

Report on	Social Inclusion – Hardship Fund
Date of Meeting	1 st December 2022
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney, Assistant Director of Development
Contact Officers	Martina Totten, Philip Clarke

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

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	Social Inclusion – Hardship Fund - to seek approval for use of Covid reserves funding, following the recent announcement by the former Communities Minister which provides greater flexibility for this funding.
2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>Social Inclusion – Hardship Fund</p> <p>At the November 2022 Development meeting, the Committee recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee consider the allocation of 'one off', request in year, of funding from the Councils Covid reserves, following the announcement by the former Communities Minister that the Department for Communities would allow for flexibility around this funding in supporting the current cost of living crisis. The funding will be used to enhance existing funding for the delivery of a 'hardship fund'.</p> <p>The investment of £124,000 would enable a top up of funding to that already secured through the NI Office under TEO Good Relations and DFC Emergency support, total £33,400. The full investment package therefore would be £157,400</p> <p>If funding released is approved, the Development Committee agreed the dispersal approach for the Hardship Fund as detailed below;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> £7,195 to Save the Children, with match funding from both Health Trusts and Save the Children with a total investment of £28,780 to allow the programme to run to end of March 2022. £90,205 to Councils current model of crisis intervention, via the existing strategic crisis support groups of foodbanks and SVP that have been supporting Council through the Covid and continuing crisis across the 5 main towns and Clogher Valley - to provide support with provision of food (or food vouchers), fuel costs, white goods and other necessary household requirements. There is no set value per client, this is dependent on need. Funding will be allocated as per the 3 main towns (Magherafelt, Cookstown &

	<p>Dungannon) £20,000 each and 2 small towns (Maghera & Coalisland) and Clogher Valley area of £10,000 each.</p> <p>3. It is further proposed to commit an additional £60,000 to provide up to a £500 uplift to the Community (and Sports) venues and facilities to help alleviate the unprecedented financial burdens placed on them as a result of the current energy and cost of living crisis. The additional contribution would be a one off payment for energy costs over and above their current grant and claims (based on identified need). This would be distributed to the groups in the venues grant and to the facilities from the sports capital grant over the last 2 year period. This would equate to approx. 120 groups.</p> <p>To confirm, the overall additional budget implications for consideration by Policy and Resources is £124,000.</p>
3.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>Financial contribution £124,000 from Covid reserves, to be funded as a one off request, to the Council's Hardship Fund.</p> <p>Human: NA</p> <p>Risk Management: NA</p>
4	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: NA</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: NA</p>
5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Members are recommended to;</p> <p>(i) Approve the allocation of up to £124,000 from the Council Covid reserves as a one off contribution towards the agreed Council Hardship Fund.</p> <p>*Members are advised that the Policy and Resources Committee have delegated authority to deal with this matter therefore the decision will be implemented following the committee meeting. <i>This will be subject to Council decision of 24th November.</i></p>
6	List of Documents Attached
	None

