

POLICY AND RESOURCES

CABINET BOARD

4 SEPTEMBER 2008

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF
FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES – D. W. DAVIES**

INDEX OF REPORT ITEMS

Part 1 - Doc. Code: PRB-040908-REP-FS

SECTION A - MATTERS FOR DECISION			
Report Item		Page Nos.	Wards affected
1.	Miscellaneous Grants	2 – 6	All
2.	Welsh Church Act Fund	7 – 15	All

ITEM 1

MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS

Existing Policy Statement

- 1.1 a) Each application will be considered on its merits.
- b) The Committee will only approve applications for financial assistance from voluntary or charitable organisations which are manifestly committed to voluntary endeavours of a local nature. This will not preclude the consideration of applications where the disposal of funds is outside the area but still provides significant benefits for the people from the Neath Port Talbot area.
- c) No applications will be considered from religious bodies except relating to church halls and other premises where there is significant community use of the property for non-religious activities.
- d) No applications will be considered from other public funded bodies such as community councils, hospital trusts, etc. or where the benefit may be in lieu of their contributions such as appeals for hospital equipment.
- e) Applications from individuals may be considered where both the person and the community derive a benefit.
- f) No grants will be made to any individual or organisation whose prime purpose is to distribute their funds to other charitable bodies.

Budget for 2008/9

- 1.2 The budget for 2008/09 is £238,390 and includes a general inflationary uplift of 1%. The following grants are included within this budget:-

	Actuals 2006/7 £	Budget 2007/8 £
Citizen Advice Bureaux		
- Neath	38,943	39,332
- Port Talbot	46,536	47,001
- Ammanford	118	119
- Ystradgynlais	833	841
- Match Funding Support	13,000	20,000

	Actuals	Budget
	2007/8	2008/9
	£	£
SDS CAB Volunteering Project	5,000	5,000
Afan Valley Outreach Project	1,000	1,000
Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service	47,617	48,093
OAP Associations	15,258	15,410
Racial Equality Council	22,921	23,150
Victim Support Schemes	3,784	3,822
- Neath)		
- Port Talbot)		
Prince's Trust Volunteers	3,095	3,126
St. John's Ambulance	2,980	3,010
Neath Port Talbot Access Group	2,081	2,102
West Glamorgan Blind Welfare Association	2,090	2,111
Maintenance of Mechanics Institute (in lieu of grant aid to Antiquarians & Archives)	13,186	11,723
CRUSE	5,000	-
Dylan Thomas Prize Fund	-	5,000
One-off grants	1,050	7,550
Hardship Rate Relief	2,761	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	227,253	238,390
Budget	<hr/> 227,253	<hr/> 238,390

A reserve of £14,300 as at 31.3.08 is also available.

Details of grants approved to date are as follows:-

	£
Christian Lewis Trust	250
Cambrian Education Foundation	200
	<hr/> 450

Other New Grant Applications

1.3 Please see Appendix 1.

Recommendation

1.4 That the applications be considered.

Reason for Proposed Decision

1.5 In accordance with approved criteria.

List of Background Papers

1.6 None.

Wards Affected

1.7 All.

Officer Contact

1.8 Mr. D. W. Davies – Director of Finance & Corporate Services
(Tel. 01639 763251 - email: d.w.davies@neath-porttalbot.gov.uk)

MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS

Applicant	Purpose	Amount Request/Cost of “Project”	Previous Support	Comments
Cancer Information & Support Services Neath	Towards the running costs of their offices in Neath	No amount specified. Excess of expenditure over income in 2007/8 was £11,704. Running costs of Alfred Street office approx. £10,000	None	
Neath Port Talbot Credit Union & Afan Savers Credit Union	Publicity for merger of the two Credit Unions	No amount specified	None	
British Olympic Appeal, Beijing 2008 London	To support the British team at the Olympics	No amount specified	None	Request received 10.7.08

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS

(a) **Implementation of Decision**

The decision is proposed for implementation after the 3 day call-in period.

(b) **Sustainability Appraisal**

Community Plan Impacts:

Economic Prosperity	Positive
Education and Lifelong Learning	Positive
Better Health and Well Being	Positive
Environment and Transport	No impact
Crime and Disorder	No impact

Other Impacts:

Welsh Language	No impact
Sustainable Development	No impact
Equalities	Positive
Social Inclusion	Positive

(c) **Consultation**

There has been no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

ITEM 2

WELSH CHURCH ACT FUND

THE CHARITABLE PURPOSES TO WHICH THE FUND MAY BE APPLIED

2.1 Appendix 2 attached outlines extracts from the model scheme approved by Council.

2.2 **Existing Guidelines for Grant Applications**

- a) Each application will be considered on its merits.
- b) Grants will only be awarded to charities and voluntary bodies which are based in, or active in, or provide significant benefits to some or all of the residents of the Neath Port Talbot County Borough area.
- c) Grants will only be awarded to individuals in exceptional circumstances.
- d) Grants will not normally exceed £4,000 and in exceptional circumstances £10,000 per applicant and successful applicants will not normally be reconsidered for a further grant within 3 years of the date of approval of the last grant.
- e) Grants will not normally be awarded where the service could be dealt with out of the annual budget of the Council's service Committees activities or by other public bodies.
- f) Grants will not normally be awarded where they would commit the fund to regular annual payments nor will recurring annual expenses be supported.
- g) Grants will only be made out of the income of the fund, preserving the Fund's capital assets.
- h) Priority will be given to applications which are of significant benefit to the Neath Port Talbot County Borough area.
- i) Grant aid will not normally cover the full cost of a project/proposal and normally will be approved at 60% of actual costs incurred up to the maximum as outlined in condition (d) above.
- j) Organisations assessed as being able to meet the cost (e.g. by size or nature) are unlikely to receive any grant aid.
- k) Grants towards work of a structural nature will only be considered where:
 - there is evidence that a professional assessment has been made of the works;
 - the applicant organisation can demonstrate that there is no other impediment to work proceeding at an early date (e.g. planning permission).
- l) In the case of Churches and Chapels grants will only be approved for the repair of the fabric of buildings which are more than 50 years old and of the highest architectural and historic interest. Church halls, however, where

available and used significantly by the public for non-religious purposes will not be subject to these criteria.

- m) No retrospective applications are considered.
- n) The Panel will take into account the Church membership and the normal size of the congregation
- o) In the case of students undertaking further Education courses, contributions towards the costs of individual instruments or pieces of equipment etc. will be made on the following basis:-
50% of all costs over a threshold of £2000 up to a maximum grant of £1500.

2.3 At the meeting of the Policy & Resources Cabinet Board held on the 12th June 2008 it was resolved that these criteria be revisited.

These criteria have been reviewed periodically since 1996 as follows:-

	Maximum Grant £	Percentage Grant %	Age of Church Yrs
1996 – 2001	1000	25	100
2001 – 2004	2000	25	100
2004 – 2006	4000	50	75
2006 – to date	4000	60	50

Extracts from the accounts of the Welsh Church Act Fund for the last seven years are shown below:-

	Opening Balance £	In Year Movement £	Closing Balance £	Grants Paid £	Grants approved and not yet paid £
2001/2	118,894	+ 19,748	138,642	9,048	8,000
2002/3	138,642	+ 24,095	162,737	7,887	2,000
2003/4	162,737	+ 13,351	176,088	15,546	6,000
2004/5	176,088	10,144	165,944	43,724	12,325
2005/6	165,944	17,675	148,269	45,110	1,600
2006/7	148,269	32,690	115,576	59,644	20,000
2007/8	115,576	8,333	107,243	37,053	63,880

A further £10,875 of approved grants are still outstanding from 1997 to 2001.

New Applications

2.3 Please see Appendix 3.

Recommendation

2.4 It is recommended that:

- (a) due to the limited annual finance available, the financial criteria are tightened;
- (b) that a time limit be applied to the take up of the grant aid, at say, 2 years from the date of approval of the grant;
- (c) the applications be considered.

Reason For Proposed Decision

2.5 In accordance with approved criteria.

List of Background Papers

2.6 Letters of application.

Wards Affected

2.7 All.

Officer Contact

2.8 Mr. D. W. Davies – Director of Finance & Corporate Services
(Tel. 01639 763251 - email: d.w.davies@neath-porttalbot.gov.uk)

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

WELSH CHURCH ACT FUND

(a) **Implementation of Decision**

The decision is proposed for implementation after the 3 day call-in period.

(b) **Sustainability Appraisal**

Community Plan Impacts:

Economic Prosperity	Positive
Education and Lifelong Learning	Positive
Better Health and Well Being	Positive
Environment and Transport	Positive
Crime and Disorder	Positive

Other Impacts

Welsh Language	no impact
Sustainable Development	no impact
Equalities	no impact
Social Inclusion	positive

(c) **Consultation**

There has been no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

SCHEDULE 1 Paragraph 19

The Charitable purposes for which the Fund may be applied

The Advancement of Education

Educational

1. The provision of benefits which are not readily available from other sources for persons of any age in one or more of the following ways:-
 - (i) the award of scholarships, bursaries, loans or maintenance allowances to enable or to assist study at any school, university or other place of learning, approved by the Council, which may if the Council think fit include allowances to dependents.
 - (ii) the provision of financial assistance, outfits, clothing tools, instruments, other equipment, or books or loans to enable pupils or students on leaving school, university or any other educational establishment to prepare for, or to assist their entry into a profession, trade or calling.
 - (iii) the award of scholarships or maintenance allowances or loans to enable beneficiaries to travel abroad to pursue their education.
 - (iv) the provision, or assistance towards the provision of facilities of any kind not normally provided by a local education authority, or a grant maintained school, for recreation, social and physical training at a school, university or other educational establishment.
 - (v) the provision of financial assistance to enable pupils and students to study music or other arts.
 - (vi) the provision of financial assistance to enable beneficiaries to undertake apprenticeships.

Libraries, Museums, Art Galleries etc.

2. The advancement of knowledge and appreciation of the arts and literature of Wales and, in particular, in furtherance of those purposes but without prejudice to the generality thereof –
 - (i) the establishment, maintenance, replenishment or aiding of charitable institutions, libraries, museums, art galleries; or art, scientific or industrial exhibitions (including exhibitions relating to industrial archaeology); whether national or local, for the principal use and benefit of the Welsh people;

- (ii) the assistance of charitable societies for study and research in subjects connected with Welsh history, topography, literature and life;
- (ii) the provision of lectures, exhibitions and equipment;
- (iv) the acquisition, preservation and publication of records and documents;
- (v) the provision of suitable premises (by erection, purchase, lease or hiring for occasional use) for any of the purposes authorised by this paragraph.

The Relief of Poverty

Relief in Need

3. The relief either generally or individually of persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress by the making of grants of money or the provision of, or payment for, items, services or facilities calculated to reduce the need, hardship or distress of such persons.

The Advancement of Religion

Places of Worship and Burial Grounds

4. The contribution towards the restoration and maintenance of any place of public worship or any burial ground.

Other Purposes Beneficial to the Community

Relief in Sickness

5. The relief in cases of need of persons who are sick, convalescent, disabled, handicapped or infirm by the provision of, or payment for, items, services or facilities which are calculated to alleviate the suffering or assist the recovery of such persons, but which are not readily available to them from other sources.

Elderly Persons

6. The provision, or assisting in the provision of accommodation for elderly persons who by reason of the infirmities and disabilities of age have need of such reception, care and attention. The provision of funds to organisations promoting the welfare of elderly persons.

Social and Recreational

- 7.(1) The provision of, or assisting in the provision of, facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation being facilities which are available to the members of the public at large and which are provided in the interests of social welfare with a view to improving the conditions of life of the persons for whom they are intended and, in particular, in furtherance of those purposes but without prejudice to the generality thereof, the provision of, or assisting in the provision of, playing fields, other sporting facilities, parks, open spaces and centres or halls for meetings, lectures or classes.
- (2) Sub-paragraph (1) is intended, in particular, to be concerned with the provision of, or assisting in the provision of, facilities etc. to persons in need by reason of their youth, old age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social and economic circumstances.

Aesthetic, Architectural, Historical and Scientific Matters

8. The advancement of the education and public benefit of the Welsh people by promoting their interest in aesthetic, architectural, historical or scientific matters relating to Wales and in particular in furtherance of those matters but without prejudice to the generality thereof -
 - (a) the acquisition and preservation of -
 - (i) land of special interest in relation to science and nature history;
 - (ii) land, buildings or objects of beauty or of historic or architectural interest.
 - (b) the acquisition, preservation and publication of records and documents of historic interest.

Medical and Social Research, Treatment, Etc.

9. The preservation and protection of the physical and mental health of society and, in particular, in furtherance of those purposes but without prejudice to the generality thereof -
 - (a) the advancement of education in the theory and practice of medicine;
 - (b) the promotion of medical and social research and schemes for the prevention and treatment of disease and publishing the results of such research;
 - (c) the provision of nursery and convalescent homes and hostels.

Probation Etc.

10. Making grants in cases of need for the assistance of -
- (a) persons placed on probation, or children and young persons from community homes or any other institution of a substantially similar nature established under statutory authority;
 - (b) the families of any such persons, children or young persons; or
 - (c) discharged prisoners.

People who are Blind or Visually Impaired

11. Provision for the welfare of persons who are blind or visually impaired, including the provision of charitable homes and holiday homes.

Emergencies or Disasters

12. The contribution towards the alleviation of the effects of emergencies or disasters involving destruction of or danger to life, and property and directly assisting persons in need as a result of such emergencies and disasters.

Other Charitable Organisations

13. Contributions towards charitable organisations, the purposes of which are consistent with the provisions of this Schedule or the Welsh Church Acts 1914 to 1945

WELSH CHURCH ACT FUND APPLICATIONS

Applicant	Purpose	Amount Request /Cost of "Project"	Previous Support	Comments
Gibeon Congregational Church Taibach	Re-rendering of both the side & front elevations of the Chapel to include DPC, reform external cills, lead work aprons fitted to external tiles & windows to be mastic sealed	£13,910	£4,000 granted on 4.11.04 for external painting of Chapel	Complies with criteria
Rock Congregational Chapel Cwmavon	New entrance gates required to the Chapel & Vestry	£1,139.75	None	Complies with criteria
Salvation Army Skewen Temple Corps Skewen	To develop at the Hall an outdoor play area for children in the community	£5,850	£4,000 granted on 20.1.05 for an extension to the Hall	Complies with criteria

