

# Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

To: Council

## Grant Assistance Requests – Community Festivals Fund

28<sup>th</sup> April 2015

For Decision

### 1.0 Report to Council

Linkage to Interim Corporate Plan			
<b>Strategic Themes</b>	Transition and Transformation Prosperity Health & Wellbeing Cohesive Community		
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Richard Baker - Director of Leisure & Development Louise Scullion – Community Services Manager		
<b>Cost: (If applicable)</b>	£1,500	£1,312	£9,000

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

### 1.1 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.

The Community Festivals Fund and Community Development Support Grant Programmes were launched on 1<sup>st</sup> April with public notices in local newspapers and information roadshows and a closing date of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015 for submission of applications.

As per the decision agreed by Shadow Council on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb to accelerate the Grant Funding process for activities and events (and other identified need) that occur in the first quarter of the financial period, organisers of Community Festivals that were due to take place during this period were invited to complete and submit application forms by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

## 1.2 Community Festivals Fund – allocation of funding for events occurring in first quarter of financial year.

Two applications were received to the Community Festivals Fund. The applications were scored against the following assessment criteria, which are in line with DCAL’s Letter of Offer and its Policy and Guidance Framework for Community Festivals Fund:

- a. Demonstration of need and demand in the local area.
- b. Ability of the applicant group to effectively deliver.
- c. Ability of the festival to attract visitors to the area.
- d. Financial viability.
- e. Have strong community participation.
- f. Promote social inclusion and improve community relations.
- g. Contribute to community regeneration.
- h. Provide opportunities for people to improve skills or receive training.
- i. Provide opportunities for future development of the Festival.

In line with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Grant Funding Policy and Procedures both applicants scored in excess of 65%, the threshold required in order to receive funding. The application details are as follows:

Applicant Group	Details of event	Assessment Score (%)	Proposed Grant to be awarded (£)
<b>Category 2: Festival Events lasting 2 or more consecutive days– max grant £1,500</b>			
Glens of Antrim Comhaltas	<b>County Antrim Fleadh</b> Cushendall	79.53	£1,500
Rasharkin Community Association	<b>Rasharkin People’s Festival</b> Rasharkin 16 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2015	75.96	£1312.

## 1.3 Application for funding from Garvagh Development Trust for GADDA Building under Uncategorized Assistance Category

A written application has been received from the non-Council operated centre located in Garvagh from Garvagh Development Trust. The building is known locally as the GADDA building. The centre has received local government funding support since its establishment in 2001.

Council Officers met on 17/04/15 to consider the proposal based upon previous funding provision and under Uncategorized Assistance as per Report to Organisational Development Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> February. The application was scored against the criteria set for Community Development Support Grant including levels of prevailing deprivation and based on monitoring data supplied for 2014-15. The application received an assessment score of 79.41%, which, in line with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Grant Funding Policy and Procedures, meets the threshold for eligibility for funding, ie. in excess of 65%.

A total of up to £9,000 has been recommended within the budget for 2015-16 to support the annual running costs. This is a reduction of 10% on the amount provided by Coleraine Borough Council towards the hall in 2014-15. This is in line with the recommendation that there is a graduated reduction in funding to the project year upon year (Year 1 - 10%, Year 2 – 30%, Year 3 – 50%) to bring supporting Council funds available to a level of the maximum grant aid (£2,000 p.a.) accessible through the Community Development Support Grant currently administered through Council’s Community Support Plan.

#### 1.4 Recommendation

**Recommendation:** Award funding of Community Festivals Fund grants of £1,500 to Glens of Antrim Comhaltas and £1,312 to Rasharkin Community Association.

**Recommendation:** to award funds of £9,000 to Garvagh Development Trust for the operation of the GADDA building with a gradual reduction in funding to the project year upon year (Year 1 - 10%, Year 2 – 30%, Year 3 – 50%) to bring supporting Council funds available to a level of the maximum grant aid (£2,000 p.a.) accessible through the Community Development Support Grant currently administered through Council's Community Support Plan.