



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 11TH JULY 2013

SUBJECT: APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

REPORT BY: ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the Panel with the applications for financial assistance received to date for the current financial year.

2. ASSISTANCE TO VOLUNTARY SECTOR BUDGET

- 2.1 The Panel's budget for 2013/2014 is as follows:

Budget 2013-14	£251,448.00
Less Discretionary Rate Relief (Projected)	£212,626.00
Remaining Budget	£38,822.00
Carry forward balance from 2012-13	£74,245.00
Total Budget 2013-14	£113,067.00
Total Grants awarded to date	0
Balance Remaining	£ 113,067.00

- 2.2 The total of amounts requested for applications listed in **Appendix 1** is **£7,410.40** (14 No.) The total requested under **Appendix 2** is **£6,860.00** (38 No.). This currently gives a total sum requested of **£14,270.40**.

- 2.3 If all grants requested are awarded as per their requests the balance remaining will be £98,796.60.

3. WELSH CHURCH ACT 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 £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.

- 3.2 At the meeting of 13th July 2009 Members agreed that in future, officers would approve those groups meeting the Welsh 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.
- 3.3 Caerphilly County Borough Council received written confirmation from Monmouthshire CC on 22nd February 2013 of the 2013/14 budget allocation of **£40,084.00**. Monmouthshire CC have confirmed that the underspends from previous years of **£126,207.00** can be carried forward, resulting in a total available budget for the current year of **£166,291.00**. **We have been advised that due to the present economic climate, allocations in the future could be reduced considerably due to declining returns on investments.**
- 3.4 Applications received since the last meeting are appended in **Appendix 3**. The total of amounts requested in accordance with the agreed criteria is **£6,000.00 (3 No.)**.
- 3.5 In 2012-13 there were 40 applications approved totalling £64,198.02.

4. DECISIONS OF OFFICERS

- 4.1 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.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 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.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That Members assess the applications contained in Appendix 1 and note the applications in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.

Author: D. Roberts - Principal Group Accountant (Financial Advice and Support)
Consultees: Stephen R Harris – Acting Head of Corporate Finance
A Southcombe – Finance Manager

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Panel Awards
Appendix 2 General Criteria Awards
Appendix 3 Welsh Church Fund Act -2013/2014