

Meeting of:	<b>Welsh Church Act Estate Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Thursday, 26 June 2025</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Corporate Performance and Resources
Report Title:	<b>Applications for Financial Assistance 2025/26 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 2025/26.</li> <li>• There was a small net reduction in the Welsh Church Act's reserve at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 of £1k</li> <li>• It is proposed £20k of the general reserves sum is utilised in 2025/26 for grants and therefore the total grants budget for 2025/26 is now set at £80k.</li> <li>• The maximum grant that can be potentially awarded has been maintained at £10k.</li> <li>• Grants totalling £75,201.70 set out in Appendix A are recommended as part of this report.</li> <li>• A remaining sum of £4,798.30 is available for allocation during 2025/26.</li> </ul>	

## **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 2024/25 and projections for 2025/26 are included in Appendix C and make provision for grant allocations of £80k in 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 2025/26. There was a small net reduction in the Welsh Church Act's reserve at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 of £1k with General Reserves standing at approximately £90k.
- 4.2** It is recommended that an allocation of £75,201.70 is made for applications for grant assistance as set out at Appendix A to this report, which will leave a remaining balance of £4,798.30 to be allocated during 2025/26.

#### **Employment**

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

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

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

### **5. Background Papers**

ITEM NO	NAME OF ORGANISATION (Date of original application)	SPECIFIC PURPOSE FOR WHICH GRANT REQUESTED	CLASSIFICATION OF CLAIM	AMOUNT REQUESTED	GRANT RECOMMENDED	COMMENTS
	<u>New Applications</u>					
1	Dinas Powys Library and Activity Centre Registered Charity No 1169059	<i>Recommended by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.</i> <b>New Low Level Book Shelving.</b> Project objective is to replace all the high shelving with lower level units which would make the book area, safer and lighter, improve the access to books and generally be more attractive in line with the bright and modern aspect of the rest of the library.	Other	£5,197.50	£5,197.50	<b>Total Project Cost £6,930.00.</b> Financed by Reserves from the Dinas Powys Library Reserves Fund £1,732.50 which has been approved by the trustees and this Welsh Church Act Application £5,197.50. Due to the bespoke nature of the project only one quote provided. Financial statements as at 31st March 2023 and 31st March 2024 provided together with the Chairity Commission for England and Wales independent examiners report on the financial accounts. Bank Statement, Constitution and Equal Opportunities Policy also included in the application.
2	The Makers Guild In Wales Registered Charity No 1133675	<i>Recommended By Cardiff Council</i> <b>Upgrade community facilities to deliver highly regarded community programmes.</b> The Guild currently has an ongoing "Connect through Craft" programme funded by the Arts Council of Wales. However, Current workshop spaces are small having not been updated in over 22 years resulting in expanding community work being held back due to these poor facilities. Planned work will involve the creation of one larger workshop rather than the current two and the upgrading of facilities in the ground floor area. This will provide 41.3 sqm of useable space and with it's upgraded facilities allow the organisation to it expand it's community programming.	Other	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	<b>Total Project Cost £47,843.00</b> Financed by Arts Council of Wales Grant £30,000 (Approval letter provided), Guild Reserves £7,843 and this Welsh Church Application £10,000 . Quotes received from Watts Building & Property Services £37,572.00 but are out of date as they were originally submitted in January 2002 when planning permission for the project was originally approved.. The contractor has advised that 15% should be added to his original quote. Craft in the Bay have recently been in contact with Mr Watts and asked him to firm up his original quote and are awaiting the outcome. Financial Statements Accounts as at 30th 2024, bank statement, and Memorandum Association included in application.
3	NoFit State Community Circus Ltd. Registered Charity 1102850	<i>Recommended By Cardiff Council</i> <b>Provision of Large Scale Event.</b> NoFit State (NFS) is the UK's leading large-scale contemporary circus company producing Big Top and outdoor touring productions which delivers a significant Sector and Skills Development Programme with demonstrable impact and reach. Through our co-created Community Programme, we engage with and inspire people of all ages from some of the most deprived and marginalised communities in Cardiff. As a physical and visual artform, circus is accessible across culture, class and context. The power of circus can inspire, dismantle barriers and achieve real change in people's lives. Social and economic exclusion is growing and without focused and targeted action, as the cost-of-living crisis deepens, ever-larger numbers of people will be excluded from the arts. With support from the Welsh Church Act Fund, the circus will deliver an extraordinary large-scale event on 6 September 2025 in Anderson Fields created with and for the people of Splott, Adamsdown, and Tremorfa in East Cardiff. This free-to-access celebration will feature a parade from the top of Clifton Street, live music and performances, creative workshops, food stalls, arts and crafts and circus activities. The event aims to bring people together across diverse backgrounds, celebrating local culture while reclaiming neglected spaces and strengthening community pride. The event will be themed around 'common ground' and sustainability through reuse and recycling. In the months leading up to the event, we will commission local artists and community groups to co-deliver creative workshops. Participants will have the chance to create visual art, dance, music, performances elements, and other contributions that will be showcased, exhibited and featured during the event itself.	Other	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	<b>Total Project Cost £55,000.00.</b> Financed by Arts Council of Wales £50,000 (grant approval document included in application) and this Welsh Church Application for funding £5,000. Detailed breakdown of costs including Contract for Events Manager. Financial Statements as at March 2024, bank statement and Memorandum of Association included in application.
4	St Brides Major Church Hall	<i>Recommended by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.</i> <b>Repairs to Fiat Roof.</b> The existing 170 sq. mtr. felt flat roof has been in place for approximately 25 years and is leaking in one particular place to such an extent that the under-sheeting has rotted and requires replacing. The edges of the roof also are lifting with some of the cross-joints in the felt also lifting. The actual main felt of the roofing is in reasonable condition and so a substantial clean off and repair would ensure the continued security and weather proofness of the roof for years to come.	Places of Worship and Burial Grounds	£5,000.00	£4,399.20	<b>Total Project Cost £5,865.60.</b> Financed by own funds £1,466.40 and this Welsh Grant Application £4,399.20.Two quotes included in application along with bank statements for Jan 2022, Jan 2023 and Dec 2024. Balance Sheet as 31st December 2023 present. Constitution and Equal Opportunities Policy are as laid down by The Church in Wales.
5	St Edwards Church Roath	<i>Recommended By Cardiff Council</i> <b>Repairs to Church Organ.</b> Repairs divided into 2 stages with stage one now being complete at a cost of £41,000. Funding is now sought to contribute to stage 2 of the repairs with prosed installation of new solid state multi system/tonal improvements, further cleaning and overhaul, of remaining organ. This will allow the organ to reach its full musical potential and for worship and training the next generation of organists.	Places of Worship and Burial Grounds	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	<b>Total Project Cost £99,600.00 inc VAT,</b> (this includes <b>Stage 1</b> of the repairs ( <b>£41,610.72</b> )that have already been completed and paid for). Remainder of the project financed by Grant from Garfield Weston Foundation (approved) £15,000, grant application to Simon Gibson Trust (unapproved), £10,000, donations to March 2025 £25,745.30, Gift aid outstanding as at March 2025 £2,075, Match Funding Pledge from anonymous donor £3,100 Estimate Gift Aid April - September 2025 £1,000 and this Welsh Church Act Claim £10,000. Included in application is a quotation for stages 1 & 2 of the project and an aggregated set of financial statements for the 5 churches in the ministry area of Roath and Cathays. Bank Statement for the Ministry Area of Roath and Cathays also provided, the Constitution is The Church In Wales. Approval of grant letter from Garfield Weston Foundation and acknowledgement of receipt of grant claim for Simon Gibson Trust also included.
6	Tabernacle Church, Penarth Registered Charity	<i>Recommended by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.</i> <b>Electrics Refurbishment.</b> Replace obsolete switch fuses with surge protection units to provide safer environment..  <i>Recommended by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.</i>	Places of Worship and Burial Grounds	£2,480.00	£2,480.00	<b>Total Project Cost £3,580.00.</b> Financed by match funding from Designated Building Fund £1,100 and this Welsh Church Act Grant application £2,480.00.Included in the application are a quote, the unaudited financial statements as at December 2023, bank statement, Constitution and Equality and Inclusion Policy.

7	The Community Impact Initiative C.I.I.	<b>Women Construct Wales. The CIC regenerates long-term empty homes through a series of projects in communities facing hardship. Each renovation brings community members together to combat a range of social issues, supporting them to learn new skills, improve their wellbeing, achieve qualifications, and find a path to employment, or a future to look forward to. The C.I.I. are running a community regeneration project in Barry, that will support 30 female community members who are facing a range of crises and hardships over the course of 6 months. The C.I.I.have purchased a neglected, long-term empty home on Fryatt Street, Barry, an area where community members face high levels of poverty, social inactivity, and isolation. During the regeneration, community members will be taken through the renovation step by step, learning new skills, improving their wellbeing, gaining qualifications and progressing toward employment. Throughout the regeneration process,CIC will work with partners including Mind Cymru, the Wallich, and South Wales Police to ensure that participants receive rounded support. Once completed, the property will be used in partnership with Vale of Glamorgan Council to provide temporary accommodation for homeless people.</b> <i>Recommended By Cardiff Council</i>	Other	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	<b>Total Project Cost £34,200.00.</b> Financed by match funding from The Community Impact Initiative £6,000 (approved), Grant from The National Lottery Community Fund - People and Places £18,200 (approved) and this Welsh Church Act Application £10,000. Extensive list of quotations for materials included with application as well as full audited accounts as at 30th June 2023 and bank statement. Equality and Diversity Policy Statement and CII governing documents attached together with grant approval letter from the National Lottery.
8	The Fortified City of God Registered Charity	<b>TFCOG Community Food Bank Expansion.</b> The organisation is seeking funding to support and expand the work of The Fortified City of God (TFCOG) Community Food Bank, a vital service providing emergency food support and practical care to individuals and families facing hardship in Cardiff. Operating weekly in partnership with FareShare, Neighbourly, Tesco, M&S, and others. The aim with funding is to increase capacity and impact between June 2025 and May 2026 by purchasing a delivery van to reach housebound and vulnerable individuals, recruiting volunteers for improved logistics and running nutrition and budgeting workshops to help beneficiaries become more self-sufficient.	Other	£7,500.00	£7,500.00	<b>Total Project cost £10,000.00</b> Financed by Lottery Community Grant £2,000 (part allocated from £10,000 grant awarded, the remainder committed to training activities) , Donations £500 and this Welsh Church Act Grant Application £7,500. Two quotes included in application. Two bank statements with current and new account in the process of setting up provided along with the Trustees Report and Unaudited Accounts for the year ended 31st July 2024 together with confirmation of the successful grant application from the national lottery. Model constitution also included.
9	Cowbridge United Free Church Excepted Charity	<i>Recommended by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.</i> <b>Window Replacement in Chapel.</b> There are windows at the East Side of the Church which are in a particularly poor condition and are in need of replacement before rainwater enters into the chapel causing damage to the contents (pews, walls, carpets).	Places of Worship and Burial Grounds	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	<b>Total Project Cost £19,018.00.</b> Financed by Match funding from Church Funds £9,018 and this Welsh Church Act Grant Application £10,000. An application for funding from Asda Foundation was rejected. Equal Opportunities Statement, Constitution, bank statement and financial statements included in application.
10	Princes Street Evangelical Baptist Church	<i>Recommended by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.</i> <b>Fire Safety Upgrades and purchase of Epson EB-L730U data projector 7000 ANSI lumens.</b>	Places of Worship and Burial Grounds	£9,500.00	£9,500.00	<b>Total Project Cost £12,666.00.</b> Financed by Church savings (Gift Aid Refund) £3,166.00 and this Welsh Church Act Grant Application £9,500.00. Included in application are 2 quotes for the fire safety upgrades 2 quotes for the Epson Projector f. Current bank statement and Financial Statements as at 31st March 2023 also included. The Church does not have a written an Equal Opportunities Policy since there are no official employees of the church.
11	The Nelson Trust Registered Charity	<i>Recommended By Cardiff Council</i> <b>Provision of Resources for Lunch Club.</b> The Nelson Trust is a registered charity, bringing hope and belief to lives torn apart by substance use and to women facing multiple disadvantages. Alongside delivering abstinence-based residential treatment, we run nine Women's Centres across the Southwest of England and Wales. Part of the package of support offered to women in Cardiff is our twice weekly Lunch Club sessions. Lunch Club invites women facing multiple, complex disadvantages to come into our warm and welcoming centre to have their needs met and enjoy food together. A contribution is sought towards resources for Lunch Club costs in our Cardiff Women's Centre. The funds will be used to purchase both ingredients and kitchen resources such as crockery and cooking equipment to facilitate two Lunch Clubs a week over a 48 week period	Other	£1,125.00	£1,125.00	<b>Total Project cost £1,500.</b> Financed by match funding from The Nelson Trust reserves £375.00 and this Welsh Church Act Application £1,125.00. Reports and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024 , bank statement and Articles of Association included in application.
<b>Total Requested / Recommended</b>				<b>£75,802.50</b>	<b>£75,201.70</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 2025/26

	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26
	As per Accounts	to 31/05/2025	Full Year
	Actual	Actual	Estimate
	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>			
Property Rents and Lease Income	-13,578	0	12,000
<b>Dividends</b>			
Projected Investment Income	-54,458	13,629	55,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-68,035</b>	<b>13,629</b>	<b>67,000</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Repairs and Maintenance	345	0	500
Court and Legal Fees	0	0	0
Valuation and Planning	3,200	0	0
Audit Fees	1,588	0	1,500
Charges VOG Staff time	5,322	0	5,000
Grants	58,771	6,000	80,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>69,226</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>87,000</b>
<b>Total (Surplus)/Deficit for the year</b>	<b>1,191</b>	<b>-7,629</b>	<b>20,000</b>
<b>Carried forward from Prev Grant allocation</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Contribution (from)/to Reserves</b>	<b>-1,191</b>	<b>7,629</b>	<b>-20,000</b>
<b>Adjusted Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Grant Allocation 2025/26</b>	<b>80,000.00</b>
Recommended Tranche 1 (Appendix A)	-75,201.70
<b>Balance remaining to be allocated</b>	<b>4,229.00</b>