

# Agenda



## Delegated Decisions - Cabinet Member for Assets and Resources

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Date: Friday, 17 December 2021

To: Councillor D Mayer

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Item		Wards Affected
1	<u>Applications to Welsh Church Acts Fund 2021/22 and Approval of New Application Form</u> (Pages 3 - 20)	All Wards

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Date of Issue: 14 December 2021

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# Report

## Cabinet Member for Asset and Resources

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### Part 1

Date: 21 December 2021

**Subject** Applications to Welsh Church Acts Fund 2021/22 and Approval of New Application Form

**Purpose** To make decisions on applications for funding from the Welsh Church Act Fund, and to approve the use of a revised application form.

**Author** Senior Finance Business Partner - Corporate

**Ward** All

**Summary** There were 10 applications received for grants from the Welsh Church Acts Fund during the period October 2020 and October 2021 of which eight meet the criteria for use of the fund. Six applications are recommended for approval.

**Proposal** (1) Approve six applications as shown in Appendix One, utilising a grant award of 75% of eligible expenditure

(2) Note the issues with the remaining two eligible applications and approve the suggested way forward which is to request a new application with more comprehensive information on match funding issues.

(3) Approve the new application form for immediate use, shown in Appendix Four.

**Action by** Senior Finance Business Partner / Corporate Administration Team – pay grants in line with decision

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Head of Law & Regulation
- Policy Partnership & Involvement Manager for Head of People and Business Change

## **Background**

Newport City Council receives an amount each year under the Welsh Church Acts fund to be distributed in accordance with its adopted criteria (Appendix 2 & 3). The period involved covers part 2020/21 and 2021/22 to date.

For 2021/22, the amount available for Newport City Council to distribute is £81,321, which includes £27,981 carried over from 2020/21.

All eligible applications are awarded funds and if they exceed available funds in any period, a consistent percentage of funds applied for is awarded to each application to keep the total within available funds. Any unused funds that may exist are carried forward for future applications. For this period the amount of grant awarded is 75% of the application, with the maximum amount £10,000 considered for each group application and £1,000 for each individual's application.

## **Applications Received since Previous Evaluation**

The list of applications in the period from October 2020 to date and whether they are proposed to be successful or unsuccessful is included in appendix 1.

There are 10 in total. Whilst 8 meet the criteria, 2 relate to larger schemes where additional funding needs to be obtained. The applications do not confirm such funding is in place, so applicants will be encouraged to reapply once that situation can be confirmed.

So there are 6 applications proposed to be approved, one (British Red Cross) is conditional on receiving confirmation that it will be used 100% to benefit the local community rather than the national charity, this being a key determinant of eligibility.

The total sums considered from these six submissions amount to £43,419. It is recommended that 75% of the applied for funds should be awarded (£32,564). Equitably this uses the same funding levels as applied in 2020-21, leaving a balance of £48,757 available to be awarded in the future.

## **Motivations for Revising Application Form**

The traditional application form has served the Council well, it does look a bit dated, and it's not that helpful where the application relates to providing part funding to a bigger scheme or where the proposed date of works is unclear. This together with a need to capture email contact details to improve the efficiency of correspondence is cause to revise the application form. A sample copy is provided in Appendix 4, and approval is sought to use this revised form going forward.

## **Financial Summary**

The cost for applications are funded from the Welsh Church Acts Fund and has no financial implications to the Council.

## **Risks**

In constraining the level of resourcing to 75% of the application, this may impact upon the extent of benefit derived by the application.

The proportionate approach to resourcing is necessary to safeguard resourcing into medium term to sustain future applications. There is also an attempt to keep the level of resourcing provided at a consistent level from year to year to derive an equitable distribution, so that applications received alongside a volume of others doesn't derive proportionately lesser funding than those received in quieter periods.

## **Links to Council Policies and Priorities**

Not applicable as funds are used for those bids that meet specific Welsh Church Act criteria.

## **Options Available and considered**

The Cabinet Member has the delegated authority to make awards in respect of qualifying applications where it is consistent with that eligibility criteria.

## **Preferred Option and Why**

All the proposed grants are within agreed policy criteria, and this report does not act to change existing policy.

2 further applications would meet the criteria for the scheme, but have been discounted in favour of being encouraged to reapply once the other significant funding sources have been secured.

Payment in respect of British Red Cross application would be held by Head of Finance pending satisfactory confirmation of the grant being used entirely in Newport locality for benefit of Newport communities

## **Comments of Chief Financial Officer**

There are no direct financial consequences on Council budgets. The applications recommended for funding are within the agreed criteria and funded from Welsh Church funds.

## **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

The proposed action is in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Church Act Scheme and the Council's policy.

## **Comments of Head of People and Business Change**

There are no human resources implications arising from the report. The grant allocations support community groups which is in line with the sustainable development principle of the Well Being of Future Generations Act, There is a strong correlation between the projects proposed for support and the overall purposes of the Fund, with One Newport's Well-being Plan priorities.

## **Comments of Non-Executive Members**

### Councillor M Evans:

I'm happy to support the application for St Mark's Church in Gold Tops.

## **Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:**

### **• Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**

The Charitable purposes for which the Fund may be applied are in line with the Well-being Goals for Wales. All the purposes of the Fund would contribute to of the achievement One Newport's Well-being objectives set out in the Well-being Plan for the city. There is a focus on involvement through support for community groups in their delivery of projects and services, and on preventing problems occurring or getting worse.

- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

The council has a number of legislative responsibilities to assess the impact of any strategic decision or policy on people that may experience disadvantage or inequality. The Council is a trustee in the application of a proportion of Gwent wide fund, and therefore would not be able to use this funding for other laudable activities. This report is neither a strategic decision nor a policy change and therefore would not necessitate a Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment. It is instead the application of awards based on pre set criteria, and it is those Gwent defined criteria that would require periodic reassessment under FEIA requirements. That said the application of the policy continues to address issues involving advancement of religion, relief in need, relief in sickness, elderly and sense deprived.

### **Crime & Disorder Act 1998**

Section 17(1) of the Crime & Disorder Act 1988 imposes a duty on the Local Authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area. The application of Welsh Church funding is not anticipated to increase levels of crime & disorder.

### **Consultation**

No specific consultation.

### **Background Papers**

None.

**Dated: 21 December 2021**

**APPENDIX 1: October 2020 – October 2021**

**Proposed Successful Applications**

<b>Ref No</b>	<b>Name and Address of Organisation</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Details of Request</b>	<b>Matched Charitable Purpose</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<a href="#"><u>Redeemed Christian Church of God</u></a>	Vineyard Chapel, Vineyard Resources Centre, Mountguy St, Pill, Newport, NP20 2FA	Churches and Religious Groups	<b>£9,100</b> Extension of a scheme to provide culturally appropriate food parcels to vulnerable black African community in Newport	Relief of Poverty	Approve £6,825
<a href="#"><u>Newport Sea Scouts</u></a>	TS Resolute, Riverbank Avenue, Newport, NP19 7EF	Community Groups and Charities	<b>£7,754</b> Assist in refurbishment of existing building and provision of extension	Social and recreational	Approve £5,816
<a href="#"><u>St Johns the Baptist Church</u></a>	Penhow, NP26 3AD	Churches and Religious Groups	<b>£10,000</b> – maximum award available as a contribution to larger costs. Tower stonework maintenance	Advancement of Religion	Approve £7,500
<a href="#"><u>St Marks Church</u></a>	Gold Tops, Newport, NP20 4PF	Churches and Religious Groups	<b>£1,815</b> Replacement of deficient wiring to allow heating to work	Advancement of Religion	Approve £1,361

<a href="#">St Joseph's Amateur Boxing Club</a>	82 George Road, Newport, NP20 2AA	Sports and Recreation Clubs	<b>£4,750</b> Provision of prayer room to encourage new members and allow existing member more easy opportunity to honour spiritual obligations.	Social and recreational	Approve £3,563
<a href="#">British Red Cross + extra attachment</a>	Cardiff Refugee Support Service, Bradbury House, Mission Court, Lower Dock St, Gwent, NP20 2DW	Community Groups and Charities	<b>£10,000</b> to purchase essential supplies (e.g. nappies, blankets, food, hygiene packs etc.) for refugees)	Relief of poverty	Conditional approval confirming award will be used by Newport office rather than nationally £7,500

**Proposed Unsuccessful Applications**

<a href="#">Dolmans Theatre</a>	Newport Playgoers, Dolmans Theatre, Kingsway, Newport, NP20 1HY	Community Groups and Charities	<b>£90,000 cost, max award £10,000</b> Theatre temporarily less sustainable due to Covid 19 affecting performances and fund raising. Request assistance with roofing repairs to stop water ingress	Social and recreational	Decline The scheme would be eligible for consideration. The applicant is encouraged to reapply once the shortfall in other funding necessary to afford the repairs has been secured.
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<a href="#">St Cadocs Church</a>	High Street, Caerleon, Newport, NP18 1AZ	Churches and Religious Groups	<b>£1.11million cost, max award £10,000</b> Major refurbishment of inside of church	Advancement of Religion	Decline. The scheme would be eligible for consideration. The applicant is encouraged to reapply once the shortfall in other funding necessary to afford the repairs has been secured.
<a href="#">Jamie Hart</a>	3 Rothesay Road, Newport, NP19 8NZ	Individual	<b>£1,000</b> Building on the appeal of programmes such as Great British Bake Off, award to be used to buy afternoon tea and picnic box sets to be hired to the community and used for social events/get togethers The hire fees to be donated to Myeloma UK Cancer Charity in recognition of the support received from that agency		Decline It is difficult to match the application to an appropriate eligibility criteria. The application describes a wish to make an ongoing sustainable contribution to a cancer charity for the support they have received in their treatment. The use of the Fund's resources in respect of sickness support are more aligned to providing direct and personal financial support following a clearly identified and proven need of financial assistance, and there being no alternative source of funding available for the

					intended purpose. This would not appear to be the necessity here.
<a href="#">David Pipe Project</a>	Carbo Fit Centre Office, Uskway Industrial, Estate, Uskway, Newport, NP20 2HZ	Community Groups and Charities	<b>£9,404 costs, award request amount not clear</b> Assisting in venue hire charges, help with affording additional football leader qualifications and related DBS check fees	Social and recreational	Decline. The eligibility criteria precludes awards to assist with operating expenses

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND**

The Charitable purposes for which the Fund may be applied

#### **The Advancement of Education**

##### **Educational**

1. The provision of benefits which are not readily available from other sources for persons of any age in one or more of the following ways –
  - (i) The award of scholarships, bursaries, loans or maintenance allowances to enable or to assist study at any school, university or other place of learning, approved by the Council, which may if the Council think fit Include allowances to dependants;
  - (ii) The provision of financial assistance, outfits, clothing, tools, instruments, other equipment, or books or loans to enable pupils or students on leaving school, university or any other educational establishment to prepare for, or to assist their entry Into a profession, trade or calling;
  - (iii) The award of scholarships or maintenance allowances or loans to enable beneficiaries to travel abroad to pursue their education;
  - (iv) The provision, or assistance towards the provision of facilities of any kind not normally provided by a local education authority, or a grant maintained school, for recreation, social and physical training at a school, university or other educational establishment;
  - (v) The provision of financial assistance to enable pupils and students to study music or other arts;
  - (vi) The provision of financial assistance to enable beneficiaries to undertake apprenticeships.

##### **Libraries, museums, art galleries etc**

2. The advancement of knowledge and appreciation of the arts and literature of Wales and, In particular, in furtherance of those purposes but without prejudice to the generality thereof –
  - (i) The establishment, maintenance, replenishment or aiding of charitable institutions, libraries, museums, art galleries; or art, scientific or industrial exhibitions (including exhibitions relating to Industrial archaeology); whether national or local, for the principal use and benefit of the Welsh people;
  - (ii) The assistance of charitable societies for study and research in subjects connected with Welsh history, topography, literature and life;
  - (iii) The provision of lectures, exhibitions and equipment;
  - (iv) The acquisition, preservation and publication of records and documents;
  - (v) The provision of suitable premises (by erection, purchase, lease or hiring for occasional use) for any of the purposes authorised by this paragraph.

## **The Relief of Poverty**

### **Relief in need**

3. The relief either generally or individually of persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress by the making of grants of money or the provision of, or payment for, items, services or facilities calculated to reduce the need, hardship or distress of such persons.

## **The Advancement of Religion**

### **Places of worship and burial grounds**

4. The contribution towards the restoration and maintenance of any place of public worship or any burial ground.

## **Other Purposes Beneficial to the Community**

### **Relief in sickness**

5. The relief in cases of need of persons who are sick, convalescent, disabled, handicapped or infirm by the provision of, or payment for, items, services or facilities which are calculated to alleviate the suffering or assist the recovery of such persons, but which are not readily available to them from other sources.

### **Elderly persons**

6. The provision or assisting in the provision of accommodation for elderly persons who by reason of the infirmities and disabilities of age have need of such reception, care and attention. The provision of funds to organisations promoting the welfare of elderly persons.

## **Social and recreational**

7.
  - (i) The provision of, or assisting in the provision of, facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation being facilities which are available to the members of the public at large and which are provided in the interests of social welfare with a view to improving the conditions of life of the persons for whom they are intended and, in particular, in furtherance of those purposes but without prejudice to the generality thereof, the provision of, or assisting in the provision of, playing fields, other sporting facilities, parks, open spaces and centres or halls for meetings, lectures or classes;
  - (ii) Sub-paragraph (1) is intended, in particular, to be concerned with the provision of, or assisting in the provision of, facilities etc to persons in need by reason of their youth, old age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social and economic circumstances.

## **Aesthetic, architectural, historical and scientific matters**

8. The advancement of the education and public benefit of the Welsh people by promoting their interest in aesthetic, architectural, historical or scientific matters relating to Wales and in particular in furtherance of those matters but without prejudice to the generality thereof –
  - (i) the acquisition and preservation of –
    - (a) land of special interest in relation to science and natural history;
    - (b) land, buildings or objects of beauty or of historic or architectural interest.

- (ii) the acquisition, preservation and publication of records and documents of historic interest.

#### **Medical and social research, treatment, etc**

- 9. The preservation and protection of the physical and mental health of society and, in particular, in furtherance of those purposes but without prejudice to the generality thereof –
  - (i) the advancement of education in the theory and practice of medicine;
  - (ii) the promotion of medical and social research and schemes for the prevention and treatment of disease and publishing the results of such research;
  - (iii) the provision of nursery and convalescent homes and hostels.

#### **Probation etc**

- 10. Making grants in cases of need for the assistance of –
  - (i) persons placed on probation, or children and young persons from community homes or any other Institution of a substantially similar nature established under statutory authority;
  - (ii) the families of any such persons, children or young persons;
  - (iii) discharged prisoners,

#### **People who are Blind or Visually Impaired**

- 11. Provision for the welfare of persons who are blind or visually impaired, including the provision of charitable homes and holiday homes.

#### **Emergencies or disasters**

- 12. The contribution towards the alleviation of the effects of emergencies or disasters involving destruction of or danger to life, and property and directly assisting persons in need as a result of such emergencies and disasters.

#### **Other charitable organisations**

- 13. Contributions towards charitable organisations, the purposes of which are consistent with the provisions of this Scheme or the Welsh Church Acts 1914 to 1945.

## **APPENDIX 3**

### **Newport City Council – List of Criteria for Welsh Church Fund Act.**

When deciding applications to the Welsh Church Acts Fund, the application, in the first instance must fall within the Charitable purposes identified in the Welsh Church Fund Act (Appendix 2)

List of Additional Criteria set by Newport City Council

1. Financial limits on grants will be imposed at £1,000 for individuals and £10,000 for groups and organisations
2. Grants will only be considered to groups, organisations and charities which can demonstrate that they are of benefit to the residents of Newport. This can include national organisations which have a base in Newport serving Newport residents. The groups and organisations that will benefit from grant allocations are;
  - i. Churches and Religious Groups
  - ii. Church Parishes
  - iii. Community Groups and Charities
  - iv. Sports and Recreation Clubs
  - v. Environment group
  - vi. Individuals that have an identified and proven need of financial assistance
  - vii. Other deemed charitable causes by the Cabinet member and the Section 151 officer.
  - viii. The fund will not support general Adult Groups for recreational activities
  - ix. The fund will not allocate funds to Community and Town Councils
  - x. There will be no allocations to Private business and other public bodies
3. Grants will not be provided to support the day to day running costs of groups and organisations, especially where these are likely to create an ongoing dependency on the fund for future financial assistance. Group and organisations should be self-sufficient and will have access to other funding. Day to day running costs include, but not limited to:
  - I. Hire of vehicles
  - II. Room hire
  - III. Equipment
  - IV. Rent of a premises
  - V. Travelling expenses
  - VI. Annual trips
  - VII. Outing / Trips
  - VIII. Salaries
4. Grants for equipment will be considered if it is for the setup of a new group or organisation that will benefit the people of Newport. Or if that an established group / organisation is developing or expanding in order to reach a wider number of Newport residents.
5. Grants will not be made to the same organisation in successive years, unless it is a church application and applications will only be considered if it is for a different and distinct purpose.
6. Grants to individuals will only be considered where they are a resident of the City of Newport and can clearly demonstrate there is an identified and proven need of financial assistance, and there is no alternative source of funding available for the intended purpose.
7. There will be a presumption against making grants to individuals for education, health, sporting, artistic or other personal development matters
8. Grants will not be provided in the form of a loan

## Notes

9. The Welsh Church fund will pay future awards by BACS payment and for organisations and groups the payment will only be made to a company bank account.
10. All evidence is required to be submitted to the council six months after the grant has been paid.

**APPENDIX 4**

**REVISED APPLICATION FORM FOR APPROVAL**

**See overleaf**



# APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

From the Council's Welsh Church Fund (a registered charity)

Name of the Organisation/Individual that will benefit from the award

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Address of Individual or Organisation's Hall, Meeting Place or Local Base

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Email Address .....Telephone Numbers .....

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Brief description of what the Organisation does

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Registration Charity number of Organisation (if registered as a Charity) .....

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Name, address and designation of person authorised to make application on behalf of the Organisation

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Email address.....Telephone Number .....  
(if different to above) (if different to above)



Supporting Information

(please attach any additional information including for example designs, sketch plans, estimates, quotes etc. in support of your application.)

Also include a statement of the Organisation's current financial position.

Where there is a funding shortfall between Project Cost quoted and Welsh Church Fund application amount, detail what other sources of funding will be used to afford the project and confirmation that they have been secured (provide as an attachment if space below is insufficient)

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For any application to be successful it must evidence how it will benefit the wider Newport community

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Does your local Councillor support your application Yes/No (please send evidence of this)

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I hereby apply to Newport City Council for assistance from the Welsh Church Fund on behalf of the Organisation above and confirm that the application has been authorised by the Organisation.

I understand that the grant will have to be spent in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the offer and if we do not conform to these the grant would have to be repaid.

Signed..... Date.....

Please return the application form to: Corporate Admin Supervisor, Room 536, Civic Centre, Newport. NP20 4UR. Telephone 01633 656656.

*Data Protection Act 1998: Newport City Council is the data manager for the purpose of the Act. The information on this form will be used for the purpose of Welsh Church's Fund. The information may be passed to other departments within the council and relevant organisations in accordance to Council's registration under the Act*