



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 4TH MARCH 2020

SUBJECT: APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION & CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Panel of the applications for financial assistance received between 1st October 2019 and 31st January 2020.

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 and provides details of applications received between 1st October 2019 and 31st January 2020.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That 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 Corporate Finance under delegated powers, and which are reported to the Panel for information.
- 3.2 That Panel members make a recommendation for approval or otherwise in relation to a request from an individual under the Welsh Church Acts Fund. This recommendation will then be considered and approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers.
- 3.3 That Panel members note the withdrawal of grants from two organisations as they have exceeded the time limit for spending the grants awarded.

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 Panel's budget for 2019-20 is as shown in the table below:

Budget 2019-20	£183,637.00
Less Discretionary Rate Relief (Estimated)	£171,428.22
Remaining Budget	£12,208.78
Carry forward balance from 2018-19	£128,952.99
Total Available Budget 2019-20	£141,161.77
Total 2019-20 Grants awarded previously	£11,950.00
Balance Remaining	£129,211.77

5.1.2 The projected Discretionary Rate Relief for 2019-20 is **£171,428.22**. Allowing for the projected spend on the Discretionary Rate Relief and the amount awarded between 1st April and 30th September 2019 (including the Panel recommendation of an award of £200 to Cambrian Educational Foundation for Deaf Children and £1,500 to Cefn Hengoed Ladies Choir at the December meeting), the available balance for schemes is **£129,211.77**, which includes the carry forward balances.

5.1.3 Between 1st October 2019 and 31st January 2020, 28 new General Criteria awards have been made totalling **£4,600**. These have already been approved by the Head of Corporate Finance 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
19/GC052	Oakdale OAP Association	OAP Association without own building	£150
19/GC053	Bedwas Writers' Circle	Writers clubs	£100
19/GC054	St John Cymru (Rhymney Division)	St John Ambulance (up to 50 members)	£100
19/GC055	Helping Hands	Community groups	£100
19/GC056	Sporting individual representing Wales	Snooker	£250
19/GC057	Sporting individual representing Wales	Badminton	£250
19/GC058	Sporting individual representing Wales	Badminton	£250
19/GC059	Sporting individual representing Wales	Snooker	£250
19/GC060	Rhymney Valley Music Club	Community groups	£100
19/GC061	Sporting individual representing Wales	Football	£250
19/GC062	Bargoed Male Voice Choir	Choirs	£100
19/GC063	Sporting individual representing Wales	Taekwondo	£250
19/GC064	Sporting individual representing Wales	Taekwondo	£130
19/GC065	Sporting individual representing Wales	Taekwondo	£130
19/GC066	Sporting individual representing Wales	Swimming, indoor rowing & archery	£250
19/GC067	Valley Daffodils	Community groups	£100
19/GC068	1 st Trinant Brownies	Brownies/Guides (up to 50 members)	£100
19/GC069	1 st Trinant Rainbows	Brownies/Guides (up to 50 members)	£100
19/GC070	Cwm Calon Community Association	Community groups	£100
19/GC071	Sporting individual representing Wales	Athletics	£130
19/GC072	Sporting individual representing Wales	Athletics	£130

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
19/GC073	Sporting individual representing Wales	Snooker	£250
19/GC074	Rhymney Valley Athletics Club	Junior sports club (over 50 members)	£200
19/GC075	Sporting individual representing Wales	Taekwondo	£250
19/GC076	Cefn Hengoed OAP Association	OAP Association without own building	£150
19/GC077	Sporting individual representing Wales	Indoor Bowls	£130
19/GC079	St Martin's Ward OAPs	OAP Association without own building	£150
19/GC080	Caerphilly & District Floral Society	Garden clubs	£150
		Total	£4,600

- 5.1.4 In the period between 1st October 2019 and 31st January 2020, no applications were received that do not meeting the General Criteria as set out in Appendix 1.
- 5.1.5 After the awards detailed in the table above have been taken into account, the amount remaining in the current financial year is **£124,611.77**.
- 5.1.6 As previously agreed by the Panel, grants awarded during the 2019-20 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 2019-20 is **£183,641.74**. This consists of the annual allocation from Monmouthshire County Council (**£64,751.00**), unallocated sums from previous years (**£108,232.86**), underspends on completed projects (**£4,888.04**) and two grants that have been withdrawn through exceeding the time limit to claim (**£5,769.84**).
- 5.2.2 The two approved grants that have been withdrawn due to exceeding the 18-month time limit to claim (as set out in the Terms and Conditions) are Trinity Presbyterian Church, Cefn Fforest (**£4,000**) and Markham Community House & Centre (**£1,769.84**).

Budget 2019-20	£64,751.00
Carry forward balances	£108,232.86
Adjustments within year (underspends)	£4,888.04
Grants withdrawn as exceeded time limit	£5,769.84
Total available budget 2019-20	£183,641.74
Total 2019-20 grants awarded previously	£43,659.39
Balance remaining	£139,982.35

- 5.2.3 Between 1st October 2019 and 31st January 2020 a total of three additional applications have been received totalling **£10,085**. These have already been approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers and are reported to the Panel for information only. The awards are summarised in the table overleaf.

Ref	Name of organisation	Description	Amount awarded
ORG19/WCF011	Glan-y-Nant Allotments	Replacement meeting space/storage container	£2,262
ORG19/WCF012	Caerphilly Male Voice Choir	New piano, hard travel case & PA system	£2,943
ORG19/WCF014	St Mary's and St Andrew's Church, Pentwyn	Repointing of boundary wall & coping stones	£4,880
		Total	£10,085

5.2.4 Between 1st October 2019 and 31st January 2020 one application has been received from an individual for £1,500. A copy of the application is attached at Appendix 2, which it is recommended is treated as exempt from publication and Panel members consider excluding the press and public if Members they wish to discuss Appendix 2 at the meeting. Panel members are asked to consider the application and make a recommendation on 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 Corporate Finance under delegated powers.

5.2.5 If all grants awarded in 2019-20 but not yet drawn down spend to the maximum amounts allocated, there will be a balance of **£129,897.35** 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 to 31st January 2020 for the 2019-20 financial year. It also asks Panel members to make recommendations in relation to Financial Assistance applications not meeting the General Criteria (if appropriate), 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 2019-20 budgets have been confirmed, together with carried forward underspends from previous years.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

7.1 Corporate Plan 2018-2023

7.1.1 The report supports Objective 5 of the Corporate Plan 2018-2023 – Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

7.1.2 Applications from individuals to the Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget enable them to represent the county borough at a Wales or UK level or abroad, in their chosen sporting field. Taking part in sports will enable these individuals to be physically active and help to ensure that they lead healthy lifestyles.

7.1.3 Voluntary and community sector organisations make an important contribution to public service provision across the county borough. Grants offered to these organisations via the Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget and the Welsh Church Acts Fund will help to ensure that they are able to provide the services required by residents within our local communities. This will ensure that residents are able to look after their own health and well-being.

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 8.1 Voluntary and community sector organisations make an important contribution to public service provision across the county borough and are key participants in the 'Caerphilly We Want' Well-being Plan published on 3rd May 2018 under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Well-being Plan has four priorities – Positive Change, Positive Start, Positive People and Positive Places.
- 8.2 The grants detailed in this report link to several of the Well-Being Goals within the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:
- A prosperous Wales – grants offered to the voluntary and community sector will help these organisations and the buildings they own and manage to become more financially sustainable and help them to provide much needed services to their local communities.
 - A healthier Wales – providing opportunities for residents to receive local services that are suited to their needs will help to improve their physical and mental well-being.
 - A more equal Wales – providing local services in community settings will help to ensure that residents are able to fulfil their own potential, regardless of their background or personal circumstances.
 - A Wales of cohesive communities – community buildings are often at the heart of the local community, which helps to ensure that our communities can thrive and there is a focal point where residents can come together.
 - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language – the activities that are provided by the community and voluntary sector encourage residents to participate in the arts, sports and recreational activities.
- 8.3 The grants also support the five ways of working detailed in the Act as follows:
- Involvement – if residents are involved in activities and receive services in their local community, this will help to ensure that the community continues to thrive in the long term and is able to provide the opportunities and services required by its residents.
 - Collaboration – working together for the good of the community will help to ensure they continue to meet the needs of residents, which will improve community cohesion and encourage resilience to respond to any challenges that may occur.
 - Long term – ensuring that organisations and local buildings are fit for purpose will help to safeguard the services and facilities offered in local communities and help to ensure that they continue into the future.
 - Integration – communities often have a better understanding of what the needs of residents are locally and can work with organisations to help meet those needs.
 - Prevention – encouraging residents and communities to help themselves will ensure that they are able to respond effectively to situations and challenges they may face and help to prevent issues getting worse or starting in the first place.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report so no Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The financial implications are those set out in the report.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no personnel implications.

12. CONSULTATIONS

12.1 There are no consultation responses which have not been reflected in this report.

13. STATUTORY POWER

13.1 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 individual in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund which is exempt from publication as it contains personal and financial information about an individual