

POLICY AND RESOURCES

CABINET BOARD

11 NOVEMBER 2010

FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

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

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ITEM 1

LICENSING

1.1 Background

At the last meeting of the Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee held on 23 September 2010, an urgent item relating to a licensing matter was raised. It was agreed that it would be included on the agenda for today's meeting.

1.2 History

The Registration & Licensing Committee of 18 August 2009 considered a request from the Neath Port Talbot Taxi Proprietors' Association to limit the number of taxi vehicle licences issued. The Committee resolved:

“that Members agree in principle to consider restricting the issue of hackney carriage licences with the survey costs being jointly funded by the Authority and the proprietors of the taxi firms in Neath Port Talbot, subject to all proprietors being consulted, and a further report being provided to Committee”.

A further report following the consultation was considered by the Licensing & Registration Committee on 10 November 2009 when it was resolved that “an independent survey be carried out to assess demand for hackney carriages, to be jointly funded by the Authority and the hackney carriage proprietors of Neath Port Talbot”. No Authority budget had existed to fund a survey and consequently the matter was left in abeyance.

The matter was again discussed on 1 March 2010 when the level of fees for the financial year 2010/11 were considered.

The position was brought back to the Committee in August 2010 who resolved:-

“that Option 1 “to seek additional budgetary provision for the amount from the Policy & Resources Committee” as detailed in the circulated report, be approved.”

1.3 Current Position

The question now is with the Policy & Resources Board and is whether to allocate £7,500 to meet 50% of the costs of the survey.

1.4 **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Committee defer consideration of this request until all other financial requests can also be considered and dealt with as part of the normal budgetary process with final determination at the Council meeting of 2 March 2011 where the 2011/12 budget will be agreed.

1.5 **Reason For Proposed Decision**

To determine whether to part fund a Survey in accordance with the Association's request.

1.6 **List of Background Papers**

Previous Committee reports.

1.7 **Wards Affected**

All

1.8 **Officer Contact**

Mr. D. W. Davies – Director of Finance & Corporate Services
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COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

LICENSING

(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	No impact
Education and Lifelong Learning	No impact
Better Health and Well Being	No impact
Environment and Transport	No impact
Crime and Disorder	No impact

Other Impacts:

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

(c) **Consultation**

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

ITEM 2

MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS

2.1 Existing Policy Statement

- 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.

2.2 Budget for 2009/10 & 2010/11

The budget for 2010/11 does not include a general inflationary uplift. The following grants are included within this budget:-

	Actuals 2008/9 £	Actuals 2009/10 £	Budget 2010/11 £
Citizen Advice Bureaux			
- Neath	39,332	39,726	39,726
- Port Talbot	47,001	47,471	47,471
- Ammanford	119	120	120
- Ystradgynlais	841	850	850
- Match Funding Support	20,000	20,000	20,000
SDS CAB Volunteering Project	5,000	5,000	5,000

	Actuals	Actuals	Budget
	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
	£	£	£
Afan Valley Outreach Project	1,000	1,000	1,000
Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service	48,093	48,574	48,574
OAP Associations	15,301	15,565	15,565
Racial Equality Council	23,150	23,382	23,382
Victim Support Schemes	3,822	3,860	3,860
- Neath)			
- Port Talbot)			
Prince's Trust Volunteers	3,126	3,157	3,157
St. John's Ambulance	3,010	3,040	3,040
Neath Port Talbot Access Group	2,102	0	0
West Glamorgan Blind Welfare Association	2,111	2,132	2,132
Maintenance of Mechanics Institute (in lieu of grant aid to Antiquarians & Archives)	15,131	11,841	13,700
Dylan Thomas Prize Fund	5,000	-	-
One-off grants	2,000	1,200	6,433
Hardship Rate Relief		947	1,000
Budget	236,139	227,865	235,000

A reserve of approx. £25,000 as at 31.3.10 is also available.

Details of grants approved in 2010/11 are as follows:-

	£
Christian Lewis Trust	250
Cambrian Educational Foundation for Deaf Children	200
Swansea Bay Royal Marines Association	50
Cancer Information Support Services	100
	<u>600</u>

2.3 **Other New Grant Applications**

Please see Appendix 1.

2.4 **Recommendation**

That the applications be considered.

2.5 **Reason For Proposed Decision**

In accordance with approved criteria.

2.6 **List of Background Papers**

Letters of application.

2.7 **Officer Contact**

Mr. D. W. Davies – Director of Finance & Corporate Services
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MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS

Applicant	Purpose	Amount Request/Cost of “Project”	Previous Support	Comments
Bibles for Children Bath	To provide bibles to school children	No amount specified	£250 approved 12.4.07 under the Welsh Church Act Fund Scheme and £100 approved on 26.11.08 under Misc. Grants	
Wales Air Ambulance Wrexham	To keep the 3 air ambulances in Wales flying	No amount specified	£250 approved 14.2.08 under the Welsh Church Act Fund scheme and £250 approved on 8.10.09 under Misc. Grants	A grant was given on 8.10.09 on the understanding that it would not be a permanent arrangement

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	No impact
Social Inclusion	No impact

(c) **Consultation**

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

ITEM 3

WELSH CHURCH ACT FUND

THE CHARITABLE PURPOSES TO WHICH THE FUND MAY BE APPLIED

- 3.1 Extracts from the model scheme approved by Council are available in the Members Room and on the Intranet.
- 3.2 **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 £2,000 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 have a time limit for the take up of said grant of two years from the date of approval.
 - f) 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.
 - g) Grants will not normally be awarded where they would commit the fund to regular annual payments nor will recurring annual expenses be supported.
 - h) Grants will only be made out of the income of the fund, preserving the Fund's capital assets.
 - i) Priority will be given to applications which are of significant benefit to the Neath Port Talbot County Borough area.
 - j) 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.
 - k) Organisations assessed as being able to meet the cost (e.g. by size or nature) are unlikely to receive any grant aid.
 - l) 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).
 - m) 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.

- n) No retrospective applications are considered.
- o) The Panel will take into account the Church membership and the normal size of the congregation
- p) 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.

3.3 **New Applications**

Please see Appendix 2.

3.4 **Recommendation**

That the applications be considered.

3.5 **Reason For Proposed Decision**

In accordance with approved criteria.

3.6 **List of Background Papers**

Letters of application.

3.7 **Wards Affected**

All.

3.8 **Officer Contact**

Mr. D. W. Davies – Director of Finance & Corporate Services
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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	positive
Social Inclusion	positive

(c) **Consultation**

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

WELSH CHURCH ACT FUND APPLICATIONS

Applicant	Purpose	Amount Request /Cost of "Project"	Previous Support	Comments
St. Dunstan's London	To help blind and visually impaired veterans living in Neath Port Talbot	£2,000	None	

ITEM 4

COMMUNITY COUNCILS GRANT APPLICATIONS

4.1 Purpose of Report

To consider applications for grant aid from Gwaun Cae Gurwen Community Council and Blaenhonddan Community Council.

4.2 Background

A Minor Projects Grants Scheme was introduced many years ago in order to assist Community Councils in undertaking minor capital projects which will alleviate to some degree the perceived unfairness about “double rating”.

A second grant scheme was similarly introduced whereby Community Councils and the Voluntary Sector would be charged commercial rents/leases for occupation of local authority land but would then be grant aided towards the rental charges in order to show our support for these facilities more transparently.

4.3 Application from Gwaun Cae Gurwen Community Council

Their third application is to refurbish/extend the Cwmgors Community/Recreation Centre, Cemetery Road, Cwmgors which will include new facilities for the disabled, improvements to kitchen/servery, toileting, I.T. Suite and redecoration.

4.4. Application from Blaenhonddan Community Council

The Policy & Resources Board have previously granted aid to Blaenhonddan Community Council to assist with the rental payments at Aberdulais Community Centre. There has been a long running issue in relation to the historic VAT implications of these particular arrangements. The position has now been resolved with an outstanding bill of £6,677.66 covering the period November 2001 to March 2010.

4.5 Finance

The Minor Projects Scheme has £124,000 in reserves as at 1.4.2010 and a current in year budget of £55,000.

4.6 **Recommendations**

- (a) The application from Gwaun Cae Gurwen Community Council complies with the conditions of grant and I therefore recommend that support at 50% up to a maximum of £10,000 in accordance with the schedule be made on receipt of paid invoices together with a copy bank statement.
- (b) That the outstanding sum be grant aided at 30% or £2,003.30, which is equivalent to the grant aid that Blaenhonddan Community Council would receive under the Minor Projects Grant Scheme. Blaenhonddan Community Council last received aid under the Minor Projects Grant Scheme in 2003.

4.7 **Reason for Proposed Decision**

The decisions are in compliance with the approved policy.

4.8 **List of Background Papers**

Application Form.

4.9 **Wards Affected**

All.

4.10 **Officer Contact**

Mr. D. W. Davies – Director of Finance & Corporate Services
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COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

COMMUNITY COUNCILS MINOR PROJECTS GRANT SCHEME - APPLICATIONS

(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.