

Community Festivals Fund (CCF) Grant Award Decisions	16th April 2019
To: Council For Information	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, healthy & engaged communities
Outcome	Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough
Lead Officer	Funding Unit Manager
Cost: (if applicable)	£6,170

The purpose of this report is to inform members of a correction to the Community Festival Fund Grant Awards for the 2019-2020 Grant Funding period.

Background

In December 2018 the Community Festivals Fund opened for applications. The fund closed for applications on 18th January 2019. 50 applications were received and assessed according to the agreed criteria. 1 x application was ineligible, 12 x applications were reported as unsuccessful and 37 applications were recommended for funding.

A report was taken to Council in March 2019 with a recommendation to fund the 37 successful applications. Council agreed the recommendation and the total amount awarded was £55,885.

On 4th April 2019 the Funding Unit became aware of an error on the online Grant Manager System. The system had not weighted the points correctly for the Multiple Deprivation score in the Community Festivals Fund Grant Programme. The criteria is scored out of 5 and a weighting of x 2 is applied. The system multiplied the weighting by 1 instead of by 2. The result of the error meant that applicants were awarded points out of 5 instead of a possible 10.

The entire system was checked and all grant programmes were reviewed. It was confirmed that the error was confined to the Community Festivals Fund. All applications were reviewed against the correct weighting and as a result the status of 5 applications was changed from unsuccessful to successful.

The 5 applicants were contacted immediately, informed of the error and issued with formal notification of a grant award:

Applicant	Corrected Score	Award amount
Bann Valley Community Association	67%	£1,050
Building Ballysally Together	65%	£1,500
Cloughmills Community Action Team	69%	£750
Loughgiel Community Association	65%	£1,370
Windyhall Community Association	71%	£1,500
		£6,170

Next Steps

The system developer (Team Solutions) was contacted and the system was temporarily shut down whilst a further check was made on all grant programmes and scoring systems. It was again confirmed that the error was confined to one criteria under the Community Festivals Fund. The Funding Unit are working with the Team Solutions to put in place additional checks to ensure that this error is not repeated in the online grant manager system. With immediate effect the Funding Unit have put in place additional manual checks for all grant programmes. The Funding Unit are also working with Councils ICT department to explore other options for Grant Manager software.