

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 14 March 2022
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Corporate Performance and Resources
Report Title:	Grants to Charitable Organisations
Purpose of Report:	To seek Cabinet's approval to the awarding of grant funding to a range of charitable organisations as described in this report.
Report Owner:	Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources
Responsible Officer:	Interim Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Due to the corporate nature of this report, no ward member consultation has been undertaken.
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive Decision by Cabinet
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) was awarded £95,530 by Cabinet of the 15th April 2019 for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22. Following a review of the services and further discussions with GVS the Council is proposing to increase the allocation for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 by 2% to £97,441 per annum. • Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) was awarded £154,250 by Cabinet of the 15th April 2019 for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22. Following a review of the service and further discussions with CAB the Council is proposing to increase the allocation for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 by 2% to £157,335. In addition, the Council proposes an additional sum of £30k is allocated to CAB for 2022/23 to fund additional support required for citizens to reflect the current cost of living crisis. This additional support will be funded from the Welfare Reform reserve. • Menter Bro Morgannwg was awarded £17,000 by Cabinet 15th July 2019 for 2019/20, £34,000 in 2020/21 and 2021/22 and £17k in 2022/23. Following a review of the Council's Welsh Language Promotion Strategy and discussions on the partnership contribution by Menter Bro Morgannwg to the five-year action plan, the Council is proposing to increase the allocation for Menter Bro Morgannwg by 2% to £34,680 and to confirm a five-year agreement coterminous with the Promotion Strategy. An additional £10k is proposed to be provided to Menter Bro Morgannwg for 2022/23 to enable a range of additional activities to be piloted during the year.

Recommendations

1. That a grant be awarded to Cardiff and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) of £187,335 in 2022/23, £157,335 in 2023/24 and £157,335 in 2024/25.
2. That a grant be awarded to Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) of £97,441 in 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.
3. That the grant awarded to Menter Bro Morgannwg in 2022/23 be increased to £44,680 and £34,680 and be awarded in the years 2023/24-2026/27.
4. That delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services in consultation with the Head of Policy & Business Transformation to execute the relevant Deeds of Grant with GVS,CAB and Menter Bro Morgannwg.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To award monies to support Citizens Advice Bureau.
2. To award monies to support Glamorgan Voluntary Services.
3. To award monies to support Menter Bro Morgannwg.
4. To have appropriate agreements in place for the provision of services and support.

1. Background

- 1.1 There are still a small number of organisations for which the Council provides grant funding to support the core operations of the organisation, namely the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) and Menter Bro Morgannwg. The most recent funding award was made by Cabinet 15th April 2019 for GVS and CAB (C651) and 15th July 2019 (C32) to Menter Bro Morgannwg.
- 1.2 The Citizens Advice Bureau was awarded £154,250 by Cabinet 15th April 2019 for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.
- 1.3 Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) was awarded £95,530 by Cabinet 15th April 2019 for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.
- 1.4 Menter Bro Morgannwg was awarded £17,000 by Cabinet 15th July 2019 for 2019/20, £34,000 in 2020/21 and 2021/22 and £17k in 2022/23.
- 1.5 The Council has met with representatives of CAB and GVS and feel that it is important to offer the organisations the planning surety of three year awards. This will enable each organisation to plan and manage their service with a better understanding of the resources available. It was also noted as part of these conversations that neither organisation has received a funding increase since funding allocations were reset in 2008.
- 1.6 The Council has also met with representatives from Menter Bro Morgannwg to discuss the partnership working with that organisation in the delivery of the

Council's five-year Welsh Language Promotion Strategy (the duration of which is set out in the Welsh Language Standards). For this reason, it is proposed that for this award, a five-year agreement is agreed.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** Discussions have taken place with CAB and it is agreed that there is an ongoing increase in demand for their services in the context of the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic, and the associated economic consequences and the additional pressures on the service in the context of the cost of living crisis. In recognition of these pressures, it is proposed that in addition to the proposed 2% uplift in the award for 2022/23 and 2023/24 and 2024/25 a further allocation of £30k will be made for 2022/23 to be funded from the Welfare Reform Reserve. This will enable specific work to be undertaken to explore how the Council can work more collaboratively with CAB in further joining up services such as benefits, housing and money advice services with those offered by CAB and will provide additional capacity for CAB to provide advice to citizens of the Vale of Glamorgan.
- 2.2** Discussions have also been held with GVS and the Council recognises the key role the organisation is playing supporting and delivering voluntary services in the Vale of Glamorgan. The proposal to increase the allocation for a three-year award by 2% includes a recommendation that the current Deed of Grant is reviewed and updated during 2022/23 to apply for the three-year period of the grant award. The current Deed of Grant with GVS includes :
- Participation in relevant local and regional partnerships, partnership activities and joint working groups;
 - Raising the profile of volunteering throughout the Vale of Glamorgan including supporting awards schemes;
 - Provision of support services to voluntary and community sector organisations as identified by the sector and in accordance with best practice; and
 - Co-ordination of the voluntary sector involvement as a key strategic partner in the development, implementation, monitoring and review of key Vale of Glamorgan Council Strategies.
- 2.3** The opportunity has been taken to meet with representatives from Menter Bro Morgannwg who are a key partner organisation for the Council in the delivery of the Council's five-year Welsh Language Promotion Strategy. The current funding agreement does not run in complete financial years, and the proposal to Cabinet is to bring this in line with financial years. The Council is proposing to increase the allocation for Menter Bro Morgannwg by 2% to £34,680 and to confirm a five-year agreement coterminous with the Promotion Strategy. An additional £10k is proposed to be provided to Menter Bro Morgannwg for 2022/23 to enable a range of additional activities to be piloted during the year. These activities will progress new actions contained in the new action plan and will be evaluated during the year. The 2% increase would be funded from the corporate

grants budget, with the £10k funded from a reserved underspend in the same from a previous year.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** The proposals consider the long-term service delivery and sustainability arrangements for key services provided by the third sector within the Vale of Glamorgan and the potential impact that these services can have on citizens.
- 3.2** The awarding of this finance is consistent with the Council's vision as articulated in the Corporate Plan. Working with the third sector is a key consideration within the Council's transformational change programme, Reshaping.
- 3.3** The Council works collaboratively with the organisations referred to within this report to pursue our well-being objectives. The proposals set out in this report recognise the integration of our objectives with those of our partners. The nature of the relationships with these partners seeks to prevent future problems from arising. The activities undertaken in partnership that are funded by these proposals will seek to further involve citizens in the design and delivery of services, as well as in providing support to a range of our residents.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1** It is proposed that CAB receive £187,335 for 2022/23 and £157,335 in 2023/24 and 2024/25 which represents a 2% increase to the core allocation and a one off £30k award for 2022/23 to support the response to the cost of living crisis.
- 4.2** It is proposed that GVS receive £97,441 for each of the coming three financial years this represents a 2% increase to the grant allocation.
- 4.3** It is proposed that Menter Bro Morgannwg receive £44,680 in 2022/23 and £34,680 in the years 2023/24-2026/27 which reflects a 2% increase to the core allocation and a one off £10k award for 2022/23 to enable a pilot of a range of new actions associated with the five-year Welsh Language Promotion Strategy.
- 4.4** This funding for the core allocations for GVS, Menter Bro Morgannwg and CAB is available within the policy budget for the periods outlined in this report. The additional sum to CAB of £30k will be funded by a contribution from the Welfare Reform Reserve. The additional sum to Menter Bro Morgannwg for 2022/23 will be funded from an underspend in previous years, currently held in the Performance and Development reserve.

Employment

- 4.5** There are no direct employment implications for the Council as result of this report.

4.6 The guarantee of the funding arrangements will enable these organisations to continue to employ staff to undertake the services outlined in this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

4.7 As part of these proposals, a Deed of Grant will be required between the Council and each organisation, and a delegation is recommended to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to execute the relevant legal documents.

5. Background Papers

None.