

Report on	Development Report
Date of Meeting	10 th November 2022
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney, Assistant Director of Development
Contact Officers	Philip Clarke - Community Services Manager, Oliver Morgan-Good Relations Manager, Michael McCrory - PCSP Manager, Caroline Sheehy – Burnavon Arts Manager, Brian McCormick Seamus Heaney Home Place Manager, Joanne Robinson – Hill of The O’Neill/Ranfurly House Manager

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	<p>The purpose of this report is to update members and seek approval for the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rolling Community Grants • Community Grants Review and Policy 2023 - 2024 • Development Department Update 									
2	Key Issues									
2.1	<p>Community Grants - Rolling Grants Programme 2022 – 2023</p> <p>Members are advised that the grants assessment panel are making the following recommendations to award grants under the Community Festival & Good Relations funds.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grant</th> <th>No. of groups awarded</th> <th>Value of Grant Awards</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Community Festival Fund</td> <td>8</td> <td>£5280</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Good Relations Grant</td> <td>2</td> <td>£1200</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Please see attached in Appendix 1 grant award recommendations</p>	Grant	No. of groups awarded	Value of Grant Awards	Community Festival Fund	8	£5280	Good Relations Grant	2	£1200
Grant	No. of groups awarded	Value of Grant Awards								
Community Festival Fund	8	£5280								
Good Relations Grant	2	£1200								
2.2	<p>Community Grants Review</p> <p>The online Community Grant Review Survey was open from the 13th until the 27th June 2022. Community and Voluntary Sector groups were encouraged to respond to the online survey through several avenues, including; an email to the community and voluntary database, notice in the newsletter, and Council’s social media channels.</p> <p>A total of 144 respondents engaged with the survey and the following 3 themes were examined:</p>									

What works well within community grants?
Are there areas you could suggest for improvement on our community grants?
If you did not apply for our community grants can you state why?

What works well within community grants

The majority of respondents left positive feedback with many remarking that the support and advice of the staff within community development was very good.

Many commended Council on their grant programme, with one group commenting that “these grants provide much needed support to local communities”.

The 3 year grant option was stated as a process which works well as it saves volunteer time and effort.

Are there areas you could suggest for improvement on our community grants

- Need for support for maintenance of buildings and facilities
- Consider funding for feasibility studies e.g. planning permission and other development costs that would allow groups to have their projects 'investment ready' for other funders
- Consider raising grant thresholds, to reflect rising costs, particularly facility overheads
- Reduce the need to upload documentation
- Be able to access application forms after submitting these online
- Set a clear timeline for the grants process; for example date of receipt of letter of offer from submission
- Support for projects on environmental/ climate change

If you did not apply for our community grants can you state why

The majority of the groups were aware of Council grants. Some barriers included:

- A small number of groups having no engagement with Council
- Possibility of rolling grants
- Simplification of grants to make it clearer that can be applied for.

At the end of the questionnaire there was space left for any other comments. Many respondents used this space to thank Council and officers for help and support through the grants process.

Grant Review Considerations

Considering the feedback from the Community Grant Review Survey 2022, the following is proposed for consideration, within existing budgets:

1. Open the Community Grants programme earlier and allow for a longer closing period with continuous marketing throughout.
2. Review the grant portal to allow access to all documentation post submission.
3. Simplify the monitoring forms and claims.

4. Small Grants – Have one small grant for all themes - amend the upper limit in line with the small sports grant to £1500. No change to budget. Grant open annually.
5. Community Festivals and Good Relations grants - extend the maximum funding awards to £1500 in line with all other small grants. No change to budget. Grant open annually and rolling.
6. Venues/Facilities/Development – amalgamate the community venues grant with the small sports capital/development grant. To provide for a medium level grant to support any group who manages a community (including sports) venue or facility. This grant is flexible for use for overheads, projects/activity, small venue/facility development. The budget will remain as £200,000 (both grant budgets brought together). The maximum available grant will be £3500.
7. All strategic and medium sized grants to set for a 2 year period. This allows groups to apply every 2 years, pending monitoring and evaluation and claims submission and confirmation, and budget availability. The 2 year period will allow for members of the next Council to continue to review and monitor the overall grants programme.

See attached Grants Policy 2023 – 2024 in **Appendix 2**.

2.3

Development Update

Community Support

Support is continuing to groups re community development activity.

A review of community grants was undertaken, as per above.

Good Relations

The Good Relations Plan continues to be delivered across the District.

The NI Office, TEO is providing an additional £7,050 available to program if Council match fund value of £2,350. This would be utilised to further support Foodbank resources across the District

PCSP

No Partnership minutes this month.

Burnavon Arts Centre, Seamus Heaney Homeplace, and Hill of O'Neill & Ranfurly House

A range of activities, events and performances are being delivered as per brochures and marketing.

Regional and Minority Language

The programme is continuing to roll out across the District.

<p>4.1</p>	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>Community Festivals Grants £5280, Good Relations Grants £1200</p> <p>Community Grants Policy 2023 – 2024, subject to Council budget process.</p> <p>Good Relations Additional match fund of £2,350 (within existing budget)</p> <p>Human: NA</p> <p>Risk Management: NA</p>
<p>4.2</p>	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: NA</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: NA</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>5.1</p>	<p>Members are recommended to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Approve the assessment panel recommendations under the Community Festival & Good Relations grants. (ii) Approve the Community Grants Review and policy 2023 - 2024. (iii) Note the update from the development department.
<p>6</p>	<p>List of Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 Community Rolling Grant Awards Appendix 2 Grants Policy 2023 – 2024</p>