

GRANT FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN CHURCH BUILDINGS

Grant funding for Church Buildings (e.g. HLF, Cadw, The Big Lottery, ERDF), comes with a variety of stringent conditions. Often these will have an influence on the structures that need to be created to receive grant and often the Representative Body is asked to countersign applications as owner of the building.

Early consultation with the Representative Body is needed when considering a grant application that it will have to countersign. The extent to which the Representative Body would be liable for repayment of the grant in the event of any failure to meet grant conditions is a key consideration. The Representative Body should be consulted at least 3 months before any application deadline.

Usually, grants from the HLF, Cadw and The Big Lottery allow the PCC/Representative Body to receive funding directly and to retain management, subject to the setting up of a user group. ERDF grants can be more complex.

The following is a list of questions the Representative Body will consider in assessing a grant application for counter-signature:

1. Under what circumstances could the grant be repayable? What is the likelihood of this occurring? Grants are often repayable if the applicant ceases to occupy the building within 10 years. In these cases, an assurance is sought from the Churches and Pastoral Committee that the church is part of the mission plan for at least 10 years.
2. What mechanism is proposed for managing the property? Will control of the building remain with the PCC in accordance with the Constitution of the Church in Wales or will secular (third party) control of the project be required by the grant body?
3. If secular control is required, what is the constitution of the group to be set up to accept the funds? What will be the nature of the group - a charity, or a company limited by guarantee?
4. Who will any grant be payable to?
5. If management of all or part of the building will no longer remain with the PCC, a lease will need to be granted at 'best value', but reflecting any reserved use of

the property by church groups. This will also apply if any organisation will have exclusive possession of the building.

6. What is the level of administrative support available to the project?
7. Will the target conditions set under the grant offer be achievable?

Approved by Churches Sub-committee 28th September 2005