



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020-2021

COUNCIL

16th December 2020

WELSH CHURCH ACT FUND ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES

Author : Barrie Davies (01443) 424026

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 2020.

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 2019/2020 (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 26th October 2020.
- 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

- 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, no Equality Impact Assessment is required for the purposes of this 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.

**The Welsh Church Act Fund within
the areas of
Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend
and Merthyr Tydfil
County Borough Councils**

**ANNUAL REPORT
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
2019/20**

Registered Charity no. 506658

Annual Report 2019/20

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Report of the Trustee for the Year Ended 31st March 2020

Duty to Prepare Annual Reports and Accounts

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, as trustee, is responsible for the preparation of the Annual Report and Accounts for the Welsh Church Act Fund.

The trustee presents its report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2020. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance 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).

Legal and Administrative Information

Name of Charity

The Welsh Church Act Fund within the areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils.

Charity Number

506658

Governing Document

Trust Deed

Trustee

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, as a corporate body, is the trustee of the Welsh Church Act Fund.

Method of Appointment

Upon becoming a Member of the Council, Councillors become a trustee of the Fund.

Chief Executive

Chris Bradshaw

Principal Office

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Oldway Hse, Porth St, Porth, Rhondda Cynon Taf, CF39 9DL.

Auditors

Audit Wales, 24 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF11 9LJ.

Bankers

Barclays Bank, Pontypridd Business Centre, South Wales Valleys Group of Branches, PO Box No 32, Pontypridd, CF37 4YA.

COIFs (Charities Official Investment Fund)

Managed by CCLA (Churches Charities and Local Authorities) Investment Management Ltd., Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4ET.

Solicitors

Legal and Democratic Services, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, Rhondda Cynon Taf, CF40 2XX.

Investment Managers

There is no contract with any advisor and no annual fees are charged however, advice is sought on an ad-hoc basis.

Narrative Information

Constitution and Objectives

Lloyd George, under the provisions of the 1914 and 1919 Welsh Churches Acts, established the Welsh Church Act Fund. These two acts transferred certain categories of secularised property to a Welsh Church Act Fund to be administered by the County Councils, however, these funds were not activated until 1942-47, when property to the value of almost £2.5m was handed over to the County Councils.

The Welsh Churches Acts state that income of the funds should be devoted to charitable or alms giving purposes and that each Council is required to prepare a scheme for the use of the fund.

The Welsh Church Act Fund within the areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils still operates under the constitution of the Mid Glamorgan Welsh Church Act Fund. The original trust deed is dated 9th January 1976 and the registered charity number is 506658.

The charitable purposes to which the fund may be applied are:

- Educational
- Relief in sickness
- Relief in need
- Libraries, Museums, Art Galleries, etc.
- Social and recreational
- Protection of historical buildings, etc.
- Medical and social research, treatment, etc.
- Probation, etc.
- Blind persons
- Aged persons
- Places of worship and burial grounds
- Emergencies or disasters
- Other charitable purposes

These purposes are consistent with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Organisation

All the Councillors of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC act as trustee of the Welsh Church Act Fund. As the Fund covers the areas of Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil as well as Rhondda Cynon Taf, the trustee consults with representatives from these County Borough Councils on successful applications within their localities.

The charity trustee has complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Related Parties

A related party transaction is one where the charity has a relationship with another party, which might inhibit it from pursuing its own separate interests. It is considered that Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Bridgend CBC and Merthyr Tydfil CBC and all Trustees of the Fund have related party relationships with the charity. Transactions with related parties are disclosed in Note 4 to the Statement of Financial Activities.

Grant Making Policy

Organisations are invited to submit applications together with estimates, accounts and constitutions. One or more of the purposes mentioned previously will cover successful applicants. There are specific restrictions applied around these general categories which are as follows:

1. Students are not eligible as it is considered that the County Borough Council's education policy already covers the most worthwhile cases.
2. Individual cases of relief in sickness will be referred to by the County Borough Council's Community & Children's Services Group.
3. Individual cases of relief in need will be refused, as any provision in this area should be the responsibility of the Department for Work and Pensions. However, applications from organisations working towards relief in need will be considered on their merits.
4. No grant will be made towards clubs with a liquor licence.
5. No grants will be made toward projects operating outside the areas of Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf.
6. Applications will be considered from organisations based outside the areas of Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf provided that the work of the organisation has local significance.
7. Grants towards works of a structural nature will only be considered in those instances where it is evidenced that a professional assessment has been made of the necessary works. Payment of such grants will be made only on evidence of completion or substantial completion of the work.

8. To be eligible, organisations providing hobby activities for their members should provide their facilities to the public at large. Any assistance given will be towards project expenditure of a capital nature. Normal running expenses will not be supported.
9. Welsh Church Act Fund grants will only be paid where the applicant does not have resources to hand.
10. Welsh Church Act Fund grant limits during 2019/20 were:

Grants under £2,000 did not require match funding, grants exceeding £2,000 required a minimum of 10% match funding and grants exceeding £10,000 required a minimum of 20% match funding from non-Welsh Church Fund sources. Maximum grant available was £50,000.

Details of the Grant Making Process

Recommendations for grant awards are made by officers in an Assessment Round Report, which is considered at special meetings regularly throughout the year on approximately a monthly basis. All decisions made are approved by the Funding Implementation Manager in consultation with the Cabinet Member and following consultation with Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils.

Review of Financial Activities

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year is set out on page 12. A summary of the financial results are set out below:

Investment income during the year totalled £427k (£330k in 2018/19). Expenditure on charitable activities totalled £797k (£369k in 2018/19), and governance costs of £6k were incurred (£11k in 2018/19). Net resources expended less incoming resources amounted to a deficit of £376k (Net resources expended less incoming resources amounted to a deficit £50k in 2018/19).

Net losses on investment totalled £207k for the year (net gain of £517k in 2018/19).

Investment Policy and Performance against Policy

The Trust Deed governs the trustee's investment powers. This permits the Charity's funds to be invested in any authorised security listed on the London Stock Exchange. The trustee has complied with this policy during 2019/20.

The investment strategy of the Fund is to balance risk with optimum investment income by subjecting the capital value to minimum risk while ensuring at the same time that investment income is sufficient to pay for approved grants.

Achievements and Performance

In line with the charity's objectives, grants of £797k were awarded in 2019/20. Further details are given in Note 2 to the Statement of Financial Activities.

Risk Management

The trustee is made aware of any issues with possible detrimental effects upon the Fund as they arise. There were no such issues during 2019/20.

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the Host Authority's Corporate Governance policies such as Financial Procedure Rules, Contract Procedure Rules, Codes of Conduct and Scheme of Delegation. The trustee is aware that investment values can decrease as well as increase.

Statement of the Trustee's Responsibilities

The trustee is responsible for preparing the Trustee's Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustee is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustee is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on its website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

By order of the Trustee

Signed:

On behalf of the Trustee.....

The independent auditor's report of the Auditor General for Wales to the trustee of the Welsh Church Act Fund within the areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Welsh Church Act Fund within the areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils for the year ended 31st March 2020 under the Charities Act 2011. These comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at 31st March 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing in the UK (ISAs (UK)). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I am independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require me to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Report on other requirements

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. The trustee is responsible for the other information in the annual report and accounts. My opinion on the financial statements

does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by me in the course of performing the audit. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies I consider the implications for my report.

Matters on which I report by exception

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require me to report to you if, in my opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report;
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit.

Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the trustee for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the statement of trustee responsibilities set out on page 8 of the financial statements, the trustee is responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustee is responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless deemed inappropriate.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

I have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

Richard Harries
On behalf of the Auditor General for Wales
[Date]

24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	
		2019/20 £'000	2018/19 £'000
<u>Income and Endowments from:</u>			
Investments	1	427	330
Total Income and Endowments		427	330
<u>Expenditure on:</u>			
Charitable Activities	2	(797)	(369)
Other	3	(6)	(11)
Total Expenditure		(803)	(380)
Net Gains/(Losses) on Investments		(207)	517
Net Income/(Expenditure)		(583)	467
<u>Net Movement in funds</u>		(583)	467
<u>Reconciliation of Funds</u>			
Total Funds Brought Forward at 1 st April		12,720	12,253
Total Funds Carried Forward at 31st March		12,137	12,720

The notes contained on pages 17 - 20 form part of these Accounts.

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2020

	Note	31/03/20	31/03/19
		£'000	£'000
<u>Fixed Assets Investments</u>			
Long Term Assets	1	12,070	12,277
		12,070	12,277
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Debtors	2	105	102
Cash at Bank		664	715
		769	817
<u>Current Liabilities</u>			
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	3	(702)	(374)
Net Current Assets		67	443
Total Net Assets		12,137	12,720
Represented By:			
<u>Fund Balance – Unrestricted Funds</u>			
Revaluation Reserve		5,182	5,389
Fund Balance		6,955	7,331
Total Unrestricted Funds		12,137	12,720

The notes contained on pages 21-22 form part of these Accounts.

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31st March 2020

	Note	2019/20	2018/19
		£'000	£'000
<u>Cash Flows from Operating Activities:</u>			
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities	1	(456)	(316)
<u>Cash Flows from Investing Activities:</u>			
Dividends, Interest and Rents from Investments		405	319
Cost of Purchase of Units		(0)	(3,000)
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Investing Activities		405	(2,681)
<u>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</u>			
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Financing Activities		0	0
Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents in the Reporting Period		(51)	(2,997)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Reporting Period		715	3,712
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Reporting Period		664	715

The notes contained on page 23 form part of these Accounts.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Barrie Davies
Director of Finance and Digital Services
 Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
 Oldway House
 Porth Street,
 Porth, CF39 9ST

Accounting Policies

Accounting Policies are the principles, bases, conventions and rules by which transactions are recognised, measured and presented in the accounts.

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investments at market value and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the legal requirements contained in the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102) except where stated otherwise.

Incoming Resources Policy

Income is credited to the fund in the year to which it relates regardless of when the income is actually received.

Resources Expended Policy

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis i.e. charged to the year to which it relates regardless of when the expenditure is made.

Grants Payable Policy

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is conveyed to the recipient. Unused grants are written back when written confirmation is provided stating that funding is no longer required.

Management and Administration Policy

The allocation of Central Support Services costs to the Fund is based upon an estimate of the time spent by employees of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC in undertaking work associated with the Fund.

Investment Properties

Investment properties are recorded in the accounts at the most recent valuation of market value. Any difference in value arising out of the periodic revaluations will be charged/credited to the Revaluation Reserve. The most recent valuation was at 25th March

2015 and was carried out by the Valuation Office Agency. In accordance with FRS 102, investment properties are not depreciated.

Fixed Asset Investments (Other Than Property)

Long Term Investments are recorded in the accounts at current market value. Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, as Host Authority, administers investments on behalf of the Fund. The Treasury Management Policy statement of the Host Authority governs all such transactions.

Any unrealised and realised gains and losses on revaluation and disposal are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Fund Structure

All funds are unrestricted.

Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

The trustee has not received any remuneration or expenses in the year 2019/20.

Policy on Reserves

Reserves are unrestricted and held for the future use of the Fund for the purposes specified in the Trust Deed. The balance is made up of a Revaluation Reserve of £5.18m and a Fund Balance of £6.95m

Policy on Investments of Cash

Cash is sums of money available for immediate use by the Welsh Church Fund. Such items are deemed to be cash balances held in the Fund's bank accounts (less unrepresented cheques). The Welsh Church Fund does not hold Cash in Hand.

Policy on Debtors and Creditors

Debtors are amounts recoverable, based on the amount the Charity anticipates it will receive. There is no bad debt provision included within the Statements. Creditors are amounts due from the Welsh Church Act Fund.

Policy on Going Concern

The trustee is responsible for keeping proper accounting records and produce financial statements that comply with the provisions of the trust deed. The Fund is therefore prepared on the basis of a going concern.

Notes to the Statement of Financial Activities**1. Investment Income**

	2019/20 £'000	2018/19 £'000
Bank Interest	5	23
Interest on Investments	422	307
Total	427	330

2. Charitable Activities

During 2019/20 the Fund awarded total grants amounting to £798,410. Those organisations awarded grants equal to or greater than £2,000 are detailed below:

Organisation	Amount
	£
Cwmparc Community Association, Cwmparc	(2,000.00)
Hope Church, Merthyr	(2,408.80)
St Matthews Church, Treorchy	(2,550.00)
Bethany English Baptist Church, Pwllgwaun	(2,792.88)
St Mary & the Holy Innocents Church, Merthyr Tydfil	(3,879.55)
St Bride's Minor Church, Bridgend	(4,104.00)
St Catherine's Church Connect Café, Pontypridd	(4,252.00)
Zion Methodist Church, Newton, Mountain Ash	(4,522.50)
Old Newtonians Ringers, Bridgend	(4,696.00)
Green Street Methodist Church, Aberdare	(5,003.00)
Darranlas Environmental Group, Mountain Ash	(5,022.00)
Cylch Meithrin Seren Fach, Mountain Ash	(5,081.54)
Y Centre, Porthcawl YMCA, Porthcawl	(5,081.67)
Blaenllechau Youth Project, Blaenllechau	(5,109.80)
Llanfair Uniting Church, Penrhys	(6,000.00)
Cylch Meithrin Seren Fach, Mountain Ash	(6,226.19)
St John's Church, Parish of Porth Newydd, Porth	(6,312.25)
New Life Community Church, Tonyrefail	(6,410.50)
St David's Church, Pencoed	(6,605.91)
Maerdy Archives - Welcome Dram, Maerdy	(6,842.37)
Canolfan Pentre CIO, Pentre	(6,931.44)
MTIB Merthyr Tydfil Institute for the Blind, Merthyr Tydfil	(7,962.60)
Rhondda Lawn Tennis Club, Treorchy	(8,271.52)
Menter Iaith Rhondda Cynon Taf, Porth	(8,294.00)
St Catherines Church, Pontypridd	(9,000.00)
St Illtyd's Church, Dowlais, Merthyr Tydfil	(9,000.00)
Taff Bargoed Development Trust Ltd, Merthyr Tydfil	(9,000.00)

Tabernacle Baptist, Porth	(9,274.00)
Carmel Welsh Congregational Chapel, Treherbert	(10,000.00)
Eglwys y Bedyddwyr Blaenycwm, Blaenycwm	(10,000.00)
Hope Baptist Church, Bridgend	(10,000.00)
Hope Rescue, Llanharan	(10,000.00)
Llanharan Community Development Project Ltd, Llanharan	(10,000.00)
Nantgarw China Works, Nantgarw	(10,000.00)
Oasis Church (Elim Pentecostal), Tonypany	(10,000.00)
St Cynwyd's Parish Church, Maesteg	(10,000.00)
St Georges Church, Cwmparc	(10,000.00)
St Iliid & St Curig Church, Llanilid, Pencoed	(10,000.00)
St Illtud's Church, Church Village	(10,000.00)
St Illtyd's Church, Tonypany	(10,000.00)
St John's Church, Graig, Pontypridd	(10,000.00)
St Mary's RC Church, Merthyr Tydfil	(10,000.00)
The Rock Community Church, Gilfach Goch	(10,000.00)
Penydarren Boys & Girls Club, Merthyr Tydfil	(23,880.00)
Canolfan a Menter Gymraeg Merthyr Tydfil, Merthyr Tydfil	(25,777.60)
Hirwaun YMCA, Hirwaun	(27,966.66)
ASD Rainbows, Perthcelyn	(33,854.40)
Brynna Community Centre, Brynna	(38,134.80)
Bryniau Sports Ltd, Merthyr Tydfil	(42,814.60)
Llantrisant Guildhall CIO, Llantrisant	(43,919.84)
Bryncynon Community Revival Strategy, Mountain Ash	(45,778.48)
Cambrian Village Trust, Clydach	(50,000.00)
Freeschool Court Evangelical Church, Bridgend	(50,000.00)
Friends of Aberdare Park, Aberdare	(50,000.00)
St Elvan's Church, Aberdare	(50,000.00)
Subtotal of grants equal to or greater than £2,000 (55 in number)	(794,760.90)
Grants less than £2,000 (2 in number)	(3,648.94)
Total grants payable for 2019/20 (57 in number)	(798,409.84)
Grants written back to the Fund	40,682.50
Accounting and Technical Support	(38,959.85)
Total Charitable Activities as per SOFA	(796,687.19)

The Welsh Church Fund only awards grants to institutions.

The following table gives a summary analysis of grants awarded by the nature of the project during 2019/20:

Analysis	Total Amount of Grant Awarded	Total Number of Grants
	£	
Social and recreational	(351,464.57)	16
Other charitable purposes	(89,060.04)	9
Places of worship	(303,965.39)	30
Libraries, Museums and Art Galleries	(53,919.84)	2
Total	(798,409.84)	57

3. Other Costs

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Audit Fees	(6)	(6)
Consultants Fees	(0)	(5)
Total	(6)	(11)

4. Related Party Transactions

4.1 Related Transactions with Administrating Authority

Organisation	Nature of Interest	Welsh Church Act Fund Transactions with Organisation			
		Net Value (£'000)		Balance Outstanding as at 31st March 2020 (£'000)	
		Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts
Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC	Corporate Finance Recharge	(39)	0	0	0
Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC	Interest Receivable	0	5	0	5
Total		(39)	5	0	5

4.2 Related Transactions with Members of the Council

During 2019/20, six Members identified an interest in six organisations that have been awarded a grant from the Fund.

Organisation	Members Relationship	Amount Awarded		Outstanding Amount	
		2019/20	2018/19	31/03/20	31/03/19
Llantrisant Guildhall CIO	Trustee	43,920	0	0*	0
Darranlas Environmental Group Ltd	Director	5,022	0	0	0
Cambrian Village Trust	Director	50,000	0	37,050	0
Eglwys y Bedyddwyr Blaenycwm,	Secretary	10,000	0	10,000	0
Trecynon Free Library & Institute	Chair	0	4,798	0**	4,798
Cor Meibion Abercynon	Vice-President	0	2,000	0	2,000
Tenovus Cancer Care	Policy Officer	0	1,800	0	0
Nos Galan Committee	Member (x2)	0	1,860	0	0
Friends of Aberdare Park	Trustee	50,000	0	50,000	0
Llanharan Community Development Project Ltd	Trustee	10,000	0	2,500	0

* In 2019/20 Llantrisant Guildhall CIO was paid £38,068 with £5,852 written back in year.

**Trecynon Free Library & Institute was paid £3,797 with £1,000 written back in year.

Notes to the Balance Sheet

1. Fixed Asset Investments

1.1 Analysis of Movement in Investments

An analysis of the fixed assets held as investments for the charity is provided below:

	Land £'000	Securities £'000	Totals £'000
1 st April 2019	33	12,244	12,277
Net Deficit on Revaluation	0	(207)	(207)
Market Value at 31st March 2020	33	12,037	12,070

1.2 Investment Securities Analysis

	31/03/20 £'000	31/03/19 £'000
Government Stock	462	469
Charities Official Investment Fund	6,705	6,924
Charities Official Fixed Interest Fund	4,870	4,851
Total Market Value	12,037	12,244
Historical Cost as at 31 st March 2020	7,289	7,289

2. Debtors

An analysis of debtors as at 31st March 2020 is provided below:

	31/03/20 £'000	31/03/19 £'000
Amounts due from RCT CBC	5	23
Accrued Interest on Investments	100	79
Total	105	102

2.1 Accrued Interest relates to investment income relating to 2019/20 paid in 2020/21. It is made up as follows:

	£'000
COIF Fixed Interest Fund	40
COIF Investment Fund	56
2 ½ % Index Linked 2024	4
Total	100

3. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

An analysis of creditors as at 31st March 2020 is as follows:

	31/03/20	31/03/19
	£'000	£'000
Miscellaneous Charitable Organisations	(643)	(350)
Audit Wales – fee accrual	(19)	(13)
Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC	(40)	(6)
Consultants Fee	0	(5)
Total	(702)	(374)

- 3.1** The monies owing to miscellaneous charitable organisations are grants awarded which remain unpaid at the end of the financial year. These total £643k.
- 3.2** The Welsh Church Act Fund owed Audit Wales £19k at the end of the financial year.

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement**1. Reconciliation of Net Income/(Expenditure) to Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities**

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Net Income/(Expenditure) as per the Statement of Financial Activities	(583)	467
Adjustments for:		
(Gains)/Losses on Investments	207	(517)
Dividends, Interest and Rents from Investments	(427)	(330)
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	19	27
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	328	37
Net Cash Provided by (used in) Operating Activities	(456)	(316)

Appendix 2

Date/Dyddiad:
16th December 2020

Please ask for/Gofynnwch am:
Barrie Davies
(01443) 424026

Wales Audit Office
24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ

Dear Richard

Representations regarding the 2019/20 financial statements for the Welsh Church Act Fund within the Areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils

This letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of the Welsh Church Act Fund for the Areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils for the year ended 31st March 2020 for the purpose of expressing an opinion on their truth and fairness and their proper preparation.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made enquiries as we consider sufficient, we can make the following representations to you.

Management Representations

Responsibilities:

We have fulfilled our responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with legislative requirements and the Charities SORP; in particular, the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance therewith. We have fulfilled our responsibilities for the design, implementation, maintenance and review of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error.

Information Provided:

We have provided you with:

- Full access to:
 - all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as books of account and supporting documentation, minutes of meetings and other matters;
 - additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
 - unrestricted access to staff from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- The results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- Our knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (as Trustee of the Fund) and involves:
 - management;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- Our knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, regulators or others.
- Our knowledge of all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
- The identity of all related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.
- Any other matters that the auditor may consider necessary.

Financial Statement representations:

All transactions, assets and liabilities have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.

Significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed.

All events occurring subsequent to the reporting date which require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted for or disclosed.

All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to the auditor and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions. All misstatements have been corrected both material and those below materiality thresholds.

Representations by the Trustee of the Welsh Church Acts Fund within the areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils.

We acknowledge that the representations made by management, above, have been discussed with us.

We acknowledge our responsibility for the preparation of true and fair financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. The financial statements of the Welsh Church Act Fund for the Areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils were approved by full Council of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council on 16th December 2020.

We confirm that we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to you. We confirm that, as far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which you are unaware.

Signed by

Director of Finance and Digital Services
(Section 151 Officer)

Leading Member

Date

Date

Audit of Accounts Report – The Welsh Church Act Fund within the areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils

Audit year: 2019-20

Date issued: December 2020

Document reference: 2191A2020-21

This document has been prepared as part of work performed in accordance with statutory functions.

In the event of receiving a request for information to which this document may be relevant, attention is drawn to the Code of Practice issued under section 45 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The section 45 code sets out the practice in the handling of requests that is expected of public authorities, including consultation with relevant third parties. In relation to this document, the Auditor General for Wales and the Wales Audit Office are relevant third parties. Any enquiries regarding disclosure or re-use of this document should be sent to Audit Wales at infoofficer@audit.wales.

We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Contents

We intend to issue an unqualified audit report on your Accounts. There are some issues to report to you prior to their approval.

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Audit of Accounts Report

Introduction

- 1 We summarise the main findings from our audit of your 2019-20 annual report and accounts in this report.
- 2 We have already discussed these issues with the relevant officers.
- 3 Auditors can never give complete assurance that accounts are correctly stated. Instead, we work to a level of 'materiality'. This level of materiality is set to try to identify and correct misstatements that might otherwise cause a user of the accounts into being misled.
- 4 We set this level at £241,400 for this year's audit.
- 5 There are some areas of the accounts that may be of more importance to the reader and we have set a lower materiality level for these, as follows:
 - Related Parties £1,000
- 6 We have now substantially completed this year's audit.
- 7 In our professional view, we have complied with the ethical standards that apply to our work; remain independent of yourselves; and, our objectivity has not been compromised in any way. There are no relationships between ourselves and yourselves that we believe could undermine our objectivity and independence.

Impact of COVID-19 on this Year's Audit

- 8 The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on all aspects of our society and continues to do so. You are required by law to prepare accounts and it is of considerable testament to the commitment of your accounts team that you have succeeded in doing so this year in the face of the challenges posed by this pandemic. We are extremely grateful to the professionalism of the team in supporting us to complete our audit in such difficult circumstances.
- 9 The pandemic has unsurprisingly affected our audit and we summarise in **Exhibit 1** the main impacts. Other than where we specifically make recommendations, the detail in **Exhibit 1** is provided for information purposes only to help you understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on this year's audit process.

Exhibit 1 – impact of COVID-19 on this year's audit

Electronic signatures	All signatures on the financial statements are expected to be made electronically.
Audit evidence	All evidence required to complete the audit has been received electronically, and all discussions with officers have been held through video conferencing software.

- 10 We will be reviewing what we have learned for our audit process from the COVID-19 pandemic and whether there are innovative practices that we might adopt in the future to enhance that process.

Proposed audit opinion

- 11 We intend to issue an unqualified audit opinion on this year's accounts once you have provided us with a Letter of Representation based on that set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 12 We issue a 'qualified' audit opinion where we have material concerns about some aspects of your accounts; otherwise we issue an unqualified opinion.
- 13 The Letter of Representation contains certain confirmations we are required to obtain from you under auditing standards.
- 14 Our proposed audit report is set out in **Appendix 2**.

Significant issues arising from the audit

Uncorrected misstatements

- 15 There are no misstatements identified in the accounts, which remain uncorrected.

Corrected misstatements

- 16 There were initially misstatements in the accounts that have now been corrected by management.
- 17 The disclosures for related party transactions in the draft financial statements were incomplete. Although the disclosures have now been revised, this is the second consecutive year when issues have been identified with related party disclosures and therefore we recommend that the Council continues to review and improve the reporting process to ensure that future disclosures are complete and made in accordance with the Charities SORP.

- 18 The draft financial statements included an £81,000 asset (a suspense account) which had not been allocated. During the audit process it was identified that this related to a cash balance and this has been corrected in the final draft of the financial statements.

Other significant issues arising from the audit

- 19 In the course of the audit, we consider a number of matters relating to the accounts and report any significant issues arising to you. There were no issues arising in these areas this year.

Appendix 1

Final Letter of Representation

Auditor General for Wales
Audit Wales
24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ

[Date]

Representations regarding the 2019-20 financial statements

This letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements (including that part of the Remuneration Report that is subject to audit) of The Welsh Church Act Fund within the areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils for the year ended 31 March 2020 for the purpose of expressing an opinion on their truth and fairness and their proper preparation.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made enquiries as we consider sufficient, we can make the following representations to you.

Management representations

Responsibilities

We have fulfilled our responsibilities for:

- the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with legislative requirements and the Charities SoRP; in particular the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance therewith; and
- the design, implementation, maintenance and review of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error.

Information provided

We have provided you with:

- Full access to:
 - all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as books of account and supporting documentation, minutes of meetings and other matters;
 - additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and

- unrestricted access to staff from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- The results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- Our knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects The Welsh Church Act Fund within the areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils and involves:
 - management;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- Our knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, regulators or others.
- Our knowledge of all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
- The identity of all related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

Financial statement representations

All transactions, assets and liabilities have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.

Significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed.

All events occurring subsequent to the reporting date which require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted for or disclosed.

All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to the auditor and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions. The effects of uncorrected misstatements identified during the audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole. A summary of these items is set out below:

Representations by the Trustee of The Welsh Church Act Fund within the areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils

We acknowledge that the representations made by management, above, have been discussed with us.

We acknowledge our responsibility for the preparation of true and fair financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. The financial statements were approved by The Welsh Church Act Fund within the areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils on 16 December 2020.

We confirm that we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to you. We confirm that, as far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which you are unaware.

Signed by:

[Officer who signs on behalf of management]

Date:

Signed by:

[Officer or Member who signs on behalf of those charged with governance]

Date:

Appendix 2

Proposed Audit Report

The independent auditor's report of the Auditor General for Wales to the trustee of The Welsh Church Act Fund within the areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of The Welsh Church Act Fund within the areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils for the year ended 31 March 2020 under the Charities Act 2011. These comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at 31 March 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing in the UK (ISAs (UK)). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I am independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require me to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Report on other requirements

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. The trustee is responsible for the other information in the annual report and accounts. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by me in the course of performing the audit. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies, I consider the implications for my report.

Matters on which I report by exception

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require me to report to you if, in my opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report;
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit.

Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the trustee for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the statement of trustee's responsibilities set out on page 8 of the financial statements, the trustee is responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustee is responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless deemed inappropriate.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

I have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

Richard Harries
On behalf of the Auditor General for Wales
[Date]

24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ



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Website: www.audit.wales

We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English.
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg.