

Title of Report:	Community Festivals Fund 2021-22
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 September 2021
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture Community Development Manager

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£35,930 net
Included in Current Year Estimates	<u>YES</u>
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	13201
Staffing Costs	n/a

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	<u>Yes/No</u>	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	<u>Yes/No</u>	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the outcome of the assessment of the applications received to the Community Festivals Fund for 2021-22 and to provide recommendations in relation to grant awards to be made through the programme.

2.0 Background

The Community Festivals Fund was established in recognition of the positive contribution that festivals can make to communities and to the local economy. A key priority of Department for Communities is 'to enable communities to enhance their quality of life through participation/engagement in culture, arts and leisure activities.' (*Department for Communities Community Festivals Fund Revised Policy and Guidance Framework October 2015*).

Council receives funding from DfC on an annual basis to operate a Community Festivals Fund which it is required to match. Usually, applications are invited each year in advance of confirmation of DfC match funding to allow sufficient time for preparation of applications and so that successful applicants can be advised of their funding awards in time to plan events. However due to the uncertainty created by the pandemic and the difficulty created for delivering events DfC did not operate a Community Festivals Fund in 2020-21.

Rather than have community organisations apply for funding without being certain that the funding programme would be available again for 2021-22, Council did not open the Fund for applications earlier in the year at the same time as the other annual grants but waited on confirmation from DfC as to whether or not the Fund would go ahead for 2021-22.

Council received notification from DfC on 28th June that they were going to operate the Fund this year and that they were awarding an amount of £28,600 for the Community Festivals Fund which Council would be required to match. Upon receipt of this confirmation of funding, Council Officers moved to open the grant programme for applications. The Fund opened for applications on 19th July with a closing date of 13th August. Applications were invited from organisations that wished to organise festivals and events from 14th October 2021 to 31st March 2022.

An assessment panel of Council Officers assessed the applications received against the criteria as stated in the Guidance Notes for the programme. Applicants were required to attain a score of at least 65% in order to be recommended for funding, in line with Council's Grant Funding Policy.

An extract from the Guidance Notes for the grant programme, detailing eligibility and assessment criteria, is attached at **Annex A**.

3.0 Applications Received:

No. of applications received	23
No. of ineligible applicants	3
No. of unsuccessful applications (scoring less than 65%)	4
No. of successful applications (scoring 65% and above)	16
Total value of CFF funding recommended	£21,710

The three applications that were ineligible did not meet the criteria for the Community Festivals Fund Programme.

'Events must be programmed to be of at least 4 hours consecutive duration and include a range of at least 3 types of activities to suit all sections of the community. It is not enough to simply duplicate the same event on 2 days – the festival must have different activities on each day that it takes place.'

A list of the applications received, the assessment scores and the grant amount recommended are listed in **Annex B**.

Detailed feedback will be provided to the organisations whose applications were ineligible or which didn't score above the threshold and developmental support will be offered to these applicants to source other appropriate funding.

A budget of £64,530 was agreed for CFF for 2021-22 with the assumption that an amount of £28,600 would be received from DfC, *leaving a budgeted cost to Council of £35,930*. Since the Fund is covering festivals for a reduced period of time ie. from mid October to end of March there may be less of a demand for the Fund and as a result a surplus budget may remain.

4.0 Additional proposals to utilise underspend

Council will be in a position to utilise 10% of the **amount of grant drawn down from DfC** towards training costs. This is not usually claimed since the Fund has always been oversubscribed and Council allocates the full DfC award towards grants to community organisations. It is proposed that Council utilise the eligible % allowance of from DfC (£1,085) towards training costs for 2020-21.

In addition, it is proposed that an amount of £4,914 from Council's budgeted contribution and 10% allowance from DfC (£1,086) is used for:

1. Updating Council's Community Festivals and Events Guide to include Covid guidance and to provide training to successful applicant groups and any other community groups that wish to avail of it in relation to carrying out Covid risk assessments for gatherings and events. This will result in an actual cost to Council of £15,770. The remaining budget of £20,161 will be deemed as savings. DfC remaining grant funding would therefore be £16,659.
2. Administer a second tranche/call for applications in October for community festivals taking place up to March 2022, utilising £16,659 underspend from DfC and remaining budget of £20,161 from council (total grant budget available £36,820) – timetable below.

Open for applications	Wed 13 th October
Closing date for submission of applications	Tuesday 26 th October
Report of assessment of applications and recommendations for funding to Leisure & Development Committee	Tuesday 16 th November
Approval at Full Council meeting	Tuesday 7 th December
Issue of Letters of Offer	Wednesday 15 th December

5.0 Recommendation

- i. Approve awards for funding through Community Festivals Fund as detailed in **Annex B**.
- ii. Update Community Festivals and Events Guide to take account of Covid guidance and provide Covid Risk Assessment training for community festival and event organisers.
- iii. Consider advertising for a second tranche of funding in early October using remaining funding from DfC and Council.

Annex A: Eligibility and Assessment Criteria for Community Festivals Fund 2021-22

Levels of grant award:

Community Festival Fund Grant Programme	Maximum Grant Amount
<p>1. One day community fun day type events. Events must be programmed to be of at least 4 hours consecutive duration and include a range of at least 3 types of activities to suit all sections of the community.</p>	Up to £750
<p>2. Festival events lasting 2 consecutive days or more. Each of the days of the festival must include a range of activities to suit all sections of the community and be programmed to be at least 4 hours duration. It is not enough to simply duplicate the same event on 2 days – the festival must have different activities on each day that it takes place.</p>	Up to £1,500
<p>3. Festivals lasting 3 consecutive days or more. Each of the days of the festival must include a range of activities to suit all sections of the community and be programmed to be at least 4 hours duration.</p>	Up to £3,000

Eligible organisations:

- Constituted voluntary and community organisations.
- Applications may be from geographical communities (a town, village, neighbourhood, rural area); or communities of interest (a group of people who have a common interest, concern or characteristic).
- A community festival should constitute a series of events (or a single event with several elements) with a common theme and delivered within a defined time period.
- Each day of the festival must be programmed to be of at least 4 hours duration and include a range of at least 3 activities to suit all sections of the community.
- DfC has stated that all festivals must be culture based, where culture is defined as ideas, customs and social behaviour of a particular people or social grouping.

Ineligible organisations/activities:

- festivals taking place outside the Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council area;
- festivals of a commercial nature, organised to make profit;

- trade, community or professional conferences/conventions;
- core costs for festival organisers or organisations (staffing, annual overheads);
- festivals that are primarily fundraising events, are heavily branded with charity branding or deploy potential sources of income from a festival to a charity;
- awards ceremonies or industry events;
- residential courses and associated events;
- festivals that are social events for an organisation;
- events developed and delivered by public bodies;
- events initiated and led by private sector organisations;
- festivals that are primarily sporting fixtures or competitive events;
- festivals that are primarily tourism focused events where the organisation cannot demonstrate significant community involvement;
- Events which consist mainly of competitions;
- Transport outside of the area/ community that the festival is taking place in;
- Applications for funding which are considered to be the responsibility of another statutory organisation or Council fund or applications that have applied and secured funding from another Council programme.

Assessment Criteria:

Each application is assessed and scored against the criteria listed below which has been specified by Department for Communities (DfC) in its Community Festivals Fund Revised Policy and Guidance Framework (Oct 2015). The criteria are all given equal weighting.

- i. Have strong community participation in the organisation and implementation of the project contributing to building a strong sense of community (x 1)
- ii. Provide opportunities for people to improve their personal skills or receive training relevant to the project (x 1)
- iii. Improve community relations; as defined in terms of activities designed to actively strengthen and promote good community relations (x 1)
- iv. Target social exclusion and /or poverty; address rural isolation issues where applicable (x 1)
- v. Promote equality of opportunity for all (x 1)
- vi. Demonstrate value for money (x 1)
- vii. Provide opportunities to develop the festival – including capacity building, developing links with other organisations/events (increased partnership); expanding or diversifying activities (x1)
- viii. Encourage a ‘sense of place’ through connecting the community with, and effectively using, public places and the local built environment, particularly infrequently used or abandoned spaces (x 1)
- ix. NIMDM 2017Ranking/ Access to Services Measure Ranking (X 1)

Annex B: Community Festivals Fund 2021-22 Assessment Scores & Recommended Grant Amounts

Organisation	Project Title	Amount Requested (£)	Total Score	Amount Recommended (£)
Apprentice Boys Of Derry Campsie Club Rasharkin Branch	Rasharkin ABOD Social Weekend	1,500.00	66.67%	1,300.00
Articlave District Community Association	Articlave's Halloween Spook-tacular	1,972.50	68.89%	1,500.00
Bann Valley Community Association	Rabbie Burns Festival	1,500.00	51.11%	0.00
Bee Heard	Bee Heard Welcome back day.	121.00	not eligible	0.00
Bovalley Community Association	Winter Warmer Event	700.00	68.89%	570.00
Building Ballysally Together	Halloween festival	750.00	67.78%	750.00
CAN - Compass Advocacy Network Ltd	An all inclusive Christmas	1,500.00	71.11%	1,500.00
Coleraine Festival Committee	Ulster Scots Festival	1,440.00	65.56%	1,440.00
Dernaflaw Community Association	Dernaflaw Halloween Community Festival	750.00	55.56%	0.00
Dervock & District Community Association	Santa's Little Helpers - Pulling Together	1,450.00	67.78%	1,450.00
Greysteel Community Association	Greysteel Coming Together	2,000.00	23.33%	0.00
Limavady Family Centre	Christmas around the world	8,900.00	71.11%	750.00
Limavady Volunteer Centre	Limavady Town Team Lantern Parade	3,000.00	68.89%	1,500.00
Loughgiel Community Association Ltd	Loughgiel Countdown to Christmas	1,400.00	58.78%	0.00
Macosquin Village Community Association	Macosquin Community Halloween Festival Day	750.00	86.67%	750.00
Magilligan Community Association	Magilligan Christmas Festival	1,012.00	66.67%	750.00
Moneydig Rural Network	The Dig's Burns Nite	750.00	65.56%	450.00

Mother Good Playgroup	Personal visit to Santa on his Sleigh	3,000.00	not eligible	0.00
North Antrim Bands Forum	Ballymoney Big Switch on Week	3,000.00	75.56%	3,000.00
North Coast Trad	Out on the Ocean	3,000.00	not eligible	0.00
Pride Of The Park Flute Band	Armoy Celebrates Christmas	1,500.00	81.11%	1,500.00
St. Mary's GAC, Rasharkin	Halloween Culture Camp at St Mary's GAC, Rasharkin	1,500.00	68.89%	1,500.00
Ullans Speakers Association	Blood Hutchinson Festival	3,000.00	80.00%	3,000.00
		£44,495.50		£21,710.00