

## 10. THE TWO GRANTS COMMITTEES' POLICIES AND PRACTICES

**The two charities hold separate meetings of their grants committees. The charitable objects are different and the areas of benefit also differ.**

### **A. Worcester Municipal Exhibitions Foundation, (WMEF) whose area of benefit and objects are:**

*(i) To consider applications for assistance from people of any age who live in Worcester City, the Parishes of Powick, Bransford and Rushwick, and the Ancient Parish of Leigh. Applications for assistance may also be considered from people of any age who live outside these areas but who have attended school in the City for at least two years.*

*(ii) The advancement of education in promoting education in the area of benefit as the trustees see fit. The trustees have agreed that in practice this normally means educational grants to individuals (and organisations within the area of benefit) demonstrating financial hardship with evidence that need cannot be met from Local Authority or other statutory authority. Applications from fee paying institutions, for travel abroad, and awards beyond 1st Degree level are excluded.*

*(iii) The Trustees will not normally consider applications from persons attending educational establishments in the City who, prior to attending, lived outside the area of benefit and/or who still live outside the area of benefit.*

*(iv) The Trustees will not normally consider applications from persons attending educational establishments with national catchment areas e.g. the New College (for the blind) and Worcester University, unless they were resident in the area of benefit for at least two years, or attended school in the area of benefit for at least two years, prior to enrolling at the relevant institution.*

*(v) No applications from new charities in 2016 until further notice.*

*(vi) The Trustees reserve their complete discretion in all cases.*

### **B. Worcester Consolidated Municipal Charity (WCMC) whose area of benefit and objects are:**

*(i) to consider applications for assistance from Worcester City residents or in exceptional cases people who are resident immediately outside of the City but who, in the opinion of the trustees, ought nevertheless for sufficient reason to be treated as if resident therein or who are located for the time being therein.*

*(ii) the provision of financial relief for cases of need, hardship or distress in Worcester City;*

*(iii) the provision of financial assistance to organisations that deliver services calculated to reduce the need, hardship or distress of their beneficiaries; no applications from new charities in 2016 until further notice;*

**The two Grants Committees have separately adopted common policies that distribute the money available each year to meet the following three priorities, (a) - (c), in priority order, and within the policies set out below (d) - (j).**

*(a) **Not to make a grant** to an individual if adequate funds are available from the family, friends or from statutory sources like the Benefits Agencies, the Health Authority or the Local Authority.*

*(b) **One-off grants** to poor people in need, for "educational purposes" or for "essential" items like cookers, fridges, fridge freezers, washing machines, clothes airers, food, clothes, fuel bills, carpeting, a television, a vacuum cleaner, other household items, holidays or holiday activities etc.*

*(c) The Trustees judge as "**essential**" those items that people generally nowadays feel they cannot manage without, and that form part of an expected way of life in today's society.*

*(d) **One year only Revenue grants** to organisations that help poor people, of all ages, with their problems, or provide a free service, that people cannot otherwise afford, like benefits advice, debt counselling, legal aid, an interpreting service, educational services, holiday activities, & youth facilities for young people living in deprived areas.*

*(e) **From 2012 onwards to cease** school uniform grants in the light of the Government's Pupil Premium payments and to refer any requests for non-distinctive clothing to WCMC to be considered based on family income and expenditure.*

*(f) **To consider, as a condition of any grant** to an individual, the possibility of a debt management plan, usually with help from the CAB/WHABAC and the 6 Towns Credit Union.*

*(g) **Generally not to consider making a grant to an organisation of more than 49% of its annual income.***

*(h) **Not to commit the Charities to repeat a grant** to an individual or organisation.*

*(i) **When awarding grants** to organisations, to consider their "unit costs" of operating, "best value for money" "uncommitted reserves", and the relative contribution to the work of the charity by paid staff and volunteers.*

*(j) **To consider capital grants** for the purchase of equipment subject to budgetary constraints.*