



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 23RD MARCH 2016

SUBJECT: APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES & SECTION 151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the Panel with the applications for financial assistance received to date for the current financial year.
- 1.2 To provide details of indicative budget allocations for the 2016/17 financial year.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report advises Panel members of the budget allocations for both the Voluntary Sector budget and the "Welsh Church Fund" and provides details of applications received.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Voluntary and Community Sector organisations make an important contribution to public service provision across the borough and are key participants in the Community Strategy implemented through the Single Integrated Plan "Caerphilly Delivers." The Single Integrated Plan has the following priority outcomes: Prosperous Caerphilly; Safer Caerphilly; Learning Caerphilly and Healthier Caerphilly.

4. REPORT

4.1 Assistance To Voluntary Sector Budget

- 4.1.1 The Panel's budget for 2015/2016 is as follows:-

Budget 2015-16	£229,048.00
Less Discretionary Rate Relief (Estimated)	£252,088.45
Remaining Budget	(23,040.45)
Carry forward balance from 2014-15	£90,973.56
Total Available Budget 2015-16	£67,933.11
Total 2015-16 Grants awarded to date	£14,500.00
Balance Remaining	£53,433.11

- 4.1.2 The projected Discretionary Rate Relief for 2015-16 is £252,088.45. This is £23,040.45 above the available budget. As agreed at previous panel meetings the carry forward from previous years of £90,973.56 will be used to fund projects for 2015-16. To date grant awards total £14,500.00. Allowing for the projected overspend on the Discretionary Rate Relief the balance available for schemes is £53,433.11.
- 4.1.3 The total amount requested in respect of the applications listed in Appendix 1 is **£980.00 (2 No.)**. These applications do not meet the criteria as set out in Appendix 4. Panel Members are asked to consider these applications and make appropriate recommendations to the Interim Head of Corporate Finance for approval or otherwise under delegated powers.
- 4.1.4 Appendix 2 details those applications that meet the criteria out set in Appendix 4 that have been approved by officers (but not actioned). These total **£2,440.00 (17 No.)**.
- 4.1.5 The balance remaining if all grants requested are awarded as set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 will be £50,013.11. This balance will now be carried forward to the 2016/17 financial year.
- 4.1.6 Any further applications received before the 31st March 2016 will now be considered in the 2016/17 financial year.
- 4.1.7 The indicative budget allocation for 2016/17 has been agreed at £173,048, of which the projected Discretionary Rate Relief is £157,312.01. This leaves a projected budget allocation of £15,735.99 (which will increase by the final balance to be carried forward from 2015/16).

Budget 2015-16	229,048.00
Less Agreed Savings as per the Budget Report agreed by Council on 24/02/16	(56,000.00)
Budget Estimate for 2016-17	173,048.00
Less Discretionary Rate Relief (Estimated)	157,312.01
Balance Remaining	15,735.99

- 4.1.8 As previously agreed by the Panel grants awarded during the 2016/17 financial year that exceed the budget allocation will be funded from the brought forward balances.

4.2 Welsh Church Act Fund

- 4.2.1 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.
- 4.2.2 At the meeting of 13th July 2009 Members agreed that in future, officers would approve applications 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.
- 4.2.3 Caerphilly County Borough Council has received written confirmation from Monmouthshire CC that the 2015/16 budget allocation will be **£49,334.00**. Monmouthshire CC have confirmed that the underspends from previous years of **£155,235.00** can be carried forward, resulting in a total available budget for the current year of **£204,569.00**.

Budget 2015-16	£49,334.00
Carry forward balances	£155,235.00
Total Available Budget 2015-16	£204,569.00
Total 2015-16 Grants awarded to date	£22,571.67
Balance Remaining	£181,997.33

4.2.4 Details of applications received since the last meeting are set out in **Appendix 3**. The total of amounts requested in accordance with the agreed criteria is **£7,479.00 (4 No.)**.

4.2.5 If all awards spend to their maximum allocation there will be a balance of £174,518.33 remaining.

4.2.6 We have been advised by Monmouthshire County Council that the provisional allocation for 2016-17 will be £61,600 i.e. an increase of £12,266 on this year's allocation. We have also been advised that we will be allowed to carry-forward the unspent allocations.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct equalities implications to this report so no Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no personnel implications.

8. CONSULTATIONS.

8.1 There are no consultation responses, which have not been reflected in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That Members consider the applications contained in Appendix 1 and make appropriate recommendations to the Interim Head of Corporate Finance for approval under delegated powers.

9.2 That Members note the awards approved as set out in Appendices 2 and 3.

9.3 Members note the indicative budget allocations outlined in 4.1.7 and 4.2.6.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To ensure that the applications received under this report are determined in accordance with the Council's scheme of delegation criteria.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Act 1972 and 2003 and the Councils Financial Regulations.

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Consultees: Stephen R Harris – Interim Head of Corporate Finance
A Southcombe – Finance Manager

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Panel Awards

Appendix 2 General Criteria Awards

Appendix 3 Welsh Church Fund Act - 2015/2016

Appendix 4 General Criteria