

Title of Report:	Culture, Arts & Heritage Fund 2024-25
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 March 2024
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be Discussed In Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
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 Arts Service Development Manager

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£20,000
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	
Staffing Costs	n/a

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	<u>Yes/No</u>	Date: 04/03/24
	EQIA Required and Completed:	<u>Yes/No</u>	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	<u>Yes/No</u>	Date:03/07/20
	RNA Required and Completed:	<u>Yes/No</u>	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	<u>Yes/No</u>	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	<u>Yes/No</u>	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to detail the outcome of the assessment of applications received to the Culture, Arts & Heritage (CAH) Grant Programme for 2024-25 and to provide recommendations in relation to grant awards to be made through the programme subject to the outcome of the budget process.

2.0 Background

The Culture, Arts & Heritage grant programme forms part of Council's Cultural Strategy strategic priority 4 'To ensure increased access to, and participation in, culture, arts and heritage for marginalised and excluded groups' adopted by Council in 2016.

The primary objective of the cultural strategy is to ensure that both local ratepayers and visitors to the area have continuous access to high quality, accessible, inclusive and affordable cultural services, including arts, museums and heritage.

The introduction of the Culture, Arts & Heritage Grant Scheme in 2016 was in direct response to the findings from the consultation process which highlighted the need to support local groups to promote and develop cultural, arts and heritage projects and activities in the area.

The Culture Arts and Heritage grant scheme has been designed to support, promote and develop cultural, arts and heritage events, projects and activities. It has been devised to support local community and voluntary groups to promote and develop projects which broaden cultural access throughout the council area. An extract from the Guidance Notes for the grant detailing eligibility and assessment criteria is attached at **Annex A**.

As part of the business planning process, a report was brought forward to Council in November 2023 to approve all grant funding programmes for the 24/25 period, inclusive of the Culture, Arts & Heritage grant programme.

As a result, the Culture, Arts & Heritage Grant programme was opened on 11TH December 2023 with a closing date of 26th January 2024 for receipt of completed applications. Virtual Information Roadshows were held in December to provide potential applicants with detailed information and guidance regarding individual grant programmes.

A total of 23 applications were submitted by the closing date with three applications unsuccessful. The grant assessment panel of relevant Council officers assessed the grant applications against the criteria as stated in the Guidance Notes. Applicants were required to attain a score of at least 65% in order to be considered for funding, in line with Council's Grant Funding Policy.

3.0 Applications Received:

A list of the applications received, assessment scores, maximum eligible funding amounts are listed in **Annex B**.

In summary:

No. of applications received	23
Total value of applications received	£22,958.00
No. of ineligible applicants	0
No. of withdrawn applications	0
No. of unsuccessful applications (scoring less than 65%)	3
No. of successful applications (scoring 65% and above)	20
Total value of funding (eligible amounts)	£19,840.00

Total amount eligible for funding	£19,840.00
Indicative budget 24/25	£20,000.00

Detailed feedback will be provided to the unsuccessful applicants and developmental support will be offered, where relevant, to these applicants to source other appropriate funding.

4.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Council approves awards for funding through the Cultural Arts & Heritage Fund as detailed in Annex B, totalling £19,840.00.

Annex A

Eligibility & Assessment criteria for Culture, Arts & Heritage Grant Programme

Overview of fund

Organisations applying for funding from the Culture, Arts and Heritage Grant Scheme will have to demonstrate how their organisation contributes to any one of the following Culture, Arts and Heritage Aims identified in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Culture, Arts and Heritage Strategy 2016-2021.

- **Enhancing Our Cultural Venues and Assets** – To use our landscape and our cultural assets and activities to enable opportunities for both local people and visitors to participate in Culture, Arts and Heritage in the area.
- **Investing in Creative Learning and Skills Development** –To support the creative development our young people and our creative practitioners through training, skills development and providing opportunities to showcase work.
- **History, Heritage and Cultural Tourism** – To promote a sense of pride, identity and deeper understanding of our area by bringing together the many stories, histories, identities and languages which are present in the area.

All organisations funded through the Culture, Arts and Heritage Grant Scheme must demonstrate how their project contributes towards the aim most appropriate to address the issues in their area. Organisations will be asked to report back on how effective their project has been in meeting these needs and working towards the appropriate aim.

Levels of Grant

Grants are available for a maximum of 100% of the total *eligible* project costs up to a maximum of £1000.00

Who Can Apply?

Organisations must be from within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. To be eligible for grant-aid, you will have to show that your organisation is a bona fide organisation that is well run and that it:

- Has a properly adopted "Governing Document" such as a constitution or memorandum and articles of association which clearly show that it is non-profit making and taking. Evidence that a constitution has been formally adopted must be supplied.

For the purposes of this programme only formally constituted organisations which are not-for-profit organisations that are open, accountable and representative of the geographical area in which they service, promote and support the Culture, Arts and Heritage sector can apply. Such as:

- Cultural, Arts and Heritage groups e.g. drama groups, historical societies, photographic clubs etc.
- Community development groups
- Other organisations involved in Culture, Arts or Heritage development work

- Umbrella organisations provided that their work takes place at a local level

Groups must demonstrate that they have appropriate governing arrangements in place and that they provide a voice for local concerns. The initiatives in which they are seeking funding for must be inclusive, open to the whole community and adhere to democratic principles.

What can be funded

Examples of the types of projects which can be funded:

- Training and skills development programmes.
- Projects and events which develop arts and heritage at a local level and make them more accessible for all.
- Learning activities which are not-for-profit and organised by groups for the community e.g. talks, courses, seminars.
- Cultural resources including publication, exhibitions, trails, digital resources.

Examples of eligible expenditure:

- Venue hire
- Hire of equipment
- Tutors (we will only fund a maximum of £30 per hour)
- Performance fees
- Materials
- Insurance
- Marketing and publicity
- Travel may be considered if the applicant can demonstrate that it is an integral part of the project,

What cannot be funded

In general, the following will not normally be eligible for funding through the Culture Arts and Heritage grant scheme:

- Proposals that do not directly benefit Causeway Coast & Glens Council residents
- Applications for funding which are considered to be the responsibility of another statutory organisation or Council fund
- Retrospective expenditure where projects have started or services/items have already been obtained and paid
- Applications received after the closing date specified in the promotional literature
- Applications where a committee member or trustee will have a personal financial benefit
- Costs that are not auditable e.g. cash payments unsupported by an approved petty cash system
- Costs towards ongoing running costs (e.g. electricity, rent, insurance, etc.)
- Building costs, capital expenditure or equipment
- Costs towards banking charges and/or repayment of debt
- Costs that can be claimed back from elsewhere e.g. VAT
- Community Festivals (there is a separate fund for this)
- Carnivals/fun days
- General Appeals
- Religious services where only one section of the community is represented
- Buying or leasing musical instruments, uniforms or sporting equipment
- Activities which are party-political in intention, use or presentation

- Salary costs.
- Alcohol costs
- Gratuities, gifts and prizes
- In some instances there may be an agreed hospitality allocation of funds, which must not exceed 10% of the total Council grant.

Exclusions

In general, it is important to note that this funding programme will not normally award grants to the following:

- Individuals
- Groups operating outside the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area unless the project/event takes place in the council area and directly benefits those who live in it (see 1.5).
- Organisations and events with charitable fundraising as their main or partial focus
- Organisations who have substantial demonstrable reserves
- Political Organisations

Assessment and scoring

Criteria	Score out of a possible 5	Weighting	Possible Score
Q1 – Good description provided of a project with a Culture, Arts and Heritage ethos		X 6	30
Q2 – A clear link to the Culture, Arts and Heritage aims as set out in the strategy document		X 4	20
Q3 – Provide a full itemized breakdown of all costs	Not scored		
			50

Annex B

CAH Grant Applications 2024-25

Successful Applications:

	Name of Organisation	Project Title	Assessment Score %	Eligible Amount Requested £	Recommended Amount Awarded £
1	Art Abyss Ltd.	Children's Festival 2024	100%	£1000.00	£1000.00
2	Cumann Iománaíochta Chaoimhín Uí Loingsigh	KLHC Cultural Programme 2024	100%	£1000.00	£1000.00
3	Rathlin Development and Community Association	Digital Cataloguing of Island Artefacts	100%	£1000.00	£1000.00
4	Stendhal Festival Ltd.	Kindly Wild Willow Project	100%	£1000.00	£1000.00
5	Cushendun Building Preservation Trust	Culture Month 2024	92%	£1000.00	£1000.00
6	St. Mary's Faughanvale GAC	The Whistling Vales	92%	£1000.00	£1000.00
7	Compass Advocacy Network (CAN)	Lislagan Arts & Crafts	88%	£1000.00	£1000.00
8	Dervock & District Community Association	The Mac 3 Cultural Heritage Project	88%	£1000.00	£1000.00
9	Glens of Antrim Comhaltas	Music Programme	88%	£1000.00	£1000.00
10	Kingdom of Dalriada Ulster-Scots Society	Literature and Music Programme	88%	£1000.00	£1000.00
11	Ullans Speakers Association	Ballymoney Festival Art Pieces	88%	£1000.00	£1000.00
12	Cushendun and District Development Association	Art for Improvement and Enjoyment	80%	£1000.00	£1000.00
13	Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Dún Lathaí/Dunloy Comhaltas	Cultural Programme 2024-25	80%	£1000.00	£1000.00
14	Kilrea and District Ulster Scots Society	Needle Felting Classes	80%	£840.00	£840.00
15	St. Mary's GAC Rasharkin	GAC Culture Event 2024	76%	£1000.00	£1000.00
16	Ballycastle Writers Group	Creative Writing Workshops	72%	£1000.00	£1000.00

17	Ballymoney Drama Festival	Drama Festival 2024	72%	£1000.00	£1000.00
18	Dungiven Regeneration Club	Craft Workshops	72%	£1000.00	£1000.00
19	Mae Murray Foundation	Arts, Crafts and Melodies for All Abilities	72%	£1000.00	£1000.00
20	Ballymoney Writers Group	Creative Writing Workshops	68%	£1000.00	£1000.00
	TOTAL			£19,840.00	£19,840.00

Unsuccessful CAH Applications:

	Name of Organisation	Project Title	Assessment Score %	Amount Requested £
21	Garvagh Pipe Band	Piping and Drumming School	52%	£1118.00
22	Lir Arts Festival	Heritage Trail - Connect	56%	£1000.00
23	Magilligan Community Association	Duncrun Cottage	56%	£1000.00