



## **VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025**

**SUBJECT: GRANTS AWARDED VIA THE GRANTS TO THE  
VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUND AND THE WELSH CHURCH  
ACTS FUND**

**REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee (VSLC) of the budget available for the Grants to the Voluntary Sector (GTVS) Fund for 2024/25 and the grants awarded between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.
- 1.2 To inform the VSLC of the budget available for the Welsh Church Acts Fund (WCAF) for 2024/25 and the grants awarded between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The report advises the VSLC of the grant allocations for both the GTVS Fund budget and the WCAF budget for 2024/25. It also provides details of applications received and approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That members of the VSLC note the applications received that meet the criteria for the GTVS Fund and the WCAF, which have already been approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers, and which are reported to the VSLC for information.

#### 4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that the applications received under this report are determined in accordance with the Council's scheme of delegation criteria.

#### 5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 This is the latest update to the VSLC in relation to grants awarded under the GTVS Fund and the WCAF, following the disbanding of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel.

#### 5.2 GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR BUDGET

- 5.2.1 The GTVS budget for 2024/25 is shown in the table below:

Budget 2024/25	£8,735.00
Carry forward balance from 2023/24	£31,525.00
<b>Total available budget 2024/25</b>	<b>£40,260.00</b>
Total 2024/25 grants reported previously	£23,801.00
<b>Balance remaining</b>	<b>£16,459.00</b>

- 5.2.2 Between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025, 15 new General Criteria awards were made totalling **£3,497**. These have been approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers and are reported to the VSLC for information only. The awards are summarised in the table below:

Ref	Name of organisation/ individual	Category	Amount awarded
24-GC091	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales outside the UK	£310.00
24-GC092	Rhymney Valley Music Club	Arts Groups e.g. Jazz Bands, Choirs, Arts Societies, Writers Clubs, Theatre Groups etc.	£207.00
24-GC093	Oakdale OAP Association	Organisation or Association not owning a building	£207.00
24-GC094	United Services (Machen) Club & Institute Ltd	Organisation or Association not owning a building	£207.00
24-GC095	Caerphilly & District Floral Society	Other Community Groups	£207.00
24-GC096	Black Vein Miners Memorial Society	Other Community Groups	£207.00

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Name of organisation/ individual</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount awarded</b>
24-GC097	Maesycwmmmer FC	Other membership group e.g. Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Rainbows, St John Ambulance etc. (up to 50 members)	£207.00
24-GC098	Cascade Keyboard Group	Other Community Groups	£207.00
24-GC099	1st Trinant Brownies	Other membership group e.g. Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Rainbows, St John Ambulance etc. (up to 50 members)	£207.00
24-GC100	1st Trinant Rainbows	Other membership group e.g. Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Rainbows, St John Ambulance etc. (up to 50 members)	£207.00
24-GC101	Darren Valley 55 Club	Other Community Groups	£207.00
24-GC102	Libanus Lifestyle (Wales) CIC	Other Community Groups	£207.00
24-GC103	Oakdale Silver Band	Brass and Silver Bands	£496.00
24-GC104	Application from an individual	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales within the UK	£207.00
24-GC105	Dragon Chasers Darts Academy	Sports Club (up to 50 members)	£207.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,497.00</b>

5.2.3 The awards in the table above were made in accordance with the General Criteria for 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix 1.

5.2.4 In addition to the above awards, one application was received from an organisation 'Kids Cancer Charity' which was outside the General Criteria. This application was considered by the Voluntary Sector Liaison Sub-Committee at its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025, and Sub-Committee members recommended that an award of £2,500 be made. This recommendation was approved by the Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer under delegated powers.

### **5.3 WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND**

5.3.1 The total Welsh Church Acts Fund (WCAF) budget available for 2024/25 is **£132,002.06**. This consists of the annual allocation from Monmouthshire County Council (**£62,542.36**) plus unallocated sums from previous years (**£69,459.70**).

<b>Budget 2024/25</b>	<b>£62,542.36</b>
Underspend held by Monmouthshire CBC (to be transferred to CCBC in 2024/25)	£56,259.68
Carry forward balances in CCBC accounts	£13,200.02
Underspend from previously approved projects prior to 2024/25	£13,200.80
<b>Total available budget 2024/25</b>	<b>£145,202.86</b>
Total 2024/25 grants reported previously	£109,691.11
Underspend in grants awarded in 2024/25	-£8,154.01
<b>Balance remaining</b>	<b>£43,665.76</b>

5.3.2 As can be seen from the table above, £13,200.80 has been recycled back into the WCAF budget as underspends from projects approved prior to 2024/25. A summary of these projects and the reasons for the underspends are shown in the table below:

Reference	Organisation	Amount	Reason
ORG23-WCF008	Senghenydd Community Centre	£5,000.00	Work paid for by CCBC
ORG23-WCF010	Helping Hands	£135.60	Underspend on project
ORG23-WCF012	Wattsville Community Group	£7,356.00	Project not proceeding
ORG23-WCF027	The Melody Makers	£709.00	Grant not needed
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£13,200.80</b>	

5.3.3 In addition, £8,154.01 has been recycled back into the WCAF budget as underspends from projects previously approved during 2024/25. A summary of these projects and the reasons for the underspends are shown in the table below:

Reference	Organisation	Amount	Reason
ORG24-WCF002	Zion Baptist Church	£608.95	Underspend on project
ORG24-WCF008	Vicarage Allotment Association	£45.06	Underspend on project
ORG24-WCF016	St Mary's Church, Risca	£7,500.00	Applicant secured funding from other sources
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£8,154.01</b>	

5.3.4 These changes due to underspends and projects not progressing meant that an amount of £43,665.76 was remaining for new projects.

5.3.5 Between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025, 10 applications were received totalling **£34,350.51**. These applications have been approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers and are reported to the VSLC for information only. The awards are summarised in the table below:

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Name of organisation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount awarded</b>
ORG24-WCF024	Van Road United Reformed Church	Replacement of metal railings to boundary with raised beds for planting	£3,850.00
ORG24-WCF025	Pwlllypant Village Hall	Purchase and installation of solar panels on roof of building	£2,438.20
ORG24-WCF026	Blackwood Town Cricket Club	Installation of solar energy panels and battery system	£1,638.00
ORG24-WCF027	Penallta RFC	Installation of solar energy panels and battery system	£4,000.00
ORG24-WCF028	Bargoed YMCA	Replacement of carpet with safety flooring	£1,447.56
ORG24-WCF029	Gelligaer and District Boxing Club	Purchase of commercial grade running machine	£2,450.00
ORG24-WCF030	St Augustine's Church, Pontllanfraith	Replace concrete area outside Church Hall	£7,500.00
ORG24-WCF031	St Thomas' Church, Cefn Fforest	Removal of chimney	£845.00
ORG24-WCF032	Risca Senior Citizens Association	Resurfacing of car park	£6,581.75
ORG24-WCF033	Moose International Blackwood Lodge 11	Replacement of radiators and associated work	£3,600.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£34,350.51</b>

5.3.6 In addition to the above awards, one application was received from an 'exceptional individual' under the WCAF. This application was considered by the Voluntary Sector Liaison Sub-Committee at its meeting on 29th January 2025, and Sub-Committee members recommended that an award of £1,500 be made. This recommendation was approved by the Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer under delegated powers.

## 5.4 Conclusion

5.4.1 The report summarises all allocations made via the GTVS Fund and the WCAF between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025. Further allocations will be reported to future meetings of the VSLC.

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 There are no assumptions as the 2024/25 budgets have been confirmed, along with the carry forward amounts for each grant scheme.

## **7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 As this report is for information only an Integrated Impact Assessment has not been undertaken.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The financial implications are those set out in the report.

## **9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no personnel implications.

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no consultation responses which have not been reflected in this report.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 Local Government Act 1972 and 2003 and the Council's Financial Regulations.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 GTVS General Criteria 2024/25