

<b>Report on</b>	Schools Sports Facilities Grant
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12 September 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Oliver McShane
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Oliver McShane

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To seek approval for the Schools Sports Facilities Grant 2019/20.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	In the year 2018/19 the programme was funded from an underspend in the Sports Capital Grant programme budget.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b>Rationale</b>
3.1	<p>The agreed rationale in previous years was: Among Mid Ulster District Council's strategic priorities is a commitment to ensuring high quality, responsive, indoor and outdoor recreational services with increased customer numbers and satisfaction. Council recognises the connection between physical activity and the health and well-being of all residents. Participation in sports can play a key part in increasing physical activity which brings very positive benefits to both physical and mental health. To this end Council provides a range of grants to assist and develop sporting activities. Sports clubs also need access to good quality sporting facilities.</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Framework for Sports Facility Development (2016 - 2026) will provide a guide for development of regional sports facilities across the province. Locally, Council Sports Facilities Strategies will identify any shortfalls in provision and will recommend general geographic locations for development or refurbishment of sports facilities which address identified need. Currently Council provides facilities for 30 of the 35 sports activities carried out by the 229 sports clubs in the area. In the past, the legacy Councils provided time bound support to schools and sports clubs to facilitate wider community access to their sporting facilities. These agreements have now come to an end and as a result Council has been approached by a number of sports clubs seeking financial support to improve their access to facilities.</p>
3.2	<b>Purpose and Objectives</b>
	It is specifically targeted at clubs which use, or plan to use, schools' sports facilities or at schools which aim to offer access to their sports facilities outside curriculum times.

The objectives for the programmes are to:

- 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.

### 3.3 **Scale of Funding**

It is proposed to roll out the programme in 2019/20, with funding from an underspend in the current Sports grants programme.

As in previous years, the maximum amount available will be:

- Maximum of £5,000 per club or school, dependent on level of usage. This is as follows:
  - Up to £4,500 maximum grant.
  - For use of school sports facilities which have not previously been available for community use, up to an additional £500 grant on a pro rata basis.

The actual amount awarded will be dependent on the score each application achieves under the criteria set out below. All grant maximums may be reduced if the fund is heavily oversubscribed by eligible applicants.

### 3.4 **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, sports facilities; or, be a school which plans to provide access to such sports 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 2018/19 year.
  - Be able to demonstrate difficulty in accessing other suitable sports facilities.
- Not have benefited in the 2018/19 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' sports facility, 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.

It is proposed that this grant be rolled out again in this financial year.

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p><b><u>Financial</u></b></p> <p>It is proposed to roll out the programme in 2019/20, with funding from an underspend in the current sports grants programme – estimated at £15,000.</p>
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management N/A
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	<p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications</p> <p>Considered in conjunction with Council policies and procedures.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>Considered in conjunction with Council policies and procedures.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	It is proposed to roll out the School Sports grant programme as in previous years with funding from an underspend in the current grant programmes.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	N/A