

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

To: Council

Grant Assistance Requests - Events

28th April 2015

For Decision

2.0 Reporting to Council

Linkage to Interim Corporate Plan	
Strategic Themes	Transition and Transformation Prosperity. Cohesive Community. Health and Wellbeing.
Lead Officer	Richard Baker -Director of Leisure and Development Christine McKee – Events Officer
Cost: (If applicable)	£17,327.35

The purpose of this report is to seek approval of Council for requests for funding.

2.1 Background

Members approved the Grant Funding Policy which is built on a set of agreed principles which include, among others:

- Grant funding awards are at the sole discretion of Council but will be dependent on the Council's available and agreed level of funding.
- Activities grant funded must be fully consistent with the strategic aims and priorities of the Causeway Coast & Glens Community Plan and the Council's Corporate Plan.
- All funding applications will be determined on their objective merits. No organisation is entitled to funding because it may have been granted funding in the past (or for any other reason).
- A consistent, customer focused process is required in relation to grant aid applications with relevant assessment and evaluation procedures with appropriate appeal and monitoring systems in place.

Given the timetabling of external events and requests for Council's support, Council agreed on the 26th February to accelerate the Grant Funding process for activities and events occurring in Quarter 1 of the new financial year 2015/16. Event organisers were consequently invited to make submissions under a fast track transitional scheme.

2.2 Allocation of funds for events occurring in the first quarter of the financial year.

Nine applications were received for operational cost support for events and were assessed against the following eligibility criteria;

- Is the applicant a Constituted Organisation?
- Does the event have a Child Protection Policy/Officer if applicable?
- Is the event/project taking place in, or offering a service to the Borough which is aligned to the Council's corporate aims and objectives?
- Does the event/project have a primary purpose of raising money for Charities?

The following applicants were successful;

- Danny Boy Jazz and Blues Festival , Limavady Area, £6650,
- Roe Valley Speech & Drama Festival, Limavady area, £877,
- Walking the Glens Festival, Ballycastle area, £1437.35,
- Rathlin Sound Maritime Festival, Ballycastle area, £2375,
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- Cushendun Big Arts Weekend, Ballycastle area, £2213,
- Portstewart Music Festival, Coleraine area, £1400
- Portrush Irish Dancing Festival, (awaiting further information)

One application from the North West Classic Tractor Run was unsuccessful as it did not meet the assessment criteria as it's primary purpose was to raise money for charity.

The attached, completed forms which accompany this paper, facilitate these early requests, (Annex A).

The applications constitute an interim, transitional arrangement in light of current circumstances. This one-off process allows this to happen in line with the applicants' timetable.

In the case of the above events, the applications are towards general running costs of the event, and reflects the funding made available last year. It includes a 5% reduction in line with Council's budget process.

2.3 Recommendation

It is recommended that these special requests for funding are accepted and approved by Council. Subsequent applications from these organisations will be made under the approved Grants Policy.