

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	12 th September 2024
Report Subject	Flintshire Funds Report 2024
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value
Report Author	Chief Executive
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Flintshire Funds is a collective term used for two grants, Flintshire Community Endowment Fund and the Flintshire Welsh Church Act Fund, both of which are overseen by the Community Foundation Wales.

The Flintshire Community Endowment Fund was established in September 2013 and has been managed by the Community Foundation Wales since that time. The Fund now falls under the Trusteeship of the Community Foundation Wales.

The Clwyd tripartite Welsh Church Act Fund (Clwyd WCAF) was formerly administered by the Council on behalf of Flintshire, Denbighshire, and Wrexham Councils prior to transfer to the Community Foundation Wales. Flintshire County Council remains a Trustee of this Fund.

This report provides an overview of the Impact Report April 2024, prepared by the Community Foundation Wales, a copy of which can be found at Appendix 1. The Impact Report contains more detail on the Funds, including performance since this was last reported in April 2023.

A representative of the Community Foundation Wales has been invited to the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee to support presentation of the report and answer questions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the contents of the Flintshire Impact Report April 2024 and support the work of the Community Foundation Wales.
2	Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the current Elected Member representative vacancy on the grant panel and support the promotion of this opportunity to Members.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE FLINTSHIRE IMPACT REPORT 2024
1.01	Background The Flintshire Community Endowment Fund and the Flintshire Welsh Church Act Fund, referred to collectively as Flintshire Funds, are grants that are overseen by the Community Foundation in Wales.
1.02	Grants from Flintshire Funds are awarded twice a year and there is a dedicated grant panel that consider applications for grants. The Flintshire Funds grant panel is chaired by the Community Foundation Wales and currently includes two representatives from Flintshire County Council. Normally there is also Elected Member representation from the Council on the Panel but at present there is not. Each representative of the grant panel serves for a minimum period of three years. The Community Foundation Wales also intends to put out an open call to attract new panel members to ensure that the panels are diverse and have representatives with a varied skillset.
1.03	All grants awarded by Flintshire Funds are subject to strict terms and conditions. Monitoring of awarded grants is conducted after twelve months to ensure compliance with the terms of the grant and to measure the impact of the grants on individuals and communities. Further details on the Funds, along with case studies demonstrating the impact of the grants from both the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund and the Welsh Church Act fund are contained within an annual Impact Report. The Impact Report for 2024 can be found at Appendix 1 of this report.
1.04	From 2024 changes are being implemented, designed to enable grant making to have a more focused and greater reach; grant making for individuals will now be split away from grant making available to groups. The Community Foundation Wales have also introduced a funding allocation, with 20% of available funding for individuals and 80% to groups.

	<p>The grant application fund opening date for individuals opened in June 2024 and was intended to close in late August. Flintshire Funds was opened for groups in April and closed in June.</p> <p>A further round of funding may be opened if sufficient funds are available.</p>
1.05	<p>Flintshire Community Endowment Fund</p> <p>The Flintshire Community Endowment Fund was established in September 2013 and has been managed by the Community Foundation Wales since that time. The Fund now falls under the Trusteeship of the Community Foundation Wales.</p>
1.06	<p>The financial performance of the Fund has been affected due to a dip in the market value of funds as a result of many factors including the cost-of-living crisis and the continuing war in Ukraine. However, over the past 12 months, the Fund has performed better. The Fund was valued at £178,998 in 2013 when it started and as of March 2024 is valued at £243,930*.</p> <p>*unaudited figures.</p>
1.07	<p>Grants totalling £6,750 were awarded in 2023/2024 (£9,400.00 in 2022/2023).</p> <p>Eight grants were awarded in total. Two grants were three-year commitments of £1,000 per year, so only the first years' monies are accounted for in this period of reporting.</p>
1.08	<p>Further information about these awards, along with an update on progress and performance of the Fund, is provided in the Flintshire Impact Report 2024, as provided at Appendix 1 of this report.</p>
1.09	<p>Flintshire Welsh Church Act Scheme</p> <p>The Welsh Church Act Fund (WCAF) 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.</p> <p>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> <p>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.</p>
1.10	<p>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.</p>

	Grants of up to £1,000 are considered for churches and chapels, groups working to address disadvantage to benefit Flintshire residents, as well as groups providing social and recreational activities for Flintshire residents.
1.11	<p>Previously the Clwyd WCAF was administered by Flintshire County Council on behalf of Flintshire, Denbighshire, and Wrexham Councils.</p> <p>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. Flintshire County Council remains the Trustee for this fund.</p>
1.12	<p>In 2023/2024 eleven grants were awarded to eleven organisations from the Fund totalling £10,585 (2022/23 grants were awarded to nine organisations totalling £9,000).</p> <p>Two grants were three-year commitments of £1,000 per year and one grant was a two-year commitment of £1000 per years so only the first years' monies are accounted for in this period of reporting.</p> <p>The Fund has grown from £537,497 in 2018 to £659,420* in March 2024. *unaudited figures</p> <p>Further information about these awards, along with an update on progress and performance of the Fund, is provided in the Flintshire Impact Report 2024, as attached at Appendix 1.</p>
1.13	<p>Additional Information</p> <p>The Community Foundation Wales was transferred the endowment for the Hawarden & District relief in need fund in 2021. The grant making for this fund is also internally managed by the Community Foundation organisations. Whilst these grants do not relate to a Flintshire County Council funding transfer, the Community Foundation Wales reports on this activity as the fund is relevant to Flintshire and all grants are made within the County.</p>
1.14	<p>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.</p> <p>More information can be found via the link: https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Funding-Opportunities/Home.aspx</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The transfer of the management and administration of both the Funds has been beneficial in the effective use of the available funds.

	<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>
2.02	<p>Flintshire County Council representatives on the grants panel have previously included two Elected Members.</p> <p>Community Foundation Wales are actively recruiting new panel members for Flintshire Funds and alongside this a replacement Elected Member for the Flintshire Funds grant panel is being sought.</p>

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT																				
3.01	<p>An integrated impact assessment is not required for this report as no change to service or policy is proposed. This report is to provide an update on progress and performance and as such is for information.</p> <p>Financial risks to the Funds 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 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> <p>Well-being Goals Impact</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Prosperous Wales</td> <td>No change.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Resilient Wales</td> <td>No change.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Healthier Wales</td> <td>Positive. The grants can be used to support health matters and healthy living.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>More equal Wales</td> <td>Positive. The grants can be used to support the educational development and attainment of children, young people and students.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cohesive Wales</td> <td>Positive. The primary aim of the Welsh Church Act Fund is to provide assistance</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.	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
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.																				
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.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
4.01	Not applicable

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1: Flintshire Funds Impact Report April 2024

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Flintshire Funds were last reported to the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee in April 2023.</p> <p>A copy of the report and accompanying documents can be found online: https://committeemeetings.flintshire.gov.uk/documents/g5306/Public%20reports%20pack%2020th-Apr-2023%2010.00%20Corporate%20Resources%20Overview%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf?T=10&LLL=0</p>

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Nicola McCann – Strategic Partnerships Advisor Telephone: 01352 702740 Cymraeg: 01267 224923 E-mail: nicola.mccann@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

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 by awarding grants to projects that make a sustainable impact 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</p>

<p>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>
--