

Leighton Andrews AC/AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Adfywio
Deputy Minister for Regeneration



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MB/BG/0379/09

Mark Isherwood AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff.
CF99 1NA

£ July 2009

Dear Mark,

I have been asked to reply to the questions you raised at Plenary on the 7th June in relation to the review of the Welsh Assembly Government's Community Facilities and Activities Programme (CFAP).

I wrote to all Assembly Members in January and December 2008 advising them of changes that were being made to the Programme. My officials wrote to all the County Voluntary Councils informing them of the intention to review the criteria for the programme.

My original intention, as stated in my letter in January 2008, was that the review of the programme would be completed by July 2008. However, I delayed completion of the review as I wanted it to take into account the discussions that were starting to take place, at that time, on the development of the new Community Asset Transfer Fund (CAT). The two Funds are similar in nature so I have been awaiting the final eligibility criteria on the CAT Fund to consider the linkages with CFAP to ensure that there is no duplication between the schemes and that they complement each other. The CAT eligibility criteria is currently being finalised so I will be making an announcement on the CFAP Review in the near future.

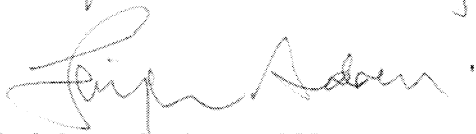
As you will be aware, CFAP has proved to be a highly successful grant programme and since its launch in 2002 a total of £59.6 million has been awarded to 633 projects across the length and breadth of Wales. The aim of the review has been to ensure that we make the best possible use of the resources available so that we can continue to support the numerous community and voluntary organisations in Wales that have such a significant impact on the communities they represent.

Bidding rounds have continued using the existing criteria, and a large number of community schemes have benefited from this. For example:

- 44 projects were allocated around £6million from the April 2008 bidding round
- 27 projects were allocated around £5million from the October 2008 bidding round

The funding awarded to these projects, coupled with other commitments from previous years, ensured that the Community Facilities and Activities Programme budget was fully spent for 2008-09 financial year. On both occasions, I wrote to Assembly Members providing a full list of projects approved. Officials are currently assessing the applications received from communities during the April 2009 bidding round, and I hope to announce the outcome of these soon in August 2009.

I intend to announce the revised criteria for future rounds of the Community Facilities and Activities Programme during the summer.

Yours sincerely


Leighton Andrews AM
Deputy Minister for Regeneration