

**POLICY AND RESOURCES**

**CABINET BOARD**

**16 FEBRUARY 2012**

**FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

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

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**Part 1 - Doc. Code: PRB-160212-REP-FS**

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## **ITEM 1**

### **MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS APPLICATIONS**

#### **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 2011/12**

- 1.2 The budget for 2011/12 does not include a general inflationary uplift. The following grants are included within this budget:-

	<b>Actuals 2009/10</b>	<b>Actuals 2010/11</b>	<b>Budget 2011/12</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Citizen Advice Bureaux			
- Neath	39,726	39,726	39,051
- Port Talbot	47,471	47,471	46,664
- Ammanford	120	120	118
- Ystradgynlais	850	850	836
- Match Funding Support	20,000	20,000	19,660

	<b>Actuals</b> <b>2009/10</b> £	<b>Budget</b> <b>2010/11</b> £	<b>Budget</b> <b>2011/12</b> £
SDS CAB Volunteering Project	5,000	5,000	4,915
Afan Valley Outreach Project	1,000	1,000	983
Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service	48,574	48,574	47,748
OAP Associations	15,565	15,565	15,300
Racial Equality Council	23,382	23,382	22,984
Victim Support Schemes	3,860	3,860	3,794
- Neath )			
- Port Talbot )			
Prince's Trust Volunteers	3,157	3,157	3,103
St. John's Ambulance	3,040	3,040	2,988
West Glamorgan Blind Welfare Association	2,132	2,132	2,096
Maintenance of Mechanics Institute (in lieu of grant aid to Antiquarians & Archives)	11,841	13,700	13,467
Dylan Thomas Prize Fund	-	-	-
One-off grants	1,200	6,433	7,063
Hardship Rate Relief	947	1,000	
<b>Budget</b>	<b>227,865</b>	<b>235,000</b>	<b>230,770</b>

A reserve of approx. £35,760 as at 31.3.11 is also available.

Details of grants approved in 2011/12 are as follows:-

	£
Christian Lewis Trust	250
Cambrian Educational Foundation for Deaf Children	200
Bibles for Children	100
	<u>550</u>

### **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 Letters of application.

### **Officer Contact**

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

### **MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS 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
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	<b>No impact</b>

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.

**MISCELANEOUS GRANT APPLICATIONS**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount Request /Cost of "Project"</b>	<b>Previous Support</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Cancer Information & Support Services Neath	Request for funding to cover Staff & Volunteer expenses	£12,500	£100 p.a.	
Community Hall Association of Seven Sisters (CHAOSS) Seven Sisters	Proposed 25 year lease of the playing fields at Seven Sisters for a BMX track from a date to be agreed subject to 5 yearly rent reviews together with payment of legal and professional costs	£300 p.a.	None	Suggest CHAOSS make contribution of £50 p.a. towards annual rental. No grant towards legal and professional fees.

## **ITEM 2**

### **COMMUNITY COUNCILS MINOR PROJECTS SCHEME**

#### **Background**

- 2.1 The above scheme was introduced in order to assist Community Councils in undertaking minor capital projects within their area. The scheme allows applications every two years and any project must be completed within 3 years of approval.

#### **Purpose of Report**

- 2.2 Onllwyn Community Council have had two applications approved, the first in 2004 and the second in 2007. Unfortunately a third project back in 2009 was not reported to Committee for approval in the normal manner.
- 2.3 The project is now complete and the Community Council have been paid in accordance with the scheme.
- 2.4 Committee is requested to give retrospective approval to the project which meets the criteria for the scheme in all respects.
- 2.5 The payment made was one of £9,280 against a maximum award to Onllwyn Community Council of £14,000 and has been accommodated within the existing reserve for the scheme.

#### **Recommendation**

- 2.6 To give retrospective approval of the grant.

#### **Reason for Proposed Decision**

- 2.7 The decision is in compliance with the approved policy.

#### **List of Background Papers**

- 2.8 None.

## **Wards Affected**

2.9 Onllwyn.

## **Officer Contact**

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

## COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

### COMMUNITY COUNCILS MINOR PROJECTS SCHEME

(a) **Implementation of Decision**

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

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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 3**

### **OFFICER URGENCY ACTION – BLUE BADGE IMPROVEMENT SERVICES**

#### **Purpose of Report**

- 3.1 This report sets out information relating to an Urgency Action approved by the Director of Finance & Corporate Services in conjunction with the relevant Cabinet Members.

#### **Background**

- 3.2 The Blue Badge Improvement Service (BBIS) is a key part of the Blue Badge Reform Programme being implemented in the United Kingdom which is largely aimed at reducing the current levels of misuse of the badge.

From 1st April 2012 Welsh Local Authorities will order and receive the new style Blue Badge that has been introduced by Department for Transport and Welsh Government legislation via a nationally approved supplier – Payne Security – no badges can be produced locally from that date.

The fee for the new badge is included in the £4.60 unit price for the core elements of the BBIS. This is mandatory to cover the new badge production process and new United Kingdom data base of badges held.

The current fee paid to NPTCBC for badges it produces by all successful applicants is £2 and there are approximately 15,000 badges in circulation in this authority.

On 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011, Mr Carl Sargeant AM, Minister for Local Government and Communities advised Welsh local authorities that from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012, individual applicants would not have to pay a fee for the new style badge and that funding would be provided to Welsh Local authorities to cover this £4.60 fee.

He also advised that local authorities will now be able to charge up to £10.00 for an organisational badge and some replacement badges such as those that have been lost or stolen.

Current arrangements following the Blue Badge systems thinking review in NPTCBC increased efficiency by removing administrative delays and vastly improving the customer experience but the new national production process from 1/4/2012 will introduce a delay of at least 5 days before the badge will be returned to the local authority for issuing to the applicant.

This imposed new process will increase the associated customer contact time and reintroduce costs that we have already eliminated as part of our systems thinking approach with the actual cost of the new badge costing £15 to administer.

Charging a fee of £10 for an organisational badge and replacement badges would cover the mandatory fee and contribute towards other associated costs incurred by the local authority to administer the new scheme.

We issued a total of 235 organisational and duplicate replacement badges overall last year.

### **Wards Affected**

3.3 All

### **Officer Contact**

3.4 For further information on this report item, please contact:  
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