



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

19th January 2022

WELSH CHURCH ACT FUND ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES

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1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report is to ensure the Council complies with the requirements relating to the production and approval of an Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Welsh Church Act Fund for the financial year ended 31st March 2021.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Members:

- (a) Approve and note the Welsh Church Act Fund Annual Report and Financial Statements for the financial year 2020/2021 (Appendix 1);
- (b) Approve and note the Letter of Representation relating to the Welsh Church Act Fund (Appendix 2); and
- (c) Consider the External Auditor report (Appendix 3).

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council has administrative responsibility for the production of the Welsh Church Act Fund Annual Report and Financial Statements.
- 3.2 The draft financial statements were provided to Audit Wales on 17th November 2021.
- 3.3 The intervening period has seen the completion of the audit of the Financial Statements by Audit Wales and they are now in a position to provide their opinion on them as presenting a true and fair view. During the audit process a small number of amendments were necessary and these are incorporated into the Financial Statements at Appendix 1. The Audit Wales report is attached for Members consideration at Appendix 3.
- 3.4 It is normal practice for Audit Wales to request that the Responsible Finance Officer provides a “Letter of Representation”, which highlights material issues relating to the completeness and/or accuracy of the information included in the Financial Statements and could, therefore, influence the audit opinion. This is to ensure that the Financial Statements properly reflect the Fund’s financial standing and is consistent with the approach taken by Audit Wales in prior years.
- 3.5 The Letter of Representation for the Welsh Church Act Fund is provided at Appendix 2.

4.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 4.1 The report satisfies the legal requirement for the approval of the Welsh Church Act Fund’s Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. As a result, there are no equality and diversity or socio-economic duty implications to report.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 There are no consultation requirements emanating from the recommendations set out in the report.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

7.1 The report ensures the Council complies with the legal requirements contained in the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008 No 629) and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice 2019 (FRS102).

8.0 LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

8.1 The report supports the Well-being of Future Generations Act in particular 'a Wales of cohesive communities' through the financial support it offers to community based groups within the areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend Councils.

9.0 CONCLUSION

9.1 The completion of the audit of the Welsh Church Act Fund Financial Statements provides Members, in their role as trustees, with the necessary assurances upon the financial affairs of the Fund.
