



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 14TH JULY 2022

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 February and 31st March 2022 relating to the 2021/22 financial year.
- 1.2 To inform the Panel of the applications for financial assistance received between 1st April and 31st May 2022 relating to the 2022/23 financial year.
- 1.3 To seek Panel views on an application for financial assistance from an organisation which does not meet the General Criteria.
- 1.4 To inform the Panel of the applications for Welsh Church Acts Fund received between 1st February and 31st March 2022 relating to the 2021/22 financial year.
- 1.5 To inform the Panel of the applications for Welsh Church Acts Fund received between 1st April and 31st May 2022 relating to the 2022/23 financial year.
- 1.6 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 also provides details of applications received and approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers between 1st February and 31st May 2022. It seeks Panel views in relation to an application for financial assistance from an organisation which does not meet the General Criteria, with the purpose of making a recommendation to the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer for approval or otherwise and any amount to be awarded. Finally, it seeks Panel views in relation to an 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 and any amount to be awarded.

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 an application for financial assistance from an organisation which does not meet the General Criteria, and a request from an individual under the Welsh Church Acts Fund. These recommendations 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 was as shown in the table below:

Budget 2021/22	£188,160.00
Less Discretionary Rate Relief	£194,757.97
Remaining Budget	(£6,597.97)
Carry forward balance from 2020/21	£122,640.64
Total Available Budget 2021/22	£116,042.67
Total 2021/22 Grants awarded previously	(£4,680.00)
Balance remaining	£111,362.67

- 5.1.2 Between 1st February and 31st March 2021, three new General Criteria awards were made totalling **£480**. 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
21-GC028	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales at home	£130
21-GC029	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales abroad	£250
21-GC030	Gilfach Ladies Bowling Club	Sports clubs (up to 50 members)	£100
		Total	£480

- 5.1.3 In the period between 1st February 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 previous table have been considered, the total amount allocated in 2021/22 was **£5,160**, leaving a balance of **£110,882.67** to be carried forward to 2021/22.

5.1.5 The Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget for 2022/23 is shown in the table below:

Budget 2022/23	£195,686.00
Less Discretionary Rate Relief (Estimated)	£187,367.00
Remaining Budget	£8,319.00
Carry forward balance from 2021/22	£110,882.67
Total Available Budget 2022/23	£119,201.67
Total 2021/22 Grants awarded previously	£0.00
Balance Remaining	£119,201.67

5.1.6 The projected Discretionary Rate Relief for 2022/23 is **£187,367**, which leaves a budget of **£8,319** available for 2022/23. Allowing for the projected spend on Discretionary Rate Relief, the available balance for schemes is **£119,201.67**, which includes carry forward balances.

5.1.7 Between 1st April and 31st May 2022, 14 new General Criteria awards have been made totalling **£2,140**. 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
22-GC001	Newbridge WI	Community Groups	£100
22-GC002	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales abroad	£250
22-GC003	Fleur de Lys Community Centre	Community Groups	£100
22-GC004	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales abroad	£250
22-GC005	Rhymney Castle Select Flying Club	Pigeon Clubs	£200
22-GC006	Caerphilly & District Floral Society	Community Groups	£100
22-GC007	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales at home	£130
22-GC008	Penuel Baptist Church	Community Groups	£100
22-GC009	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales abroad	£250
22-GC010	Newbridge Memo Ltd (on behalf of Tuesday Night Dance Group)	Sports Club (up to 50 members)	£100
22-GC011	Ravenswood Allotment Society	Allotments	£100
22-GC012	Dance Unity Formation Teams	Junior Sports Club (over 50 members)	£200
22-GC013	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales at home	£130
22-GC014	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales at home	£130
		Total	£2,140

- 5.1.8 In the period between 1st April and 31st May 2022, one application has been received that is outside the General Criteria as set out in Appendix 1. A copy of the application received is included at Appendix 2 and Panel members are requested to make a recommendation on whether the project 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 signed off or otherwise under delegated powers.
- 5.1.9 After the awards detailed in the previous table above have been considered, the amount remaining in the current financial year is **£117,061.67**, less any funding approved in relation to the application detailed in 5.1.8.
- 5.1.10 As previously agreed by the Panel, grants awarded during the 2022/23 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 was **£156,248.14**. This consisted of the annual allocation from Monmouthshire County Council (**£63,840**), unallocated sums from previous years (**£82,408.14**), and underspends on completed projects or projects not proceeding (**£3,680.30**).

Budget 2021/22	£63,840.00
Carry forward balances	£82,408.14
Adjustments within year in relation to underspends or projects not proceeding	£3,680.30
Total available budget 2021/22	£149,928.44
Total 2021/22 grants awarded previously	(£40,128.44)
Balance remaining	£109,800.00

- 5.2.2 Panel members will recall that at the last meeting a funding award of £4,170 to Bethel Baptist Church, Penyrheol was reported. Subsequent to the meeting, the organisation decided not to proceed with the grant and therefore this amount has not been included in the above figures.
- 5.2.3 Between 1st February and 31st March 2022 one application was received totalling **£4,625**. This was approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers and is reported to the Panel for information only. The award is summarised in the table below:

Ref	Name of organisation	Description	Amount awarded
ORG21/WCF011	Crosskeys Methodist Church	Electrical rewiring to church and entrance	£4,625.00
		Total	£4,625.00

- 5.2.4 Between 1st February and 31st March 2022 no applications were received from individuals in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund.
- 5.2.5 The total amount allocated to organisations and individuals during 2021/22 was **£44,753.44** and the remaining balance of £105,175 will be carried forward into 2022/23.

5.2.6 The total Welsh Church Acts Fund budget available for 2022/23 is **£162,935**. This consists of the annual allocation from Monmouthshire County Council (**£57,760**), unallocated sums from previous years (**£105,175**) plus an additional £80,836.45 held by Monmouthshire County Council in relation to previous underspends.

Budget 2021/22	£57,760.00
Carry forward balances	£105,175.00
Underspend held by MCC	80,836.45
Total available budget 2021/22	£243,771.45
Total 2021/22 grants awarded previously	£0.00
Balance remaining	£243,771.45

5.2.7 Between 1st April and 31st May 2022, four applications have been received totalling **£19,047.96**. 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
ORG22-WCF001	Libanus Lifestyle Wales CIC	Cladding in hall, fire door, shelving and roller shutter	£4,700.00
ORG22-WCF002	Blackwood RFC	Installation of flood defences	£4,415.00
ORG22-WCF003	Wattsville Community Group	Purchase of tables and chairs	£4,932.96
ORG22-WCF004	The Parish Trust	Purchase of chairs and trolleys	£5,000.00
		Total	£19,047.96

5.2.8 Between 1st April and 30th June 2022, one application was 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 or otherwise by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers.

5.2.9 If the grants awarded in previous years but not yet drawn down spend to the maximum amounts allocated, there will be a balance of **£224,723.49** remaining, less any award in relation to 5.2.8 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 2021/22 financial year, and between 1st April and 31st May for the 2022/23 financial year. It also asks Panel members to make recommendations in relation to a financial

assistance application that does not meet the General Criteria, and one application received in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund from an individual.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 There are no assumptions as the 2021/22 and 2022/23 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 organisation in relation to financial assistance which does not meet the General Criteria – 22/P001 Kids Cancer Charity

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 – IND22/WCF001