



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 13TH JULY 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.

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 2016/2017 is as follows:

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| Budget 2016-17 | £173,048.00 |
| Less Discretionary Rate Relief (Estimated) | £154,859.52 |
| Remaining Budget | £18,188.48 |
| Carry forward balance from 2015-16 | £90,973.56 |
| Total Available Budget 2016-17 | £109,162.04 |
| Total 2016-17 Grants awarded to date | £0.00 |
| Balance Remaining | £109,162.04 |

- 4.1.2 The projected Discretionary Rate Relief for 2016-17 is £154,859.52. Allowing for the projected spend on the Discretionary Rate Relief the available balance for schemes is £109,162.04 which includes the carry forward balances.
- 4.1.3 The total amount requested in respect of the applications listed in Appendix 1 is £1,170.00 (5 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 set out in Appendix 4 that have been approved by officers (but not actioned). These total £8,960.00 (43 No.).
- 4.1.5 The balance remaining if all grants requested are awarded as set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 will be £99,032.04.

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 2016/17 budget allocation will be £61,600.00. Monmouthshire CC have confirmed that the underspends from previous years of £174,518.33 can be carried forward, resulting in a total available budget for the current year of £236,118.33.

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| Budget 2016-17 | £61,600.00 |
| Carry forward balances | £174,518.33 |
| Total Available Budget 2016-17 | £236,118.33 |
| Total 2016-17 Grants awarded to date | £0.00 |
| Balance Remaining | £236,118.33 |

- 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 £7,920.00 (5 No.).
- 4.2.5 Appendix 5 contains a list of previously approved applications that have exceeded the 18 month time limit to claim funding as set out in the Terms and Conditions. These applicants have been advised the grant has now been withdrawn. These withdrawn grants total £5,568.00 (3 No.)
- 4.2.6 Members will recall that at the last meeting of the Panel it was agreed that officers would seek advice from other Local Authorities on their allocation processes for the Welsh Church Fund and would provide a report for Panel Members to consider and make recommendations to Cabinet. Much of this information has now been received but the Interim Head of Corporate

Finance needs to seek advice from the Interim Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer on the appropriate process to follow to agree any changes to the process currently operating in Caerphilly CBC. A further update/report will be provided at the next meeting of the Panel.

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 or otherwise under delegated powers.
- 9.2 That Members note the awards approved as set out in Appendices 2 and 3.
- 9.3 That Members note the process outlined in 4.2.5 in relation to time limits on claiming approved Welsh Church Fund grants.

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. STATURORY POWER

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

Author: D. Roberts - Principal Group Accountant (Financial Advice and Support)
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 Act Fund -2016/17
Appendix 4 General Criteria
Appendix 5 Welsh Church Fund Grants Withdrawn