

Meeting of:	Welsh Church Act Estate Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 06 November 2023
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Corporate Performance and Resources
Report Title:	Applications for Financial Assistance 2023/24 Tranche 3
Purpose of Report:	To consider applications for financial assistance funded from the Welsh Church Act Estate.
Report Owner:	Director of Corporate Resources
Responsible Officer:	Matt Bowmer Head of Finance/ Section 151 officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Not applicable
Policy Framework:	Not applicable
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A revised budget of £47,880 has been set for issuing grants during 2023/24 following consideration of investment income and potential valuation costs. • An unallocated budget amount of £12,120 carried over from 2022/23 is also available for allocation during 2023/24. • The total grants budget for 2023/24 is now set at £60,000. • Grants allocated at Committee in June 2023 totalled £10,150. • Grants allocated at Committee in September 2023 totalled £13,813. • A further award of £3,000 is recommended as part of this report. • A remaining sum of £33,037 is available for a fourth tranche. 	

Recommendations

1. That Committee considers and approves the applications for grant assistance as set out in Appendix A of this report.
2. That Committee approves a recommendation to increase the maximum award to £10,000 on a trial basis to improve take up of grant funds.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. In furtherance of the objectives of the Trust.
2. To increase the number of applications for Welsh Church Act Grant funds.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Welsh Church Act Estate Committee has delegated authority to manage the trust's affairs in accordance with "The Scheme" the Welsh Church Act Estate as vested in the Council.
- 1.2 The purposes for which the Welsh Church Act fund may make grants is set out in summary at Appendix B to this report.
- 1.3 The applications received are set out in Appendix A to this report.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 The revenue outturn for 2022/23 and the projections for 2023/24 are included in Appendix C. Income projections for 2023/24 assume that investment and rental income will be broadly in line with income received in 2022/23. Expenditure includes provision for Member training, valuation, and asset maintenance costs.
- 2.2 The projections for 2023/24 make provision for grant allocations of £60,000 in 2023/24. This includes a sum of £12,120 which has been carried forward for grant allocation from 2022/23.
- 2.3 Tranche 1 of 2023/24 grant awards were approved by Committee in June 2023 as set out in the table below.

Organisation	Scheme	Sum Awarded
		£
Penarth Methodist Church	Community Centre Repair & Access Improvements	4,000.00
Forget-Me-Not Chorus	Community Taster Sessions	1,150.00
Croes Y Parc Chapel	Repairs to Boundary Wall	5,000.00
Total		10,150.00

- 2.4** Tranche 2 of 2023/24 grant awards were approved by Committee in September 2020 as set out in the table below.

Organisation	Scheme	Sum Recommended
		£
Penllyn Church	Additional Works following Fire Damage in Autumn 2022	5,000.00
St Peters Church	Quinquennial Urgent Repairs	5,000.00
St Philip Evans Catholic Church	Installation of High-Definition CCTV System	1,978.80
Cardiff Lions RFC LGBT+	Provision of Essential Bus Transport Services	1,833.75
Total		13,812.55

- 2.5** Appendix A to this report sets out a summary of the applications to be considered. These awards total £3,000 and are summarised in the table below.

Organisation	Scheme	Sum Recommended
		£
St Catherine's Church	Internal Refurbishment to Church Hall	3,000.00
Total		3,000.00

- 2.6** This leaves a sum of £33,037 to be allocated as part of a fourth tranche in January 2023.

- 2.7** It is proposed that in order to help improve the volume of grant applications received and the applicability of the funds to capital works on religious buildings in the context of the rising costs of construction the maximum award should be increased to £10,000 on a trial basis of one year.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** The Trusts actions need to comply with Charity Law and its decisions are independent of the Councils obligations under the Well-Being of Future Generations Act.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1** The revised sum of £47,880 has been provided for grants in the Trust's revenue estimates for 2023/24 following consideration of investment income and potential valuation costs. A further amount of £12,120 carried forward from 2022/23 is also available for allocation during 2023/24 giving a total sum of £60,000 available for grant awards during the year.
- 4.2** A sum of £10,150 was allocated as part of Tranche 1 for 2023/24 at the June 2023 Committee.
- 4.3** A sum of £13,813 was allocated as part of Tranche 2 for 2023/24 at the September 2023 Committee.
- 4.4** It is recommended that an allocation of £3,000 is made for applications for grant assistance as set out at Appendix A to this report, which will leave a remaining balance of £33,037 to be allocated during the remainder of 2023/24.
- 4.5** The Welsh Church Act Fund retains an unrestricted fund to fund unforeseen costs associated with the maintenance of its investment properties at 31st March 2024 this fund is expected to stand at £130,880.

Employment

- 4.6** There are no direct employment implications arising from this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 4.7** There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

5. Background Papers

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2023-2024

WELSH CHURCH ACTS

Tranche 3

Committee Date 6th November 2023

APPENDIX A

ITEM NO	NAME OF ORGANISATION (Date of original application)	SPECIFIC PURPOSE FOR WHICH GRANT REQUESTED	CLASSIFICATION OF CLAIM	AMOUNT REQUESTED	GRANT RECOMMENDED	COMMENTS
	<u>New Applications</u>					
1	St Catherines Church, Canton, Cardiff	Recommended by Cardiff Council Internal Refurbishment to Church Hall. Provide safer flooring and repaint internal walls and ceilings to maintain the hall as a warm, welcoming and safe environment for the wider community. Recommended by Cardiff Council	Places of Worship and Burial Grounds	£3,000.00	£3,000.00	Total Project Cost £13,134. Financed by Welsh Government Community Facilities Fund Grant £7,000 (application in progress), St Catherine reserve funds £3,134 and £3,000 Welsh Church Act Grant (this application). Quotes received to support this application Financial statement for year ended December 2022 and bank statement included in application. Constitution is Church In Wales. Award In Principle until outcome of WG Communities Facilities Grant application is known.
		Total Requested / Recommended		£3,000.00	£3,000.00	

Vale of Glamorgan

WELSH CHURCH ACT FUND

The Charitable purposes for which the fund may be applied.

Set out below is a **summary only** of the purposes for which the Fund may be applied:

- (i) **Educational** - Provision of benefits not readily available from other sources, and recreation, social and physical training facilities, at educational establishments, not normally provided by the LEA.
- (ii) **Relief in sickness** - Assistance to persons who are sick, convalescent, disabled, handicapped or infirm, where such assistance is not readily available from other sources.
- (iii) **Relief in need** - Assistance generally or to individuals in need, hardship or distress.
- (iv) **Libraries, museums, art galleries etc.** – Advancing the appreciation of Welsh arts and literature in general.
- (v) **Social and recreational facilities in general.**
- (vi) **Protection of historic buildings etc.** – Promotion of interest in Welsh architecture, history and science in general, for the benefit of Welsh people.
- (vii) **Medical and social research, treatment in general etc.**- Preservation and protection of the physical and mental health of society in general. Provision of nurseries, convalescent homes and hostels
- (viii) **Probation etc.** - Assistance to persons on probation or the families thereof.
- (ix) **Blind persons** - Provision of welfare including accommodation.
- (x) **Aged persons** - Provision of accommodation.
- (xi) **Places of worship and burial grounds** – Restoration and maintenance.
- (xii) **Emergencies or disasters** - Directly assisting persons in need.
- (xiii) **Other charitable purposes** – Contributions to charitable organisations not inconsistent with the purposes of the trust.

WELSH CHURCH ACTS

APPENDIX C

Revenue Estimates 2023/24

	2022/23	2023/24	2023/24
	As per Accounts Actual	to 30/09/2023 Actual	Full Year Estimate
	£	£	£
Income			
Property Rents (73600)	11,305	5,897	10,000
Lease Income	7,625	7,625	7,625
Dividends			
Projected Investment Income	36,073	19,353	40,000
Interest - VoG on £100,000	2,238	1,100	2,200
Total Income	57,241	33,975	59,825
Expenditure			
Training Expenses	175	0	190
Court and Legal Fees	585	100	600
Valuation and Planning	350	0	7,500
Other premises costs e.g. Grounds Maintenance	1,962	0	1,955
Audit Fees	1,617	1,700	1,700
Grants	33,130	18,963	60,000
Total Expenditure	37,819	20,763	71,945
Total (Surplus)/Deficit for the year	-19,422	-13,212	12,120
Carried forward from Prev Grant allocation		-12,120	-12,120
Total Contribution (from)/to Reserves	19,422	0	0
Adjusted Total	0	0	-25,332

	Total
Grant Allocation 2022/23	45,250
Awarded at Committee 20/06/2022	-24,840
Awarded at Committee 10/10/2022	-10,000
St Dochdwy, Penarth (Claim withdrawn - Private Funding)	1,710
Balance remaining to be bfwd into 2023/24	12,120

	Total
Grant funds available:	
Grant Allocation 2023/24	60,000
Recommended Tranche 1	-10,150
Recommended Tranche 2	-13,813
Recommended Tranche 3	-3,000
Balance remaining to allocate in year	33,037

Reserve Projection	Total
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As shown in Appendix A

Opening Reserve 2023/24	143,000
Carried forward from Prev Grant allocation	-12,120
Projected Balance 31st March 2024	130,880