

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 15 November 2018
Report Subject	Flintshire Community Endowment Fund – Annual Report
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance & Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets
Report Author	Chief Executive and Corporate Finance Manager
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Flintshire Community Endowment Fund (the Fund) was established in September 2013 with Cabinet approval to transfer approximately £200k of sixteen educational trust funds - which were moribund or ineffective - to the Community Foundation in Wales.

The Fund has since been managed by the Community Foundation in Wales and local grants have been awarded by a grants panel. This report gives an update on the progress and performance of the Fund since it was last reported in January 2017.

In addition the report updates on the transfer and performance of the Clwyd tripartite Welsh Church Act Fund (Clwyd WCAF) which was administered by the Council on behalf of Flintshire, Denbighshire and Wrexham Councils prior to transfer to the Community Foundation in Wales earlier this year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Members support the work of the Community Foundation in Wales on behalf of the Council.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE FLINTSHIRE COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND
1.01	This Fund has been managed by the Community Foundation in Wales since 2013. A report on the Fund's progress and performance is provided regularly by a representative from the Community Foundation in Wales. The latest report is attached at Appendix 1.
1.02	The financial performance of the Fund continues to be strong with the value of the endowment having grown by 20% from £178,975 in 2013 to £215,067 as at 30 th September 2018.
1.03	Grants totalling £37,322 have been awarded since 2013. A grants panel meeting was held in April 2018 and grants were awarded to 3 groups and 2 individuals totalling £3,240. Further information about these awards will be provided as part of the presentation to this committee.
	Flintshire Welsh Church Act Scheme
1.04	The Welsh Church Act Fund is a charitable Trust Fund governed by the Welsh Church Act 1914. The Act separated and dis-established the Welsh part of the Church of England. The Welsh Church Act Trust was established from the proceeds and assets, which were distributed evenly amongst the former County Councils in Wales, and further divided between the Unitary Authorities with their establishment in 1996. All authorities are required to draw up an appropriate scheme (of governance), under section 19 of the Act. Our scheme was approved by the Secretary of State for Wales in April 1999.
1.05	The objectives of the Clwyd WCAF are broad - covering voluntary organisation support, arts, social and recreational activities, as well as support for church and chapel restorations. Grants of up to £500 are considered for churches and chapels, and grants for recreational and educational achievement up to £200 per individual and up to £300 for voluntary organisations.
1.06	The Clwyd WCAF was administered by the Council on a lead authority basis for Flintshire, Denbighshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council. It was referred to as the tri-partite scheme. The trustee of the Clwyd WCAF was the Responsible Finance Officer for Flintshire County Council, currently the Corporate Finance Manager.
1.07	In January 2018 it was agreed that future Welsh Church Act Fund awards be integrated with those of the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund. This has streamlined the process and maintained the involvement from the Flintshire Local Voluntary Sector.
1.08	A grants panel meeting was held in July 2018 and grants were awarded to 7 organisations and 3 individuals totalling £3,539. Further information about these awards is provided as part of the presentation to this committee.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The transfer of the management and administration of both the Clwyd Welsh Church Act Fund and the transfer of the Educational Trust Funds has been beneficial in the effective use of the available funds.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	The Community Endowment Fund and Welsh Church Act Fund continue to be promoted on the Council's website. Councillors are requested to signpost those who might be eligible to apply.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	<p>Financial risks to the Fund and the Clwyd WCAF include reduced rates of interest being earned on the investment portfolio and potential losses from a fall in the value of instruments where investments are held, both linked with general market conditions, and limited growth of the Fund through the support of donors and philanthropists.</p> <p>Risk is managed by the Community Foundation in Wales according to its investment strategy and is scrutinised quarterly by the Foundation's Finance, Risk and Investment Committee.</p>

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Flintshire Community Endowment Fund – Impact report November 2018

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Contact Officers: Karen Armstrong, Corporate Business and Communications Executive Officer</p> <p>Telephone: 01352 702740</p> <p>E-mail: karen.armstrong@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Community Foundation in Wales: The Community Foundation in Wales is a unique charity which promotes and manages philanthropy. Their role is to strengthen communities in Wales by awarding grants to projects that make a sustainable impacts on local needs, and to help their clients make the most of their charitable giving.</p> <p>Endowment Fund: A financial asset, typically held by a non-profit organisation, which contains the capital investments and related earnings leveraged by the non-profit organisation to fund the overall mission or objective.</p> <p>Welsh Church Act Fund: The Welsh Church Act 1914 is an Act of Parliament under which the Welsh part of the Church of England was separated and dis-established. The Welsh Church Act Trust was established from the proceeds and assets, which were distributed evenly amongst the former County Councils in Wales and further divided between the Unitary Authorities with their establishment in 1996.</p>