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| Report on | Schools Sports Facilities Access Grant |
| Date of Meeting | 12 th January 2023 |
| Reporting Officer | Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing |
| Contact Officer | Leigh Gilmore, Participation Manager |

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| Is this report restricted for confidential business? | Yes | |
| If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon | No | x |

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | To advise Members on the advertised Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grants. |
| 2.0 | Background |
| 2.1 | Previously in January 2022, Members approved the Community Grants Policy 2022 – 2023 and contained within the policy was the Schools Sport Facilities Access Grant. This grant allows for maximum award of £4,500 for the provision of schools sports facilities to minority sports that do not have their own provision in areas with the overall budget set at £10,000. |
| 2.2 | <p>The objectives for the programmes are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase access to underutilised school sports synthetic pitch facilities. • Contribute to the cost of opening up and maintaining schools' sports facilities, thereby encouraging ongoing usage. • Increase local people's access to training and competitive play opportunities. • Enhance access to team sports activities which are under-resourced or under-represented. |
| 2.3 | <p>The maximum amount available is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum of £4,500 per club or school, dependent on level of usage. • The actual amount awarded will be dependent on the score each application achieves under the specified criteria. All grant maximums may be reduced if the fund is heavily oversubscribed by eligible applicants. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | The grant was advertised during week commencing 21 st November 2022. Closing date was Friday 2 nd December 2022. It was open to sports clubs or schools where eligible expenditure can be demonstrated as being incurred between 1 September 2022 and 31 March 2023 and all funds must be spent by 31 March 2023. A total of 4 applications were received. |
| 3.2 | The assessment of the applications were carried out during the 5 th – 9 th Dec 2022. This involved three steps: review of all information to check completeness; eligibility check; and scoring the application. |
| 3.3 | As with previous years, the score was carried out using a formula system which automatically produced an indicated grant level. |
| 3.4 | The outcome of the scoring is as follows: |

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| 3.5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 applications passed the eligibility check and provided sufficient information and were therefore eligible for funding. <p>These 4 applications meet all the requirements for eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cookstown Hockey Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recommendation - Project should be funded at £4,500.00 Dungannon Ladies Hockey Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recommendation - Project should be funded at £4,000.00 St Johns Primary School Swatragh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recommendation - Project should be funded at £900.00 St Marys Primary School Pomeroy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recommendation - Project should be funded at £4,500.00 |
| 3.6 | All grants are subject to applicants returning all required information and governance documentation. |
| 4.0 | Other Considerations |
| 4.1 | Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications |
| | <p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>Budget available within the 2022/2023 for maximum of £10,000. total amount recommended for funding is £13,900. The additional £3,900 of funding is to be derived from underspend in other sport programmes and grants areas.</p> |
| | Human: Officer time to facilitate the process. |
| | Risk Management Considered in line with Council Policies and Procedures. |
| 4.2 | Screening & Impact Assessments |
| | Equality & Good Relations Implications: |
| | N/A |
| | Rural Needs Implications: |
| | N/A |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| 5.1 | Members are asked to agree to the recommendation for successful grant applications as detailed in section 3.5. |
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References |
| 6.1 | Appendix A – Grant Criteria |
| 6.2 | Appendix B – Mid Ulster District Council Scoreboard used for assessment. December 22. |

Appendix A – Grant Criteria

Overview of Programme

Mid Ulster District Council recognises the importance of participation in physical activity and sport and the need to maximise access to facilities which encourage and support this. The Northern Ireland Framework for Sports Facility Development (2016 - 2026) provides a guide for development of regional sports facilities across the province.

Locally, Council Sports Facilities Strategies identify shortfalls in provision and will recommend general geographic locations for development or refurbishment of sports facilities which address identified need. Council recognises that a few underrepresented sports may be constrained by lack of access to suitable facilities, yet these may exist in local schools.

The Mid Ulster District Council Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grants Programme was launched in mid-December 2016 and has been open for funding annually or twice yearly.

Eligibility

The first stage of the assessment process will involve an eligibility check. Applicants must pass all the criteria to progress to stage two.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be a club using, or planning to use, school owned synthetic pitch, or be a School which plans to provide access to such synthetic pitch facilities by external clubs (see *note 'b' below*)
- Be a constituted and not for profit sports club (*although see Note b, below*) or School
- Be located in the Mid Ulster District Council area
- For sports clubs:
 - be participating in a sport recognised by Sport NI.
 - A minimum of 80% of members must be resident in the MUDC area
 - Not have received any capital funding from Council in the 2022/2023 year
 - Be able to demonstrate difficulty in accessing other suitable sports facilities
- Not have benefited in the 2022/23 year from Council's:
 - Sports Strategic Development Grant
 - Sports Capital Grant
- Be able to demonstrate difficulty in accessing other suitable sports facilities
- Incur actual documented costs in utilising/providing a schools' synthetic pitch or, able to provide documentary evidence of voluntary work or maintenance costs involved in maintaining the facility. (*In such circumstances, Council will treat voluntary maintenance work in kind as valued at £10 per hour*)

Note

- a) The programme is primarily aimed at team sports

- b) Council may consider applications by schools on behalf of, and supported by evidence of agreement with, a constituted sports club.

Application Process & Scoring

Scoring to be carried out using a formula system which automatically produces an indicated grant level.

Appendix B – Mid Ulster District Council Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grant Assessment February 2021.

| GRANT TYPE | Organisation Name | Project | Amount Requested | Score | Amount Awarded |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
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| Eligible | | | | | |
| Facility costs | Cookstown Hockey Club | 3G Synthetic pitch at Cookstown High School | £13,500 | 50 | £4,500 |
| Facility costs | Dungannon Ladies Hockey Club | 3G Synthetic pitch at Royal School Dungannon | £4,000 | 50 | £4,000 |
| Facility costs | St. John's Primary School, Swatragh | 3G Synthetic pitch at St. John's Primary School, Swatragh | £900 | 50 | £900 |
| Facility costs | St. Marys Primary School, Pomeroy | 3G Synthetic pitch at St. Marys Primary School, Pomeroy | £4,600 | 50 | £4,500 |

All grants are subject to applicants returning all required information and governance documentation.