

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 20 th April 2023
Report Subject	Flintshire Funds Impact Report 2022
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
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 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 Flintshire Funds Impact Report for 2022, which can be found attached as Appendix 1, and contains more detail on the funds progress and performance since this was last reported in March 2021. Please note that reporting on the funds became out of sequence as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and as such this report picks up a longer period of reporting than normal.

This report is accompanied by a presentation by the Community Foundation. A copy of the presentation can be found at Appendix 2 for information.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	CROSC consider the contents of the Flintshire Funds Impact Report 2022 and support the work of the Community Foundation Wales.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE FLINTSHIRE FUNDS IMPACT REPORT 2022
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 includes four representatives from Flintshire County Council – two Officer representatives and two Elected Members (refer to para 2.02). Each grant panel member serves for a minimum period of three years.
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.
1.04	Flintshire Community Endowment Fund 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.
1.05	The financial performance of the Fund continues to be strong with the value of the endowment having grown from £178,998 in 2013 to £264,831 as of March 2022.
1.06	Grants totalling £2,756.00 were awarded in 2020/2021 and £10,000 in 2021/2022. Ten grants were awarded in total – six in 2020/2021 and four in 2021/2022. Three grants were three-year commitments of £1,000 per year, so only the first years' monies are accounted for in this period of reporting.
1.07	Further information about these awards, along with an update on progress and performance of the fund, is provided in the Flintshire Funds Impact Report 2022 and accompanying presentation by Community Foundation Wales. These documents can be found as Appendix 1 and 2 of this report.
1.08	Flintshire Welsh Church Act Scheme 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. The Welsh Church Act Trust was established from the proceeds and assets, which were distributed evenly

	<p>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.</p>
1.09	<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. 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.</p>
1.10	<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>
1.11	<p>In 2020/21 one grant of £1,000 was awarded from the fund and in 2021/22 grants were awarded to six organisations totalling £6,000.</p> <p>The Fund has grown from £537,497 in 2018 to £710,019 in March 2022.</p> <p>Further information about these awards, along with an update on progress and performance of the fund, is provided in the Flintshire Funds Impact Report 2022 and accompanying presentation by Community Foundation Wales. These documents can be found as Appendix 1 and 2 of this report.</p>
1.12	<p>Additional Information</p> <p>The Community Foundation Wales offered crisis grants through the Hawarden District Relief in Need Fund.</p> <p>Grants made from this fund do not relate to a Flintshire County Council funding transfer. However, the Community Foundation Wales reports on this activity as the fund is relevant to Flintshire and all grants are made within the County. Appendix 1 lists all grants made in 2021/2022.</p>
1.13	<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>
1.14	<p>It is important to note that in April 2021 the Community Foundation Wales returned to 'business as usual' following the pandemic. This included a return to their usual schedule of funds and programmes opening and closing at set times of the year. Flintshire Funds panels are normally held in March / April and October / November annually.</p>

	<p>There was also a review of Flintshire Funds following the learning from the Community Foundation Wales ‘Loud and Clear’ report, published in September 2020. As a result, both the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund and the Flintshire WCAF will offer core funding, alongside project funding, on a multi-year cycle if the work to be funded meets the original objectives. Groups can also now apply for core funding for up to three years.</p>
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>The transfer of the management and administration of both the 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>
2.02	<p>Flintshire County Council representatives on the grants panel include two Elected Members. However, following changes during 2022, a replacement Elected Member for the Flintshire Funds grant panel is now being sought.</p>

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT										
3.01	<p>An integrated impact assessment is not required as this report is to provide an update on progress and performance and as such is for information.</p>										
3.02	<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>										
3.03	<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.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
4.01	Not applicable

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1: Final Flintshire Funds Impact Report 2022 by Community Foundation Wales
5.02	Appendix 2: Flintshire Funds presentation to CROSC April 2023

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Flintshire Community Endowment Fund - Annual Report was last reported to Scrutiny Committee in March 2021. A copy of the report and accompanying documents can be found online: https://committeemeetings.flintshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=141&MId=4839&Ver=4&LLL=0

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Nicola McCann – Strategic Partnerships Advisor Telephone: 01352 702740 E-mail: nicola.mccann@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS These are provided corporately on the Infonet (link) and maintained by the Executive Office
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 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>