

# NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## POLICY AND RESOURCES CABINET BOARD (SPECIAL)

7 JANUARY 2016

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES

#### **Matter for Decision**

**Wards Affected – Neath East and Neath North**

#### **NEATH PORT TALBOT WELSH CHURCH ACT TRUST FUND**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

To seek Member approval in relation to grant applications received from various bodies. Appendix 1 attached.

##### **2. Background and Financial Impact**

###### **Review of Award Criteria**

###### **Welsh Church Acts Fund 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 £1,000 and in exceptional circumstances £4,000 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 25% of actual costs incurred up to the maximum as outlined in condition (d) above. The grant of £4,000 will only be approved where expenditure exceeds £50,000.
- 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 as follows - 50% of all

costs over a threshold of £2,000 up to a maximum grant of £1,000.

**4. Consultation**

There is no requirement under the Constitution to consult on this item.

**6. Recommendation**

It is recommended that Members approve the applications set out in Appendix 1 to this report

**7. Reason for Proposed Decision**

To decide on providing financial support in respect of the grant applications received.

**8. Implementation of Decision**

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

**10. List of Background Papers**

Grant Applications.

**11. Officer Contact**

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## Appendix 1

Applicant	Purpose	Amount Request/Cost of "Project"	Previous Support	Comments
St Thomas' Church, Neath	substantial work that requires to be done on the Church Tower	Cost of Project - £109,530.00. The restoration fund balance is £6,713. Grant submission being made to CADW, Heritage Lottery Fund, Church in Wales, WREN, Santander Community Plus.	Upgrade the lighting and wiring systems - £2,000 granted in 2009	
Llewellyn Almshouses, Leonard Street, Neath	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Refurbishment of rear windows, including making good all window mechanisms so that windows are fully functional, joinery repairs, timber treatment, and redecoration.</li> <li>2. Brickwork repairs to various window reveals.</li> <li>3. Repairs to the boundary walls and railings.</li> </ol>	£50,000. Requested grant of £4,000.	PRB 16.10.2008. Grant of £4,000 awarded.	The application requests that consideration be given to the maximum grant of £4,000 for projects exceeding £50,000.
Grove Place Chapel Port Talbot	Repair of main chapel roof including roof timbers, fascia, soffits and bargeboards.	£4,730		