

POLICY AND RESOURCES

CABINET BOARD

17 NOVEMBER 2011

FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

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

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SECTION A – MATTERS FOR DECISION

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:-

	Actuals 2009/10 £	Actuals 2010/11 £	Budget 2011/12 £
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

	Actuals 2009/10 £	Budget 2010/11 £	Budget 2011/12 £
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	
Budget	227,865	235,000	230,770

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

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

	£
Christian Lewis Trust	250
Cambrian Educational Foundation for Deaf Children	200
	<hr/> 450 <hr/>

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
(Tel. 01639 763251 - email: d.w.davies@neath-porttalbot.gov.uk)

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
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.

MISCELANEOUS GRANT APPLICATIONS

Applicant	Purpose	Amount Request /Cost of "Project"	Previous Support	Comments
St John Ambulance Brigade Neath Abbey	Annual rental for the Brigade Hall at Neath Sports Centre for a 25 year period subject to 5 yearly rent reviews	£2,000 p.a.		Awaiting further information
Affiliated Sports Clubs of Glyncoerrwg Glyncoerrwg	Annual rental for the lease of land at Ynyscoerrwg Park, Glyncoerrwg for a 25 year period subject to 5 yearly rent reviews	£1,650 p.a.		Awaiting further information
Margam Community Centre Margam	Annual rental for the Margam Community Centre for a 25 year period subject to 5 yearly rent reviews	£4,125 p.a.		Suggest annual grant of £4,100

ITEM 2

WELSH CHURCH ACT FUND

THE CHARITABLE PURPOSES TO WHICH THE FUND MAY BE APPLIED

- 2.1 Extracts from the model scheme approved by Council are available in the Members Room and on the Intranet.
- 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 £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.

New Applications

2.3 Please see Appendix 2.

Recommendation

2.4 That 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
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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 Cadoc’s Church Aberpergwm Glynneath	To conserve wall monuments and effigies. Restoration work to the wooden altar and mediaeval stained glass windows. Internal and external repairs and renewing the inside decoration of the church.	£215,000	A grant was approved in July 2009 in the amount of £2000 but the work has still not commenced. Item (e) of the grant criteria states “Grants will have a time limit for the take up of said grant of two years from the date of approval” and therefore the Church is re-submitting the application for approval.	Complies with criteria
St David’s Church Resolven	To make essential repairs to the exterior and interior walls to include removal and replacement of same together with the re-pointing of the stonework.	£30,000	None	Complies with criteria

Applicant	Purpose	Amount Request /Cost of “Project”	Previous Support	Comments
St Anne’s Church Tonna	To remove the pews; redecorate the walls; renewal of flooring; change of use of the Lady Chapel to kitchen, toilet and small meeting area.	£46,500	None	Complies with criteria
Baglan Community Church Baglan	To renovate Baglan Social Club into a Community Centre to include a large auditorium; youth room; offices; large coffee house	£300,000	None	

ITEM 3

COMMUNITY COUNCILS MINOR PROJECTS SCHEME – APPLICATIONS

Purpose of Report

- 3.1 (a) We have received a third application for grant aid from Resolven Community Council under the above mentioned scheme. This further application from the Community Council is for new light poles to hold Christmas decorations.
- (b) We have received a third application for grant aid from Blaengwrach Community Council under the above mentioned scheme. This further application from the Community Council is for the purchase of 5 new items of play equipment and requisite safety surfacing to be installed on the playing field of the Welfare Park in Blaengwrach.

Background

- 3.2 A grants scheme has been introduced in order to assist Community Councils in undertaking minor capital projects which will alleviate to some degree the perceived unfairness about “double rating”.
- 3.3 (a) Resolven Community Council first applied for grant aid under the Community Councils Minor Projects Grant Scheme in 2004 to provide a multi user games area. This was approved in July 2004 and a grant of £12,000 was made. A second application from Resolven Community Council was approved in March 2009 for a disabled toilet to be provided in the village and a grant of £12,000 was made.
- (b) Blaengwrach Community Council first applied for grant aid under the Community Councils Minor Projects Grant Scheme in March 2004 for new kitchen facilities, new toilet facilities, renovation of backstage rooms, renewal of electrics, painting and decorating. This was approved in September 2004 and a grant of £14,000 was made. A second application from Blaengwrach Community Council was approved in January 2008 for a state of the art playground and a grant of £14,000 was made.

Recommendation

3.4 The applications comply with the conditions of grant and I therefore recommend that support at 60% up to a maximum of £12,000 and £14,000 respectively in accordance with the schedule be made on receipt of paid invoices together with a copy bank statement.

Reason for Proposed Decision

3.5 The decision is in compliance with the approved policy.

List of Background Papers

3.6 Application Forms.

Wards Affected

3.7 All.

Officer Contact

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

COMMUNITY COUNCILS MINOR PROJECTS SCHEME

(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.