



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 21ST JULY 2021

SUBJECT: APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Panel of the applications for financial assistance received between 1st January 2021 and 31st March 2021 relating to the 2020/21 financial year.
- 1.2 To inform the Panel of the applications for financial assistance received between 1st April 2021 and 31st May 2021 relating to the 2021/22 financial year.
- 1.3 To seek Panel views on two applications from individuals in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund.

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 January and 31st May 2021. Finally, it seeks Panel views in relation to two applications received from individuals under the Welsh Church Acts Fund, with the purpose of making a recommendation to the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer for approval or otherwise.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 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 Panel members make a recommendation for approval or otherwise in relation to requests from two individuals under the Welsh Church Acts Fund. This recommendation will then be considered and approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer 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 Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget for 2020/21 was as shown in the table below:

Budget 2020/21	£186,759.00
Less Discretionary Rate Relief	£172,244.98
Remaining Budget	£14,514.02
Carry forward balance from 2019/20	£125,242.18
Total Available Budget 2020/21	£139,756.20
Total 2020/21 Grants awarded previously	(£3,750.00)
Adjustments within year in relation to underspends or projects not proceeding	£1,500.00
Balance remaining	£137,506.20

- 5.1.2 Between 1st January and 31st March 2021, two new General Criteria awards were made totalling **£300**. These were 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/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
20/GC015	Player's Theatre	Theatre Groups	£200
20/GC016	1 st Caerphilly Guides	Cubs/Brownies/Guides (up to 50 members)	£100
		Total	£300

- 5.1.3 In the period between 1st January and 31st March 2021, no applications were received that were outside the General Criteria as set out in Appendix 1.
- 5.1.4 After the awards detailed in the table above have been considered, the total amount allocated in 2020/21 was **£4,050**, leaving a balance of **£137,206.20** to be carried forward to 2021/22.
- 5.1.5 It should be noted that the number of grants awarded in 2020/21 was 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 for a significant period of time.

5.1.6 The Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget for 2021/22 is shown in the table below:

Budget 2021/22	£188,160.00
Less Discretionary Rate Relief (Estimated)	£194,757.97
Remaining Budget	(£6,597.97)
Carry forward balance from 2020/21	£137,206.20
Total Available Budget 2021/22	£130,608.23
Total 2021/22 Grants awarded previously	£0.00
Balance Remaining	£130,608.23

5.1.7 The projected Discretionary Rate Relief for 2021/22 is **£194,757.97**, which is £6,597.97 over the budget available for 2021/22. Allowing for the projected spend on Discretionary Rate Relief, the available balance for schemes is **£130,608.23**, which includes carry forward balances.

5.1.8 Between 1st April and 31st May 2021, 5 new General Criteria awards have been made totalling **£900**. 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/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
21/GC001	Rhymney Castle Select SRFC	Pigeon Clubs	£200
21/GC002	Ystrad Mynach Male Choir	Choirs	£100
21/GC003	Dance Unity Formation Teams	Junior Sports Club (over 50 members)	£200
21/GC004	Llanbradach OAP Welfare Committee	OAP Association with own building	£300
21/GC005	Valley Daffodils	Community Groups	£100
		Total	£900

5.1.9 In the period between 1st April and 31st May 2021, no applications have been received that were outside the General Criteria as set out in Appendix 1.

5.1.10 After the awards detailed in the table above have been considered, the amount remaining in the current financial year is **£129,708.23**.

5.1.11 As previously agreed by the Panel, grants awarded during the 2021/22 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 was **£188,843.42**. This consisted of the annual allocation from Monmouthshire County Council (**£64,750.62**), unallocated sums from previous years (**£113,911.56**), and underspends on completed projects or projects not proceeding (**£10,181.24**).

Budget 2020/21	£64,750.62
Carry forward balances	£113,911.56
Adjustments within year in relation to underspends or projects not proceeding	£10,181.24
Total available budget 2020/21	£188,843.42
Total 2020/21 grants awarded previously (to 31-12-20)	(£93,555.83)
Balance remaining	£95,287.59

5.2.2 Between 1st January and 31st March 2021 three applications were received totalling **£12,879.45**. These were 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/WCF024	Fochriw Pentecostal Mission	Installation of new kitchen facility	£4,647.58
ORG20/WCF025	Llanbradach Community Centre	Installation of battery storage system for solar panels	£5,000.00
ORG20/WCF026	RCV UK (Risca Covid Group)	Equipment for a Community Bike Hub	£3,231.87
		Total	£12,879.45

5.2.3 Between 1st February and 31st March 2021 no applications were received from individuals in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund.

5.2.4 The total amount allocated to organisations and individuals during 2020/21 was **£106,435.28** and the remaining balance of **£82,408.14** will be carried forward into 2021/22.

5.2.5 The total Welsh Church Acts Fund budget available for 2021/22 is therefore **£146,248.14**. This consists of the annual allocation from Monmouthshire County Council (**£63,840**) and unallocated sums from previous years (**£82,408.14**).

Budget 2021/22	£63,840.00
Carry forward balances	£82,408.14
Total available budget 2021/22	£146,248.14
Total 2021/22 grants awarded previously	£0.00
Balance remaining	£146,248.14

5.2.6 Between 1st April and 31st May 2021, four applications have been received totalling **£15,885.00**. 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 overleaf.

Ref	Name of organisation	Description	Amount awarded
ORG21/WCF001	St Andrew's Church, Penyrheol	Replacement flat roof	£2,200.00
ORG21/WCF002	Cascade Methodist Church	Replacement roof	£3,890.00
ORG21/WCF003	Bethel Baptist Church, Wattsville	Render front wall of church & new suspended ceiling	£5,000.00
ORG21/WCF004	First Love Community Church, Senghenydd	Construction of coffee bar area & feature wall	£4,795.00
		Total	£15,885.00

5.2.7 Between 1st April and 31st May 2021, two applications were received from individuals in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund. Copies of these applications are attached at Appendix 2 and 3, and it is recommended that these are treated as exempt from publication and Panel members consider excluding the press and public when discussing Appendix 2 and 3 during the meeting. Panel members are asked to consider the applications and make a recommendation as to whether to support the applicants and if so, the level of grant to be awarded. The recommendations will then be considered and approved as appropriate by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers.

5.2.8 If the grants awarded in previous years but not yet drawn down spend to the maximum amounts allocated, there will be a balance of **£130,363.14** remaining, less any award in relation to 5.2.7 above.

5.3 **Conclusion**

The report summarises all allocations made under the Grants to the Voluntary Sector and Welsh Church Acts Fund budgets between 1st January and 31st March for the 2020/21 financial year, and between 1st April and 31st May for the 2021/22 financial year. It also asks Panel members to make recommendations in relation to Financial Assistance applications not meeting the General Criteria (if appropriate), and two applications received in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund from individuals.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 There are no assumptions as the 2020/21 and 2021/22 budgets have been confirmed, together with carried forward underspends from previous years.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 As this report is for information only a full Integrated Impact Assessment has not been undertaken.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 The financial implications are those set out in the report.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no personnel implications.

10. CONSULTATIONS

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

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 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 which is exempt from publication as it contains personal and financial information about an individual – IND21/WCF001

Appendix 3 Application from an individual in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund which is exempt from publication as it contains personal and financial information about an individual – IND21/WCF002