



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 6TH MARCH 2019

SUBJECT: APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION & CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Panel of the applications for financial assistance received between 1st November 2018 and 31st January 2019.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report advises Panel members of the budget allocations for both the Voluntary Sector budget and the Welsh Church Acts Fund and provides details of applications received between 1st November 2018 and 31st January 2019.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Panel Members make recommendations for approval or otherwise in relation to the requests for Financial Assistance listed in Appendix 1. These recommendations will then be considered and approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers.
- 3.2 That Panel members note the applications listed in Appendix 2 and 3, which have already been approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers, and which are reported to the Panel 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 GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR BUDGET

- 5.1.1 The Panel's budget for 2018-19 is as follows:

Budget 2018-19	£179,333.00
Less Discretionary Rate Relief (Estimated)	£171,689.00
Remaining Budget	£7,644.00
Carry forward balance from 2017-18	£140,507.01
Total available Budget 2018-19	£148,151.01
Total 2018-19 Grants awarded as per last report	£14,250.00
Balance remaining	£133,901.01

- 5.1.2 The projected Discretionary Rate Relief for 2018-19 is **£171,689.00**. Allowing for the projected spend on the Discretionary Rate Relief, the available balance for schemes is **£148,151.01**, which includes the carry forward balances.
- 5.1.3 At the previous Panel meeting in November 2018, Panel members were informed of awards approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers of **£3,140.00** in respect of General Criteria awards. The Panel also agreed to recommend Panel awards totalling **£700.00**, which were subsequently approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers. Therefore, following the meeting the total amount approved in respect of General Criteria awards and Panel awards for the 2018-19 financial year was **£14,250.00**
- 5.1.4 The maximum amount requested in respect of the application listed in Appendix 1 (Panel Awards) is **£250.00 (1 No.)**. This application does not meet the criteria as set out in Appendix 4. Panel Members are asked to consider this application and make an appropriate recommendation to the Head of Corporate Finance for approval or otherwise under delegated powers.
- 5.1.5 Appendix 2 details the General Criteria applications that have been received between 1st November 2018 and 31st January 2019, and approved by the Head of Corporate Finance. These total **£1,790.00 (11 No.)**.
- 5.1.6 The balance remaining if all grants are awarded as set out in Appendix 1 and those already approved in Appendix 2 will be **£131,861.01**.
- 5.1.7 As previously agreed by the Panel, grants awarded during the 2018-19 financial year that exceed the budget allocation will be funded from the brought forward balances.

5.2 WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND

- 5.2.1 Panel Members will recall that the current limits for applications to the Welsh Church Acts Fund are as follows:
- (i) Applications of up to £5,000 to be fully grant funded;
 - (ii) Applications above £5,000 to be subject to a grant rate of 75% on the sum in excess of £5,000 (e.g. an application requesting £8,000 that meets the criteria would receive £7,250 - £5,000 plus 75% of £3,000);
 - (iii) The maximum grant payable to be £10,000;
- 5.2.2 At the meeting of 13th July 2009, Members agreed that officers would approve applications meeting the Welsh Church Acts Fund criteria using the delegated powers of the Head of Corporate Finance. Such decisions would then be reported to the Panel for information, where Members could ask for further information if required.
- 5.2.3 The total budget available for 2018-19 is **£324,839.89**, including the annual allocation from Monmouthshire County Council (**£61,600**) and underspends from previous years (**£263,239.89**).

Budget 2018-19	£61,600
Carry forward balances	£263,239.89
Total available budget 2018-19	£324,839.89
Total 2018-19 grants awarded to date	£156,877.43
Adjustments within year	-£3,468.39
Balance remaining	£171,430.85

- 5.2.4 Panel Members may recall that at the last Panel meeting awards totalling **£156,877.43** were reported as having been allocated to projects in 2018-19. Since the last meeting a number of approved projects have submitted their claims for expenditure, with 4 No. projects spending less than the amount originally allocated, a total sum of **£3,468.39**. This amount has been re-absorbed back into the funding pot to be used for other projects. Therefore the sum available is **£171,430.85**.
- 5.2.5 Details of applications received since the last meeting which meet the Welsh Church Fund criteria are set out in Appendix 3. The total of amounts requested in accordance with the agreed criteria is **£37,855.35 (8 No.)**.
- 5.2.6 If all grants awarded but not yet drawn down are spent to the maximum amounts allocated there will be a balance of **£133,575.50** remaining.
- 5.2.7 No previously approved applications have exceeded the 18 month time limit to claim funding (as set out in the Terms and Conditions) since the last Panel meeting.
- 5.2.8 When the new grant criteria were approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 28th March 2018, they also agreed to revisit the criteria after 12 months of operation. A separate report dealing with suggested changes to the current criteria will also be considered by Panel members during the meeting, before a report is made to Cabinet.

5.3 **Conclusion**

The report summarises all allocations made under the Grants to the Voluntary Sector and Welsh Church Acts Fund budgets for the 2018-19 financial year, and informs Panel Members of the amounts that currently remain unallocated.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 There are no assumptions as the 2018-19 budgets have been confirmed, together with carried forward underspends from previous years.

7. **LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES**

7.1 **Corporate Plan 2018-2023**

- 7.1.1 The report supports Objective 5 of the Corporate Plan 2018-2023 – Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 7.1.2 Applications from individuals to the Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget enable them to represent the county borough at a Wales or UK level or abroad, in their chosen sporting field. Taking part in sports will enable these individuals to be

physically active and help to ensure that they lead healthy lifestyles.

- 7.1.3 Voluntary and community sector organisations make an important contribution to public service provision across the county borough. Grants offered to these organisations via the Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget and the Welsh Church Acts Fund will help to ensure that they are able to provide the services required by residents within our local communities. This will ensure that residents are able to look after their own health and well-being.

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 8.1 Voluntary and community sector organisations make an important contribution to public service provision across the county borough and are key participants in the 'Caerphilly We Want' Well-being Plan published on 3rd May 2018 under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Well-being Plan has four priorities – Positive Change, Positive Start, Positive People and Positive Places.

- 8.2 This report links to the following Well-Being Goals within the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

- A prosperous Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

- 8.3 Grants awarded via the WCAF contribute to the following Well-Being Goals for Wales:-

- A prosperous Wales – grants offered to the voluntary and community sector will help these organisations and the buildings they own and manage to become more financially sustainable, and help them to provide much needed services to their local communities.
- A healthier Wales – providing opportunities for residents to receive local services that are suited to their needs will help to improve their physical and mental well-being.
- A more equal Wales – providing local services in community settings will help to ensure that residents are able to fulfil their own potential, regardless of their background or personal circumstances.
- A Wales of cohesive communities – community buildings are often at the heart of the local community, which helps to ensure that our communities can thrive and there is a focal point where residents can come together.
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language – the activities that are provided by the community and voluntary sector encourage residents to participate in the arts, sports and recreational activities.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report so no Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no personnel implications.

12. CONSULTATIONS

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

13. STATUTORY POWER

13.1 Local Government Act 1972 and 2003 and the Council's Financial Regulations.

Author: Vicki Doyle – Policy Officer (doylevm@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Consultees: Stephen Harris – Interim Head of Business Improvement Services
(harrisr@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Nicole Scammell – Head of Corporate Finance (scammn@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Andrew Southcombe – Finance Manager (southak@caerphilly.gov.uk)
David Roberts – Principal Group Accountant (roberda@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Huw Jones – Senior Auditor (joneshd@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Kathryn Peters – Corporate Policy Manager (peterk@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Panel Awards
Appendix 2 General Criteria Awards
Appendix 3 Welsh Church Acts Fund Criteria Awards
Appendix 4 List of General Criteria