

Meeting of:	<b>Welsh Church Act Estate Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Tuesday, 30 July 2024</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Corporate Performance and Resources
Report Title:	<b>Applications for Financial Assistance 2024/25 Tranche 1</b>
Purpose of Report:	To consider applications for financial assistance funded from the Welsh Church Act Estate.
Report Owner:	Tom Bowring, Director of 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"> <li>• A budget of £60k has been set for issuing grants during 2024/25.</li> <li>• An unallocated budget amount of £25,325 was carried over from 2023/24, of this £23,070 is available for allocation during 2024/25 with the total unrestricted reserve standing at £161,870 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.</li> <li>• It is proposed £20k of this sum is utilised in 2024/25 for grants and therefore the total grants budget for 2024/25 is now set at £80k.</li> <li>• On a trial basis the maximum grant that can be potentially awarded has been increased from £5k to £10k.</li> <li>• Grants totalling £16,067.50 set out in Appendix A are recommended as part of this report.</li> <li>• A remaining sum of £63,932.50 is available for allocation during 2024/25.</li> </ul>	

## **Recommendation**

1. That Committee considers and approves the applications for grant assistance as set out in Appendix A of this report.

## **Reason for Recommendation**

1. In furtherance of the objectives of the Trust.

## **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 Appendix A to this report sets out a summary of the applications to be considered.
- 2.2 The revenue outturn for 2023/24 and projections for 2024/25 are included in Appendix C and make provision for grant allocations of £80k in 2024/25.

## **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 sum of £60k has been provided for grants in the Trust's revenue estimates for 2024/25. A further amount of £25k was transferred into reserves at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 of this £2.255k relates to the sale of a property and will be transferred to the restricted fund and the balance has been added to the

unrestricted fund. It is proposed that £20k of this sum is made available for grants in 2024/25.

- 4.2** It is recommended that an allocation of £16,067.50 is made for applications for grant assistance as set out at Appendix A to this report, which will leave a remaining balance of £63,932.50 to be allocated during 2024/25.
- 4.3** The Welsh Church Act Fund retains an unrestricted fund to finance unforeseen costs associated with the maintenance of its investment properties at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 this fund stood at £161,870.

### **Employment**

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

### **Legal (Including Equalities)**

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

## **5. Background Papers**

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2024-2025**

**WELSH CHURCH ACTS**

**Tranche 1**

**Committee Date 30th July 2024**

**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
	<b>New Applications</b>					
1	Dinas Powys Community Council	Recommended by the Vale of Glamorgan Council <b>Erect New Fencing at St Andrews Cemetery.</b> Concentrating first on the new burial section, grant funding is requested to provide grieving families with some privacy and to tidy the area up. The existing fencing is 50 years old and not fit for purpose with deteriorated concrete posts and barbed wire.	Places of Worship and Burial Grounds	£3,630.00	£3,630.00	<b>Total Project Cost £4,336.00.</b> Financed by Dinas Powys Community Council £495.00 and donations of timber from Selco, Bruno Timber Products, Robert Price & Mon Timber £707.60 (all confirmed). Balance funded by Welsh Church Act Grant if successful. Quotes provided from 2 companies, Bank statement, the Community Council's constitution, Equality Policy and financial statement from Audit Wales included in application.
2	St Canna's Church, Llangan.	Recommended by the Vale of Glamorgan Council <b>Church Building Repairs.</b> Work required includes repairs to priests door entrance, repairs to rear window, repairs to prevent water ingress into chancel wall through the roof and sidewalls, lime wash walls damaged by water ingress and repairs to boundary wall damaged by a fallen tree. This work represents the final stage in the church restoration process which	Places of Worship and Burial Grounds	£8,437.50	£8,437.50	<b>Total Project Cost £11,250.00</b> Financed by approved church contribution (£2,812.50) to cover 25% match funding and Welsh Church Act Grant (this application) Quotes provided. Profit and Loss Accounts for December 2021 & December 2022 and bank statement included in application. Constitution and Equality policy are Church of England.
3	Girls Friendly Society - Registered Charity	Recommended By Cardiff Council <b>Support Group for Girls.</b> A grant of £4,000 is requested to provide vital support for 20 girls per annum expected to attend a newly formed group in Cardiff which is to be launched in September 2024. The aim of the group is to empower girls in Cardiff to navigate the challenges of their teenage years and beyond, providing them with a safe space and an interactive, fun programme that helps them develop essential life skills through activities designed to increase well-being, raise aspirations, and improve positive outcomes.	Other	£4,000.00	£4,000.00	<b>Total Project Cost £17,574</b> Financed by secured funds from the Girls Friendly Society (£2,424), Weekly Subs (£1,326) and Global Make Some Noise (£4,100). Grant applications pending Inman Charity (£2,000), Limborne Trust (£5,000) and the Thomas Sivewright Catto Charitable Settlement (£500). Annual report and financial statements dated 30th September 2023 and bank statement included with application along with the constitution and a case study.
4	Creigiau Tennis Club	Recommended by Cardiff Council <b>Gate Access System.</b> Following the installation of new floodlights funding is sought to install an electric gate access system to the tennis courts. The benefits of installing the system are Security & Safety, Cost Benefits (no longer a need to supply members with keys and padlocks), improved accessibility and sustainability (floodlights only in use when players are on court).	Other	£2,812.50	£2,812.50	<b>Total Project Cost £3,750.</b> Financed By Club Reserves £937.50 (25% match funding) and Welsh Church Act Grant. Two quotes provided along with the 2023 Accounts & Bank Statement. Also included are the tennis clubs constitution and 2 letters supporting the application.
<b>Total Requested / Recommended</b>				<b>£16,067.50</b>	<b>£16,067.50</b>	

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 2024/25

	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25
	As per Accounts	to 31/01/2024	Full Year
	Actual	Actual	Estimate
	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>			
Property Rents and Lease Income	11,581	9,443	12,000
Sale Proceeds	2,255		
<b>Dividends</b>			
Projected Investment Income	50,790	13,568	54,273
Interest - VoG on £100,000	4,819	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>69,446</b>	<b>23,011</b>	<b>66,273</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Training Expenses	0	0	0
Court and Legal Fees	100	0	1,000
Valuation and Planning	7,350	0	773
Other premises costs e.g. Grounds Maintenance	0	345	3,000
Audit Fees	1,418	0	1,500
Grants	35,253	23,000	80,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>44,121</b>	<b>23,345</b>	<b>86,273</b>
<b>Total (Surplus)/Deficit for the year</b>	-25,325	334	20,000
<b>Carried forward from Prev Grant allocation</b>		0	0
<b>Total Contribution (from)/to Reserves</b>	25,325	-334	-20,000
<b>Adjusted Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Grant Allocation 2023/24</b>	<b>41,963</b>
Recommended Tranche 1	-10,150
Recommended Tranche 2	-13,813
Recommended Tranche 3	-3,000
Grant Withdrawal	5,000
Recommended Tranche 4	-20,000
<b>Balance remaining to be bfwd into 2023/24</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Grant funds available:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Grant Allocation 2024/25</b>	<b>80,000</b>
Recommended Tranche 1	-16,068

**Balance remaining to allocate in year** **63,933**

<b>Reserve Projection</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Opening Reserve 2024/25</b>	
<b>Contribution to Grant Allocation 2024/25</b>	-10,000
<b>Transfer Surplus</b>	
<b>Projected Balance 31st March 2025</b>	<b>-10,000</b>