



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 11TH JULY 2024

**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**

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 between 1st November 2023 and 31st March 2024.
- 1.2 To inform the VSLC of the budget available for the GTVS Fund for 2024/25 and the grants awarded between 1st April and 31st May 2024.
- 1.3 To inform the VSLC of the budget available for the Welsh Church Acts Fund (WCAF) for 2023/24 and the grants awarded between 1st November 2023 and 31st March 2024.
- 1.4 To inform the VSLC of the budget available for the WCAF for 2024/25 and the grants awarded between 1st April and 31st May 2024.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report advises the VSLC of the grant allocations for both the Voluntary Sector budget and the Welsh Church Acts Fund budget for 2023/24 and 2024/25. It also provides details of applications received and approved by the Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer under delegated powers between 1st November 2023 and 31st March 2024 (2023/24 financial year) and 1st April and 31st May 2024 (2024/25 financial year), 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 and 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 latest update to the VSLC in relation to grants awarded under the GTVS Fund and the WCAF, following the disbanding of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector 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	£18,600.00
Balance remaining	£96,486.67

- 5.2.2 The GTVS budget for 2023-24 was £8,735. In addition, £106,351.67 was carried forward from underspends in previous years, resulting in a total available budget for 2023/24 of £115,086.67.

- 5.2.3 Between 1st November 2023 and 31st March 2024, 31 new General Criteria awards were made totalling **£6,610** (a summary of the General Criteria categories for 2023/24 is included in Appendix 1 for information). 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-GC086	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales Top-up Grant	£170.00
23-GC087	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales outside the UK	£300.00
23-GC088	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales Top-up Grant	£170.00
23-GC089	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales Top-up Grant	£170.00
23-GC090	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales outside the UK	£300.00
23-GC091	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales outside the UK	£300.00
23-GC092	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales outside the UK	£300.00
23-GC093	Black Vein Miners Memorial Society	Other Community Groups	£200.00
23-GC094	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales within the UK	£200.00

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
23-GC095	Vicarage Allotments Association	Environment Groups e.g. Allotments, Beekeepers Groups, Gardening Clubs, Tenants & Residents Associations, Pigeon Clubs etc.	£200.00
23-GC096	Bargoed and District Art Society	Arts Groups e.g. Jazz Bands, Choirs, Arts Societies, Writers Clubs, Theatre Groups etc.	£200.00
23-GC097	Caerphilly Camera Club	Other Community Groups	£200.00
23-GC098	Oakdale OAP Association	Organisation or Association not owning a building	£200.00
23-GC099	Caerphilly & District Floral Society	Environment Groups e.g. Allotments, Beekeepers Groups, Gardening Clubs, Tenants & Residents Associations, Pigeon Clubs etc.	£200.00
23-GC100	The Aloud Charity	Arts Groups e.g. Jazz Bands, Choirs, Arts Societies, Writers Clubs, Theatre Groups etc.	£200.00
23-GC101	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales within the UK	£200.00
23-GC102	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales within the UK	£200.00
23-GC103	Rhymney Valley Music Club	Arts Groups e.g. Jazz Bands, Choirs, Arts Societies, Writers Clubs, Theatre Groups etc.	£200.00
23-GC104	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales within the UK	£200.00
23-GC105	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales within the UK	£200.00
23-GC106	Ravenswood Allotment Society	Environment Groups e.g. Allotments, Beekeepers Groups, Gardening Clubs, Tenants & Residents Associations, Pigeon Clubs etc.	£200.00
23-GC107	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales within the UK	£200.00
23-GC108	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales within the UK	£200.00
23-GC109	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales within the UK	£200.00
23-GC110	Players' Theatre	Arts Groups e.g. Jazz Bands, Choirs, Arts Societies, Writers Clubs, Theatre Groups etc.	£200.00

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
23-GC111	Pontlloftyn Karate Club	Sports Club (up to 50 members)	£200.00
23-GC112	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales within the UK	£200.00
23-GC113	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales within the UK	£200.00
23-GC114	Maesycwmmer FC	Sports Club (up to 50 members)	£200.00
23-GC115	Disability Can Do	Other Community Groups	£200.00
23-GC116	Application from an individual	Individuals representing Wales outside the UK	£300.00
		Total	£6,610.00

5.2.4 One application was received from the Kids Cancer Charity which was outside the General Criteria, and this application was considered at the Voluntary Sector Liaison Sub-committee on 30th November 2023. A grant of **£2,000** was recommended by the Sub-committee, and this amount was subsequently approved by the Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer under delegated powers.

5.2.5 After the awards detailed in the table above and paragraph 5.2.4 have been considered, the total value of the grant awards for 2023/24 was **£27,210**.

5.2.6 The GTVS budget for 2024/25 is shown in the table below:

Budget 2024/25	£8,735.00
Carry forward balance from 2023/24	£31,525.00
Total available budget 2024/25	£40,260.00
Total 2024/25 grants awarded previously	£0.00
Balance remaining	£40,260.00

5.2.7 The balance of the GTVS budget at the end of 2023/24 was £87,876.67. However, due to the financial position the Authority faces the amount carried forward to 2024/25 has been reduced to £31,525. The GTVS budget allocation for 2024/25 remains at £8,735. Therefore, the total available budget for 2024/25 is £40,260.

5.2.8 Members of the VSLC may be aware that when the review of the GTVS and WCAF budgets was concluded in 2022, Cabinet agreed to increase the GTVS General Criteria amounts each year in line with inflation. For 2024/25 this was an increase of 3.4%. This increase has been incorporated into the General Criteria grant values, and a summary of these is included at Appendix 2 for information.

5.2.9 Between 1st April and 31st May 2024, 58 new General Criteria awards were made totalling **£15,735**. 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/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
24-GC001	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC002	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC003	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC004	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC005	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC006	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	£207.00
24-GC007	Cascade Allotment Association	Environment Groups e.g. Allotments, Beekeepers Groups, Gardening Clubs, Tenants & Residents Associations, Pigeon Clubs etc.	£207.00
24-GC008	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC009	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC010	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC011	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	£207.00
24-GC012	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC013	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC014	YM Bit's and Bob's Community Group	Other Community Groups	£207.00
24-GC015	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC016	Plas Mawr Community Centre	Organisation or Association not owning a building	£207.00

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
24-GC017	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC018	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC019	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC020	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC021	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC022	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC023	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC024	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC025	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	£207.00
24-GC026	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	£207.00
24-GC027	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC028	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC029	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC030	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC031	Darran Valley History Group	Other Community Groups	£207.00
24-GC032	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	£207.00
24-GC033	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
24-GC034	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC035	Caerphilly Veterans Support Hub	Other Community Groups	£207.00
24-GC036	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC037	Pengam and District Boys & Girls Club	Sports Club (over 50 members)	£310.00
24-GC038	1 st Oakdale Guides	Other membership group e.g. Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Rainbows, St John Ambulance etc. (up to 50 members)	£207.00
24-GC039	Trinant Community Centre	Organisation or Association owning a building	£372.00
24-GC040	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC041	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC042	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC043	Caerphilly 50+ Forum	Other Community Groups	£207.00
24-GC044	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	£207.00
24-GC045	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC046	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	£207.00
24-GC047	Glan-y-nant Allotments	Environment Groups e.g. Allotments, Beekeepers Groups, Gardening Clubs, Tenants & Residents Associations, Pigeon Clubs etc.	£207.00
24-GC048	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC049	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
24-GC050	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	£207.00
24-GC051	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC052	Cefn Fforest Jazz Band	Arts Groups e.g. Jazz Bands, Choirs, Arts Societies, Writers Clubs, Theatre Groups etc.	£207.00
24-GC053	5 th Caerphilly Brownies	Other membership group e.g. Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Rainbows, St John Ambulance etc. (up to 50 members)	£207.00
24-GC054	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC055	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	£207.00
24-GC056	Rhymney Castle Select SRFC	Environment Groups e.g. Allotments, Beekeepers Groups, Gardening Clubs, Tenants & Residents Associations, Pigeon Clubs etc.	£207.00
24-GC057	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	£207.00
24-GC058	Manmoel Welfare Association	Organisation or Association owning a building	£372.00
		Total	£15,735.00

5.2.10 It should be noted that the annual budget allocation for the GTVS is £8,735, and the grant allocations in the first two months of 2024/25 have exceeded this budget by £7,000. The carry forward amount of £31,525 will cover this overspend and fund applications for the remainder of the financial year, but once this is exhausted there will only be the annual amount available each year. Therefore, in future years it is likely that the value of applications received will exceed the budget available, and we will need to move to a situation where grants are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

5.3 WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND

5.3.1 The total Welsh Church Acts Fund (WCAF) budget available for 2023/24 was **£224,508.57**. This consisted 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
Underspends held by Monmouthshire CBC	£56,259.68
Carry forward balances in CCBC accounts	£108,407.72
Underspend from previously approved projects	£0.00
Total available budget 2023/24	£224,508.57
Total 2023/24 grants awarded previously	£97,009.81
Balance remaining	£127,498.76

5.3.2 Between 1st November 2023 and 31st March 2024, 10 applications were received totalling **£56,815.78**. 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	Description	Amount awarded
ORG23-WCF019	United Services (Machen) Club and Institute Ltd	New carpet & electrics for stage; new vinyl for kitchen floor; replacement lighting; repair potholes; replace 2 side windows	£4,823.96
ORG23-WCF020	The Youth Centre, Cefn Hengoed	Installation of new boilers and radiators plus replacement of lighting	£4,780.00
ORG23-WCF021	Manmoel Welfare Association	Replacement kitchen, flooring, electrical work, tiling & redecoration	£7,500.00
ORG23-WCF022	Archdiocese of Cardiff (St John's Church, Rhymney)	Installation of new boiler system	£4,280.00
ORG23-WCF023	Valley Daffodils	Sensory equipment - sensory den, floor projector, block set, tuff stands, laptops	£7,500.00
ORG23-WCF024	Quickstep Fitness CIC	Various equipment for health, wellbeing & fitness activities	£6,827.17
ORG23-WCF025	St John the Baptist Church, Machen	Re-plastering and re-decorating of church interior	£7,500.00
ORG23-WCF026	Pontymister and Crosskeys Cricket Club	Remove existing tiles, repair floor, lay new tiles, supply & fitting of seating & tables	£6,800.00
ORG23-WCF027	The Melody Makers	Purchase of digital piano	£709.00
ORG23-WCF028	Argoed Village Hall	Internal and external decoration, purchase of round tables with trolley, wall guards	£6,095.65
		Total	£56,815.78

- 5.3.3 One application was received from an individual in relation to the WCAF, and this application was considered at the Voluntary Sector Liaison Sub-committee on 30th November 2023. A grant of **£1,500** was recommended by the Sub-committee, and this amount was subsequently approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers.
- 5.3.4 After the awards detailed in the table above and paragraph 5.3.3 have been considered, the total grant allocations for 2023/24 were **£155,325.59**.
- 5.3.5 The total Welsh Church Acts Fund (WCAF) budget available for 2024/25 is **£127,219.70**. This consists of the annual allocation from Monmouthshire County Council (**£62,542.36**) plus unallocated sums from previous years (**£69,459.70**).

Budget 2024/25	£62,542.36
Underspends held by Monmouthshire CBC (to be transferred to CCBC in 2024/25)	£56,259.68
Carry forward balances in CCBC accounts	£13,200.02
Underspend from previously approved projects	£0.00
Total available budget 2023/24	£132,002.06
Total 2024/25 grants awarded previously	£0.00
Balance remaining	£132,002.06

- 5.3.6 Between 1st April and 31st May 2024, 13 applications were received totalling **£58,135.29**. 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
ORG24-WCF001	Crosskeys Methodist Church	Various building works and repairs to building	£7,500.00
ORG24-WCF002	Zion Baptist Church	Purchase of new cooker, cooker hood and shelving	£1,898.98
ORG24-WCF003	Treowen Village Hall	Provision of additional and disabled car parking spaces	£7,500.00
ORG24-WCF004	Bedwas Christian Resource Centre	Removal of existing lift and installation of new lift	£7,500.00
ORG24-WCF005	Sirhowy Valley Hub CIC	Purchase of laptops, software and display fridge	£2,286.00
ORG24-WCF006	Gwent Family History Society (Blackwood Branch)	Purchase of various equipment	£3,732.81
ORG24-WCF007	Holy Trinity Church, Ystrad Mynach	Purchase and installation of ceiling mounted projector in church hall	£5,000.00
ORG24-WCF008	Vicarage Allotment Association, Ystrad Mynach	Purchase of tool sheds for allotments	£968.94
ORG24-WCF009	Blackwood Spiritualist Church	Replacement of front and rear door	£1,953.27

Ref	Name of organisation	Description	Amount awarded
ORG24-WCF010	Libanus Lifestyle (Wales) CIC	Creation of kitchen garden in grounds of chapel	£4,500.00
ORG24-WCF011	St Cenydd Road Presbyterian Church	Replacement carpet and purchase of kettle, toasters, microwave and recycling bins	£3,425.24
ORG24-WCF012	Nelson Cavaliers AFC	Creation of container stand at Wern Park	£4,370.05
ORG24-WCF013	Gelligaer FC	Connection of electricity supply to changing rooms	£7,500.00
		Total	£58,135.29

5.3.7 Similar to the GTVS, the annual budget for the WCAF is in the region of £60k. In 2024/25 there is a carry forward amount of £69,459.70 in total. However, once this underspend is utilised only the annual budget will be available. Therefore, in future years it is likely that the value of applications received will exceed the budget available, and we will need to move to a situation where grants are allocated on a first come, first served basis. The Council may also consider reducing the maximum level of grant that can be applied for (the maximum level previously was £5,000).

5.4 Conclusion

5.4.1 The report summarises all allocations made via the GTVS Fund and the WCAF between 1st November 2023 and 31st March 2024 (the 2023/24 financial year) and between 1st April and 31st May 2024 (the 2024/25 financial year). Further allocations will be reported to the VSLC at future meetings.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 There are no assumptions as the 2023/24 and the 2024/25 budgets have been confirmed, along with the carry forward amounts for each grant scheme.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 As this report is for information only an 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 GTVS General Criteria 2023/24

Appendix 2 GTVS General Criteria 2024/25