



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 18TH NOVEMBER 2021

SUBJECT: APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Panel of the applications for Financial Assistance received between 1st June and 30th September 2021.
- 1.2 To seek Panel views on one application for Financial Assistance that does not meet the general criteria.
- 1.3 To inform the Panel of the applications for Welsh Church Acts Fund received between 1st June and 30th September 2021.
- 1.4 To inform Panel members of funding withdrawn from two previously approved Welsh Church Acts Fund projects and the reasons for this course of action.
- 1.5 To seek Panel views on one application from an individual 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 provides details of applications received and approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers between 1st June and 30th September 2021. It also provides details of funding withdrawn from two previously approved projects under the Welsh Church Acts Fund and the reasons for this. Finally, it seeks Panel views in relation to one application for Financial Assistance that does not meet the general criteria, and one application received from an individual 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 recommendations for approval or otherwise in relation to one application for Financial Assistance that does not meet the general criteria, and one application from an individual under the Welsh Church Acts Fund. This recommendation will then be considered and approved or otherwise 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 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	£900.00
Balance Remaining	£129,708.23

- 5.1.2 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. Spend of £900 in 2021/22 was reported at the last Panel meeting, leaving a balance of **£129,708.23**.
- 5.1.3 Between 1st June and 30th September 2021, seven new General Criteria awards have been made totalling **£890**. 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/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
21/GC006	Penuel Baptist Church	Community Groups	£100
21/GC007	Blackwood Musical Theatre Society	Theatre Groups	£200
21/GC008	URV Walking Football Group	Sports Club (up to 50 members)	£100
21/GC009	Tredomen Allotment Association	Allotments	£100
21/GC010	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales at home – Clay Target Shooting	£130
21/GC011	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales at home – Clay Target Shooting	£130
21/GC012	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales at home – Clay Target Shooting	£130
		Total	£890

5.1.4 In the period between 1st June and 30th September 2021, one application has been received that is outside the general criteria as set out in Appendix 1. The application is attached at Appendix 2, and Panel Members are requested to make a recommendation as to whether this application should be supported, and if so the amount of funding to be awarded. This recommendation will then be considered by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer and approved or otherwise under delegated powers.

5.1.5 After the awards detailed in the table above have been considered, the amount remaining in the current financial year is **£128,818.23**, less any award recommended under 5.1.4.

5.1.6 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 2021/22 is **£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	£15,885.00
Awards made in previous years where funding has been withdrawn	£10,000.00
Balance remaining	£140,363.14

5.2.2 Between 1st June and 30th September 2021, two applications have been received totalling **£9,743.44**. 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
ORG21/WCF005	Friends of the Eco Park	Purchase of welfare/storage cabin	£5,000.00
ORG21/WCF006	Pontygwindy Allotment Association	Purchase of various equipment and sheds/polytunnels	£4,743.44
		Total	£9,743.44

5.2.3 Since the last Panel meeting a total of £10,000 has been withdrawn from two previously approved projects for the reasons given below, and this funding has been recycled back into the pot to be used for other projects:

- a. ORG19/WCF015 Pontlottyn Allotment Association – grant was not spent within the 18-month timeframe (£5,000 grant awarded)
- b. ORG20/WCF008 Agape Community Church, Ty Sign – Cabinet decided not to grant the organisation a lease for the land to build the new centre, so project unable to proceed (£5,000 grant awarded)

5.2.4 Since the last Panel meeting one application has been received from an individual in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund. A copy of this application is attached at Appendix 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 3 during the meeting. Panel members are asked to consider the application and make a recommendation as to 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 Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers.

5.2.5 Taking into account the £10,000 recycled back into the funding pot since the last Panel meeting and the new awards made, and if the grants awarded in previous years but not yet drawn down spend to the maximum amounts allocated, there will be a balance of **£130,619.70** remaining, less any award in relation to 5.2.4 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 June and 30th September 2021. It also asks Panel members to make recommendations in relation to one Financial Assistance application not meeting the general criteria, and one application received from an individual in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 There are no assumptions as the 2021/22 budget has 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 for Financial Assistance from an organisation which does not meet the general criteria – ORG21/P001 Llamau

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/WCF003