



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 19TH DECEMBER 2019

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF GENERAL CRITERIA GRANTS

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION & CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To give Panel Members the opportunity to review the agreed amounts for General Criteria grant awards according to the set categories.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report offers Panel Members the opportunity to review the agreed amounts for General Criteria grant awards according to the set categories. Panel Members are also requested to consider the submission from Mr Roger Evans and make recommendations as to whether to take account of any of the suggestions in their review of the General Criteria.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Panel members are requested to make recommendations as to whether all the General Criteria grant categories should be maintained moving forward and whether the grant amounts for the individual categories should be increased.
- 3.2 Panel Members are requested to consider the submission from Mr Roger Evans and make recommendations or otherwise for suggested changes to the General Criteria awards and the application process.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that the General Criteria are reviewed in accordance with the views expressed by Panel Members at the meeting held on 24th July 2019.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 Panel Members will recall that at the last meeting of the Panel on 24th July 2019, a discussion took place in relation to the need to review the General Criteria amounts to be awarded for applications submitted by individuals and organisations via the Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget. The last time any amendments were made to the amounts awarded under the different categories was in July 2015.

- 5.2 The set amounts that can be awarded against the individual categories are shown in the table below for information.

Category	Criteria	Amount
a	OAP Association with own building	£300
b	OAP Association without own building	£150
c	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales at home	£130
c1	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales top up grant	£120
d	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales abroad	£250
e	Jazz Bands	£100
f	Choirs	£100
g	Junior sports clubs (up to 50 members)	£100
g1	Junior sports clubs (over 50 members)	£200
h	Boys & Girls Clubs/YMCA/Scouts/Cubs/Brownies/Boys Brigade/Crusaders (up to 50 members)	£100
h1	Boys & Girls Clubs/YMCA/Scouts/Cubs/Brownies/Boys Brigade/Crusaders (over 50 members)	£200
i	St John Ambulance (up to 50 members) – Cadets/Badgers	£100
j	St John Ambulance (over 50 members) – Cadets/Badgers	£200
m	Brass and Silver bands	£400
n	Allotments	£100
o	Arts society	£100
p	Writers clubs	£100
q	Theatre groups	£200
r	Community groups	£100
s	Beekeepers groups	£100
t	Garden clubs	£150
u	Tenants & Residents Association	£100
v	Websites – initial design stage only	£100
w	Pigeon clubs	£200
x	Clubs run from Churches/Chapels	£200
y	Sports club (up to 50 members)	£100
z	Sports club (over 50 members)	£200
aa	Other (maximum amount)	£400

- 5.3 Panel members are requested to make recommendations as to whether all the General Criteria categories should be maintained moving forward and whether the grant amounts should be increased, given that they have remained at the same level since 2015. These recommendations will be reported to Cabinet for approval, with a view to implementing the changes from 1st April 2020.

Submission from Mr Roger Evans

- 5.4 On 13th September 2019 a question in relation to the Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget was submitted for the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee on 26th September 2019 by Mr Roger Evans. Mr Evans presented his question at the meeting, and the attendees requested that the content be brought to the attention of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel.
- 5.5 Mr Evans' submission outlines where the funding for the Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget comes from, who can apply for it, where the money is spent, his conclusions and a number of recommendations. The financial information included in the submission has been gathered via a Freedom of Information request to Corporate Finance. A copy of the submission is attached at Appendix 1.

- 5.6 It should be noted that the analysis in the submission only focuses on the grants offered to organisations and does not include those given to sporting individuals who represent Wales at home or abroad, which also need to be taken account in terms of the wider context.
- 5.7 The submission makes the following recommendations:
- Improving publicity for the scheme
 - Simplifying the application process by making the form easier to fill in and making it available as a Word document online
 - Reducing the number of categories of recipient from the current 27 to 8
 - Reviewing the levels of awards in each category
 - Introducing an automatic grant scheme with an annual declaration or changing the scheme to a two-yearly one
 - Transferring grants to individuals to the Council's 'Sport Caerphilly' section
- 5.8 Panel Members are asked to consider the submission from Mr Evans and make recommendations or otherwise for suggested changes, which will be included in the report to Cabinet.

Conclusion

- 5.9 The report offers Panel Members the opportunity to reconsider the level of General Criteria awards, as requested in the meeting on 24th July 2019. Panel Members are also asked to consider the submission made by Mr Roger Evans, which has been referred to the Panel from the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 There are no assumptions as the 2019-20 budgets have been confirmed, together with carried forward underspends from previous years.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

Corporate Plan 2018-2023

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 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 Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget 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. Also enabling individuals to represent Wales at national and international competitions in their chosen sport, thereby improving their health and 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. Should the grant amounts for the individual General Criteria categories be increased, this will have an impact on the level of spend in relation to the Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget moving forward, but it is difficult to quantify the increase, as it relies on individuals and organisations making grant applications.

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)
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 Submission from Mr Roger Evans

CCBC Grants to the Voluntary Sector

Where does the money come from?

A report is made to the Council's Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel (an advisory committee) three times a year (July, November and March) specifying the initial budget (funded from the Council's core revenue budget and subject to increases for inflation and reductions for any potential savings that are agreed), from which is deducted 'Discretionary Rate Relief'; this is the relief granted to non-profit making organisations in respect of their business rate liability for the properties that they occupy and is an estimate which is only finalised at the end of each financial year. To this is added any balances brought forward from the previous year, to give a 'Total available'. These amounts (for the last six financial years) are shown in Spreadsheet 'VSGtotals - Sheet2'.

Who can apply for it?

Grants are disbursed to (1) voluntary organisations, and (2) individuals who represent the county borough at county, national or international level. Applicants must apply by filling in a paper form, which must be requested from, and returned to, the appropriate officer. There are currently 27 different categories of voluntary organisation, and the amount awarded depends on the category of organisation (and in some cases, the number of members it has), and, as regards OAP Associations, whether they have their own building or not.

The amount awarded to individuals depends on whether they represent the county at home or abroad.

Where has the money gone?

This report focuses on grants to organisations, although grants to individuals are included in the summary at Spreadsheet 'VSGtotals - Sheet1'.

In the last six years, 172 different organisations have received grants; the number of awards has fallen from 78 in 2013-14 to 39 in 2018-19, giving an average of 53 awards per year. The amount disbursed has fallen from £14,325 to £5,750 and the average grant has also fallen from £184 to £147. This means that the amount available (underspent) at the end of each year has risen from £90,760 to £133,901. Discrepancies in the Carry forward/ Brought forward figures each year are explained by the Council as 'The figures in the March report are as stated "to date" which do not include the March requests which are awarded/finalised in the meeting.'

Analysis of the recipients shows 'multiple' awards have been as follows:

Number of awards received	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Number of organisations	111	23	13	12	7	6	Total 172

Where an organisation has received only one award, it may indicate that it had no need for a further grant, or that it found the process too complex, or that the organisation no longer exists. Where organisations received multiple awards, it suggests they are clearly more aware of the scheme and assiduous in applying regularly.

Analysis by type of organisation shows awards have been as follows:

Arts, Crafts & Music groups	25
Brass bands	2
Community groups	43
Environmental, inc Allotments	10
OAP organisations	17
Sports, inc children & youth	29

Youth & children's groups	34
Other	12
Total	172

Conclusions

GAVO, representing a range of voluntary organisations in the Council's area, is concerned at:

- the decline in the number of organisations applying for grants;
- the decline in amounts awarded (which have been fixed at current levels for a number of years); and
- the increase in the amount of annual underspend.

Each of these factors means that local voluntary organisations are being deprived of valuable funding resources which would enable them to better serve their members and communities.

Recommendations

In order to address the above issues, GAVO recommends that the Council considers:

1. Improving publicity for the scheme;
2. Simplifying the application process by making the form easier to fill in and making it available as a 'Word' document on-line;
3. Reducing the number of categories of recipient from 27 to the eight listed above, that is, (1) Arts, Crafts & Music groups; (2) Brass bands; (3) Community groups; (4) Environmental, inc Allotments; (5) OAP organisations; (6) Sports, including children & youth teams; (7) Youth & children's groups; and (8) Other;
4. Reviewing the levels of award to each category to take account of inflation;
5. **Either**, introducing an 'automatic' grant scheme to ensure as much as possible is disbursed each year. This could be achieved by an initial registration scheme, asking each organisation to register with the Council and submit the necessary 'fixed' documentation, then making a simple annual declaration that the group is still active and claiming the grant for that year (at whatever level the Council chooses to set it);
6. **Or** changing the scheme to a two-yearly (biennial) one, to reduce the administrative burden on both the voluntary organisation and the officer operating it. This would require the amount of grant to be doubled; and
7. Transferring grants to individuals to the Council's 'Sport Caerphilly' section, which appears to be a more logical place for applicants to turn to for such support.

Voluntary Sector Grants	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
1 st Newbridge Brownies	90.00			100.00		
1 st Newbridge Rainbows	45.00					
1 st Trinant Brownies	90.00	45.00			100.00	100.00
1 st Trinant Rainbows						100.00
1 st Caerphilly Rainbows		100.00				
1 st Aber Valley Scouts			100.00			
1 st Llanbadach Girls Brigade			100.00			100.00
1 st Ystrad Mynach Guides			100.00			
1 st Ystrad Mynach Scouts			100.00			
2 nd Caerphilly Guides	45.00					
2 nd Nelson Brownies		100.00				
2 nd Caerphilly Brownies			100.00			
2 nd Caerphilly Guides						100.00
3 rd Newbridge Cubs	45.00					
3 rd Newbridge Scouts	45.00					
3 rd Caerphilly St Martin's Guides			100.00			
7 th Caerphilly Scouts		135.00				
Aber Valley FC						200.00
Aber Valley YMCA	470.00					
Aber Penaber Boxing Club	90.00					
Aber Valley CISWO Social Group			250.00			
Abertysswg St Paul's Church	410.00					
Argoed Mid Valleys East	260.00					
Argoed Mid Valleys East Art Society		100.00				
Arthritis Care	270.00					
Bargoed & District Art Society	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00		
Bargoed Male Voice Choir	70.00		100.00	100.00		100.00
Bargoed Heol Fargoed Allotments		100.00				
Bargoed Heolddu Gymnastics		200.00	200.00			
Bargoed Shootkan Karate Club			100.00			
Bargoed Yoga Group				100.00		
Bedwas TM Brass Band?	500.00	400.00	400.00			
Bedwas Writers' Circle	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00		100.00
Bedwas Theatre Group				200.00		200.00
Bethel Quilters		200.00		200.00	200.00	200.00
Blackwood Friends of B Communications	200.00					
Blackwood Little Theatre	500.00					
Blackwood Oasis Christian Centre	50.00	50.00				

Blackwood Gwent & Powys Army Cadet Force				100.00					
Blackwood RBL								500.00	
Blackwood Stroke Support Gp								100.00	
Brithdir Constitutional FC				100.00		150.00			
Brithdir 55 Club									
Brittania, FdL & Pengam Comm Group				100.00					
Budokan		135.00		200.00	100.00			200.00	100.00
Caerphilly & District Society		200.00							
Caerphilly Causeway Prospects		150.00		160.00	100.00				
Caerphilly Children's Choir		70.00							
Caerphilly Enable Children's Centre		100.00							
Caerphilly Homestart		500.00							
Caerphilly St Martin's Ward OAP Ass		130.00		150.00	150.00			150.00	150.00
Caerphilly All Nations Ch Kids Club				200.00					
Caerphilly Ladies' Choir				100.00					
Caerphilly Trevelyan Court Residents Group					100.00			100.00	
Caerphilly Cole Court Social Club							100.00		
Caerphilly St Andrew's Church							500.00		
CCB Stroke Support Group					250.00				
Cambrian Foundation for Deaf Children (Swansea)					200.00				
Cardiac Fitness Solution				200.00					
Cascade & District Allotments		50.00		50.00					
Cascade Crafters (OAP)		130.00		200.00	200.00				
Cascade Luncheon Club (OAP)		130.00		200.00	200.00				
Cascade Methodist Church		200.00		200.00					
Cefn Fforest Jazz Band				100.00			100.00		
Cefn Hengoed Majestics Jazz Band		70.00					100.00		
Cefn Hengoed Youth Centre					100.00		100.00		100.00
Craffy Cotten Club		250.00							
Crai District Scout Council				200.00					
Croespenmaen OAP & Welfare Hall		250.00			300.00				
Croespenmaen Baptist Ch				250.00	200.00				
Crosskeys Krafters				200.00			200.00	200.00	200.00
Crumlin Bravehearts									100.00
Crumlin Chill Club		300.00		100.00			100.00		
Crumlin Friends of Navigation		500.00		100.00	200.00		150.00		
Crumlin Pentwyn Allotments		50.00		100.00	100.00		100.00	100.00	100.00
Crumlin Treowen Stars AFC		360.00		360.00	200.00				
Crumlin Kendon & Woodview CC					100.00				
Crumlin Treowen Village Hall							100.00		

Curly Whirlies	300.00								
Cwmcam Angling Ass		90.00							
Cwmcam Angling Organisation		100.00							
Cwmcam OAP Hall & Welfare Ass		250.00			300.00				
Cwmfeinfach Residents Ass		100.00							200.00
Dance Unity Formation Team									
Educational Foundation	200.00								
Energlyn Bowls Allotments	50.00								
Footprints Mother & Toddler Gp									100.00
Gelligaer Players' Theatre	200.00		200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Gelligaer Historical Society			200.00	100.00					
Gelligaer Parish Social Committee			200.00						
Gilfach Andrews Clo & Aeron PI OAP Ass	130.00	130.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	
Gilfach OAP Ass	130.00	130.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	
Gilfach Old People's Welfare Committee	250.00	250.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Gilfach Tuesday Club for Deaf		100.00							
Gilfach Ladies Bowling Club				100.00					100.00
Golden Oldies	500.00								
Gwent Defibbers	100.00								
Heartwise									100.00
Islwyn Gymnastic Club	135.00								
Islwyn Riding Club	135.00								
Junior Formation Team	45.00								
Kids Cancer Charity t/a Christian Lewis Trust		500.00							
Llanbradach AFC	270.00								
Llanbradach School St Allotments	50.00								
Llanbradach Aged Persons Welfare Comm	250.00	250.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Lower Machen Festival		200.00							
Maesywmmmer Heritage Gp									100.00
Maesywmmmer OAP Ass		300.00							
McLaren FC	100.00	100.00							
Mega Allsorts Special Olympic Team	750.00								
Melody Makers		70.00							
Music in Hospitals		250.00							
Nelson Cavaliers AFC	100.00	200.00							
New CLURV		100.00							
Newbridge Ashfield Rd Allotments	50.00	50.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Newbridge Online	100.00								
Newbridge Tab Baptist Church	250.00								
Newbridge Comm Theatre Group		250.00							

Thursday Club										
Tirphil Allotments		50.00	100.00							200.00
Trethomas Bluebirds AFC			200.00							
Valleys Fibromyalgia			100.00							
Valleys Healing & Life			100.00							
Valley Daffodils						100.00			100.00	100.00
Wyllie Residents Comm Ass	100.00									
Ynysddu Welfare AFC										200.00
Ystrad Fawr Alegria Team	45.00									
Ystrad Mynach Male Choir		70.00	100.00	100.00						
Ystrad Mynach OAP		150.00		150.00						150.00
Ystrad Mynach ATC						100.00			100.00	
Unknown OAPs (2)						300.00			300.00	
Total: Organisations	14325.00	11955.00	9050.00	6600.00	4950.00	8190.00	13140.00	17690.00	14840.00	5750.00
Number of organisations	78.00	71.00	55.00	41.00	32.00	39.00				
Average grant	183.65	168.38	164.55	160.98	154.69	147.44				
Individual national sports rep	9360.00	11460.00	8490.00	11090.00	8190.00	9090.00				
Number of individuals	48.00	66.00	45.00	53.00	51.00	45.00				
Average grant	195.00	173.64	188.67	209.25	160.59	202.00				
Total disbursed	23685.00	23415.00	17540.00	17690.00	13140.00	14840.00				
B/F from previous FY	74245.00	83258.00	90974.00	90974.00	90423.00	140507.00				
Allocation this FY	38822.00	33254.00	-18359.00	18188.00	34169.00	23747.00				
Total available	113067.00	116512.00	72615.00	109162.00	124592.00	164254.00				
Expected Carry Forward (Available – Disbursed)	89382.00	93097.00	55075.00	91472.00	111452.00	149414.00				

	2013-14			2014-15			2015-16		
	July	November	March	July	November	March	July	November	March
Initial budget	251,448	251,448	251,448	255,220	255,220	255,220	229,048	229,048	229,048
Less Discretionary Rate R:	212,626	214,114	217,481	221,966	234,925	223,095	247,407	252,487	252,088
Remaining budget	38,822	37,334	33,967	33,254	20,295	32,125	-18,359	-23,439	-23,040
Bal B/F from previous FY	74,245	74,245	74,245	83,258	83,258	83,258	90,974	90,974	90,974
Total available	113,067	111,579	108,212	116,512	103,553	115,383	72,615	67,535	67,934
Grants awarded to date	0	9,990	17,452	0	7,215	15,035	0	7,490	14,500
Amount remaining	113,067	101,589	90,760	116,512	96,338	100,348	72,615	60,045	53,434

	2016-17			2017-18			2018-19		
	July	November	March	July	November	March	July	November	March
Initial budget	173,048	173,048		175,817	175,817	175,817	179,333	179,333	179,333
Less Discretionary Rate R:	154,860	151,517		158,516	141,648	145,390	155,586	171,689	171,689
Remaining budget	18,188	21,531	0	17,301	34,169	30,427	23,747	7,644	7,644
Bal B/F from previous FY	90,974	90,974		90,423	90,423	90,423	140,507	140,507	140,507
Total available	109,162	112,505	0	107,724	124,592	120,850	164,254	148,151	148,151
Grants awarded to date	0	9,690		0	6,400	16,840	0	10,410	14,250
Amount remaining	109,162	102,815	0	107,724	118,192	104,010	164,254	137,741	133,901