



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 24TH MARCH 2021

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 October and 31st December 2020 relating to the 2020/21 financial year.
- 1.2 To seek Panel views on one application that does not meet the general criteria.
- 1.3 To inform the Panel of grant monies that have been recycled back into the funding pot.

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 budget. It also provides details of applications received and approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers between 1st October and 31st December 2020. It seeks Panel views in relation to one application received from an organisation under the Voluntary Sector budget which does not meet the general criteria. Finally, the report seeks to inform Panel members of grant monies that have been recycled back into the funding pot for allocation to other projects.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 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 Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers, and which are reported to the Panel for information.
- 3.2 That Panel members make a recommendation for approval or otherwise in relation to a request from an organisation under the Voluntary Sector budget not meeting the general criteria. This recommendation will then be considered and approved or otherwise by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers.
- 3.3 That Panel members note the amount of grant monies that have been recycled back into the funding pot and the reasons for this.

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 Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget for 2020-21 is shown in the table below:

Budget 2020-21	£186,759.00
Less Discretionary Rate Relief (Estimated)	£167,865.00
Remaining Budget	£18,894.00
Carry forward balance from 2019-20	£125,242.18
Total Available Budget 2020-21	£144,136.18
Total 2020-21 Grants awarded previously	£1,100.00
Adjustments within year in relation to underspends or projects not proceeding	(£1,500.00)
Balance Remaining	£144,536.18

- 5.1.2 The projected Discretionary Rate Relief for 2020-21 is **£167,865**. Allowing for the projected spend on Discretionary Rate Relief, the available balance for schemes was **£144,136.18**, which included carry forward balances. A total of **£1,100.00** was allocated between 1st April and 30th September 2020, which was reported to Panel members at the last meeting.
- 5.1.3 Panel members will recall that in 2019/20 an application was received from Cefn Hengoed Ladies Choir for £1,500. This related to an invitation to perform at the Carnegie Hall in New York in June 2020, and was conditional upon the group raising the full £25,000 they required to undertake the trip. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the choir decided to withdraw from the concert, and therefore the amount awarded is no longer required. An amount of **£1,500** has been recycled back into the pot for use by other projects.
- 5.1.4 Between 1st October and 31st December 2020, 6 new General Criteria awards have been made totalling **£1,000**. These have been approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers and are reported to the Panel for information only. The awards are summarised in the table below and overleaf:

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
20/GC009	Oakdale Silver Band	Brass and Silver Bands	£400
20/GC010	1 st Trinant Rainbows	Boys & Girls Clubs/YMCA/ Scouts/Cubs/Brownies/Guides/ Boys Brigade/Crusaders (up to 50 members)	£100
20/GC011	1 st Trinant Brownies	Boys & Girls Clubs/YMCA/ Scouts/Cubs/Brownies/Guides/ Boys Brigade/Crusaders (up to 50 members)	£100
20/GC012	Newbridge WI	Community Groups	£100

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
20/GC013	The Youth Centre Cefn Hengoed	Boys & Girls Clubs/YMCA/ Scouts/Cubs/Brownies/Guides/ Boys Brigade/Crusaders (up to 50 members)	£100
20/GC014	Pantside Community Foodbank	Clubs run from Churches/ Chapels	£200
		Total	£1,000

- 5.1.5 In the period between 1st October 2020 and 31st January 2021, one application was received which is outside the general criteria as set out in Appendix 1. A copy of the application is attached at Appendix 2. Panel members are asked to consider the application and make a recommendation on whether it should be supported, and the amount of funding to be awarded if applicable. This recommendation will then be considered and approved or otherwise by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers.
- 5.1.6 After the awards detailed in 5.1.4 have been considered, and assuming the application mentioned in 5.1.5 is approved in full, the amount remaining in the current financial year is **£141,886.18**.
- 5.1.7 It should be noted that the number of grants awarded in 2020-21 is significantly lower than in previous years, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Individuals that would usually make applications in relation to representing Wales either at home or abroad have been unable to, as all sporting competitions have been cancelled, and many organisations that provide services to their communities have also been closed to the public.
- 5.1.8 As previously agreed by the Panel, grants awarded during the 2020-21 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 2020-21 is **£178,843.42**. This consists of the annual allocation from Monmouthshire County Council (**£64,750.62**), unallocated sums from previous years (**£113,911.56**) and adjustments within year in relation to underspends on individual projects (**£10,181.24**).

Budget 2020-21	£64,750.62
Carry forward balances	£113,911.56
Adjustments within year (underspends)	£181.24
Total available budget 2020-21	£178,843.42
Total 2020-21 grants awarded previously	£53,420.23
Adjustments within year in relation to underspends or projects not proceeding	(£10,181.24)
Balance remaining	£135,604.43

- 5.2.2 Three projects which were approved in 2020-21 have already drawn down the grant awarded, and each had a small underspend in terms of expenditure against the grant amount. Therefore, a total of **£181.24** has been recycled back into the funding pot and can be used to fund other projects. In addition, a project by Aber Valley Communities Partnership (replacement surface for water play feature) approved in 2019-20 was funded from other sources, and therefore the **£10,000** awarded can also be recycled back into the funding pot.

5.2.3 Between 1st October and 31st December 2020 nine applications have been received totalling **£40,135.60**. These have been approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers and are reported to the Panel for information only. The awards are summarised in the table below:

Ref	Name of organisation	Description	Amount awarded
ORG20/WCF015	Bethany United Reformed Church, Ystrad Mynach	Install fire alarm & emergency lighting	£3,963.00
ORG20/WCF016	Bethel Baptist Church, Bedwas	Renew soffits & fascia's, hack-off and re-render walls	£5,000.00
ORG20/WCF017	Bedwas Christian Resource Centre	Removal of chimneys & replace fascia boards	£3,127.00
ORG20/WCF018	St Ilan's Church, Caerphilly	Repairs to church tower	£5,000.00
ORG20/WCF019	The Youth Centre, Cefn Hengoed	Insulation of walls in changing rooms & tile shower area	£4,812.00
ORG20/WCF020	Our Lady of Peace, Newbridge	Installation of access ramp	£5,000.00
ORG20/WCF021	Hope Church, Bedwas	Creation of disabled toilet & purchase of new chairs	£5,000.00
ORG20/WCF022	Aber Valley Heritage Group	Purchase of costume dummies & display cases	£4,953.60
ORG20/WCF023	Penuel Baptist Church, Rhymney	Repairs to vestry roof and chapel gutters	£3,280.00
		Total	£40,135.60

5.2.4 Between 1st October and 31st December 2020 no applications were received from individuals in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund.

5.2.5 If the remaining grants awarded in 2020-21 but not yet drawn down spend to the maximum amounts allocated, there will be a balance of **£95,468.83** remaining.

5.3 Conclusion

5.3.1 The report summarises all allocations made under the Grants to the Voluntary Sector and Welsh Church Acts Fund budgets between 1st October and 31st December for the 2020-21 financial year. It also asks Panel members to make recommendations in relation to an application not meeting the general criteria for the Voluntary Sector budget.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 There are no assumptions as the 2019-20 and 2020-21 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 The grants detailed in this report link to several of the Well-Being Goals within the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:
- 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.
- 8.3 The grants also support the five ways of working detailed in the Act as follows:
- Involvement – if residents are involved in activities and receive services in their local community, this will help to ensure that the community continues to thrive in the long term and is able to provide the opportunities and services required by its residents.
 - Collaboration – working together for the good of the community will help to ensure they continue to meet the needs of residents, which will improve community cohesion and encourage resilience to respond to any challenges that may occur.
 - Long term – ensuring that organisations and local buildings are fit for purpose will help to safeguard the services and facilities offered in local communities and help to ensure that they continue into the future.

- Integration – communities often have a better understanding of what the needs of residents are locally and can work with organisations to help meet those needs.
- Prevention – encouraging residents and communities to help themselves will ensure that they are able to respond effectively to situations and challenges they may face and help to prevent issues getting worse or starting in the first place.

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 Kids Cancer Charity