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For all enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Sharon Hughes
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Date: 3rd July 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

A multi-locational meeting of the **Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee** will be held in Penallta House, and via Microsoft Teams on **Thursday, 11th July, 2024 at 10.30 am** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided on request.

Members of the public or Press may attend in person at Penallta House or may view the meeting live via the following link: <https://civico.net/caerphilly>.

This meeting will be live-streamed and a recording made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. Therefore the images/audio of those individuals speaking will be publicly available to all via the recording on the Council website at www.caerphilly.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CHARRY'.

Christina HARRY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

- | | Pages |
|--|-------|
| 1 To appoint a Chair for the ensuing year. | |

A greener place Man gwyrddach



2 To appoint a Vice Chair for the ensuing year.

3 To receive apologies for absence.

4 Declarations of Interest.

Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest (s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

To approve and sign the following minutes: -

5 Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee held on 30th November 2023. 1 - 4

6 Special Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee held on 6th February 2024. 5 - 8

7 Matters Arising.

To receive and consider the following reports: -

8 Legal Definitions of Leases, Licences and Preferred User Agreement, and Reasons for their Use - Verbal Update.

9 Allotments - Verbal Update.

10 Grants awarded via the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Fund and the Welsh Church Acts Fund. 9 - 24

Circulation:

Councillors A. Broughton-Pettit, M. Chacon-Dawson, R. Chapman, Mrs P. Cook, J.E. Fussell, D.C. Harse, T. Heron, Ms J.G. Jones, T. Parry, D.W.R. Preece, H. Pritchard, E. Stenner, L.G. Whittle, S. Williams and W. Williams

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR:

Aber Valley Heritage Group, Adferiad (Carers), Bargoed YMCA, Barod Cymru, Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Care & Repair, Citizens Advice Caerphilly Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly Over 50, Caerphilly People First, Cruse in Gwent, GAVO, Groundwork Wales, Homestart Cymru, Little Theatre Blackwood, Llais, Menter Iaith Sir Caerphilly, Oakdale Community Centre, Oakdale Partnership, Parent Network, Pobl Group, Right From The Start, Smartmoney Cymru, SSAFA Gwent Branch, St Gwladys Church, The United Reformed Church, The Youth Centre Cefn Hengoed, Thriving Communities CIC, Vanguard Caerphilly, Vision 21

And Appropriate Officers

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE
AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Chair – Mrs L. Jones (Menter Iaith Sir Caerffili)
Vice Chair – Councillor M. Chacon-Dawson

Councillors:

P. Cook, C. Gordon, J. Jones, Mrs T. Parry, H. Pritchard, L. G. Whittle, S. Williams and W. Williams.

Together with:

Representatives of the Voluntary Sector: S. Tiley (GAVO), G. Jones (GAVO), K. Dawson (GAVO), R. Evans (Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Care & Repair Cymru), T. Davies (Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Care & Repair Cymru), K. Stevenson (Groundwork Wales), R. Evans (Oakdale Community Centre), J. Wade (The United Reformed Church) and J. Pritchard (The Youth Centre, Cefn Hengoed).

Also in attendance:

H. Delonnette (Senior Policy Officer), H. Pells (Policy Officer), V. Doyle (Policy Officer), R. Lloyd (Principal Waste Management Officer), N. White (Technical Assistant – Waste Management), N. Campbell (Technical Assistant – Waste Management), C. Phenis (Technical Assistant – Waste Management) and S. Hughes (Committee Services Officer).

RECORDING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting would be live-streamed and a recording made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items - [Click here to view](#). The Committee was advised that voting on decisions would be taken via a show of hands.

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R. Chapman, J. E. Fussell, T. Heron, D.W.R. Preece, D. Price and Mrs E. Stenner, together with representatives from Parent Network.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

3. VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE HELD ON 8TH JUNE 2023

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee meeting held on 8th June 2023 be approved as a correct record. By way of a show of hands this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee held on 8th June 2023 (minute nos. 1-13) be approved as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Clarification was requested regarding the eligibility of Community Centres in applying to the Welsh Church Acts Fund. The Policy Officer, H. Pells, advised the Committee that clarification would be sought and provided subsequent to the meeting.

5. CHANGES TO RECYCLING LAW FOR BUSINESSES AND THE CHARITY SECTOR (PRESENTATION)

The Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee received a presentation from the Waste Management Officer on the new workplace recycling regulations that will be coming into force on 6th April 2024. The Committee was informed that all workplaces such as businesses, public sector and charities will need to separate their recyclable materials in the same way most households already do. The Committee was also informed of the ban on the disposal of all food waste to sewer from non-domestic premises and the ban on specified separate recyclable waste streams going to incineration plants and landfills. It was highlighted that the regulations apply to all waste and recycling collectors and processors who manage household-like waste from workplaces. The Waste Management Officer explained why the legislation is being introduced, who it applies to and the role of the local authority.

Following the presentation, the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee raised a number of concerns regarding the changes to the recycling law and highlighted the implications it will have on charitable organisations, particularly in relation to cost and practicality.

The Waste Management Officer confirmed that a workplace does include a charitable organisation and it will be their responsibility to separate the recyclable materials from general waste. The Officer also confirmed that the collection of recyclable materials is a chargeable service. A discussion took place regarding the different types of charitable organisations and in response to a Member's query, it was clarified that a foodbank is a charitable organisation and will therefore be subject to the new regulations.

During the course of discussion, the Waste Management Officer responded to a number of queries. It was clarified that hospitals have an additional two years to comply with separating their recyclable materials. In terms of support for charities and small businesses, the Committee was informed that government guidance on how to store and manage waste and recycling will be released at the end of the week. The Waste Management Officer acknowledged that it is going to be a challenging situation and advised the Committee that the authority's Waste Management Team will liaise with customers, charities and local businesses to help them comply with the new legislation.

The Committee was advised that Groundwork Wales has been separating their recyclable materials for a number of years and that they would be happy to advise on the process and practicality of it.

In response to a Member's query regarding a period of grace, the Waste Management Officer advised the Committee that there will be a soft touch enforcement within the first 12-18 months, with Natural Resources Wales targeting the larger workplaces and the workplaces

that are ignoring the new regulations. Reference was made to the Waste Management questionnaire and the Committee was advised of the responses and feedback received.

RESOLVED that the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee noted the presentation.

6. THE WORK OF CARE AND REPAIR BLAENAU GWENT AND CAERPHILLY (PRESENTATION)

The Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee received a presentation from representatives of Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Care & Repair, R. Evans and T. Davies. The presentation outlined what Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Care & Repair does and the impact their work has on the lives of the people they help. The Committee heard how their mission is to help older and vulnerable people live independently in safe, secure and warm homes. The Committee was provided with an introduction to their core service and some examples of the type of work they help people with. The Committee was also provided with an overview of a Hospital to Healthy Home Case Study. Agency outcomes 2022-23, key performance outcomes and funding sources were also outlined.

Reference was made to the overall performance for 2022-23 and it was explained that Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Care & Repair receive their main referrals from the Local Authority and health sources. However, it was highlighted that a substantial number of referrals are also received from other organisations such as RNIB and Citizens Advice.

Reference was made to the Hospital to Healthy Home service and a query was raised regarding the response time. The Committee was informed that hospital discharge referrals are prioritised and the response time is generally within five days to complete an adaptation, however it was noted that adaptations are usually completed within two days. It was explained that the response time is dependent on co-ordination with the discharge team, availability and the type of adaptation required. It was highlighted that the Hospital to Healthy Home service supports hospital discharge teams within Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr, as well as colleagues within the Grange, Royal Gwent and Neville Hall. The demand and the number of adaptations that have been carried out was summarised.

The Chair thanked R. Evans and T. Davies for their presentation.

RESOLVED that the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee noted the presentation.

7. HEADLINE RESULTS OF THE GRANT SURVEY (VERBAL UPDATE)

The Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee received a verbal update from the Policy Officer, V. Doyle, on the results of the Grants Survey 2023. The Committee was informed that the survey was invitation only and sent to all recipients of a grant in 2022/23, across all grant schemes, which was 160 organisations or individuals. It was noted that 90 organisations/individuals responded, a response rate of 56.3%, and all respondents were successful in their application. The Committee was provided with an overview of the survey questions and results.

In response to a query, was confirmed that the survey was sent out to organisations and individuals who had applied for a grant, whether or not they were successful. It was highlighted that very few applications are unsuccessful.

The Policy Officer clarified the timescales for processing grant applications. With regards to the Community Empowerment Fund, the Committee was informed that there are multiple rounds of the grant and the timescale for processing an application is 6-8 weeks following the closing date. In relation to other grant schemes, the Committee was informed that applications can be submitted at any time and are addressed on a monthly basis.

In response to a query, the Policy Officer stated that an annual survey would be considered, however it would be dependent on resources. During the course of discussion, a question was raised as to whether outside or professional advice had ever been sought to improve the design of the application forms. The Policy Officer acknowledged that this query had been raised previously but assured the Committee that Officers within the authority have vast experience in creating application forms. It was highlighted that the application process had been revised to make the process as easy as possible and feedback from the survey indicated that the majority of respondents thought the application form was very easy or fairly easy to complete. The Policy Officer was confident that the application forms are suitable and fit for purpose.

RESOLVED that the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee noted the presentation.

8. GRANTS AWARDED VIA THE GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUND AND THE WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND

The Policy Officer, V. Doyle, presented the report to inform the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee of the budget available for the Grants to the Voluntary Sector (GTVS) Fund for 2023/24 and the grants awarded between 1st May and 31st October 2023. The Committee was also informed of the budget available for the Welsh Church Acts Fund (WCAF) for 2023/24 and the grants awarded between 1st May and 31st October 2023.

In response to a Member's query the Policy Officer provided clarification on the level of grants available. The Committee was informed that the amount available for the Welsh Church Acts Fund had increased from £5,000 to £7,500, which will be reviewed when the underspend is used. The Committee was also informed that there has been a big increase in the number of applications received for the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Fund, which will reduce the amount that is available in the budget. In terms of the Welsh Church Acts Fund, the Committee was further informed that organisations now receive 50% of the grant upfront.

RESOLVED that Members of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee noted the applications received that met the criteria for the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Fund and the Welsh Church Acts Fund, which have already been approved by the Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer under delegated powers, and which are reported to the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee for information.

The meeting closed at 12.14 pm.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2024, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL SPECIAL MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY 2024 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Chair – Mrs L. Jones (Menter Caerfilli)
Vice Chair – Councillor M. Chacon-Dawson

Councillors:

R. Chapman, C. Gordon, T. Heron, Mrs T. Parry, D. W. R. Preece, H. Pritchard, S. Williams and W. Williams.

Together with:

Representatives of the Voluntary Sector: S. Tiley (GAVO), A. Palmer (GAVO), G. Jones (GAVO), K. Dawson (GAVO), S. Ellington (Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Citizens Advice), K. Stevenson (Groundwork Wales), R. Evans (Oakdale Community Centre), L. Chapman (Parent Network), J. Wade (The United Reformed Church) and J.A. Pritchard (The Youth Centre, Cefn Hengoed).

Also in attendance:

K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager), H. Delonnette (Senior Policy Officer), S. Harris (Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer), L. Sykes (Deputy Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer) and S. Hughes (Committee Services Officer).

RECORDING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting would be live-streamed and a recording made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items - [Click here to view](#).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. Cook, J. E. Fussell, J. Jones, D. Price, Mrs E. Stenner and L. G. Whittle.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J.A. Pritchard (in her capacity as a representative of the Voluntary Sector) declared a personal interest in [Agenda Item 3 – Draft Budget Proposals for 2024/25](#), in that she is Treasurer of the Youth Centre, Cefn Hengoed. As this was a personal interest only there was no requirement for her to leave the meeting and she took full part in the debate. Details are also minuted with the respective item.

3. DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2024/25

During the course of the debate, Councillor J.A. Pritchard (in her capacity as a representative of the Voluntary Sector) declared a personal interest in that she is Treasurer of the Youth Centre, Cefn Hengoed. As this was a personal interest only there was no requirement for her to leave the meeting and she took full part in the debate.

The Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer introduced the report and provided a summary of the draft budget proposals for the 2024/25 financial year. The Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee were asked to consider and comment upon the content of the report prior to final budget proposals being presented to Council on 27th February 2024.

A representative of the Voluntary Sector sought clarification and further information on how the budget cuts will affect community groups and projects. In response, the Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer informed the Committee that the Service Level Agreements with GAVO are protected and that those financial contributions will continue in the 2024/25 financial year. However, it was highlighted that there are some proposals that will impact communities, for example the proposed increase in fees for the use of outdoor sports pitches. It was further highlighted that there are savings proposals on some community projects, such as funding that has previously been used to support the Bargoed Ice Rink and Senghenydd Splash Pad.

Reference was made to the Welsh Government Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement for 2024/25. In response to a query, the Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer clarified that there is no specific funding ringfenced in the Financial Settlement for the Voluntary Sector and that the authority has discretion as to how the funding is allocated across all services.

The Committee was informed of a cut of circa £92m in specific grant funding on an All-Wales basis for 2024/25 and was advised that the details of this are being worked through as there will be an impact on a range of services that rely on this grant funding. The Committee was assured that any impact on the Voluntary Sector would be communicated.

Concerns were raised regarding a number of Councils in England issuing Section 114 Notices in recent years and that it is anticipated a number of other Councils will issue Section 114 Notices moving forward. The Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer explained that a Section 114 Notice effectively means that a Council is unable to deliver a balanced budget. It was highlighted that Councils in Wales are more heavily reliant on Welsh Government support, and although no Section 114 Notices have been issued in Wales, all authorities are facing considerable financial pressures. The Committee was informed that, in terms of Caerphilly County Borough Council, a balanced budget has been delivered by using some of its reserves, but this is not a sustainable approach in the in the long-term. The Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer assured the Committee that Caerphilly County Borough Council was not in position where a Section 114 Notice is being considered.

Clarification and further information were sought regarding the proposal to temporarily fund a number of posts in the Caerphilly Cares Team through grants. It was agreed that the Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer would provide a summary of which grants are supporting the Caerphilly Cares Team subsequent to the meeting.

Reference was made to 100% of the net projected underspend on the Council's 2023/24 revenue budget being transferred into General Fund balances, particularly in relation to the Voluntary Sector. The Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer confirmed that the Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget is ringfenced and that any underspend on the 2023/24 budget will be carried forward to the 2024/25 financial year.

A query was raised regarding the likelihood of receiving more money from Welsh Government and the scope for changing some of the draft savings proposals, particularly in relation to Community Centre caretaking costs. The Committee was advised that there will be some additional consequential funding due to a recent decision made by the UK Government, and that details are awaited from the Welsh Government. It was highlighted that the reduction in the contribution towards caretaking costs (over a period of 3 years) was a decision made by Council last year.

A representative of the Voluntary Sector raised further questions in relation to Community Centres, including how many of the Council's Community Centres have made their increased contribution from October as requested. The opportunity for Community Centres to work with Officers to discuss a long-term review was also raised. Concerns were expressed that the Council is duplicating some of the work undertaken in Community Centres and at a far greater cost than the Voluntary Sector is providing. It was highlighted that this might be an area to create savings without removing the service from local users. The Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer advised the Committee that all the comments will be passed to the relevant Director and Officers, and they will also be captured as part of the budget consultation process.

In conclusion, a Member raised concerns regarding the proposed increase in fees for the use of outdoor sports pitches, which was noted by the Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer.

RESOLVED that the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee considered and commented upon the content of the report prior to Final Budget Proposals being presented to Council on 27th February 2024.

The Chair thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and contributions and the meeting closed at 11.04 am.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2024, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 11TH JULY 2024

SUBJECT: GRANTS AWARDED VIA THE GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUND AND THE WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee (VSLC) of the budget available for the Grants to the Voluntary Sector (GTVS) Fund for 2023/24 and the grants awarded between 1st November 2023 and 31st March 2024.
- 1.2 To inform the VSLC of the budget available for the GTVS Fund for 2024/25 and the grants awarded between 1st April and 31st May 2024.
- 1.3 To inform the VSLC of the budget available for the Welsh Church Acts Fund (WCAF) for 2023/24 and the grants awarded between 1st November 2023 and 31st March 2024.
- 1.4 To inform the VSLC of the budget available for the WCAF for 2024/25 and the grants awarded between 1st April and 31st May 2024.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report advises the VSLC of the grant allocations for both the Voluntary Sector budget and the Welsh Church Acts Fund budget for 2023/24 and 2024/25. It also provides details of applications received and approved by the Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer under delegated powers between 1st November 2023 and 31st March 2024 (2023/24 financial year) and 1st April and 31st May 2024 (2024/25 financial year), for each grant scheme.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That members of the VSLC note the applications received that meet the criteria for the GTVS Fund and the WCAF, which have already been approved by the Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer under delegated powers, and which are reported to the VSLC 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 This is the latest update to the VSLC in relation to grants awarded under the GTVS Fund and the WCAF, following the disbanding of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel.

5.2 GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR BUDGET

- 5.2.1 The GTVS budget for 2023/24 is shown in the table below:

Budget 2023/24	£8,735.00
Carry forward balance from 2022/23	£106,351.67
Total available budget 2023/24	£115,086.67
Total 2023/24 grants awarded previously	£18,600.00
Balance remaining	£96,486.67

- 5.2.2 The GTVS budget for 2023-24 was £8,735. In addition, £106,351.67 was carried forward from underspends in previous years, resulting in a total available budget for 2023/24 of £115,086.67.

- 5.2.3 Between 1st November 2023 and 31st March 2024, 31 new General Criteria awards were made totalling **£6,610** (a summary of the General Criteria categories for 2023/24 is included in Appendix 1 for information). These have been approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers and are reported to the VSLC for information only. The awards are summarised in the table below:

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
23-GC086	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales Top-up Grant	£170.00
23-GC087	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales outside the UK	£300.00
23-GC088	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales Top-up Grant	£170.00
23-GC089	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales Top-up Grant	£170.00
23-GC090	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales outside the UK	£300.00
23-GC091	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales outside the UK	£300.00
23-GC092	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales outside the UK	£300.00
23-GC093	Black Vein Miners Memorial Society	Other Community Groups	£200.00
23-GC094	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales within the UK	£200.00

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
23-GC095	Vicarage Allotments Association	Environment Groups e.g. Allotments, Beekeepers Groups, Gardening Clubs, Tenants & Residents Associations, Pigeon Clubs etc.	£200.00
23-GC096	Bargoed and District Art Society	Arts Groups e.g. Jazz Bands, Choirs, Arts Societies, Writers Clubs, Theatre Groups etc.	£200.00
23-GC097	Caerphilly Camera Club	Other Community Groups	£200.00
23-GC098	Oakdale OAP Association	Organisation or Association not owning a building	£200.00
23-GC099	Caerphilly & District Floral Society	Environment Groups e.g. Allotments, Beekeepers Groups, Gardening Clubs, Tenants & Residents Associations, Pigeon Clubs etc.	£200.00
23-GC100	The Aloud Charity	Arts Groups e.g. Jazz Bands, Choirs, Arts Societies, Writers Clubs, Theatre Groups etc.	£200.00
23-GC101	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales within the UK	£200.00
23-GC102	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales within the UK	£200.00
23-GC103	Rhymney Valley Music Club	Arts Groups e.g. Jazz Bands, Choirs, Arts Societies, Writers Clubs, Theatre Groups etc.	£200.00
23-GC104	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales within the UK	£200.00
23-GC105	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales within the UK	£200.00
23-GC106	Ravenswood Allotment Society	Environment Groups e.g. Allotments, Beekeepers Groups, Gardening Clubs, Tenants & Residents Associations, Pigeon Clubs etc.	£200.00
23-GC107	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales within the UK	£200.00
23-GC108	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales within the UK	£200.00
23-GC109	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales within the UK	£200.00
23-GC110	Players' Theatre	Arts Groups e.g. Jazz Bands, Choirs, Arts Societies, Writers Clubs, Theatre Groups etc.	£200.00

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
23-GC111	Pontlloftyn Karate Club	Sports Club (up to 50 members)	£200.00
23-GC112	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales within the UK	£200.00
23-GC113	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales within the UK	£200.00
23-GC114	Maesycwmmer FC	Sports Club (up to 50 members)	£200.00
23-GC115	Disability Can Do	Other Community Groups	£200.00
23-GC116	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales outside the UK	£300.00
		Total	£6,610.00

5.2.4 One application was received from the Kids Cancer Charity which was outside the General Criteria, and this application was considered at the Voluntary Sector Liaison Sub-committee on 30th November 2023. A grant of **£2,000** was recommended by the Sub-committee, and this amount was subsequently approved by the Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer under delegated powers.

5.2.5 After the awards detailed in the table above and paragraph 5.2.4 have been considered, the total value of the grant awards for 2023/24 was **£27,210**.

5.2.6 The GTVS budget for 2024/25 is shown in the table below:

Budget 2024/25	£8,735.00
Carry forward balance from 2023/24	£31,525.00
Total available budget 2024/25	£40,260.00
Total 2024/25 grants awarded previously	£0.00
Balance remaining	£40,260.00

5.2.7 The balance of the GTVS budget at the end of 2023/24 was £87,876.67. However, due to the financial position the Authority faces the amount carried forward to 2024/25 has been reduced to £31,525. The GTVS budget allocation for 2024/25 remains at £8,735. Therefore, the total available budget for 2024/25 is £40,260.

5.2.8 Members of the VSLC may be aware that when the review of the GTVS and WCAF budgets was concluded in 2022, Cabinet agreed to increase the GTVS General Criteria amounts each year in line with inflation. For 2024/25 this was an increase of 3.4%. This increase has been incorporated into the General Criteria grant values, and a summary of these is included at Appendix 2 for information.

5.2.9 Between 1st April and 31st May 2024, 58 new General Criteria awards were made totalling **£15,735**. These have been approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers and are reported to the VSLC for information only. The awards are summarised in the table overleaf.

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
24-GC001	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC002	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC003	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC004	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC005	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC006	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	£207.00
24-GC007	Cascade Allotment Association	Environment Groups e.g. Allotments, Beekeepers Groups, Gardening Clubs, Tenants & Residents Associations, Pigeon Clubs etc.	£207.00
24-GC008	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC009	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC010	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC011	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	£207.00
24-GC012	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC013	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC014	YM Bit's and Bob's Community Group	Other Community Groups	£207.00
24-GC015	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC016	Plas Mawr Community Centre	Organisation or Association not owning a building	£207.00

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
24-GC017	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC018	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC019	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC020	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC021	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC022	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC023	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC024	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC025	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	£207.00
24-GC026	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	£207.00
24-GC027	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC028	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC029	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC030	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC031	Darran Valley History Group	Other Community Groups	£207.00
24-GC032	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	£207.00
24-GC033	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
24-GC034	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC035	Caerphilly Veterans Support Hub	Other Community Groups	£207.00
24-GC036	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC037	Pengam and District Boys & Girls Club	Sports Club (over 50 members)	£310.00
24-GC038	1 st Oakdale Guides	Other membership group e.g. Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Rainbows, St John Ambulance etc. (up to 50 members)	£207.00
24-GC039	Trinant Community Centre	Organisation or Association owning a building	£372.00
24-GC040	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC041	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC042	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC043	Caerphilly 50+ Forum	Other Community Groups	£207.00
24-GC044	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	£207.00
24-GC045	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC046	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	£207.00
24-GC047	Glan-y-nant Allotments	Environment Groups e.g. Allotments, Beekeepers Groups, Gardening Clubs, Tenants & Residents Associations, Pigeon Clubs etc.	£207.00
24-GC048	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC049	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
24-GC050	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	£207.00
24-GC051	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC052	Cefn Fforest Jazz Band	Arts Groups e.g. Jazz Bands, Choirs, Arts Societies, Writers Clubs, Theatre Groups etc.	£207.00
24-GC053	5 th Caerphilly Brownies	Other membership group e.g. Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Rainbows, St John Ambulance etc. (up to 50 members)	£207.00
24-GC054	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC055	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	£207.00
24-GC056	Rhymney Castle Select SRFC	Environment Groups e.g. Allotments, Beekeepers Groups, Gardening Clubs, Tenants & Residents Associations, Pigeon Clubs etc.	£207.00
24-GC057	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	£207.00
24-GC058	Manmoel Welfare Association	Organisation or Association owning a building	£372.00
		Total	£15,735.00

5.2.10 It should be noted that the annual budget allocation for the GTVS is £8,735, and the grant allocations in the first two months of 2024/25 have exceeded this budget by £7,000. The carry forward amount of £31,525 will cover this overspend and fund applications for the remainder of the financial year, but once this is exhausted there will only be the annual amount available each year. Therefore, in future years it is likely that the value of applications received will exceed the budget available, and we will need to move to a situation where grants are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

5.3 WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND

5.3.1 The total Welsh Church Acts Fund (WCAF) budget available for 2023/24 was **£224,508.57**. This consisted of the annual allocation from Monmouthshire County Council (**£59,841.17**) plus unallocated sums from previous years (**£164,667.40**).

Budget 2023/24	£59,841.17
Underspend held by Monmouthshire CBC	£56,259.68
Carry forward balances in CCBC accounts	£108,407.72
Underspend from previously approved projects	£0.00
Total available budget 2023/24	£224,508.57
Total 2023/24 grants awarded previously	£97,009.81
Balance remaining	£127,498.76

5.3.2 Between 1st November 2023 and 31st March 2024, 10 applications were received totalling **£56,815.78**. These have been approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers and are reported to the VSLC for information only. The awards are summarised in the table below.

Ref	Name of organisation	Description	Amount awarded
ORG23-WCF019	United Services (Machen) Club and Institute Ltd	New carpet & electrics for stage; new vinyl for kitchen floor; replacement lighting; repair potholes; replace 2 side windows	£4,823.96
ORG23-WCF020	The Youth Centre, Cefn Hengoed	Installation of new boilers and radiators plus replacement of lighting	£4,780.00
ORG23-WCF021	Manmoel Welfare Association	Replacement kitchen, flooring, electrical work, tiling & redecoration	£7,500.00
ORG23-WCF022	Archdiocese of Cardiff (St John's Church, Rhymney)	Installation of new boiler system	£4,280.00
ORG23-WCF023	Valley Daffodils	Sensory equipment - sensory den, floor projector, block set, tuff stands, laptops	£7,500.00
ORG23-WCF024	Quickstep Fitness CIC	Various equipment for health, wellbeing & fitness activities	£6,827.17
ORG23-WCF025	St John the Baptist Church, Machen	Re-plastering and re-decorating of church interior	£7,500.00
ORG23-WCF026	Pontymister and Crosskeys Cricket Club	Remove existing tiles, repair floor, lay new tiles, supply & fitting of seating & tables	£6,800.00
ORG23-WCF027	The Melody Makers	Purchase of digital piano	£709.00
ORG23-WCF028	Argoed Village Hall	Internal and external decoration, purchase of round tables with trolley, wall guards	£6,095.65
		Total	£56,815.78

- 5.3.3 One application was received from an individual in relation to the WCAF, and this application was considered at the Voluntary Sector Liaison Sub-committee on 30th November 2023. A grant of **£1,500** was recommended by the Sub-committee, and this amount was subsequently approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers.
- 5.3.4 After the awards detailed in the table above and paragraph 5.3.3 have been considered, the total grant allocations for 2023/24 were **£155,325.59**.
- 5.3.5 The total Welsh Church Acts Fund (WCAF) budget available for 2024/25 is **£127,219.70**. This consists of the annual allocation from Monmouthshire County Council (**£62,542.36**) plus unallocated sums from previous years (**£69,459.70**).

Budget 2024/25	£62,542.36
Underspends held by Monmouthshire CBC (to be transferred to CCBC in 2024/25)	£56,259.68
Carry forward balances in CCBC accounts	£13,200.02
Underspend from previously approved projects	£0.00
Total available budget 2023/24	£132,002.06
Total 2024/25 grants awarded previously	£0.00
Balance remaining	£132,002.06

- 5.3.6 Between 1st April and 31st May 2024, 13 applications were received totalling **£58,135.29**. These have been approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers and are reported to the VSLC for information only. The awards are summarised in the table overleaf.

Ref	Name of organisation	Description	Amount awarded
ORG24-WCF001	Crosskeys Methodist Church	Various building works and repairs to building	£7,500.00
ORG24-WCF002	Zion Baptist Church	Purchase of new cooker, cooker hood and shelving	£1,898.98
ORG24-WCF003	Treowen Village Hall	Provision of additional and disabled car parking spaces	£7,500.00
ORG24-WCF004	Bedwas Christian Resource Centre	Removal of existing lift and installation of new lift	£7,500.00
ORG24-WCF005	Sirhowy Valley Hub CIC	Purchase of laptops, software and display fridge	£2,286.00
ORG24-WCF006	Gwent Family History Society (Blackwood Branch)	Purchase of various equipment	£3,732.81
ORG24-WCF007	Holy Trinity Church, Ystrad Mynach	Purchase and installation of ceiling mounted projector in church hall	£5,000.00
ORG24-WCF008	Vicarage Allotment Association, Ystrad Mynach	Purchase of tool sheds for allotments	£968.94
ORG24-WCF009	Blackwood Spiritualist Church	Replacement of front and rear door	£1,953.27

Ref	Name of organisation	Description	Amount awarded
ORG24-WCF010	Libanus Lifestyle (Wales) CIC	Creation of kitchen garden in grounds of chapel	£4,500.00
ORG24-WCF011	St Cenydd Road Presbyterian Church	Replacement carpet and purchase of kettle, toasters, microwave and recycling bins	£3,425.24
ORG24-WCF012	Nelson Cavaliers AFC	Creation of container stand at Wern Park	£4,370.05
ORG24-WCF013	Gelligaer FC	Connection of electricity supply to changing rooms	£7,500.00
		Total	£58,135.29

5.3.7 Similar to the GTVS, the annual budget for the WCAF is in the region of £60k. In 2024/25 there is a carry forward amount of £69,459.70 in total. However, once this underspend is utilised only the annual budget will be available. Therefore, in future years it is likely that the value of applications received will exceed the budget available, and we will need to move to a situation where grants are allocated on a first come, first served basis. The Council may also consider reducing the maximum level of grant that can be applied for (the maximum level previously was £5,000).

5.4 Conclusion

5.4.1 The report summarises all allocations made via the GTVS Fund and the WCAF between 1st November 2023 and 31st March 2024 (the 2023/24 financial year) and between 1st April and 31st May 2024 (the 2024/25 financial year). Further allocations will be reported to the VSLC at future meetings.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 There are no assumptions as the 2023/24 and the 2024/25 budgets have been confirmed, along with the carry forward amounts for each grant scheme.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 As this report is for information only an 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 GTVS General Criteria 2023/24

Appendix 2 GTVS General Criteria 2024/25

General Criteria for Financial Assistance 2023/24

Category	Criteria	Amount (£)
A	Organisation or Association owning a building	360
B	Organisation or Association not owning a building	200
C	Sports Club (up to 50 members)	200
D	Sports Club (over 50 members)	300
E	Other membership group e.g. Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Rainbows, St John Ambulance etc. (up to 50 members)	200
F	Other membership group e.g. Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Rainbows, St John Ambulance etc. (over 50 members)	300
G	Brass and Silver Bands	480
H	Arts Groups e.g. Jazz Bands, Choirs, Arts Societies, Writers Clubs, Theatre Groups etc.	200
I	Environment Groups e.g. Allotments, Beekeepers Groups, Gardening Clubs, Tenants & Residents Associations, Pigeon Clubs etc.	200
J	Other Community Groups	200
K	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	200
L	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	300
M	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales Top-up Grant	100

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General Criteria for Financial Assistance 2024/25

Category	Criteria	Amount (£)
A	Organisation or Association owning a building	372
B	Organisation or Association not owning a building	207
C	Sports Club (up to 50 members)	207
D	Sports Club (over 50 members)	310
E	Other membership group e.g. Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Rainbows, St John Ambulance etc. (up to 50 members)	207
F	Other membership group e.g. Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Rainbows, St John Ambulance etc. (over 50 members)	310
G	Brass and Silver Bands	496
H	Arts Groups e.g. Jazz Bands, Choirs, Arts Societies, Writers Clubs, Theatre Groups etc.	207
I	Environment Groups e.g. Allotments, Beekeepers Groups, Gardening Clubs, Tenants & Residents Associations, Pigeon Clubs etc.	207
J	Other Community Groups	207
K	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	207
L	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	310
M	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales Top-up Grant	103

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