



## **GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019**

**SUBJECT: APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION & CORPORATE SERVICES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Panel of the applications for financial assistance received between 1<sup>st</sup> June and 30<sup>th</sup> September 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 1<sup>st</sup> June and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That Panel Members make recommendations for approval or otherwise in relation to the requests for Financial Assistance that do not meet the General Criteria. 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 received that meet the criteria for Financial Assistance and the Welsh Church Acts Fund, which have already been approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers, and which are reported to the Panel for information.
- 3.3 That Panel members make a recommendation for approval or otherwise in relation to a request from an individual under the Welsh Church Acts Fund. This recommendation will then be considered and approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers.

### **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 2019-20 is as shown in the table overleaf.

Budget 2019-20	£183,637.00
Less Discretionary Rate Relief (Estimated)	£171,430.61
Remaining Budget	£12,206.39
Carry forward balance from 2018-19	£128,952.99
Total Available Budget 2019-20	£141,159.38
Total 2019-20 Grants awarded previously	£7,460.00
Balance Remaining	£133,699.38

5.1.2 The projected Discretionary Rate Relief for 2019-20 is **£171,430.61**. Allowing for the projected spend on the Discretionary Rate Relief and the amount awarded between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (including the Panel recommendation of an award of £1,650 to Kids Cancer Charity at the July meeting), the available balance for schemes is **£133,699.38**, which includes the carry forward balances.

5.1.3 Between 1<sup>st</sup> June and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019, 17 new General Criteria awards have been made totalling **£2,790**. These have already been approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers and are reported to the Panel for information only. The awards are summarised in the table below:

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
19/GC035	Sporting individual – 8 Ball Pool	Representing Wales abroad	£250.00
19/GC036	Sporting individual – Field hockey	Representing Wales abroad	£250.00
19/GC037	Sporting individual – Hockey	Representing Wales abroad	£250.00
19/GC038	Llanbradach OAP Welfare Committee	OAP Association with own building	£300.00
19/GC039	Ystrad Mynach OAP	OAP Association without own building	£150.00
19/GC040	Pontlottyn Allotment Association	Allotments	£100.00
19/GC041	Black Vein Miners Memorial Society	Community Group	£100.00
19/GC042	Aber Valley Community FC	Sports Club (over 50 members)	£200.00
19/GC043	Sporting individual – Clay pigeon shooting	Representing Wales at home	£130.00
19/GC044	Sporting individual – Acrobatic gymnastics	Representing Wales abroad	£250.00
19/GC045	Sporting individual – Javelin	Representing Wales at home	£130.00
19/GC046	Sporting individual – Table Tennis	Representing Wales abroad – top up grant	£120.00
19/GC047	Sporting individual – Badminton	Representing Wales at home	£130.00
19/GC048	Tredomen Allotment Association	Allotments	£100.00
19/GC049	Sporting individual – Clay target shooting	Representing Wales at home	£130.00
19/GC050	The Youth Centre Cefn Hengoed	Community Group	£100.00
19/FC051	Newbridge WI	Community Group	£100.00

- 5.1.4 Panel Members will recall that at the last meeting an application was received from the Cambrian Educational Foundation for Deaf Children, with the grant amount being requested not specified. Panel Members were advised that the organisation had previously been awarded £200 in 2017.
- 5.1.5 Panel Members discussed the application at length and it was unanimously agreed that further information on the service provision (particularly within Caerphilly county borough) be sought from the applicant. Officers contacted the applicant as requested and the organisation responded with the following: "I can see from our records that over the period 2016, 2017 and 2018 we received from Caerphilly CBC £200. Over that period we have not received applications from individuals. However, in June of this year we made an award of £499 for a laptop for an individual who resides in Castle View, Caerphilly." Panel Members are asked to consider this information and make a recommendation as to whether to support the grant application and if so, the level of grant to be awarded. This recommendation will be considered and approved or otherwise under the delegated powers of the Head of Corporate Finance, in line with the agreed procedure.
- 5.1.6 Between 1<sup>st</sup> June and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 one further application has been received which does not meet the General Criteria as set out in Appendix 1. Panel Members are asked to consider this application and make appropriate recommendations to the Head of Corporate Finance for approval or otherwise under delegated powers. A summary of the applications received is shown below:

Ref	Name of organisation	Purpose for which grant is sought	Amount requested
19/P003	Cefn Hengoed Ladies Choir	The choir has been invited to sing at the Carnegie Hall in New York in June 2020. This is a very prestigious event singing Howard Goodall's Invictus and the event will be conducted by the composer himself. The invitation is due to the exceedingly high quality of the group and the exceptional direction of their director. The grant will be used towards the cost of the trip, estimated to be £25,000	£5,000

- 5.1.7 As previously agreed by the Panel, grants awarded during the 2019-20 financial year that exceed the budget allocation will be funded from the brought forward balances.

## 5.2 WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND

- 5.2.1 The total Welsh Church Acts Fund budget available for 2019-20 is **£173,163.61**, including the annual allocation from Monmouthshire County Council (**£64,751**), underspends from previous years (**£108,232.86**) and amounts re-absorbed back into the funding pot from completed projects where the amount spent was less than originally allocated (**£179.75**).

Budget 2019-20	£64,751.00
Carry forward balances	£108,232.86
Adjustments within year	£179.75
Total available budget 2019-20	£173,163.61
Total 2019-20 grants awarded to date	£17,231.40
Balance remaining	£155,932.21

5.2.2 Between 1<sup>st</sup> June and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 a total of five additional applications have been received totalling **£26,427.99**. These have already been approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers and are reported to the Panel for information only. The awards are summarised in the table overleaf.

Ref	Name of organisation	Description	Amount awarded
ORG19/WCF006	Croespenmaen Welfare Hall & OAP	Upgrading kitchen & toilets	£5,000.00
ORG19/WCF007	St Thomas Church, Cefn Fforest	Replacement boiler & new radiators	£5,000.00
ORG19/WCF008	Gilfach Bargoed Bowls Club	Water boiler & lockable cabinet	£1,427.99
ORG19/WCF009	Aber Valley Communities Partnership	Replacement surface for water play feature	£10,000.00
ORG19/WCF0010	Van Road United Reformed Church, Caerphilly	Replacement fire alarm system	£5,000.00

5.2.3 Panel members will note that the award to the Aber Valley Communities Partnership is for £10,000. The reason for this is that the application was originally submitted in the 2018/19 financial year when the upper limit for grants was £10,000. Had the award been limited to the current maximum grant this would have been detrimental to the organisation.

5.2.4 Between 1<sup>st</sup> June and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 one application has been received from an individual. A copy of the application received is attached at Appendix 2, and Panel members are asked to consider the application and make a recommendation on whether to support the applicant and if so, the level of grant to be awarded. The recommendation will then be considered and approved as appropriate by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers.

5.2.5 If all grants awarded in 2019-20 but not yet drawn down spend to the maximum amounts allocated there will be a balance of **£131,004.22** remaining, less any award in relation to 5.2.4 above.

5.2.6 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.

### 5.3 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 to date for the 2019-20 financial year. It also asks Panel members to make recommendations in relation to Financial Assistance applications not meeting the General Criteria, and an application received in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund from an individual.

## 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**

### **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.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 List of General Criteria

Appendix 2 Application from an individual in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund