

Title of Report:	LiveSmart Community Environmental Grant Programme 2022-23 Applicants
Committee Report Submitted To:	Environmental Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	14th March 2023
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Develop & promote stable and cohesive communities
Lead Officer	Head of Operations Funding Unit Manager

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£2,500
Included in Current Year Estimates	Yes
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	
Staffing Costs	n/a

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes	Date: 31/03/2021
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes	Date: 31/03/2021
	RNA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present findings of the assessment process for the 2022-23 LiveSmart Grant Programme. Recommendations for the allocation of funding to eligible applicants are included in this report.

2.0 Background

2.1 The LiveSmart Community Environmental Grant Programme is as follows:-

- Applications will focus on waste reduction/reuse, energy saving and sustainability.
- Grant applications will be directly linked to the LiveSmart themes.
- The Environmental Resource Officer Team will provide support to applicants.
- Council's Funding Unit will be responsible for management and administration of the grant programme via Council's online funding hub.
- Total grant funding pot of £10,500 available in 2022-23.
- Maximum grant of £500 available per application.
- Organisations can apply for one grant per year.

2.2 A report seeking approval to run the grant programme in 2022-23 was presented to the Environmental Services Committee on 12th April 2022.

2.3 Council ratified the decision to run the 2022-23 Community Environmental Grant Programme on 3rd May 2022.

3.0 An Overview of the Fund

3.1 The purpose of the LiveSmart Community Environmental Grant Programme is to provide small grants up to a maximum of £500 to local community and voluntary organisations. The grants are to give financial assistance to allow groups and organisations to:

(1) improve the general cleanliness in their local area, particularly in respect of litter

(2) promote recycling, reuse and waste reduction

(3) look at ways of reducing carbon footprint by taking simple, practical actions such as planting

There are several specific objectives which applicants must address. An application can address more than one objective but only one is necessary.

- RecycleSmart: aims to reduce waste by educating, engaging and inspiring us all to buy less, reuse more, recycle and compost.
- LitterSmart: aims to reduce litter through education, encouraging responsible disposal and supporting local people to carry out litter lifts.
- ClimateSmart: aims to reduce our carbon footprint by increasing our knowledge of sustainability and empowering change with simple,

practical actions such as planting vegetables, fruit, native shrubs and pollinator plants.

Example projects might include:

- Community litter collection and prevention
- Fruit and vegetable planting
- Gardening projects e.g. planting of pollinator plants
- Native shrub planting
- Recycling, reuse and waste prevention projects

3.2 Levels of grant award.

- Applicants can apply for 100% of project costs up to a maximum of £500
- Organisations can only apply for one grant per year.
- In the event of the fund being oversubscribed only the highest scoring projects will receive an award

3.3 Assessment & Scoring Criteria used for assessment:

Criteria	Score out of a possible 5	Weighting	Possible Score
1. Good project description; range of activities, quality of project; fit with the fund objectives.		X4	20
2. How well the need has been demonstrated		X2	10
3. How well the project includes participation from the wider community and involves a range of people		X2	10
4. Area deprivation score		X1	5
5. How well the project is promoted & publicised.		X1	5
			50

4.0 2022/23 Application Process

- 4.1 The grant closed for applications on Friday 30th December 2022 @ 12:00 noon, it received 9 applications.

A stage 1 eligibility check was carried out by the Funding Unit, all applications made it through to scoring. 1 application was deemed ineligible as applicant had received funding in 22-23 Call 1.

On Friday 3rd February 2023 all eligible LiveSmart applications were assessed by a panel consisting of officers from the Environmental Resource Officer team.

The Scoring Panel assessed each submission against the criteria within the scoring matrix which was weighted accordingly. The minimum threshold pass rate was applied at 65% as per Council policy.

5.0 Summary of Applications

5.1 A summary of the applications received with scoring is detailed in **Annex A**.

5.2 The total amount of grants requested through eligible and qualifying applications was £4,446.55.

For the period 2022/23, the allocated budget for the LiveSmart Grant is £10,500 as referenced in Environment Services Committee report dated 12th April 2022.

As detailed in **Annex A** –

1 application was deemed ineligible as applicant had received funding in 22-23 Call 1

3 applications failed to meet the minimum threshold of 65% and are therefore ineligible for grant aid.

5 applications passed the minimum threshold rate of 65% requiring grant assistance to the value of £2,500.00

6.0 Recommendation

6.1 Elected Members are asked to approve the allocation of the LiveSmart Grant Programme Funding to successful applicants as detailed in **Annex A**.

Annex A

<u>Application ID</u>	<u>DEA</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Total Amount Requested (£)</u>	<u>Score (%)</u>	<u>Amount Recommended</u>
9583	Causeway	Dervock & District Community Association	450	Ineligible	-
9592	Ballymoney	Bannvalley Community Association	500.18	58	-
9723	Benbradagh	Kevin Lynch Hurling Club	500	82	500
9741	The Glens	Cushendall Development Group	500	87	500
9768	Coleraine	Millburn Community Association	500	79	500
9799	Bann	Kilrea and District Ulster Scots Society	500	48	-
9801	Limavady	Be Safe Be Well	500	86	500
9825	Limavady	Stendhal Festival Ltd	496.37	58	-
9845	Limavady	Magilligan Community Association	500	80	500
		Total Requested	£4446.55	Total Award Recommended	£2500.00