

ISLE OF ANGLESEY CHARITABLE TRUST

COMMITTEE	ISLE OF ANGLESEY CHARITABLE TRUST
DATE	12 DECEMBER 2017
TITLE OF REPORT	Larger Grants Awarding Progress
PURPOSE OF REPORT	To agree the process for the awarding of large grants including determining the level of funding available and the process for monitoring grants awarded
REPORT BY	Treasurer – Isle of Anglesey Charitable Trust
ACTION	To resolve to accept the recommendations put forward by Officers of the Trust

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In 2016 and 2017, the Trust has awarded larger grants to organisations. In 2016, 4 organisations received support totalling £230,000. In 2017, a more formal process was followed with an open invitation extended to organisations to submit applications for assistance. In total, 31 applications were received and 12 organisations were successful, with grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 awarded, with £350,000 of grants awarded in total.
- 1.2. A report detailing the progress made in respect of each project is included as a separate item on this Committee's agenda.

2. CONTINUATION OF AWARDING LARGER GRANTS

- 2.1. The purpose of the Trust is to use the fund to the benefit of the people of Anglesey in accordance with the objectives of the Trust. The awarding of the larger grants has contributed to achieving this objective, however, it could be argued that this method of distributing the funds is not a strategic way of allocating funds and may not result in the greatest benefit to the residents of Anglesey, i.e. applications are assessed on their individual merits and whether they meet the Trust's criteria rather than on how they integrate to meet a wider strategic objective for the Trust.
- 2.2. The current Trust cannot employ its own staff and, as a result, there is a limit on what can be achieved and distributing grants in this way is probably the best the Trust can achieve given the current resources. Moving to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) will allow the Trust to reconsider how it uses its funds to achieve the greatest benefit to the people of Anglesey.
- 2.3. It is, therefore, proposed that the large grants process is followed again in 2018 and is subject to review by the CIO as to whether the awarding of larger grants continues thereafter.

3. FUNDING LARGER GRANTS

- 3.1. The Investments and Contracts Committee met on 7 November 2017 and, following consideration of the performance of the investment portfolio over the preceding 12 months and after consideration of the risks and the need to maintain the value of the fund at a level that generated sufficient annual income, the Committee recommended that the sum to be made available for larger grants should remain at the 2017 level i.e. £350,000.

4. APPLICATION PROCESS FOR LARGER GRANTS

- 4.1. The application process in 2017 worked well, with a high number of applications received following advertisements placed in local newspapers and also the widespread use of social media (Twitter and Facebook) and by using the Council's own website to advertise the opportunity.
- 4.2. The application process ran from mid December 2016 to 31 January 2017, with applications being considered by the Regeneration Committee in February 2017 and ratified by the full Trust on 18 April 2017.
- 4.3. Given that this process worked well, it is proposed that it works in the same way in 2018.

5. QUALIFYING CRITERIA

- 5.1. At its meeting on 13 September 2016, the Trust resolved that:-
 - an organisation can make applications for assistance with running costs but the organisation must be able to clearly demonstrate in their application how the organisation will ensure the future financial viability of the project once the funding from the Trust ceases;
 - an organisation that has previously received a small grant can apply for a larger grant but an organisation cannot receive a small grant and a large grant in two consecutive years and that only one small grant and one large grant will be awarded in any rolling five year period.
- 5.2. Requests have been received from applicants who received funding in 2017 as to whether they can make a further application in 2018.
- 5.3. As the purpose of the Trust is to use the funds to benefit the residents of Anglesey, it would be difficult to justify not allowing organisations to apply for grants, particularly if all the allocated funds were not utilised. It is, therefore, proposed that organisations who previously received funding within the last five years can submit applications but priority will be given to applications from organisations who have not previously received funding.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1. The Trust is asked to approve the following recommendations:-
 1. That larger grants are allocated again in 2018 and that CIO, once set up, reviews whether awarding larger grants continues from 2019 onwards.
 2. That the sum of £350,000, as recommended by the Investments and Contracts Committee, is allocated to fund the larger grants in 2018.
 3. That applications are invited immediately with a closing date for applications being 31 January 2018.
 4. That applications received are considered by the Regeneration Committee at its meeting on 14 February 2018 with the recommendations of this Committee being considered by the Full Trust on 17 April 2018.
 5. That applications can be made by organisations who have received funding within the previous five years but that these will only be considered once all other applications have been considered and that funding is still available.