

<b>Capital Grants Programme Grant Decisions</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> February 2017</b>
<b>To: Leisure and Development Committee For Decision</b>	

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)</b>	
<b>Strategic Theme</b>	Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities
<b>Outcome</b>	
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Funding Unit Manager
<b>Cost: (If applicable)</b>	£100,000 from Capital Grants Programme

**The purpose of this report is to recommend grant decisions and awards to be made through the Capital Grants Programme 2016-17 and to make recommendations on a revised application process for the Capital Grants programme for the 2017-18 Grant Funding period.**

### **Background**

In May 2016 Council agreed the Capital Grants Programme 2016-17 along with a budget of £750,000, the programme guidelines and the assessment criteria. (Details are at **Annex A**).

In May 2016 Friends of Glenariffe (FOG) were awarded £180,000 from the Capital Grants Programme for the provision of a multi-purpose community hub. The offer was conditional on match funding being secured. Friends of Glenariffe have received a Letter of Offer from Space & Place for the match funding so Council is now proceeding to the Letter of Offer stage. All documentation is currently with the Council Solicitor who is awaiting the applicant to submit title deeds as part of the pre-contract checks before Council finalises the letter of offer.

On 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at an elected members workshop, members directed that the Capital Grants Programme be open as a rolling programme with 2 assessment points in the year. The 2 advertised submission dates were the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017. The programme opened on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and 5 applications were received prior to the submission deadline of 12noon on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

### **Purpose of Capital Grants Programme**

The Capital Grants Fund is available to local sports and community organisations who wish to request support towards the development of new, or the enhancement of existing facilities to meet unmet need. It seeks to support external infrastructure projects that are aligned to Council's aims and objectives and that require additional capital funding to achieve completion.

Four grant information roadshows were held in November 2016 and information, guidance and support was provided to potential applicants. The programme was advertised in local press, local community networks, Council's website, social media and via the local community networks. Applicants were required to submit an Outline Business Case with their application. External mentor support was available to applicants upon request. Four out of the five applicants availed of mentor support.

The Grant assessment panel of relevant officers assessed the grant applications against the advertised criteria (**Annex B**). Applications were required to pass the eligibility criteria detailed in table 1 before progressing for assessment against the evaluation criteria detailed in table 2. Applications were required to attain a score of 70% or above in order to be recommended for funding.

**Applications Received** (Application summary details available at **Annex A**)

- 5 applications were received requesting £812,678.38 from the £570,000 available.
- 1 applicant withdrew their application with an intention to re-apply to the Capital Grants programme in May 2017.
- 2 applications failed to pass the eligibility criteria and did not progress to an assessment against the evaluation criteria.
- 2 applications were assessed against the evaluation criteria: 1 scored above the threshold for funding and 1 scored below the threshold for funding.

No of Applications received	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cushendun Building Preservation Trust</li> <li>• Portstewart Regeneration &amp; Cultural Group Ltd</li> <li>• St Matthews Drumsum GAC</li> <li>• Ballerin GAC</li> <li>• Loughgiel Shamrocks GAC</li> </ul>
No of applications withdrawn	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portstewart Regeneration &amp; Cultural Group Ltd</li> </ul>
No of applications failing to address eligibility criteria	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Matthews Drumsum GAC</li> <li>• Ballerin GAC</li> </ul>
No of applications failing to meet minimum scoring threshold	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loughgiel Shamrocks GAC</li> </ul>
No of applications successful	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cushendun Building Preservation Trust</li> </ul>

**Eligibility and Assessment Outcomes**

Stage 1: Eligibility Assessment. (Full details of eligibility and assessment criteria are detailed in **Annex B**)

Name of Applicant	Eligibility Assessment	
Cushendun Building Preservation Trust	<b>Pass</b>	Proceed to full assessment and scoring.
St Matthews Drumsum GAC	<b>Fail</b>	Eligibility Criterion 3, 4, 5 not met. Recommend applicant consider 3, 4, 5 and re-apply at a later stage.
Ballerin GAC	<b>Fail</b>	Eligibility criterion 3 & 5 not met. Recommend applicant consider 3 & 5 and re-apply at a later stage.
Loughgiel Shamrocks GAC	<b>Pass</b>	Proceed to full assessment and scoring.

Stage 2: Evaluation and Assessment.

Name of Applicant	Evaluation & Assessment	
	Score	
Cushendun Building Preservation Trust	<b>76.13%</b>	Above funding threshold of 70%
Loughgiel Shamrocks GAC	<b>59.35%</b>	Below funding threshold of 70%

## **Recommendation**

1. It is recommended that Council award £100,000 to Cushendun Building Preservation Trust for the Cushendun Old Church project subject to terms and conditions including evidence of match funding.
2. It is recommended that Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council revise the application process for Capital Grants to allow a pre-application stage which will include discussion between the potential applicant and senior Council Officers. This will allow critical discussions on project need, type and scale and will contribute to the creation and submission of viable and sustainable business cases.
3. It is recommended that in order to prepare for any future scenario where the number of high value quality projects exceeds the available budget that Council consider putting in place a reserve list for projects. This list will be used to react to the future availability of budgets for capital investment, or to identify replacement schemes in case of natural drop-out from applicants. Projects will remain on the reserve list for a period of 12 months. In the event that there are any substantial changes made to the criteria or assessment of the Capital Grants Programme then the reserve list will be cancelled.

**ANNEX A**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Total project Costs</b>	<b>Amount requested from Council</b>	<b>Balance of costs</b>
Friends of Glenariffe	Provision of a multi-purpose community hub	£530,000	£180,000 (34%)	Space & Place (£350k) Own funds (£100k)
Cushendun Building Preservation Trust	Regeneration of Cushendun Old Church to provide a multi-purpose venue for community meeting space, wellbeing classes, training & capacity building, mother & toddler groups & commercial hire.	£442,715.00	£100,000 (23%)	HLF £238,066 (Mar 17) Ulster Garden Villages £40,000 (s) Pilgrim Trust £15,000 (s) All Churches Trust £5,000 (s) Other £3,000 (s) Own £4,000 Revenue HLF £38,854 <b>Total = £343,920</b>
Portstewart Regeneration & Cultural Group Ltd	Regeneration of Cromie memorial orange Hall to provide a community hub (credit union, advice services, drop in, education, social welfare & recreation facilities)	£262,450.00	£131,225.00 (50%)	HLF £112,000.00 PEACE IV £20,000 (Making application to both at present)
St Matthews Drumsurn GAC	Development of new multi-purpose minor hall for wider community use, upgrade of toilet facilities to increase accessibility & participation for women & people with disabilities.	£327,506.40	£87,506.40 (27%)	RDP RBS £180,000 CCGBC £48,000 Own £12,000 <b>Total £240,000</b>
Ballerin GAC	Development of community hub & sports facility including: 8,600 sq ft Indoor 3G pitch 220 sq ft Kitchen 500 sq ft Community social area 1025 sq ft Gym 500 sq ft Training / meeting room 1,350 sq ft Multi-purpose hall	£577,359.48	£199,359.48 (35%)	RDP RBS £180,000 CCGBC £48,000 Landfill £100,000 Own £50,000 <b>Total £378,000</b>
Loughgiel Shamrocks GAC	Full sized sand carpet (100 x 80 metres) for a multi use physical activity space 40 x 40 metres ball wall	£589,175.00	£294,587.50 (50%)	Danske loan £176,725.50 Croke Park GAA loan £117,835.00
		<b>2,729,205.88</b>	<b>992,678.38</b>	

## ANNEX B

### 1. Eligibility Criteria

All applications are assessed against the following eligibility criteria. Applications must score a “pass” in all 6 criterion. If an application fails in any of the 5 criterion it will be deemed ineligible and will **NOT** be progressed for assessment against the evaluation and assessment criteria detailed in table 2.

**Table 1**

	<b>Criterion</b>
1	Applications must be from properly constituted not for profit groups. Evidence that a constitution has been formally adopted must be supplied (for example: a copy of the minutes adopting the Constitution). Council will carry out due diligence of legal status.
2	Applications will usually only be considered from Sports Clubs and Community projects geographically located within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. However an application may be considered from outside the area if a large amount of beneficiaries are from within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. Such requests will be considered on a case by case basis and reciprocal agreements with other Councils must be in place before an application can be made.
3	Applications should add value to existing provision or opportunity (e.g. a project or activity which meets unmet demand and/or generates additional services). Activities should not duplicate current provision or cause displacement.
4	Applications will only be considered from projects that can demonstrate their strategic fit with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council's vision, Mission and strategic themes as outlined in Council's Corporate Strategy</li><li>• For Sports facility projects: Council's Local Facility Report</li><li>• For Community facility projects: Councils Community Facility framework</li></ul>
5	Applications will only be considered where a viable and sustainable outline business case has been prepared and presented with the application?
6	All requests for funding will satisfy the definition of capital which is defined for the purpose of this programme as the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grant aid for an asset that would be expected to last at least 15 years.</li><li>• Resources unitary in nature, e.g. a building extension, new pitch, provision of enhancement lighting to enable extended use of facilities.</li><li>• Total projects over £30,000.</li></ul>

### 2. Evaluation & Assessment Criteria

Applications which have satisfied the eligibility criteria detailed in Table 1 are evaluated against the assessment criteria detailed below in Table 2:

Table 2

	Criterion	Score (0-10)	Weight	Max Points
1	Compliance with good governance practices	Pass/ Fail	Pass/ Fail	
2	Alignment with Council's programmes and activities		X 2	20
3	Providing community or sporting access to facilities in areas of relevant need (as defined in the relevant Council strategies, for example Council's Health & Wellbeing Strategy) Note: Projects that are likely to cause significant levels of displacement from existing facilities will not be funded by Council. Business cases must consider a range of options to meet the need and the preferred option must be of a scale that is commensurate with the need.		X 3	30
4	Demonstration that the project has local support		X 2	20
5	Demonstration that there is unmet demand that can be met by the investment <b>OR</b> even if an existing facility can meet demand, is it of such poor quality (due to design / specification or condition) that it is (or will become) unfit for purpose?		X 4	40
6	Will the (existing or proposed) facility be more accessible for particular user groups (disabled people etc.) and within reach of adequate catchment?		X 3	30
7	Will the investment provided by Council achieve value for money in either improved performance of the asset in question or enhanced direct opportunities for the Borough through the provision of a new asset?		X 4	40
8	Evidence that the investment (in new / improved facilities) will "reach" sufficient numbers of beneficiaries, and what would the per capita subsidy be for those beneficiaries?		X 3	30
9	Attracting significant external investment to the Borough (The fund will freeze on the day of assessment and at that point projects with the most external funding will score the max 40 points available, the rest will score pro-rata after that)		x 4	40
10	The percentage of funding required from Council (A higher score will be given to projects requesting a lesser % from Council against the overall project costs)		X2	20
11	The extent to which the (existing or proposed) facility will deliver against wider criteria including sustaining the tourist economy, meeting needs of temporary / seasonal residents , delivering benefits to the local economy, and meeting regional needs (specialist facilities with greater "reach")? (Up to 2.5 points for each criterion)		X 2	20
12	Can the (existing or proposed) facility increase its amenity value by becoming more universally accessible (club, schools, church and community facilities etc.)?		X 2	20

**Please Note:**

- Maximum of 310 points available.
- Applicants must score **70%** or above to be considered for a Capital Grant.