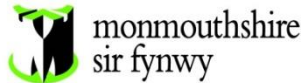


Public Document Pack



Neuadd y Sir
Y Rhadyr
Brynbuga
NP15 1GA

County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Tuesday, 21 June 2022

Dear Councillor

CABINET

You are requested to attend a **Cabinet** meeting to be held at **County Hall, Usk** on **Wednesday, 29th June, 2022**, at **5.00 pm**.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. DISCRETIONARY COST OF LIVING SUPPORT SCHEME 1 - 18

Division/Wards Affected: All

Purpose: To agree a Monmouthshire Discretionary Cost of Living Support Scheme to distribute £498,551 of funding to support those most impacted by the Cost of Living crisis.

Author: Judith Langdon, Social Justice Innovation Manager

Contact Details: judithlangdon@monmouthshire.gov.uk

4. WELSH CHURCH FUND WORKING GROUP 19 - 34

Division/Wards Affected: All

Purpose: The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications for the Welsh Church Fund Working Group Meeting 9 held on the 03rd March 2022.

Author: David Jarrett – Senior Accountant – Central Finance Business Support

Contact Details: davejarrett@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Paul Matthews
Chief Executive

CABINET PORTFOLIOS

County Councillor	Area of Responsibility	Ward
Mary Ann Brocklesby	Leader Lead Officer – Paul Matthews, Matthew Gatehouse Whole Authority Strategy and Direction Whole authority performance review and evaluation Cardiff City Region Joint Cabinet Regional working Government relations WLGA, LGA and Public Service Board	Llanelly
Paul Griffiths	Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Economy and Deputy Leader Lead Officer – Frances O'Brien Economic resilience and Sustainability focus towards foundational economy Local Development Plan and Strategic Development Plan Town Centre and neighbourhood investment and Stewardship Development Management and Building Control Skills and Employment including green jobs and apprenticeships Broadband connectivity Trading Standards, Environmental Health, Public Health, Licensing	Chepstow Castle & Larkfield
Rachel Garrick	Cabinet Member for Resources Lead Officers – Peter Davies, Frances O'Brien, Matthew Phillips, Jane Rodgers Finance Developing and proposing the budget to Council Digital and Information technology Human Resources, Payroll, Health and Safety Strategic Procurement – promoting localism Land and Buildings Property Maintenance and management Fleet Management Emergency Planning	Caldicot Castle

Martyn Groucutt	Cabinet Member for Education Lead Officers – Will McLean, Ian Saunders Early Years Education All age statutory education Additional learning needs / Inclusion Post 16 and adult education School Standards & Improvement Community learning 21 st Century Schools Programme Youth service	Lansdown
Sara Burch	Cabinet Member for Inclusive and Active Communities Lead Officers – Frances O'Brien, Ian Saunders, Jane Rodgers, Matthew Gatehouse Affordable Housing Strategy Homelessness Community Safety Active Travel Leisure Centres Play and Sport Tourist Information, Museums, Theatres, Attractions	Cantref
Tudor Thomas	Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services Lead Officer – Jane Rodgers Children's services Fostering & adoption Youth Offending Service Adult Services Whole authority safeguarding (children and adults) Disabilities Mental Health and wellbeing Relationships with health providers and access to health provision	Park
Catrin Maby	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment Lead Officer – Frances O'Brien, Matthew Gatehouse Decarbonisation Transport Planning Local Food production, consumption and procurement including agroforestry and local horticulture Traffic network planning Public Transport Highways including trunk roads Pavements and back lanes Flood alleviation, management and recovery, river quality	Drybridge

	Waste management Street care, litter and public spaces Countryside, Biodiversity and public rights of way including parks and open spaces Public conveniences	
Catherine Fookes	Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement Lead Officers – Frances O'Brien, Matt Phillips, Matthew Gatehouse Community inequality (health, income, nutrition, disadvantage, discrimination, isolation) Benefits Welsh language Democracy promotion and citizen engagement Community Hubs and Contact Centre Customer service and citizen experience Communications, public relations, marketing Working with voluntary organisations Registrars Service Electoral Services Constitution Review Ethics and Standards	Town

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Objectives we are working towards

- Giving people the best possible start in life
- A thriving and connected county
- Maximise the Potential of the natural and built environment
- Lifelong well-being
- A future focused council

Our Values

Openness. We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

Fairness. We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

Flexibility. We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

Teamwork. We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

Kindness: We will show kindness to all those we work with putting the importance of relationships and the connections we have with one another at the heart of all interactions.

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SUBJECT:	DISCRETIONARY COST OF LIVING SUPPORT SCHEME
MEETING:	CABINET
DATE:	29TH JUNE 2022
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To agree a Monmouthshire Discretionary Cost of Living Support Scheme to distribute £498,551 of funding to support those most impacted by the Cost of Living crisis.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To note the basis of the mandatory scheme which is currently being implemented.
- 2.2 To consider Options 'A' and 'B' for the discretionary element of the 'Cost of Living Support Scheme as detailed within paragraph three of the report and approve the recommended 'Option A'.
- 2.3 To delegate authority to the Chief Officer for Communities and Place in consultation with the Leader/Cabinet Member Equalities and Engagement to make minor adjustments to the scheme to ensure the full amount is distributed.

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1 Welsh Government Cost of Living Support Scheme

3.1.1 The Mandatory Scheme

Welsh Government has provided funding to local authorities to provide a one-off £150 cost-of-living payment to all households in properties in Council Tax bands A to D, and to households in all Council Tax bands who receive support through our Council Tax Reduction Scheme. Where households pay their Council Tax through direct debit these payments will be made automatically. Where the Council does not hold bank details for these households, letters are being sent asking them to provide details in order that payments can be made.

- 3.1.2 Full details on the scheme can be found at: [Cost of Living Support Scheme: guide for local authorities | GOV.WALES](#)

3.1.3 The Discretionary Scheme

In addition to supporting the eligible categories outlined above through the mandatory scheme, each Local Authority may use the funding provided under the Discretionary Scheme to provide support to households it considers to need assistance with their living costs. This support may take any form the Council considers appropriate to satisfy the aims of the scheme. For example, a payment to a household not already covered in the main scheme; an additional payment on top of the £150 or by covering the cost of other services

provided to households in need by setting up an emergency fund to deal with a specific issue.

3.1.4 Each local authority has complete autonomy to determine how it utilises the available funds in its area to achieve the aims of the overall scheme and in respect of the amount that is paid under the Discretionary Scheme.

3.1.5 Monmouthshire has been allocated £498,551 through the Discretionary Scheme. In designing the options proposed below, officers have engaged widely with national and local partners and stakeholders. A balance has been sought between the following factors:

- Direct payments to individual households – such payments allow individuals to make efficient decisions which suit their circumstances best and which provide autonomy;
- Impact – considering the scale of the financial pressures many households are facing, a single payment may make only a relatively small impact, whereas larger payments to support community infrastructure (including advice and support services) can have a longer-term impact, benefiting more people;
- Targeting – approaches which are highly targeted are in some respects more efficient in benefiting those in the greatest need, but also come with a risk of designing out support for others who may be in need but not meet the specified criteria;
- Delivery – any agreed scheme should be proportionate and must be deliverable within existing systems and resource constraints before the payment deadline of 30th September. For instance, schemes which require households to actively claim the funding available are usually less effectively delivered than those which use already held data and bank details.

3.1.6 In light of the above, two possible options are set out below (Option A and Option B) with differing degrees of weighting placed upon each of the above considerations.

3.2 Option A: Scheme comprised of direct payments and targeted resilience support

3.2.1 The option set out below seeks to maximise the amount of funding delivered directly to individual households. This is achieved through a blend of direct payments to households and to community resilience support that is designed to support households in maximising their incomes. Evidence shows that these services are very effective in maximising income; as an illustration one welfare rights advisor (salary of c.£28k) has been able to support 75 clients over a 12-month period, increasing or maintaining benefit to the value of £741,208.

Table 3.2.2

Ref	Intervention – direct payments	Rationale	Estimated number affected	Estimate of cost implication
A1	Occupied by a Care leavers	Corporate parenting duty and financial vulnerability due to absence of wider networks of support	8	£1,200

Ref	Intervention – direct payments	Rationale	Estimated number affected	Estimate of cost implication
A2	Occupied by a person who has a Severe Mental Impairment	Households with disabilities incur additional unavoidable cost of living expenses	213	£31,950
A3	Unoccupied property where person moved to receive care	Will still have bills to pay in respect of the property. Standing charges, insurance etc	12	£1,800
A4	Unoccupied property where person moved to provide care	Will still have bills to pay in respect of the property. Standing charges, insurance etc	2	£300
A5	Under 18s living alone	The residents will in most cases be paying the utility bills and should be entitled to a payment to assist with the cost of living.	18	£2,700
A6	Houses of Multiple Occupation	Will not have received payment through main scheme but will still incur rising living expenses. 3 registered HMOs in the county. A reasonable estimate of individuals would be 15	15	£2,250
A7	Occupied by full time student	Fixed income which will not reflect increases in living costs	57	£8,550
A8	Disabled Band E-I	Households with disabilities incur additional unavoidable cost of living expenses	95	£14,250
A9	Payments for those in receipt of Fee School Meal recipients in any band (as of 15th Feb)	Families with children are at greater risk of experiencing poverty.	1,133	£169,950
A10	Occupied granny annex	Separate household from main property not captured through main scheme	41	£6,150
A11	Increase value of Discretionary Housing Payment pot	Monmouthshire currently receives £116,000 from the DWP and MCC top this up by £60,000 to a total of £176,000. The legislation allows for councils to top up their DHP by no more than 2.5% of the DWP award. So, in Monmouthshire this would be £290,000 in total. The referrals to MCC's housing support service demonstrate a need for upstream support for those at potential risk of homelessness.		£114,000
A12	Households in temporary accommodation	Will not have received main scheme but known to be under intense financial pressure	178	£26,700
			Total direct payments:	£379,800

Ref	Intervention –targeted resilience support	Rationale	Detail	Estimate of cost implication
A13	Fund additional income maximisation officers within the Housing Support Service	The customer feedback for this service has been extremely strong showing it to be highly effective. The system of support for people in financial difficulties is complex and fragmented. This is particularly challenging to navigate when experiencing stress caused by financial strain. There is currently, very limited capacity to take on any further caseload.	1 x officer at Grade F SCP (19-23) £25,927 - £28,226 fixed term until March 2023	£28,163
A14	Support for third sector advice and information provision	As with MCC support and advice services, there is an issue with capacity. There are also systemic pressures which include the length of time required to fully train an advice worker and several third sector organisations (including Citizens Advice, Mind and Pobl) reporting the staff retention issues that are caused by short term funding.	Citizens Advice 1 x advice worker	£38,000
			Mind Monmouthshire IAA worker (which would release the more specialist Welfare Rights Advisor to do more hours in specialist role)	£18,000
A15	School hardship funds	Based on experience of a pilot in the Chepstow cluster, and of individual school led funds in other areas. Allows payments to be made based on a qualitative assessment of need and can improve home/school relationships. There is a risk that some schools may not feel comfortable making these decisions and not all schools currently have the structures set up to receive the money. Working on a cluster basis should ameliorate this somewhat.	£18,000: £4,500 per cluster	£18,000
A16	Fuel vouchers	In recognition of the particular and acute pressure placed on households by rising energy costs. To be administered through third sector organisations (e.g., CAB , food banks) where structures already exist. This amount would be in addition to £20k pilot about to be rolled out through foodbanks. N. B mechanisms are currently only in place to provide fuel vouchers to households on pre-payment meters.		£16,500
		Total Targeted Resilience Support:		£118,663
		Grand Total:		£498,463

3.3 Option B: Blended approach with higher weighting towards community resilience

3.3.1 Option B makes direct payments to all the categories identified in Option A, but with a lower payment of £100 instead of £150 to households eligible for free school meals. This allows for a higher level of funding to be made available for community support and resilience spending.

Table 3.3.2

Ref	Intervention – direct payments	Rationale	Estimated number affected	Estimate of cost implication
B1	Occupied by a Care leavers	Corporate parenting duty and financial vulnerability due to absence of wider networks of support	8	£1,200
B2	Occupied by a person who has a Severe Mental Impairment	Households with disabilities incur additional unavoidable cost of living expenses	213	£31,950
B3	Unoccupied property where person moved to receive care	Will still have bills to pay in respect of the property. Standing charges, insurance etc	12	£1,800
B4	Unoccupied property where person moved to provide care	Will still have bills to pay in respect of the property. Standing charges, insurance etc	2	£300
B5	Under 18s living alone	The residents will in most cases be paying the utility bills and should be entitled to a payment to assist with the cost of living.	18	£2,700
B6	Houses of Multiple Occupation	Will not have received payment through main scheme but will still incur increased living costs. 3 registered HMOs in the county. A reasonable estimate of individuals would be 15	15	£2,250
B7	Occupied by full time student	Fixed income which will not reflect increases in living costs	57	£8,550
B8	Disabled Band E-I	Households with disabilities incur additional unavoidable cost of living expenses	95	£14,250
B9	Payments for those in receipt of Free School Meal recipients in any band (as of 15th Feb)	Families with children are at greater risk of experiencing poverty. £100 payment	1,133	£113,300
B10	Occupied granny annex	Separate household from main property not captured through main scheme	41	£6,150
B11	Increase value of Discretionary Housing Payment pot	Monmouthshire currently receives £116,000 from the DWP and MCC top this up by £60,000 to a total of £176,000. The legislation allows for councils to top up their DHP by no more than 2.5% of the DWP award. So, in Monmouthshire this would be £290,000 in total. The referrals to MCC's housing support service demonstrate a need for upstream support for those at potential risk of homelessness.		£114,000
B12	Households in temporary accommodation	Will not have received main scheme but known to be under intense financial pressure	178	£26,700
			Total direct payments:	£323,150

Ref	Intervention – direct payments	Rationale	Estimated number affected	Estimate of cost implication
	Intervention: community support	Rationale	Description of funding	Indicative cost
B13	Fund additional income maximisation officers within the Housing Support Service	The customer feedback for this service has been extremely strong showing it to be highly effective. The system of support for people in financial difficulties is complex and fragmented. This is particularly challenging to navigate when experiencing stress caused by financial strain. There is currently, very limited capacity to take on any further caseload.	1 x officer at Grade F SCP (19-23) £25,927 - £28,226 fixed term until March 2023	£28,163
B14	Support for third sector advice and information provision	As with MCC support and advice services, there is an issue with capacity. There are also systemic pressures which include the length of time required to fully train an advice worker and several third sector organisations (including Citizens Advice, Mind and Pobl) reporting the staff retention issues that are caused by short term funding.	Citizens Advice 1 x advice worker 1 x Mind Monmouthshire wellbeing support worker (which would release the more specialist Welfare Rights Advisor to do more hours in specialist role) £18,000	£37,750 £17,750
B15	School hardship funds	Based on experience of a pilot in the Chepstow cluster, and of individual school led funds in other areas. Allows payments to be made based on a qualitative assessment of need and can improve home/school relationships. There is a risk that some schools may not feel comfortable making these decisions and not all schools currently have the structures set up to receive the money.	£10,000 per cluster	£40,000
B16	Fuel vouchers	In recognition of the particular and acute pressure placed on households by rising energy costs. To be administered through third sector organisations (e.g., CAB , food banks) where structures already exist. This amount would be in addition to £20k pilot about to be rolled out through foodbanks. N. B mechanisms are currently only in place to provide fuel vouchers to households on pre-payment meters.		£16,500

Ref	Intervention – direct payments	Rationale	Estimated number affected	Estimate of cost implication
B17	Support to build, promote and formalise community-giving / mutual aid structures across the county.	We know from experience that Monmouthshire citizens are generally civic-minded and keen to offer support to others in their communities. Examples of highly flexible mutual aid type organisations already include 'Cwtch Angels' in Abergavenny, 'Help for All' in Goytre and, to some extent, 'Chepstow Covid Helping Group'. With some support to develop models and structures there may be considerably ore benefit to be realised from this approach.	One officer at grade H fixed term until March 2023 £33,375	£33,375
			Total support interventions:	£178,875
			Grand total:	£498,525

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

- 4.1 Rapid payments made from the Cost of Living Support Scheme will have a positive impact for recipients. The support will help maximise income to households and will help reduce hardship in the county. Efforts have been made to specifically target funding toward the most vulnerable groups.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 5.1 Members are invited to consider Options A and B as set out in Tables 3.2.2 and 3.3.2 above and approve the recommended 'Option A'.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 6.1 The scheme will be monitored closely as it is rolled out, with close consideration paid to the number of households who have received direct and indirect support – and in respect of any anticipated underspend, to ensure that the full allocation is used.

7. REASONS:

- 7.1 This decision is required in order for the Council to deploy the funding allocated to it under the discretionary element of the Welsh Government Cost of Living Support Scheme.
- 7.2 Option A is the preferred recommendation for the following reasons:
- Alignment with the Council's Strategic Objectives;
 - Provides 75% in direct payments and 25% supporting local organisations alongside recruitment of an additional Income Maximisation Officer within the Housing Support Service to provide direct support to individuals in need;
 - Provides an appropriate level of consistency with schemes for other authorities.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 As set out in the Tables above. The costs associated with the Scheme itself are fully covered by the funding provided from Welsh Government. The Council can move funding between the main scheme and discretionary scheme as it deems necessary to achieve the overall aims of the scheme.

9. CONSULTEES:

- Cabinet;
- SLT;
- Communities and Place DMT;
- Chief Officer, Communities and Place;
- Head of Shared Revenues and Benefits Service;
- Head of Enterprise and Community Animation;
- Tackling Poverty & Inequality Steering Group (including GAVO, Citizens Advice, Mind Monmouthshire);
- Flexible Funding and Housing Support Strategic Manager

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

- 10.1 Welsh Government Guidance for Cost of Living Support Scheme (link in body of report)

11. **AUTHOR:** Judith Langdon, Social Justice Innovation Manager

12. CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 07970 151970

E-mail: judithlangdon@monmouthshire.gov.uk



Integrated Impact Assessment document

(incorporating Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio Economic Duty)

Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Judith Langdon Phone no: 07970 151970 E-mail: judithlangdon@monmouthshire.gov.uk	Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal To determine the basis for the distribution of
Name of Service area Communities and Social Justive	Date: 13 th June 2022

1. **Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?** Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	Citizens in certain age brackets are known to be, on average, more vulnerable to poverty – particularly young people living alone, those households with more than two children or with older adults with mental health impairments. These groups have been targeted for support as part of the recommended proposal.	None identified	n/a
Disability	Disability is a serious risk factor for experiencing poverty. This risk is reflected in the targeting of support towards households with disabilities and with SMIs	None from this proposal specifically	Keep under review as more opportunities for developing support emerge

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Gender reassignment	.None identified	None identified	Not applicable to this scheme
Marriage or civil partnership	Single parents are known to be at an increased risk of poverty. This proposal does not target those households specifically but will provide support through the mechanisms that are targeted towards households with children	None specifically, but over time ther may be scope for improve targeting of single parent households.	As described.
Pregnancy or maternity	None identified	None identified	Not applicable to this scheme
Race	We know that nationally there is an increased prevalence of poverty amongst ethnic minority communities although do not hold this data specifically for Monmouthshire.	None specifically identified.	This is an area for further development in the future.
Religion or Belief	None identified	None identified	None identified
Sex	Women are disproportionately affected by poverty and low income, particularly as a consequence of caring responsibilities (both for children and for older relatives). By targeting support at households receiving care this will positively impact women who have been adversely affected in ths way.	None specifically identified.	This is an area for further development in the future.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Sexual Orientation	None identified	Not applicable to this scheme	None identified

2. The Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions This duty aligns with our commitment as an authority to Social Justice.

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice	The entire scheme and its supporting rationale (set out in paragraphs 3.1.5 and 7) is designed to provide financial support based upon relative need. By providing cash payments to households they will be able to use the money efficiently and with autonomy to meet their own needs. The funds invested into social infrastructure will provide a degree of longevity to support people in the greatest need on an ongoing basis.	No negative impacts specifically identified.	The challenge will be to continue to do more to support our residents through the cost of living crisis in a way that provides the greatest benefit to those in greatest need.





3. Policy making and the Welsh language.


How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:	Describe the positive impacts of this proposal	Describe the negative impacts of this proposal	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts
Policy Making Effects on the use of the Welsh language, Promoting Welsh language Treating the Welsh language no less favourably	<i>All Welsh language obligations will be complied with</i>	None identified	
Operational Recruitment & Training of workforce	All Welsh language obligations will be complied with	None identified	
Service delivery Use of Welsh language in service delivery Promoting use of the language	All communication will be bilingual in accordance with council policy.	None identified	

4. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	Tackling povety is an essential precursor and adjunct to promoting prosperity.	Will be kept under review for further opportunity
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	N/a	N/a
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	Physical and mental health are directly connected to poverty, wealth and income	Will be kept under review for further opportunity
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	Postiive impact from investing in targeted community resilience support	Will be kept under review for further opportunity
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	N/a	N/a
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	N/a	N/a
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	This report has a positive impact by actively addressing poverty and by targeting those groups considered to be most vulnerable	Attention will be paid as to how effectively the scheme is being implemented and for any further opportunities to alleviate financial hardship in the county.

5. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>This fund is designed to address an immediate cost of living crisis in an urgent manner. By targeting support to the most vulnerable wherever possible it will contribute towards building their resilience for the longer term.</p>	<p>Not of this specific scheme, but the council's wider efforts to address poverty and inequality take a long term outlook wherever possible.</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>The proposals in the paper have been developed with partner organisations (through the Tackling Poverty and Inequality Steering Group) and will be delivered in partnership with the voluntary and community sector through direct funding.</p>	<p>None identified.</p>
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>The priority areas identified are based upon feedback from clients and citizens who have used advice and support services and who have taken part in research.</p>	<p>A key future action is to develop a Cost of Living Panel to improve our co-productive approach to tackling poverty</p>
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>This fund is designed to address an immediate cost of living crisis in an urgent manner. By targeting support to the most vulnerable wherever possible it will contribute towards building their resilience for the longer term.</p>	<p>Not of this specific scheme, but the council's wider efforts to address poverty and inequality take a preventative approach wherever possible.</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	.None identified	None identified

6. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	Positive impact by providing support to households with vulnerable adults.	.None identified	
Corporate Parenting	Positive impact by providing payment to care leavers.	None identified	

7. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

Page 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of households meeting each of the criteria set out in Options A and B of main report - Number of households in council tax bands E & F - Number of households with school age children in receipt of Universal credit but not entitled to free school meals - Number of households with children of compulsory school age - Number of households in receipt of free domiciliary care - Bevan Foundation data on private rental housing market in Wales https://www.bevanfoundation.org/resources/wales-housing-crisis-an-update-on-the-private-rental-market-in-wales/ - Use of discretionary housing payments in Monmouthshire for 21/22 and 22/23 to date
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8. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

<p>Rapid payments made from the Cost of Living Support Scheme will have a positive impact for recipients. The support will help maximise income to households and will help reduce hardship in the county. Efforts have been made to specifically target funding toward the most vulnerable groups.</p>

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9. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible
Monitor closely the rate at which payments are made in order to ensure the full amount is spent within the available period	Immediate	Social Justice Innovation Manager / Head of Shared Revenues and Benefits Service

10. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	SLT / Informal Cabinet	7 th June 2022	Consideration as to the feasibility of including additional categories for direct payments, including households with school aged children in receipt of Universal Credit but not eligible for free school meals
2	Cabinet	29 th June 2022	

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SUBJECT:	WELSH CHURCH FUND WORKING GROUP
MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	15th June 2022
DIVISIONS/WARD AFFECTED:	All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications for the Welsh Church Fund Working Group Meeting 9 held on the 03rd March 2022.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

- 2.1 We resolved that the following grants be awarded as per the schedule of applications.

SCHEDULE OF APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED 2021/22 – MEETING 9.

1. **St Bridget's Church, St Brides, Netherwent**, requested £5,000 for the Installation of an eco-friendly, waterless composting toilet at the church due to the unavailability of running water.

Recommendation: £2,500 awarded to assist in providing toilet facilities for the benefit of the parishioners and wider community who visit the site.

2. **St Peter's Church, Dixton, Monmouth**, requested £3,000 to connect the Church to the Mains Water Supply as currently there is no mains running water in the church.

Recommendation: £2,000 awarded to assist in providing mains water for the benefit of the parishioners and wider community who use the site.

3. **Buckholt Village Hall, Monmouth**, requested £1,000 for the purchase of two folding table tennis tables for recreational use by elderly members of the community

Recommendation: £420 awarded to assist in providing for the cost of a table tennis table for the elderly users of the hall.

3. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Options available to the Committee are driven by the information supplied by the applicants.

4. EVALUATION CRITERIA

No evaluation criteria are applicable to the grant awarded by the trust.

5. REASONS

A Meeting took place on Thursday 03rd March 2022 of the Welsh Church Fund Committee Working Group to recommend the payment of grants as detailed in the attached schedule (Appendix 1).

County Councillors in attendance at meeting 9:

County Councillor A. Webb (Chair)
County Councillor D. Evans (Vice Chair)
County Councillor B. Strong
County Councillor S. Woodhouse

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE at meeting 9:

D Jarrett Central Finance
R Williams Committee Administration

5.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

5.2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE at meeting 9

None

5.3 CONFIRMATION OF REPORT OF PREVIOUS MEETINGs

The minutes of the meetings held on the 27th January 2022

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

A total of £4,920 has been allocated to applicants at Meeting 9 of the Welsh Church Fund Committee This final distribution represents the full allocation of the budget for the 2021-22 financial year and therefore no balances are carried forward to 2022-23.

7. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

There are no Future Generations, equality, safeguarding, corporate parenting or sustainable development implications directly arising from this report. The assessment is contained in the attached appendix.

8. CONSULTEES:

Senior Leadership Team
All Cabinet Members
Head of Legal Services
Assistant Head of Finance
Central Finance Management Accountant

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Welsh Church Fund Schedule of Applications 2021/22– Meeting 9 (Appendix 1)

10. AUTHOR:

David Jarrett – Senior Accountant – Central Finance Business Support

11. CONTACT DETAILS

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WELSH CHURCH FUND - APPLICATIONS 2021/22
MEETING 9: 03rd March 2022

APPENDIX 1

<u>ORGANISATION</u>	<u>ELECTORAL DIVISION</u>	<u>Signed by Councillor</u>	<u>REQUEST</u>	<u>DECISION</u>	<u>NATURE OF PROJECT REQUEST</u>	<u>PROJECT TOTAL COST</u>	<u>DATE Application Received</u>	<u>D of I*</u>	<u>Additional Information</u>
<u>NEW APPLICATIONS AWAITING DECISION</u>			£	£		£			
St Bridget's Church, St Brides, Netherwent	Caerwent	P. Murphy	£5,000	£2,500	Installing an eco-friendly, waterless composting toilet at the church	£19,090	09/01/22	No	There are no toilet facilities at the church and as it is the only community building in the parish, they would like to make the space more useful and accessible. The church is in the middle of a scheduled ancient monument, there is no drainage and no water on the site so the only practical option is an eco-friendly waterless composting toilet. envisage that the parish will contribute half of the cost from funds that have been raised over the years and half will be funded by grants.
St Peter's Church , Dixon, Monmouth	Dixon - with-Osbaston	Richard Roden	£3,000	£2,000	Require funding to connect the Church to the Mains Water Supply as currently no mains running water in the church	£8,087	16/02/22	No	THE Church currently uses a borehole for fresh water requirements, but this becomes unusable after periods of flooding
Buckholt Village Hall	Drybridge	Mat Feakins	£994	£420	Funding requested for the purchase of two folding table tennis tables for recreational use by elderly members of the community	£994	01/03/22	No	Currently a group of over 80's meet regularly to play and the acquisition of two tables would enable a wider age group to use the facilities
<i>Deferred Applications</i>									
SUB TOTAL Meeting 9			£8,994	£4,920	OTHER INFORMATION :				
MEETING	DATE	CABINET		AWARD					
1	April 15th 2021	May 5th 2021		4,400					
2	May 13th 2021	June 09th 2021		3,000					
3	June 24th 2021	July 07th 2021		4,250					
4	July 22nd 2021	Sept 01st 2021		2,470					
5	Sept 23rd 2021	Oct 06th 2021		5,500					
6	Nov 04th 2021	Dec 01st 2021		2,000					
7	Dec 22nd 2021	Jan 19th 2022		5,400					
8	Jan 27th 2022	Mar 02nd 2022		2,500					
9	Mar 3rd 2022	June 15th 2022		4,920					
TOTAL AWARDED FOR 2021/22				34,440					
BUDGET 2021/22				34,440					
BALANCE B/F TO 2021/22				£0					
Monmouthshire's Allocation for 2021/22				£34,440					
REMAINING BALANCE c/fwd to 2022/23			£0						

*D of I = Declaration of Interest

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Integrated Impact Assessment document

(incorporating Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio Economic Duty)

Name of the Officer D Jarrett Phone no: 4657 E-mail: davejarrett@monmouthshire.gov.uk	Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal To assess the Grant Allocation Processes of the Welsh Church Fund for the meeting of the Welsh Church Fund Working Group on the 03 rd March 2022
Name of Service Finance	Date Future Generations Evaluation 03 rd March 2022

Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	Encouraging the socializing of differing age groups through social provision	No negative impact	
Disability	Proposal to assist in the provision of disabled facilities.	No negative impact	
Gender reassignment	No impact	No negative impact	

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Marriage or civil partnership	No impact	No negative impact	
Pregnancy or maternity	No impact	No negative impact	
Race	.No impact	No negative impact	
Religion or Belief	.Encouraging religion through education at the point of delivery through the provision of enhanced facilities	No negative impact	
Sex	No impact	No negative impact	
Sexual Orientation	.No Impact	No Negative impact	

2. The Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions This duty aligns with our commitment as an authority to Social Justice.

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice	N/A	No Negative impact	





3. Policy making and the Welsh language.


How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:	Describe the positive impacts of this proposal	Describe the negative impacts of this proposal	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts
Policy Making Effects on the use of the Welsh language, Promoting Welsh language Treating the Welsh language no less favourably	N/A	No Negative impact	
Operational Recruitment & Training of workforce	N/A	No Negative impact	
Service delivery Use of Welsh language in service delivery Promoting use of the language	N/A	No Negative impact	

4. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	N/A	
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	N/A	
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	N/A	
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	N/A	
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	N/A	
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	N/A	
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	N/A	

5. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	N/A	
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	N/A	
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	N/A	
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	N/A	

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	.N/A	

6. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	Not applicable	.	
Corporate Parenting	Not applicable		

7. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

The evidence and data used for the assessment of each applicant to the Welsh Church Fund is supplied by the applicant upon submission of their application. The data and information supplied or subsequently requested is used to form the basis of the Committees' decision on whether to award a qualifying grant.

8. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

The grant aid supports and highlights the positive effect that decisions the Welsh Church Fund Working Group have on the applicants funding requests from Voluntary Organisations, Local Community Groups, Individuals and Religious Establishments.

All awards are made in the belief that the funding is utilised for sustainable projects and cultural activities that benefit individuals, organisations, communities and their associated assets.

All grants are awarded within the Charitable Guidelines of the Trust

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9. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible
Award grants	June 2022	Welsh Church Fund

10. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

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Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Cabinet	15 th June 2022	

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