

FOR DECISION

Community Festivals Fund - Allocation of funding	12th March 2019
LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	

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	Head of Community & Culture Community Development Manager
Cost: (If applicable)	£67,927 (<i>gross</i>) £41,197 (<i>net forecasted budget</i>)

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 (CFF) Grant Programme for 2019-20 and to provide recommendations in relation to grant awards to be made through the programme subject to confirmation of funding from Department for Communities (DfC) and the outcome of the budget process.

DfC through its Arts and Creativity Branch provides an annual award of CFF funding, which Councils are required to at least match. At the time of preparation of the report, the level of grant to be allocated to Council for 2019-20 by DfC is unknown, however a decision in principle is being sought from Council so that grant awards can be made to local organisations as soon as Departmental funding is confirmed, since several of the events are due to take place in April and May.

Background

The Community Festival Fund forms part of Council's Community Development Strategy strategic priority 1 'Developing the capacity of the community sector' adopted by Council in 2015.

As part of the business planning process, a report was brought forward to Council in November 2018 to approve all grant funding programmes for the 19/20 period, inclusive of the Community Festival Fund.

As a result, the Community Festivals Fund programme was opened on 4th December 2018 with a closing date of 18th January 2019 for receipt of completed applications. Four Information Roadshows were held in early December in locations across the Borough to provide potential applicants with detailed information and guidance regarding individual grant programmes.

A total of 50 applications were submitted by the closing date. 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.

Purpose of the Programme

The purpose of the Programme is to support, promote and develop the capacity of communities to host community festival events across the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. A community festival is a festival which has developed from within a community and should celebrate and positively promote what the community represents. An extract from the Guidance Notes for the grant detailing eligibility and assessment criteria is attached at **Annex A**.

Levels of Grant

<p><u>One day community fun day type events.</u> 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>	<p>75% of costs up to a maximum of £750</p>
<p><u>Festival events lasting 2 consecutive days or more.</u> 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. The Festival must have different activities on each day that it takes place.</p>	<p>75% of costs up to a maximum of £1,500</p>
<p><u>Festivals lasting 3 consecutive days or more and anticipated to attract at least 500 participants.</u> 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>	<p>75% of costs up to a maximum of £3,000</p>

Applications Received

A list of the applications received, the assessment scores and maximum eligible funding amount is listed in **Annex B**. In summary:

No. of applications received	50
No. of ineligible applications	1
No. of unsuccessful applications (scoring less than 65%)	12
No. of eligible applications (scoring 65% and above)	37
Total maximum eligible amount of CFF funding requested	£55,885

Some applications were reduced in the scale of the grant they were considered for and one application was deemed fully ineligible as they did not meet the eligibility criteria in terms of the range of activities and length of their events as defined in the guidance notes. 12 applications did not meet the threshold of 65% to be successful for funding.

Total amount eligible for funding	£55,885
Total recommended for capacity building resource allocations	£12,042
Budget requested for 19/20 (gross)	£67,927
Anticipated net cost 19/20 to Council	£41,197

**(subject to budgetary process for 19/20)*

At the time of preparation of the report, the level of grant to be allocated to Council for 2019-20 by DfC is unknown, however the planning assumption is £26,730.

In the event that the letter of offer from DfC is delayed beyond 31st March, Council may wish to consider awarding grants to successful organisations with events scheduled to take place in April, May and June in order to ensure that they can plan ahead. A letter of offer could then be issued for the remainder of the applicants when Council receives confirmation of funding from DfC, and subject to the amount received.

Support to unsuccessful applicants

A total of 12 of the 50 applicants did not meet the scoring threshold of 65%. A substantial proportion of these are small one day community fun days which have benefits to the local communities in terms of social inclusion and community cohesion. Feedback from applicants suggests that groups find the application form difficult to complete and that the Community Festivals Fund is a programme not best suited to very small local events.

Council must, however, adhere to the CFF Policy & Guidance Framework produced by DfC and therefore there is little scope for Council to review or amend the programme criteria within this particular fund.

In light of the number of unsuccessful applications to this fund, officers propose that when Council carries out its annual review of grant programmes later in the year, consideration be given to an alternative funding programme for such small scale events using a proportion of the existing budget.

As an interim measure for the incoming year it is proposed that a bespoke capacity building programme be facilitated through staff to support for unsuccessful applicant groups to develop successful events, focussing on developing community engagement and creative programming. It is proposed that an amount of *up to £12,042* of the uncommitted budget is allocated to this programme to be used as a resource allocation for participating groups to develop successful community activities and be used towards venues hire, facilitators, equipment and other related costs.

Recommendations

- i. Approve the recommended amounts for funding as detailed in Annex B (total £55,885), subject to securing Letter of Offer from DfC and final confirmed budgets.**
- ii. If confirmation of funding is not received from DfC by 1st April 2019 issue letters of offer to events taking part in April, May and June, with the remainder of the letters of offer to be issued when confirmation of funding is received from DfC.**
- iii. Develop a bespoke capacity building programme for the 12 unsuccessful applicant groups that are planning community fun days to provide support with community engagement and creative programming, with an indicative resource allocation budget to groups of *up to £12,042* in total from the remaining grant budget, subject to availability of funding from DfC and final confirmed budget.**

Eligibility and Assessment Criteria for Community Festival Fund

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.
- If incorporating one day fun day type events these 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:

Assessment criteria for CFF have been developed following objectives specified by the Department for Communities (DfC) for the Community Festival Fund:

- 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. Attract visitors to the area (DfC have stated that whilst attraction of visitors is a positive quality, the primary driver of the fund is significant community involvement.) (x 1)
- viii. Provide opportunities to develop the festival – including capacity building, developing links with other organisations/events (increased partnership); expanding or diversifying activities (x1)
- ix. 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)
- x. NIMDM 2017Ranking/ Access to Services Measure Ranking (X 2)

Annex B Community Festivals Fund 2019-20 Recommendations for Awards

Table 1: Successful applications

	Applicant Organisation	Name of Festival	Dates of Festival	Assessment Score (%)	Amount Requested (£)	Amount Recommended (£)
1	Antrim Glens Tourism	Glens Storytelling Festival 2019	24th-27th Oct 2019	73.64	3,000	3,000
2	Apprentice Boys of Derry Campsie Club Rasharkin Branch	Finvoy Fun Weekend	14th-15th Jun & 21st-22nd Jun 2019	65.45	1,500	1,500
3	Arroy Auld Boys Musical Association	Arroy Christmas Fun Day	11th Dec 2019	65.45	750	750
4	Ballybogey Over 50's	Ballybogey Village Festival	10th Aug 2019	65.45	700	700
5	Ballymoney Royal Black District Chapter No.5	Black in Ballymoney 2019	28th-31st Aug 2019	67.27	3,000	1,500
6	Burnfoot Community Development Association	Burnfoot Fun Day	22nd June 2019	66.36	750	750
7	Cairns Residents Group	Cairns Open Day	11th Aug 2019	68.18	750	638
8	Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Dún Laithí	Co Antrim Fleadh Cheoil 2019	8th-12th May 2019	65.45	1,500	1,500
9	Cushendun Building Preservation Trust	Cushendun Big Arts Weekend 2019	3rd-6th May 2019	66.36	3,000	3,000
10	Dernaflaw Community Association	Dernaflaw Community Festival	29th Jun 2019	67.27	750	700
11	Dervock & District Community Association	KK McArthur Festival of Running	1st-3rd Aug 2019	73.64	2,550	2,550
12	Dromboughil Community Association	Celebrating 20 years of Dromboughil	21st - 22nd Jun 2019	72.73	1,500	1,500
13	Dry Arch Childrens Centre	Spooky Spectacular Halloween Event	30th Oct - 1st Nov 2019	78.18	2,630	1,500
14	Friends of Glenariffe	Glenariffe Marquee Weekend 2019	6th-7th Jul 2019	71.82	1,500	1,500
15	Garvagh Development Trust	Rock the Forest	2nd-3rd Aug 2019	70.00	1,500	1,500

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	Applicant Organisation	Name of Festival	Dates of Festival	Assessment Score (%)	Amount Requested (£)	Amount Recommended (£)
16	Glack Community Association	Glack Community Fun Days	24th-25th Aug 2019	65.45	1,500	1,500
17	Glenariff Improvement Group	A Glens Christmas	30th Nov - 1st Dec 2019	66.36	1,500	1,500
18	Gortnaghey Community Association	Fun in Drum	12th Jul 2019	65.45	750	750
19	Greysteel Community Enterprise	Banks of the Foyle Festival 2019	23rd-25th Aug 2019	66.36	3,000	3,000
20	Juniper Hill Caravan Occupiers Association	Juniper Hill Community Festival Weekend	13th Jul 2019	65.45	2,195	1,500
21	Kingdom of Dalriada Ulster Scots Society	Ballymoney Ulster Scots Christmas Festival	2nd-7th Dec 2019	85.45	3,000	3,000
22	Limavady Community Development Initiative	Jazz and Blues Family Picnic	15th Jun 2019	65.45	750	750
23	Limavady Volunteer Centre	Haunting Times - Celebrating Diversity	30th Oct 2019	70.91	3,000	750
24	Macosquin Village Community Association	Macosquin Community Festival Day	8th Jun 2019	65.45	750	750
25	Mae Murray Foundation	All Ability Beach Day	2nd Jul 2019	69.09	750	750
26	Magilligan Community Association	Magilligan Community Fun Day	29th Jun 2019	69.09	750	750
27	Moneydig Rural Network	Fun in the Park Garden Fete	28th-29th Jun 2019	73.64	1,500	1,500
28	Moneydig Young Conquerors Flute Band	Community Engagement Festival and Parade	25th May 2019	66.36	750	750
29	North Antrim Bands Forum	Ballymoney Big Switch-On Festival	20th-23rd Nov 2019	72.73	3,000	3,000
30	O'Connors GAC, Glack	Craic in Glack	25th Aug-1st Sep 2019	65.45	3,000	1,500
31	Portstewart Community Association	The Red Sails Festival 2019	22nd-27th Jul 2019	66.36	3,000	3,000

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	Applicant Organisation	Name of Festival	Dates of Festival	Assessment Score (%)	Amount Requested (£)	Amount Recommended (£)
32	Pride of the Park Flute Band	Armoy Summer Festival	11th-13th Jul 2019	72.73	1,500	1,500
33	Rasharkin Community Association	Rasharkin People's Festival 2019	20th - 22nd Jun 2019	65.45	2,800	1,500
34	Roe Valley Residents Association	Getting to Know My Community	10th-11th Jul 2019	67.27	1,500	1,500
35	St Marys GAC, Rasharkin	Rasharkin GAC Community Fun Day	23rd Jun 2019	65.45	750	562
36	Ullans Speakers Association	Bloody Hutchinson Festival	24th-28th Oct 2019	77.27	3,000	3,000
37	Waterfoot Residents Association	Big Lunch	21st Jul 2019	65.45	485	485
					70,110	55,885

Table 2: Unsuccessful applications

	Applicant Organisation	Name of Festival	Dates of Festival	Assessment Score (%)	Amount Requested (£)	Amount Recommended (£)
1	Bann Valley Community Association	Bann Valley Easter Festival	22nd-23rd April 2019	60.00	1,050	0
2	Building Ballysally Together	Family Fun Week	8th-11th Jul 2019	57.27	3,000	0
3	Cloughmills Community Action Team	Cloughmills Childrens Festival	8th Jun 2019	61.82	750	0
4	Dunaghy Flute Band	Dunaghy Flute Band Cultural Festival	23rd - 24th Jul 2019	56.36	1,500	0
5	Feeny Community Association	Feeny Cultural Festival	6th Jul 2019	44.55	750	0
6	Garryduff Flute Band	Garryduff Community Festival	15th Jun 2019	17.27	450	0
7	Glór Léim an Mhadaidh	Seachtain na Gaeilge Family Fun Day	9th March 2020	47.27	750	0

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	Applicant Organisation	Name of Festival	Dates of Festival	Assessment Score (%)	Amount Requested (£)	Amount Recommended (£)
8	Loughgiel Community Association	Loughgiel Summer Fun Festival	1st-2nd Aug 2019	58.18	1,370	0
9	Millburn Community Association	Milburn Community Festival	10th-11th July 2019	55.45	1,500	0
10	Portballintrae Community Development Group	Portballintrae "Girona Gold" Festival	6th-7th Jul 2019	54.55	1,500	0
11	Stendhal Festival	Art Abyss Childrens Festival	19th-21st Jun 2019	52.73	3,000	0
12	Windyhall Community Association	Windyhall Community Festival	6th-11th Jul 2019	61.82	1,500	0

Table 3: Ineligible applications

	Applicant Organisation	Name of Festival	Dates of Festival	Assessment Score (%)	Amount Requested (£)	Amount Recommended (£)
1	Tapp Friens Community Group	Tapp Friens Community Festival	3rd-5th Jul 2019	ineligible	4,000	0