



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 8TH JUNE 2023

**SUBJECT: GRANTS AWARDED VIA THE GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY
SECTOR FUND AND THE WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND**

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

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee (VSLC) of the budget available for the Grants to the Voluntary Sector (GTVS) Fund for 2023/24 and the grants awarded in April 2023.
- 1.2 To inform the VSLC of the budget available for the Welsh Church Acts Fund (WCAF) for 2023/24 and the grants awarded in April 2023.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report advises the VSLC of the budget allocations for both the Voluntary Sector budget and the Welsh Church Acts Fund budget for 2023/24. It also provides details of applications received and approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers during April 2023, for each grant scheme.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That members of the VSLC note the applications received that meet the criteria for the GTVS Fund and the WCAF, which have already been approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers, and which are reported to the VSLC for information.

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 This is the first report to the VSLC in relation to grants awarded under the GTVS Fund and the WCAF, following the disbanding of the GTVS Panel at the Council's AGM on 11th May 2023. Update reports on grants awarded will be presented to each meeting of the VSLC in future, as the replacement for the GTVS Panel.

5.2 GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR BUDGET

5.2.1 The GTVS budget for 2023/24 is shown in the table below:

Budget 2023/24	£8,735.00
Carry forward balance from 2022/23	£106,351.67
Total Available Budget 2023/24	£115,086.67
Total 2023/24 Grants awarded previously	£0.00
Balance Remaining	£115,086.67

5.2.2 The GTVS budget and Discretionary Rate Relief budgets have been split for 2023-24. The GTVS budget has been calculated using the 2022/23 base and inflating by the rate agreed in the Council budget setting process (5%), which is an amount of £8,735. In addition, £106,351.67 has been carried forward from underspends in previous years, giving a total available budget for 2023/24 of £115,086.67.

5.2.3 During April 2023, 17 new General Criteria awards were made totalling **£2,960**. These have been approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers and are reported to the VSLC for information only. The awards are summarised in the table below:

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
23-GC001	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales abroad	£250.00
23-GC002	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales abroad	£250.00
23-GC003	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales abroad	£250.00
23-GC004	Caerphilly Veterans Support Hub	Community Group	£100.00
23-GC005	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales abroad	£250.00
23-GC006	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales abroad	£250.00
23-GC007	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales at home	£130.00
23-GC008	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales abroad	£250.00
23-GC009	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales abroad	£250.00
23-GC010	Friends of the Eco Park	Community Group	£100.00

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
23-GC011	5th Caerphilly Brownies	Boys & Girls Clubs/YMCA/Scouts/Cubs/ Brownies/ Guides/Boys Brigade/Crusaders (up to 50 members)	£100.00
23-GC012	Glynderi Bonsai Club	Community Groups	£100.00
23-GC013	Newbridge Women's Institute	Community Groups	£100.00
23-GC014	Cascade Allotment Association	Allotments	£100.00
23-GC015	Bravehearts	Community Groups	£100.00
23-GC016	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales at home	£130.00
23-GC017	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales abroad	£250.00
		Total	2,960.00

5.2.4 After the awards detailed in the table above have been considered, the amount remaining in the current financial year is **£112,126.67** inclusive of the carry forward balance.

5.3 WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND

5.3.1 The total Welsh Church Acts Fund budget available for 2023/24 is **£224,508.57**. This consists of the annual allocation from Monmouthshire County Council (**£59,841.17**) plus unallocated sums from previous years (**£164,667.40**).

Budget 2023/24	£59,841.17
Underspend Held By Monmouthshire CBC	£56,259.68
Carry forward balances in CCBC accounts	£108,407.72
Total Available Budget	£224,508.57
Underspend from previously approved projects	£0.00
Total available budget 2023/24	£224,508.57
Total 2023/24 grants awarded previously	£0.00
Balance remaining	£224,508.57

5.3.2 During April 2023, five applications were received totalling **£24,195.00**. These have been approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers and are reported to the VSLC for information only. The awards are summarised in the table overleaf.

Ref	Name of organisation	Description	Amount awarded
ORG23-WCF001	Glan-y-Nant Allotments	Installation of fencing to create wildlife area	£4,700.00
ORG23-WCF002	Presbyterian Church of Wales, Oakdale	Replace main entrance doors, various repairs & decoration	£4,495.00
ORG23-WCF003	Bethel Baptist Church, Bedwas	Re-rendering of western wall of church	£5,000.00
ORG23-WCF004	Siloh Presbyterian Church, Gelligroes	New heating system	£5,000.00
ORG23-WCF005	Aber Valley YMCA	Cleaning and resealing sports hall floor	£5,000.00
		Total	£24,195.00

5.3.3 If all the grants awarded in previous years but not yet spent draw down the maximum amounts allocated to them, there will be a balance of **£200,313.57** remaining for new projects in 2023/24.

5.4 Conclusion

5.4.1 The report summarises all allocations made via the GTVS Fund and the WCAF during April 2023. Further allocations will be reported to the WSLC at future meetings.

5.4.2 It should be noted that before the GTVS Panel was disbanded, a full review of the grant criteria and processes for the GTVS and WCAF was undertaken, in response to a request from members of the Panel. This involved a workshop session with Panel members, Council officers and invited members of the Voluntary Sector, to allow those present to discuss areas of concern in relation to both the GTVS and the WCAF. A number of recommendations were made by Panel members and Voluntary Sector representatives across both grant schemes, and these are due to be considered by Cabinet on 14th June 2023. Should the recommendations be approved, the changes to the GTVS Fund and the WCAF will be implemented from 1st July 2023.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 There are no assumptions as the 2023/24 budget has been confirmed. The carried forward underspends from previous years are provisional, as the statement of accounts are still draft and subject to audit.

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 Existing General Criteria