



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2022 AT 5.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor M. Chacon-Dawson – Chair
Councillor T. Heron – Vice Chair

Councillors:

A. Broughton- Pettit, P. Cook, G. Enright, L. Jeremiah, D.W.R. Preece, J. A. Pritchard, J. Reed, J. E. Roberts, J. Taylor and W. Williams.

Together with:

S. Harris (Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer), V. Doyle (Policy Officer), L. Lane (Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer), S. Richards (Head of Education Planning and Strategy) and S. Hughes (Committee Services Officer).

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting would be live-streamed and a recording made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items - [Click here to view](#). The Committee was advised that voting on decisions would be taken via Microsoft Forms.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Gair, D. Ingram-Jones and J. Rao.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

3. MINUTES – 14TH JULY 2022

The Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer informed the Panel that an information workshop will be arranged for January 2023, where Members will receive a presentation to explain the current processes, criteria and funding levels for the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Budget and the Welsh Church Acts Fund. Members were advised that there will also be an opportunity for discussion and for the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel to make appropriate recommendations to Cabinet.

A Member highlighted the urgency and importance of the workshop and sought further clarification on changing the criteria. It was explained that the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel had previously gone through this process and can make recommendations for Cabinet to consider.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2022 be approved as a correct record. By way of Microsoft Forms (and in noting there were 10 for, 0 against and 2 abstentions) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 14th July 2022 (minute nos. 1 – 4) be approved as a correct record.

4. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Policy Officer presented the report to inform the Panel of the applications for Financial Assistance received between 1st June and 30th September 2022 and the applications for Welsh Church Acts Fund received between 1st June and 30th September 2022. The Panel was also informed of one application received from an individual in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund received between 1st June and 31st October 2022, and a recommendation was sought for approval or otherwise.

Members were advised of the budget allocations for both the Voluntary Sector budget and the Welsh Church Acts Fund budget for 2022/23. Details of the applications received and approved by the Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer under delegated powers between 1st February and 31st May 2022 were outlined.

A Member raised concerns regarding the underspend in relation to the Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget and the Welsh Church Acts Fund budget and commented on the need to change the procedures to make the process more user friendly to the voluntary sector organisations and to also increase the amount of money awarded for each grant. It was acknowledged that the matters raised can be considered in the information workshop.

In response to a Member's query clarification was provided in relation to the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Fund which offers small grants to community/voluntary sector organisations, and it was explained that the grant scheme is a contribution towards the running costs of the organisation. There are no formal grant criteria and instead grants are allocated according to a set of 'General Criteria'. It was further explained that if an application is outside of the 'General Criteria', they are brought to the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel for consideration.

The Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel noted the applications received that met the criteria for Financial Assistance and the Welsh Church Acts Fund, which have already been approved by the Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer under delegated powers, and which are reported to the Panel for information.

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

The Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel considered the Public Interest Test and concluded that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 12 and 14 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

EXEMPT MATTER

Following consideration of the report it was moved and seconded that recommendation 3.2 be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms (and in noting there were 10 for, 0 against and 1 abstention) this was agreed by the majority present.

The Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel made a recommendation for approval in relation to an application from an individual under the Welsh Church Acts Fund. This recommendation to be approved by the Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer under delegated powers.

RECOMMENDED to the Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer:

To approve the application from an individual in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund.

The meeting closed at 5.35 pm

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2023, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR