

Report on	Schools Sports Facilities Grant
Date of Meeting	11 th March 2021
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure
Contact Officer	Leigh Gilmore, Participation Manager

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

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 November 2019, Members approved the Community Grants Policy 2020 – 2021. This report refers to category 4:14 within the previously approved policy – Schools Access to Sports Facilities Grant. This grant allows for maximum award of £5,000 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	The objectives for the programmes are to: <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	As in previous years, the maximum amount available is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum of £5,000 per club or school, dependent on level of usage. This is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ 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 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 18th January 2021. Closing date was Friday 5 th February 2021. It was open to sports clubs or schools where eligible expenditure can be demonstrated as being incurred between 1 September 2020 and 31 March 2021 and all funds must be spent by 31 March 2021. A total of 3 applications were received and, as with previous years, passed to Williamson Consulting for assessment.
3.2	The assessment of the applications were carried out during the 6 th – 13 th Feb 2021. 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 applications passed the eligibility check and provided sufficient information and were therefore eligible for funding.
3.5	Williamson Consulting commented that, these 3 application meet all the requirements for eligibility: <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 Rugby Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recommendation - Project should be funded at £500.00 • St Johns Primary School Swatragh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recommendation - Project should be funded at £1,864.00
3.6	These grants will support hire of school pitch facilities. This will allow for club use of school owned sports facilities for women and girls.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<u>Financial</u> Budget available within the 2020/2021 for maximum of £10,000.
	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 Schools’ Sports Facilities Access Grant Assessment February 2021.

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, 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 2020/21 year.
 - Be able to demonstrate difficulty in accessing other suitable sports facilities.
- Not have benefited in the 2020/21 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.

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 Title	Amount Requested	Score	Amount Awarded
Eligible					
Facility costs	Cookstown Hockey Club	Hire of water based synthetic hockey pitch at Cookstown High School for hockey	£13,500	50	£4,500 (school used before so no 10% premium)
Facility costs	Dungannon Rugby Club	Hire of synthetic pitch facilities at Integrated College Dungannon for training for women and boys for rugby	£500	50	£500
Facility costs	St. John’s Primary School, Swatragh	Hire of synthetic pitch to be used by Michael Davitt Camogie Club Swatragh for Under 6 - Under 14 girls training	£1,864	33.5	£1,864 (school used before so no 10% premium)