

POLICY AND RESOURCES

CABINET BOARD

25 MARCH 2011

FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

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

INDEX OF REPORT ITEMS

Part 1 - Doc. Code: PRB-250311-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 – 10	All
3. Community Councils Minor Projects Scheme	11 – 13	Ystalyfera & Seven Sisters
SECTION B - MATTERS FOR INFORMATION		
Report Item	Page Nos.	Wards affected
4. Retirement	14	All

SECTION A – MATTERS FOR DECISION

ITEM 1

MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS

1.1 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.

1.2 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

	Actuals 2008/9 £	Actuals 2009/10 £	Budget 2010/11 £
SDS CAB Volunteering Project	5,000	5,000	5,000
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
Bibles for Children	100
Wales Air Ambulance	250
	<u>950</u>

1.3 **Other New Grant Applications**

Please see Appendix 1.

1.4 **Recommendation**

That the applications be considered.

1.5 **Reason For Proposed Decision**

In accordance with approved criteria.

1.6 **List of Background Papers**

Letters of application.

1.7 **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
Derby Toc H Children’s Camp Derby	To provide a holiday for under privileged children aged 9 to 14 years old	No amount specified	All previous applications have been refused	No direct local benefit
Phoenix Radio Port Talbot Hospital	To provide for the hospital radio – 2 computers, 4 CD decks, 2 monitors, 2 computer cards, 1 new chair and the insurance needs renewing	Approx £5,000 + insurance	Revenue grant applied for in 2006 but refused capital grant application was suggested	

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 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.

2.3 **New Applications**

Please see Appendix 2.

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 **Wards Affected**

All.

2.8 **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. Margaret's Church Crynant	Renovation works to the Church to include new gutters, down pipes and fascias and hacking off internal plaster in 3 areas of the church	£21,118.30	None	Complies with criteria

ITEM 3

COMMUNITY COUNCILS GRANT APPLICATIONS

3.1 Purpose of Report

- (a) We have received a third application for grant aid from Ystalyfera Community Council under the above mentioned scheme. The application is for the construction of a multi use games area with flood lighting on land leased from Ynysmeudwy AFC.
- (b) We have also received a fourth application for grant aid from Seven Sisters Community Council under the above mentioned scheme. The application is to continue a rolling programme to replace dilapidated steel boundary fencing at Bryn Bedd Cemetery.

3.2 Background

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) Ystalyfera Community Council first applied for grant aid under the Community Councils Minor Projects Grant Scheme in 2003 for a shortfall in funding in respect of the multi use games area and skateboard park in Ystalyfera. In 2008 they applied for another grant under the above scheme in respect of upgrading and provision of new equipment together with a disabled access path and seating at Varteg Park, Ystalyfera.
- (b) Seven Sisters Community Council first applied for grant aid under the Community Councils Minor Projects Grant Scheme in 2004 for refurbishment works to the tennis courts in Seven Sisters. They then applied in 2006 for grant aid to replace the dilapidated boundary fencing to Bryn Bedd cemetery together with drainage works. In 2008 they next applied for grant aid to continue the work on the fencing in Bryn Bedd cemetery.

3.5 Recommendation

- (a) The application from Ystalyfera Community Council complies with the conditions of grant and I therefore recommend that support of 50% up to a maximum of £10,000 in accordance with the schedule be made on receipt of paid invoices together with copy bank statements.

- (b) The application from Seven Sisters Community Council complies with the conditions of grant and I therefore recommend that support of 60% up to a maximum of £12,000 in accordance with the schedule be made on receipt of paid invoices together with copy bank statements.

3.6 **Reason for Proposed Decision**

The decisions are in compliance with the approved policy.

3.7 **List of Background Papers**

Application Form.

3.8 **Wards Affected**

Ystalyfera and Seven Sisters.

3.9 **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.

SECTION B – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

4. **RETIREMENT**

Mr Martin Jones, Head of Revenues & Customer Services has tendered his resignation which will take effect early in May 2011.

A report to the Personnel Committee of the 6th April 2011 is recommending that the post be deleted from the establishment and that Council Tax, Business Rates, Benefits, Debtors and the Cashiers functions be transferred to Mr Hywel Jenkins whilst the Customer Services functions be transferred to Mrs Karen Jones.

Consequently Members will see different representation when reports on these topics are brought before you in the future.

List of Background Papers

None.

Wards Affected

All

Officer Contact

For further information on this report item, please contact:

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