

Meeting of:	Welsh Church Act Estate Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 16 September 2024
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Corporate Performance and Resources
Report Title:	Applications for Financial Assistance 2024/25 Tranche 2
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"> • A budget of £60k has been set for issuing grants during 2024/25. • The total general unrestricted reserve standing at £167k as at 31st March 2024. • It is proposed £20k of this sum is utilised in 2024/25 for the provision of grants and therefore the total grants budget for 2024/25 is now set at £80k. • One grant claim awarded in 2023/2024 for £10k has been withdrawn and replaced with a grant claim for a new project to be considered at this meeting. Further details are summarised later in this report. • Following the withdrawal of the £10k the total grants budget available in 2024/25 becomes £90k. • On a trial basis the maximum grant that can be potentially awarded has been increased from £5k to £10k. • Grants totalling £18.880k were awarded in Tranche 1 at the meeting dated 31st July 2024 amended appendix attached at Appendix A1. • Grants totalling £34k set out in Appendix A2 are recommended as part of this report. • A remaining sum of £37.120k is available for allocation during 2024/25. 	

Recommendations

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

Reasons for Recommendations

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 make provision for grant allocations of £90,000 in 2024/25. This includes a sum of £20,000 which has been carried forward from the grant allocation for 2023/24 and £10,000 from a grant awarded in February 2024 which has been withdrawn.
- 2.3 Tranche 1 of 2024/25 grant awards were approved by Committee in July 2024 as set out in the table below, the appendix A included in the report has an incorrect sum for the grants awarded and a correct Appendix A1 is included as part of this report.

	Scheme	Sum Awarded
		£
Creigiau Tennis Club	Provision of Electric Gate Access System	2,812.50
Girls Friendly Society	Support Group for Girls	4,000.00
St Andrews Cemetery	New Fencing	3,630.00
St Canna's Church, LLangan	Repairs to Boundary Wall	8,437.50
Total		18,880.00

- 2.4 Appendix A2 to this report sets out a summary of the applications that are to be considered at this meeting. These awards total £34k and are summarised in the table below.

Organisation	Scheme	Sum Recommended
		£
Grangetown Baptist Church	Replacement & Re-siting of Boilers	10,000
Parish Church of St Nicholas	Church Entrance & Pathways Improvements	10,000
All Saints Church Rhiwbina	Replacement Boiler	4,000
Friends of Pedal Power Ltd	Cycling Participation	10,000
Total		34,000

- 2.5 The Parish Church of Nicholas were awarded £10k at the Committee meeting of the 27th of February 2024. The purpose of the grant was to repair the lychgate. Between the time of the application and the grant award the lychgate was dismantled by order of the Diocese on the grounds of health & safety. Therefore, the grant for the original project has been withdrawn and replaced with a new project for consideration at this meeting.
- 2.6 This leaves a sum of £37,120 to be allocated as part of a third tranche in January 2025.

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. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1 Welsh Church Act Investments are invested on an ethical basis and include sustainable investment funds and investments in renewable property collectives.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1 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 as at 31st

March 2024. Of this amount, £2.255k relates to the sale of a property which will be transferred to the restricted fund with the remaining sum being added to the unrestricted fund. It is proposed that £20k of this sum is made available for grants in 2024/25 together with a further £10k for a withdrawn claim originally awarded at the February 2024 meeting.

- 5.2 It is recommended that an allocation of £34k is made for applications for grant assistance as set out at Appendix A to this report, which will leave a remaining balance of £37.120 to be allocated during 2024/25.
- 5.3 The Welsh Church Act Fund retains an unrestricted fund to finance unforeseen costs associated with the maintenance of its investment properties at 31st August 2024 this fund stood at £167K at 31st March 2024

Employment

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

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.5 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report

6. Background Papers

None

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2024-2025

WELSH CHURCH ACTS

Tranche 1

Committee Date 30th July 2024

APPENDIX A1

ITEM NO	NAME OF ORGANISATION (Date of original application)	SPECIFIC PURPOSE FOR WHICH GRANT REQUESTED	CLASSIFICATION OF CLAIM	AMOUNT REQUESTED	GRANT RECOMMENDED	COMMENTS
	New Applications					
		Recommended by the Vale of Glamorgan Council				
1	Dinas Powys Community Council	Erect New Fencing at St Andrews Cemetery. 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	Total Project Cost £4,336.00. 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.
		Recommended by the Vale of Glamorgan Council				
2	St Canna's Church, Llangan.	Church Building Repairs. 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 commenced in 2010.	Places of Worship and Burial Grounds	£8,437.50	£8,437.50	Total Project Cost £11,250.00 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.
		Recommended By Cardiff Council				
3	Girls Friendly Society - Registered Charity	Support Group for Girls. 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	Total Project Cost £17,574 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.
		Recommended by Cardiff Council				
4	Creigiau Tennis Club	Gate Access System. 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	Total Project Cost £3,750. 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.
		Total Requested / Recommended		£18,880.00	£18,880.00	

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2024-2025

WELSH CHURCH ACTS

Tranche 2

Committee Date 16th September 2024

APPENDIX A2

ITEM NO	NAME OF ORGANISATION (Date of original application)	SPECIFIC PURPOSE FOR WHICH GRANT REQUESTED	CLASSIFICATION OF CLAIM	AMOUNT REQUESTED	GRANT RECOMMENDED	COMMENTS
New Applications						
1	Grangetown Baptist Church	Recommended by Cardiff Council. Urgent Replacement and Re-siting of Gas Boilers. Current boilers are condemned and situated in an outbuilding. Funds are requested to replace the boilers and rehouse them in the main building. Heating Contractors are sure that we will see significant savings in Gas consumption (approx. 30%) due to improved efficiency of the boilers and much quicker warm-up times. This will make the facilities much more welcoming and significantly reduce our Carbon Footprint.	Places of Worship and Burial Grounds	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	Total Project Cost £48,328. Financed by Grant from Congregational & General Fund £9,600, Internal Gifting £10,000, Grant from Benefact Trust £18,728 (applied for but not yet granted) and £10,000 Welsh Church Act Grant. Included in application are the Constitution, Bank Statement, Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Report, Audited Accounts, Congregational Grant Approval, Benefact Trust Grant Application Confirmation and 3 quotes from HeatGlobal Ltd, Eric Collier and Son Gas Engineers Ltd and Xgas Limited.
2	The Parish Church of St Nicholas, Llandaff Diocese	Recommended by the Vale of Glamorgan Council Church Entrance Improvements. This application is for a grant to assist with the funding of three interlinked projects to enhance the entrance and pathway from the Village Green to the church building. Following the regrettable need for an emergency order from the Diocese to dismantle the lychgate structure on grounds of health and safety, the Church Committee wish to commission the construction of replica gates made from seasoned oak. In addition the pathway either side of the entrance requires major repairs for safety purposes and these would be undertaken in conjunction with the gate hanging. It is also intended to further enhance the safety of the approach path to the church door by positioning above ground lighting along its edge. Discussions are underway with the Community Council as to the practicalities of running an electricity supply in the same trench to connect to a defibrillator on the verge outside the church wall. The wiring would cross under the repaired pathway. The applicant was originally awarded £10,000 in February 2024 to repair the original lychgate. Having now been demolished due to health & safety issues that claim has been withdrawn and replaced with this new project.	Places of Worship and Burial Grounds	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	Total Project Cost £23,572.80. Financed by uncommitted restricted funds held by the Church Committee £13,572.80 and Welsh Church Act Grant £10,000. Application includes Letter to Chair withdrawing earlier application, Peter Bricknell quotes for replacement gates, pathway repair and pathway lighting installation, image of existing gates, architects drawing of new entrance surface and new lighting installation, financial accounts and most recent bank statement. Constitution are Equal Opportunities policy are Church in Wales.
3	All Saints Church Building, Rhiwbina	Recommended By Cardiff Council Replacement Boiler. Current boiler condemned in March 2024.	Places of Worship and Burial Grounds	£4,000.00	£4,000.00	Total Project Cost £8,000.00 Financed by funds from Congregation (including pledges - already in hand) £4,000 and this grant application £4,000. Quotes provided from SPM Heating and Air Condition Services £6,960 and Monical Heating & Gas Services £7,380 included in application. These quotes are dated 28/11/2023 & 29/01/2024 respectively so costs will have risen in the meantime. Financial accounts as at 31 December 2023 not yet finalised and will be forwarded as soon as they are available. Letter from Robert Hugh Chatered Accountants stating draft accounts and reserves are broadly in line with December 2022. Bank statement included in application and the Constitution is the Church in Wales.
4	Friends of Pedal Power Project Ltd	Recommended By Cardiff Council Cycling Participatiion. Funding is requested to extend a successful Lottery-funded pilot project that increases cycling participation among low-income communities, and those whose circumstances limit their access to cycling. Sevice is also provided to vulnerable adults refered by the NHS and ex-offenders. The six-month extension benefits from partial match funding and aims to be sustained beyond that period through a larger funding bid next year. The project offers bespoke cycle training sessions, community pop up engagement sessions and access to affordable refurbished cycles. Funding if awarded will finance 2 Cycling Offers @ £6,000 and 1 mechanic @ £6,000.	Other	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	Total Cost to Extend Project £18,000. Financed By National Lottery Match Funding £2,500 (part of £98k award for whole project), Pedal Power Resources / Bike Sales to Public £5,450, Nominal Fee for refurbished Bikes within project £50 and this application £10,000. Memorandum and Articles document included in application along with bank statement and confirmation of the National Lottery £98k award. No financial accounts, constitution or anything to substantiate the project costs and income apart from the Lottery funding provided which have been requested. It is the intention to submit further grant claims to further extend this project.
Total Requested / Recommended				£34,000.00	£34,000.00	

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

WELSH CHURCH ACT FUND

WELSH CHURCH ACT ESTATE COMMITTEE

The Charitable purposes for which the fund may be applied.

The Welsh Church Act Estate Committee has delegated authority to manage in accordance with “The Scheme” the Welsh Church Act Estate as vested in the Council.

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.

The above is a précis only of the wide ranging purposes to which the Welsh Church Act Fund may be applied, and in cases of doubt reference should be made to the actual provisions of the scheme document.

WELSH CHURCH ACTS

APPENDIX C

Revenue Estimates 2024/25

	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>2024/25</u>
	As per Accounts	to 31/01/2024	Full Year
	Actual	Actual	Estimate
	£	£	£
Income			
Property Rents and Lease Income	11,581	11,043	12,000
Sale Proceeds	2,255	0	0
Dividends			
Projected Investment Income	50,790	13,568	54,273
Interest - VoG on £100,000	4,819	0	0
Total Income	69,446	24,611	66,273
Expenditure			
Training Expenses	0	0	0
Court and Legal Fees	100	0	0
Survey Costs	0	3,200	3,200
Valuation and Planning	7,350	0	0
Other premises costs e.g. Grounds Maintenance	0	345	1,512
Audit Fees	1,418	0	1,561
Grants	35,253	23,000	80,000
Total Expenditure	44,121	26,545	86,273
Total (Surplus)/Deficit for the year	-25,325	1,934	20,000
Carried forward from Prev Grant allocation		0	0
Total Contribution (from)/to Reserves	25,325	-1,934	-20,000
Adjusted Total	0	0	0

	Total
Grant Allocation 2023/24	41,963
Recommended Tranche 1	-10,150
Recommended Tranche 2	-13,813
Recommended Tranche 3	-3,000
Grant Withdrawal	5,000
Recommended Tranche 4	-20,000
Balance remaining to be bfwd into 2023/24	0
Grant funds available:	Total
Grant Allocation 2024/25	80,000
Tranche 1 (Corrected Sum)	-18,880
Recommended Tranche 2	-34,000 Appendix A
Withdrawal	10,000 Requested as part of this report
Balance remaining to allocate in year	37,120
Reserve Projection	Total
Opening Reserve 2024/25	167,000
Contribution to Grant Allocation 2024/25	-20,000
Transfer Surplus	
Projected Balance 31st March 2025	147,000