

Title of Report:	Community Festivals Fund 2021-22 – Second Round
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 November 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
Included in Current Year Estimates	<u>YES/NO</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 second round of 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 opened for applications in July for festivals taking place unto 31st March 2022. This later opening time was as a result of later than usual confirmation of funding from DfC that they were awarding monies to Councils through the Community Festivals Fund for 2021-22. The following is a summary of the awards approved by Leisure & Development Committee in September.

CFF Round One	
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

At the September Leisure & Development Committee meeting, in addition to approving the recommended awards for funding, the Committee agreed to open the fund for a second round of applications. The Committee also agreed to utilise the 10% allowance from the DfC budget for training and to update Council's Community Festivals and Events Guide to include Covid guidance, depending on budget available after the second round of applications was assessed.

Two Covid health & safety training workshops were organised in October for community festival and event organisers, and these were attended by 49 people representing 23 community and voluntary organisations.

3.0 Applications Received

The CFF reopened for applications on 13th October with a closing date of 26th October and was promoted through Councils corporate social media and a mailout to all community and voluntary sector organisations on Councils register.

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**. The following is a summary of the assessment of the applications:

CFF Round Two	
No. of applications received	8
No. of ineligible applicants	0
No. of unsuccessful applications (scoring less than 65%)	4
No. of successful applications (scoring 65% and above)	4
Total value of CFF funding recommended	£6,750

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

Three of the four unsuccessful applicants are first time applicants to the Community Festivals Fund and time will be spent by CD Officers with all the unsuccessful applicants to provide detailed guidance and feedback to support future successful applications.

An amount of £1,423 (ie 10% of grant claimed) will cover the cost of the Covid risk assessment training and £1,500 from Councils budget will be used to update the Events Guide for community festival and event organisers. This will leave £20,200 of Council monies which can be deemed as savings. An amount of £12,807 will not be claimed from DfC.

4.0 Recommendation

Approve awards for funding through Community Festivals Fund as detailed in **Annex B**.

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 Round 2 - Assessment Scores & Recommended Grant Amounts

Organisation	Project Title	Amount Requested (£)	Total Score	Amount Recommended (£)
Derrykeighan Community Association	Christmas fun day	£750	34.44%	£0
Eoghan Rua GAC Coleraine	Saint Patrick's Day Coffee, Ceol agus Craic	£750	34.44%	£0
Garvagh Development Trust	Commoning Possibilities Christmas Market of Ideas & Voting Fair	£750	65.56%	£750
Milburn Community Association	Cornfield Winter Wonderland	£1,500	65.56%	£1,500
North West Historical & Cultural Society	An Ulster Scots Celebration of St Patrick	£2,950	66.67%	£1,500
Portstewart Community Association	Portstewart Festival of Light	£3,002	76.67%	£3,000
Project Fusion	Project Fusion: Connecting the Community at Christmas	£2,935	62.22%	£0
The Pride of the Bann Flute Band	St Patrick's Weekend Community Festival	£3,000	36.67%	£0