

Report on	Irish Language Activity Funding Programme 2021-2022 and Irish Language Action Plan 2021-2022
Date of Meeting	Wednesday 7 th July 2021
Reporting Officer	Tony McCance, Head of Culture & Arts
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Is this report restricted for confidential business?		Yes	X
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon		No	
X	Information relates to financial or business affairs of a person (including the council)		

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek members approval for the Irish Language Action Plan for 2021/22.
1.2	To seek members approval for the allocation of funding towards the delivery of the annual Irish Language Activity Funding Programme 2021/22.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Irish Language Action Plan has been revised as a result of impact of COVID-19 and the fact that some activities will not be possible to be delivered in the current financial year, (e.g. the Irish Language Bursary Scheme (2021/22)).
2.2	The Irish Language Activity Funding scheme was advertised in local press on Monday 7th June 2021 with a closing date identified for all returned submissions of Friday 25th June 2021.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Since MUDC adopted its Irish Language Policy in 2015 it has been an organisational requirement that Council also devise an annual Irish language action plan. It is envisaged that key activities which have been identified and carried out in previous years will continue this year with the exception of adjustments made necessary due to the current Covid19 pandemic, in particular the loss of all residential summer course provision in the Gaeltacht colleges of Donegal. In order to ameliorate this impact on local Irish language learners, funding is being directed at a number of locally based schemes for both adults and children such as Feis Charn Tóchair online childrens arts festival, Gaeltacht Thír Eoghain Adult College in Pomeroy and the Seal Spraoi summer scheme in Cookstown. The Irish Language Action Plan is attached for members' approval (see Appendix 1).

3.2 Under Irish Language Activity Funding, a total of 18 applications were received from a wide range of groups with diverse programmes being proposed. One application was deemed ineligible and the applicant redirected, and funding was awarded to a total of 17 groups.

3.3 The total allocation of funding required to support the Irish Language Activity Funding for 2021-2022 is £50,000. The total amount of funding requested from groups was £68,775. Below is a summary of the £50,000 of funding which is proposed to be allocated to 17 groups following assessment and processing by the Irish Language Officer Team:

GEOGRAPHIC AREA	NAME OF GROUP	ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED	TOTAL AWARD
Coalisland	Cairde Uí Néill	<p>"Gaeilge sa Phobal – Irish in the Community"</p> <p>This wide-ranging project consists of Irish language days at local children's summer camps, a range of outdoor activities for Irish speaking families, an adult summer school, a series of heritage talks, and an Irish language traditional song project and festival, helping local people achieve fluency through the promotion of our rich heritage of traditional song through the medium of Irish.</p>	£7,912
Swatragh	Grúpa Ban Ghreanacháin - Granaghan Womens Group	<p>Gaeilge Ar Fad!</p> <p>The project is an innovative series of Irish language workshops, targeting those who already have a little Irish. Due to the pandemic and the uncertainty surrounding what way it will evolve, the group wish to deliver their activities outside, as much as possible. The plan is for 10 Irish language sessions of 90 mins each. They will be delivered in the open air, walks and talks, all conducted through Irish Language.</p>	£1,000
Maghera	An Carn Centre	<p>"Plean Gníomhaíochta 2020-21" Language Revitalisation Plan</p> <p>A wide ranging 12 month activity plan from this award winning community group targeting all aspects of the use of Irish in the</p>	£13,768

			local district. A range of projects including youth activity support, adult learning, heritage promotion, Feis Charn Tóchair, family mentoring, teaching resource development, language colleges, Irish language drama etc.	
	Maghera	Conradh na Gaeilge Charn Tóchair	<p>“Scéim Thacaíochta do Theaghlaigh Gaelacha” (Support programme for Irish speaking families)</p> <p>A range of actions to support and assist families making the difficult transition to bilingualism in their everyday lives. Project involves a storytelling/reading programme for pre-school, family resource development, and Mother and Toddler club activities.</p>	£6,480
	Ballinascreen	Glór na Speiríní	<p>Imeachtaí Bliana Bhaile na Scríne (Ballinascreen Irish Language Events Programme)</p> <p>A support programme for Irish speaking families with a range of activities including an Adult Winter School, online events and a programme of heritage walks delivered through the medium of Irish.</p>	£3,400
	Magherafelt	Glór Mhachaire Fíolta	<p>“Scéim Óige 2021-22” (Irish Language Youth Project)</p> <p>A support programme for the Magherafelt area targeting young people in primary and post-primary Irish medium education to develop their use of the language in informal settings through a range of youth activities.</p>	£3,500
	Ardboe	Tobin Youth Centre	<p>“Activities for 4-11 Year Olds”</p> <p>The aim of project is to engage with 30 children (15, 4-7 year olds and 15, 8-11 year olds) on a weekly basis. Each age group of 15 will attend a 1 hour class for the 8 weeks prior to St Patricks Day 2022.</p> <p>During the 8 weekly sessions the children will take part in various youth activities delivered through Irish, eg games, dance, art and</p>	£2,570

			crafts, singing, cookery, etc. The aim is to make the activities offered as fun and as engaging as possible to assist with learning the Irish Language. The weekly language sessions will work towards the Annual Concert, with the children performing through singing, dancing, drama and recitation.	
	Ardboe	Craobh Ard Bó	<p>"Comharsana ag Comhrá – Neighbours in conversation"</p> <p>Under the wider title of 'neighbours in conversation', Craobh Ard Bó intend to adopt a two-pronged approach to embed the Irish language into the local community, and to offer all those in the community at every age group the chance to learn Irish together. Stage one of this project centres on engagement with the local GAA club and community group, where a 12 week course free of charge will be offered to members of the community. Stage two of the project takes place in the local primary school, where a tutor will work with the local children on learning key words and phrases in Irish so that they can communicate both with one another and with their families at home.</p>	£900
	Kildress	Campa Chill Dreas	<p>Campa Chill Dreasa (Kildress Summer Camp)</p> <p>Summer camp for primary school children involving a range of sports and practical cultural activities through the medium of Irish with a view to raising Irish language awareness and providing basic language skills.</p>	£2,350
	Donaghmore	Sruth na Gaeilge, Scoil Iósaef Domhnach Mór	<p>Craobh an tSrutha (Champions of Irish)</p> <p>Sports day through the medium of Irish for post-primary students of Irish Medium schools in the MUDC area aimed at providing a range of sports activities and interaction between different schools.</p>	£1,000
	Pomeroy	Irish Institute of Leadership	Féile Ghaeltacht Thír Eoghain 2021 (Tyrone Gaeltacht Festival)	£2,000

			Online Irish language Summer School for Adults involving a series of language classes and lectures to improve language skills and knowledge of cultural heritage in Tyrone area.	
	The Moy	Liath Luachra	Liath Luachra (Irish Language Cycling Club) A weekly cycling scheme for adults aimed at providing an outdoor activity through the medium of Irish for cyclists.	£250
	Cookstown	Cairdeas Eoghain	Seal Spraoi Lúnasa (August Fun Activity Week) Summer Scheme for local Irish Medium primary school children involving a range of linguistic activities for both parents and pupils with a view to continuing use of Irish during summer months/school holidays.	£2,600
	Dungannon	An Chraobh Rua	An Gasra Léitheoireachta (Reading Club) Online Irish language reading club for adults intended to provide opportunities for adult learners and speakers to interact primarily through a reading circle.	£640
	Ballygawley	Pobal an Ghleanna	Workshop and celebration event for adults across a range of levels to provide an opportunity for learning and interaction through the medium of Irish.	£330
	Dungannon	Gaelscoil Aodha Rua	Snas agus Blas (Fluency and language enrichment project) Snas agus Blas will be a new project which will launch at the beginning of the new school year. The aim of the project is to encourage the wider school community, both teaching and non-teaching and parents of children in the school who have studied Irish at school, to engage in a programme of continued learning. The sessions will follow a 'book club' format, where a chosen text	£1,300

			will be discussed and interesting grammatical / linguistic learning opportunities will be analysed and discussed, providing scope for further learning.	
4.0	Other Considerations			
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications			
	<p>Financial: The revised proposals outlined within the Irish Language Action Plan for 2021/22 can be met from within existing resources and specifically the funding allocation identified within the Irish Language Action Plan 2021-2022 under the themes “<i>To Promote Opportunities to Learn Irish</i>” and “<i>To Develop Irish Language in the Community and to make it more accessible for All</i>”.</p>			
	<p>Human: Staff time to assist applicant groups in delivery of projects and processing of claims of activity funding support</p>			
	<p>Risk Management: Cognisance has been given to the ability of officers and organisations to deliver activity detailed within the Irish Language Action Plan as a result of COVID 19.</p> <p>All risks identified and arising from the delivery of the Irish Language Action Plan are discussed and addressed through the Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group.</p>			
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments			
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>The Irish language policy is implemented in a way that is sensitive to the concerns of the community, that is inclusive, and that aspires to promote good relations between all sections of the community in the longer term.</p> <p>The Irish Language policy is applied ensuring that there is no adverse impact on the promotion of a good and harmonious environment, both among Council staff and within the District as a whole.</p>			
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: Rural needs implications are considered as part of the implementation and delivery of the annual Irish Language Activity Funding Programme.</p>			

5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to approve the revised Irish Language Action Plan for the remainder of 2021/22 (appendix 1)
5.2	Members are asked to approve the funding allocation to the groups identified as part of the annual Irish Language Activity Funding Programme as detailed in section 3.3 above
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 –Irish Language Action Plan 2021/22