

Meeting of:	Welsh Church Act Estate Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 20 January 2025
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Corporate Performance and Resources
Report Title:	Applications for Financial Assistance 2024/25 Tranche 3
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 of 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 • One grant claim awarded in 2023/2024 for £10k has been withdrawn and replaced with a grant claim for a new project which was considered and approved at the previous meeting on the 16th September 2024. • Following the withdrawal of the £10k the total grants budget available in 2024/25 is £90k. • On a trial basis the maximum grant that can be potentially awarded has been increased from £5k to £10k and this amount has remained throughout 2024/25. • Grants totalling £18.880k were awarded in Tranche 1 at the meeting dated 31st July 2024. • Grants totalling £34k were awarded in Tranche 2 at the meeting dated 16th September 2024. • Grants set out in Appendix A and amounting to £15.161k are recommended as part of this report. 	

- An unallocated budget amount of £21.959k will be carried over from 2024/25, which will be available for allocation during 2025/26.

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 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 the 2024/25 grant awards were approved by Committee on the 30th of July 2024 and are set out in the table 1 below.

Table 1 – Tranche 1

	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 Tranche 2 of the 2024/25 grant awards were approved by Committee on the 16th of September 2024 and are summarised in table 2 below.

Table 2 – Tranche 2

Organisation	Scheme	Sum Awarded
		£
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 Appendix A to this report sets out tranche 3 of the applications to be considered at this meeting. These awards total £15.161k and are summarised in the table 3 below.

Table 3 - Tranche 3

Organisation	Scheme	Sum Recommended
		£
All Saints Church Southerdown	Roof Replacement	6,000
All Saints Church Gabalfa	Replacement Boiler	4,046
Muscular Dystrophy (MD UK)	Support Sessions	5,115
Total		15,161

- 2.6 This leaves an unallocated budget amounting to £21.959k to be carried over from 2024/25 which will be available for allocation during 2025/26.

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 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.

- 4.2 It is recommended that an allocation of £15.161k is made for applications for grant assistance as set out at Appendix A to this report, which will leave a remaining balance of £21.959K to be carried over and allocated during 2025/26 which is shown in Appendix C.
- 4.3 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

- 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 3

Committee Date 20th January 2025

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
	New Applications					
1	All Saints Church, Southerdown	Recommended by the Vale of Glamorgan Council. Replacement of Ageing Flat Roof. Roof now frequently needing repairs and patch ups, project is to replace with the roof with more modern longer lasting environmentally friendly new Glass Fibre material.	Places of Worship and Burial Grounds	£6,000.00	£6,000.00	Total Project Cost £13,684.80. Financed by grant application for £7,500 from the Llandaff Diocesan Committee (approved and received) and this Welsh Church grant application. Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet as at December 2022 and bank statement provided. 2 quotes included in application. Constitution is Church In Wales . No equal opportunities policy.
2	All Saints Church, Gabalfa	Recommended By Cardiff Council Replacement of Boiler. Current boiler although regularly serviced is now beyond economical repair.	Places of Worship and Burial Grounds	£4,046.00	£4,046.00	Total Project Cost £7,046.64 Financed by Church building fabric repair fund grant from the Diocese of Llandaff £3,000 (Approval letter included) and this Welsh Church Application. Included in claim are Taff Wenalt Ministry Area financial statements as at the 31st December 2023, 2 quotes included. The constitution is the Church In Wales and the church is registered on their website.
3	Muscular Dystrophy UK (MD UK) Registered Charity 205395	Recommended by the Vale of Glamorgan Council. Provision of Support Sessions. Sessions currently provided at Llandough Hospital with a maximum capacity of 15 people. Grant funding is requested to re-locate these sessions to Vision 21 Community Centre, Heath. This accessible venue will offer greater space for the support sessions to grow and help even more people with muscle wasting conditions in 2025/26. It also offers accessible toilets, and a large number of disabled parking spots (the lack of these at the hospital made attendance difficult for many).	Other	£5,115.00	£5,115.00	Total Project Cost £7,307.84 with detailed breakdown of costs. These include Venue Hire, Salaries, Travel Costs & Overheads. The charity will match fund £2,192.35. Other grant applications include Myristica Trust £750, Ratcliff Foundation £3,000 and Hoover Foundation £500, although to date none have been approved. Annual Financial Report 2023/2024 included in application along with bank statement, Memorandum and Articles of Association and Equal Opportunities Policy.
Total Requested / Recommended				£15,161.00	£15,161.00	

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	13,285	13,285
Sale Proceeds	2,255	0	0
Dividends			
Projected Investment Income	50,790	27,198	54,456
Interest - VoG on £100,000	4,819	0	0
Total Income	69,446	40,483	67,741
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	1,000
Audit Fees	1,418	0	1,561
Grants	35,253	42,880	80,000
Total Expenditure	44,121	46,425	85,761
Total (Surplus)/Deficit for the year	-25,325	5,942	18,020
Carried forward from Prev Grant allocation		0	0
Total Contribution (from)/to Reserves	25,325	-5,942	-18,020
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

	Total
Grant funds available:	
Grant Allocation 2024/25	80,000
Tranche 1 (Corrected Sum)	-18,880
Tranche 2	-34,000
Recommended Tranche 3	-15,161 Appendix A
Withdrawal	10,000
Balance remaining to carry forward to 2025/26	21,959

	Total
Reserve Projection	
Opening Reserve 2024/25	167,000
Contribution to Grant Allocation 2024/25	-20,000
Transfer Surplus	1,980
Projected Balance 31st March 2025	148,980