

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Executive Board
<b>REPORT NO:</b>	COFI/45/19
<b>DATE:</b>	23 July 2019
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	Councillor Mark Pritchard (Organisation - Finance, Performance, Health and Safety and Governance)
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Mark S Owen (Tel: 292701)
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Welsh Church Act Fund Grant Award Administration Transfer
<b>WARD:</b>	N/A

## 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval of the transfer of the administration of the awarding of the Welsh Church Act Fund grants in the Wrexham area to the Community Foundation in Wales.

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Welsh Church Act Fund was established with monies that became available on the disestablishment of the Welsh Church in 1914.
- 2.2 Up until April 2018 the Welsh Church Act Fund was administered in North East Wales by Flintshire County Council; duties included management of the fund, distribution of constituent elements of the fund to Wrexham County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council, and the distribution of grants in the Flintshire area.
- 2.3 In April 2018 Flintshire County Council transferred all Welsh Church Act responsibility to the Community Foundation in Wales.
- 2.4 In October 2018 the Community Foundation in Wales contacted Wrexham County Borough Council to offer their services in managing the grant distribution process in the Wrexham area.

### **3 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 **Members approve the transfer of the administration of the awarding of the Welsh Church Act Fund grants in the Wrexham area to the Community Foundation in Wales, with the request that the maximum grant for award be increased to £1,000.**

#### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- (i) Allow the Welsh Church Act Fund management and grant issuing procedures to benefit from centralisation, whilst retaining local input into the grant awarding process through representation on the panel making the awards.

### **4 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 4.1 The Welsh Church Act Fund has been administered in the North East Wales area by Flintshire County Council since 1999; this has included management of the investment fund and distribution of monies to Wrexham County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council for awarding of grants through their own processes.
- 4.2 Wrexham receives an annual amount in the region of £7,000, which it allocated to organisations within the County Borough for schemes that met the stipulated criteria, with a maximum award given being £500 per scheme; it is believed that an increase to £1,000 per scheme would be beneficial to the impact of the overall programme.
- 4.3 In April 2018 Flintshire County Council took the decision to transfer both the fund management, and grant distribution in the Flintshire area to the Community Foundation in Wales.
- 4.4 In October 2018 the Community Foundation in Wales contacted Wrexham County Borough Council with a view to offering their services to administer the grant awarding process in the Wrexham area.
- 4.5 Currently the Community Foundation in Wales manages the Wrexham Community Endowment fund on Wrexham Council's behalf, with grant awards being made by a panel including a number of Wrexham County Borough elected members and local community representatives.

### **5 IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 **Policy Framework** – If this recommendation is agreed it will contribute to the People and Economy Themes in the Council Plan.
- 5.2 **Budget** – There are no financial implications for the Council if this recommendation is agreed
- 5.3 **Legal** – None.

**5.4 Staffing** – The transfer of the administration of the grant awarding will release capacity amongst officers currently dealing with this process.

**5.5 Equality/Human Rights** – The transfer of this administrative process will allow the continuation of the use of these funds for the purpose they were intended in the future. (FIN/EIA00178/2019-Appendix 1).

**5.6 Risks** – The continuation of an appointed Board recommending grant awards, on which Council Members will sit, alleviates risk that this process will not continue to deliver as under previous processes.

## **6 CONSULTATION**

6.1 Consultation has been undertaken with current members of the awarding board for the Wrexham Endowment, whom it is envisaged if this recommendation is agreed will take on this role with the WCA grants.

## **7 EVALUATION OF OPTIONS**

7.1 Currently the only other option available is the continued administration internally within Wrexham County Borough Council.

## Summary Of Welsh Church Act Fund Grant Award Administration Transfer

**Department:** Finance  
**Department Reference:** FIN/EIA00178/2019  
**Responsible Officer:** Mark Owen  
**Job Title:** Head of Finance  
**Completed Date:**

Positive Impacts	
Impact	Description
All	Transfer of awarding process - no change in function