

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday, 11 th March 2021
Report Subject	Flintshire Community Endowment Fund - Annual Report
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets
Report Author	Chief Executive
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 November 2018.

In addition the report provides an update on the 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.

The Community Foundation in Wales will present an update on progress and performance at the meeting.

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 from £178,998 in 2013 to £198,854 as at 31st March 2020.
1.03	Grants totalling £5,896 have been awarded since the previous report in 2018. Grants panel meetings were held in March 2019, October 2019 and October 2020 and thirteen grants were awarded. 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.
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	The Grant panel met in March 2019, October 2019, October 2020 and grants were awarded to three organisations and two individuals totalling £3,400. This included £2,400 grants paid from 2018/19 Fund and £1000 from 2019/20 Fund. This grant payment was delayed and not awarded in-year as the Panel could not meet due to Covid-19 regulations. Further information about these awards is provided as part of the presentation to this committee.

1.09	The Community Foundation in Wales offered crisis grants through the Hawarden District Relief in Need Fund and the Wales Coronavirus Resilience Fund throughout the pandemic for eligible individuals/organisations.
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
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2.01	<p>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.</p> <p>Revenue/Capital: there are no implications for the approved revenue and capital budgets for either the current financial year or for future financial years.</p> <p>Human Resources: there are no implications for additional capacity or for any change to current workforce structures or roles.</p>
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3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
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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.
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4.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
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4.01	<p>An integrated impact assessment is not required for this report as no change to service or policy is proposed. This report is on grants awarded since the last report in 2018.</p> <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> <p>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact)</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Long-term</td> <td>No change.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> <td>No change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration</td> <td>No change.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collaboration</td> <td>Positive. Flintshire Local Voluntary Council are represented on the Grants Panel.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Involvement</td> <td>No change</td> </tr> </table>	Long-term	No change.	Prevention	No change	Integration	No change.	Collaboration	Positive. Flintshire Local Voluntary Council are represented on the Grants Panel.	Involvement	No change
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Well-being Goals Impact	
Prosperous Wales	No change.
Resilient Wales	No change
Healthier Wales	Positive. The grants can be used to support health matters and healthy living.
More equal Wales	Positive. The grants can be used to support the educational development and attainment of children, young people and students.
Cohesive Wales	Positive. The primary aim of the Welsh Church Act Fund is to provide assistance to groups for social, recreational and other charitable purposes.
Vibrant Wales	No change
Globally responsible Wales	No change

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1: Flintshire Community Endowment Fund – Impact report December 2020

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Fiona Mocko Strategic Policy Advisor Telephone: 01352 702122 E-mail: fiona.mocko@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<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>
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