situation of the funds, a revised application form was developed, copy attached in Appendix 5 for members’ endorsement or amendment if they feel it necessary.

2. WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND

- 2.1 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 £2,000 to be given to partly fund projects of £6,000 and over;
 - (ii) Smaller projects less than £6,000 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 is allowed to apply in consecutive years.
- 2.2 At the meeting of 13th July 2009 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.
- 2.3 Caerphilly county borough council received written confirmation on 17th May 2012 that the budget for 2012/13 is **£77,084.00**. Monmouthshire CC have confirmed that the underspends from previous years of **£113,321.00** can be carried forward, resulting in a total available budget for the current year of **£190,405.00**. **We have been advised by Monmouthshire CC that due to the present economic climate, allocations in the future could be reduced considerably.**
- 2.4 Applications received since the last meeting are appended in **Appendix 3**. The total of amounts requested in accordance with the agreed criteria is **£20,974.25**. The amount approved from the last meeting was £16218.27, which brings the total requested to date of £37,192.52. Amounts claimed and paid to date amount to £6936.40.
- 2.5 We need to ensure processes are in place to safeguard the financial situation of the funds, revised practices were adopted. In order to access the funds the applicants will need to sign the terms and conditions; this will help the applicants to understand the processes to access the grant. A revised application form was developed, copy attached in Appendix 6 for members' endorsement or amendment if they feel it necessary.

3. DECISIONS OF OFFICERS

- 3.1 All applications shown above as allocated have not been processed. Once panel have met, the necessary action will be taken. This is to ensure that the correct procedure has been carried out.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct equalities implications to this report and so no Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out. Any such assessment would be carried out where more directly relevant to applicants, for example on the criteria for assessing the applications received by the Council.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no personnel implications.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Members assess the applications contained in Appendix 2 and note the applications in Appendix 3 and Appendix 4.
- 7.2 Members endorse the new Application forms contained in Appendix 5 and 6.

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Consultees: N. Scammell - Head of Corporate Finance
A. Southcombe - Finance Manager

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Discretionary Rate Relief Summary (to follow)
Appendix 2 Panel Awards
Appendix 3 General Criteria Awards
Appendix 4 Welsh Church Fund Awards
Appendix 5 Application Forms – Financial Assistance (Individual and Group)
Appendix 6 Application Forms – Welsh Church Fund