

Meeting held on Wednesday, 16th October 2019 at 6.30pm, The Chamber, Council Office, Cookstown

Attendees **Members:** Councillors Ronan McGinley, Wesley Brown, Meta Graham, Dan Kerr, Wilburt Buchanan, Frances Burton, Niamh Doris, Catherine Elatter, John McNamee, Sean McPeake, Phelim Gildernew, Cora Corry, Sean Clarke
Officers: A McCreesh, C Linney, P Clarke

Apologies Councillor Monteith

AGENDA	MATTERS AGREED	ACTIONS & RESPONSIBILITY
1.0	Issues Discussed	
	<p>Discussion on the current Council grants policy and allocation took place.</p> <p>Update re comments provided by a member who had given an apology – consideration of inflation particularly for small and revenue grants, consideration of community groups having access to the sports capital grant, important that festival lights grant is rolling, and consideration for the discretionary capital grant to recognise groups who do fundraising direct and potential additional Council support.</p> <p>Positive response from groups on the current grants.</p> <p>Noted it has taken considerable time to develop grants and they have continually being reviewed to take on good practice and seem to be embedded and working.</p> <p>Additional funding always welcome but in context of budget constraints and managing the rate.</p> <p>If consideration is to be given to inflation it needs to be looked at for all grant areas and then allow for discussion regarding budget.</p> <p>It is important that grants that have current pressures are given budget consideration first.</p> <p>Any budgetary issues is a decision for P&R and discussion at the time of setting the rate which needs to be considered in light of other Council pressures.</p> <p>Sustainability and potential for 3 year funding. Recognised this is a positive to allow for groups to plan ahead but will not be relevant to all grants as there are groups who develop and deliver different activities each year. Also need caution that if considering this for the larger strategic projects that deliver the same provision each year that we are not creating a dependency.</p> <p>It was recognised government are looking at this to allow for sustainable planning but this is only relevant to</p>	

	<p>areas where continuity planning is important for delivery. Confirmed that any sustainability model would have to be based on annual review of targets and subject to budget being available for any further year.</p> <p>Discretionary grant</p> <p>Community groups applying to the sports capital budget would require a substantial amount of money and there are other alternatives for supporting this sector. The DFC small grant up to £5000 and Lottery Awards for All. These are accessible to community groups where sports do not have the same provision.</p> <p>It was confirmed the venues grant is for groups delivering on 80% community activity.</p> <p>Discussion on the discretionary grant and potential for it to be used as a first grant to allow groups to access other funders. It was updated that the need was very much coming from groups who had secured substantial investment for their areas and were struggling to meet the last remaining element to allow the project to happen. Confirmed groups that receive rural funding can apply only if it is a different element of the project as a condition of rural is to have the match already in place which is part core Council already.</p> <p>Festive lights noted this had alleviated pressure with last two years additional £500 and was working and groups appreciated concerns taken on board. Noted areas still to be supported re infrastructure as part legacy to allow them to display a tree are Brocagh, Ballinderry, Benburb and Edendork.</p> <p>It was noted the importance of members informing groups to contact a Council officer for support when completing applications for Council grants.</p> <p>The pressure on this year's festival grant was noted by members. Members confirmed it was a very worthwhile grant and the return to Council is very positive. It was noted groups are delivering positive activity in their communities. Reference was made to the importance of ensuring that any solution to the pressure this year is in line with financial process and is a one off position and the issue going forward needs to be discussed as part of the budget review.</p> <p>An update was provided that taking a paper on this directly to Council is not in line with process and a detailed discussion would take place with Finance and SMT and a paper to Committee.</p> <p>Consideration to be given to the number of groups applying and types of activities going forward. There are a number of events that are 5 and 10k without the community festival element and also consideration of charging, as groups are making money; however it is recognised this is going to their activity of their Club or charity.</p> <p>The promotion of the Council grant contribution is an issue across the District. There are groups who are not recognising the Council as a funder. A report to address this to come to the next Committee. Consideration to be given to both potential implications to groups if adequate promotion is not addressed. This is across all other grants that are provided by other agencies.</p>	
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2.0	Actions	
	<p>Local community festival fund – Following meeting to Finance issue a paper to Committee</p> <p>Identify the budget reallocations based on grant pressures for next year and then the festival budget regarding additional budget.</p> <p>Consider inflation across all grants and impact on budget for each grant.</p> <p>Consider grants that could allow for 3 year funding and how this would work.</p> <p>To present a communications plan to committee along with the grants policy to address the issue of Council not being recognised by some groups for their funding contribution.</p>	<p>Community Development Team</p>
<p><i>Meeting concluded at 8.30pm</i></p>		