

COMMUNITY GRANTS INDEX 2024 / 2025

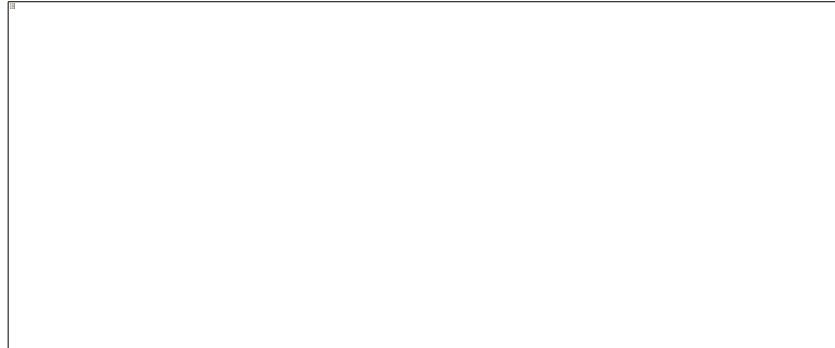
Grant Aid 2025/2026								
Ref. No.	Grant Name	No. of Applications	No. of Awards	Ineligible or did not meet threshold	Budget	Award Amount	Balance	Comments
	Sports Representative Individuals	4	3	1	£900.00	£750.00	£150.00	
	Seachtain na Gaeilge	23	17	6	£7,000.00	£7,000.00	£0.00	
	Festive Lights Allocations	56	56	0	£91,000	£102,000	-£11,000.00	

Sports Representative Teams and Individuals

Sports Representative Individuals (Max £250) and Teams (Max £500)[Return to](#)

Individuals	Sport	Band	Award	
Martin McKenna	British & Irish Masters XC International Cross Country Running	3	£200.00	
Paul McAnespie	British & Irish Masters XC International Cross Country Running	2	£225.00	
Teams	Sport	Band	Award	
Clogher Eire Ogs	GAA ~ Provincial semi finals	4	175.00	
		TOTAL	£600.00	
Ineligible or did not meet threshold				
Bradley Rodgers	Ineligible: 2nd application in this financial year			
Score	Band	Individuals	Teams	
90 -100		1	£250.00	500
80 - 89		2	£225.00	450
70 - 79		3	£200.00	400
60 - 69		4	£175.00	350
50 - 59		5	£150.00	300

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Irish Language Policy
Draft with amendments
highlighted for review –
July 2025

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Introduction

Relevant Legislation and Guidance

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (Part 2 – applies to Irish Language and Ulster Scots), within the territories in which such languages are used and according to the situation of each language, requires Parties to base their policies on:

- The need for resolute action to promote regional or minority languages in order to safeguard them; and
- Facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of regional or minority languages in speech and writing in private and public life.

In particular, Part 3 Article 10 details the Council's obligations as follows:

- Within the Administrative district of the State in which the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages justifies the measures specified below and according to the situation of each language, the Parties undertake, as far as this is reasonably possible to:
 - Ensure that users of regional or minority languages may submit oral or written applications in these languages;
 - Allow the administrative authorities to draft documents in a regional or minority language;
- In respect of the local and regional authorities on whose territory the number of users of regional or minority languages is such as to justify the measures specified below, the Parties undertake to allow and/or encourage:
 - The possibility for users of regional or minority languages to submit oral or written applications in these languages;
 - The use by local authorities of regional or minority languages in debates in their assemblies, without excluding, however the use of the official language of the state;
 - The use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language(s) of traditional and correct forms of place-names in regional or minority languages.
- With regard to public services provided by the administrative authority or other persons acting on their behalf, the Parties undertake, within the territory in which regional or minority languages are used, in accordance with the situation of each language and as far as this is reasonably possible, to:
 - Allow users of regional or minority languages to submit a request in these languages.

- With a view to putting into effect the above provisions accepted by them, the Parties undertake to take one or more of the following measures:
 - Translation or interpretation as may be required.
- The Parties undertake to allow the use or adoption of family names in the regional or minority languages, at the request of those concerned.

With regard to cultural activities and facilities, Article 12 of the European Charter also details the Council's obligations to ensure that when organising or supporting cultural activities, they make appropriate allowance for incorporating the knowledge and use of regional or minority languages and cultures in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing.

Article 12 details the following obligations:-

- With regard to cultural activities and facilities, especially libraries, video libraries, cultural centres, museums, archives, academies, theatres and cinemas as well as literary work and film productions, vernacular forms of cultural expression, festivals and the cultural industries, including inter alia the use of new technologies – the Parties undertake, within the territory in which such languages are used and to the extent that the public authorities are competent, have power or play a role in this field:
 - to encourage types of expression and initiative specific to regional or minority languages and foster the different means of access to works produced in these languages;
 - to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities of various kinds make appropriate allowance for incorporating the knowledge and use of regional or minority languages and cultures in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing;
 - to promote measures to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of the regional or minority language concerned as well as of the language(s) of the rest of the population;
 - to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of a given regional or minority language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities.

Article 14, Transfrontier Exchanges encourages the Council to foster contacts between users of Irish on a cross border basis “for the benefit of regional or minority languages, to facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory the same language is used in identical or similar form”.

The European Charter is based on a concept of non-discrimination, that is, the majority language group is not discriminated against by the implementation of actions designed to promote and protect the minority indigenous languages.

“The Parties undertake to eliminate, if they have not yet done so, any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of a regional or minority language and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of it. The adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not considered to be an act of discrimination against the users of more widely-used languages”.

The Belfast Agreement (1998)

The Belfast Agreement (1998) under section ‘Rights, Safeguards and Equality of Opportunity: Economic, Social and Cultural Issues (Point 4)’ gives recognition to the Irish language, in particular where appropriate and where people so desire it to:

- Take resolute action to promote the language;
- Facilitate and encourage the use of Irish in speech and writing, in private and public life where there is appropriate demand;
- Seek to remove, where possible, restrictions which would discourage or work against the maintenance or development of the language;
- Make provision for liaising with the Irish language community, representing their views to public authorities and investigating complaints;
- Place a statutory duty on the Department of Education to encourage and facilitate Irish medium education in line with current provision for integrated education;
- Explore urgently with the relevant British authorities, and in cooperation with the Irish Broadcasting authorities, the scope for achieving more wide spread availability of Teilifis na Gaelige in Northern Ireland;
- Seek more efficient ways to encourage and provide financial support for Irish language film and television production in Northern Ireland; and
- Encourage the parties to secure agreement that this commitment will be sustained by the new Assembly in a way which takes account of the desires and sensitivities of the community.

Northern Ireland (St Andrew's Agreement) Act 2006

This Act places a duty on the Northern Ireland Executive to adopt a strategy for the enhancement and protection of the Irish language.

European Charter on Human Rights

The NI Human Rights Commission has advised that, from a human rights perspective, it is difficult to see any legitimate grounds for objecting to a minority language being promoted by an employer or, more generally, a public body.

On broader issues, the Commission has drawn attention to the fact that there is no "right to be offended" by another party exercising a right. This is a general principle of freedom of expression (ECHR Article 10) which can be read in conjunction with ECHR Article 14 on non-discrimination on grounds that include language.

The Commission has advised that the right to use a regional or minority language in private and public life is an inalienable right conforming to the principles embodied in the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and according to the spirit of the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

The Commission has concluded that official acknowledgement of a minority language cannot constitute a violation of the rights of those who do not use that language.

~~DCAL Consultative Document 2012 – Draft Strategy for Protecting and Enhancing the Development of the Irish Language~~

~~In July 2012 DCAL published a consultative document containing proposals for a strategy for protecting and enhancing the development of the Irish language, with a consultation period lasting for 20 weeks, from Wednesday 11 July until Tuesday 27 November 2012. The results of the consultation are not yet available.~~

~~The consultative document sets out a number of key aims of the draft Irish language strategy:~~

- ~~• To create a framework where Irish can flourish and be shared by all who wish to use it;~~
- ~~• To protect and support the development and learning of Irish; and~~
- ~~• To promote wider understanding of the background to the Irish language.~~

~~The draft strategy has the following objectives:~~

- ~~To increase the number of those who can access Irish medium education;~~
- ~~To increase the number of those that use public services through the Irish language; and~~
- ~~To increase access to Irish language media.~~

Key areas for action include:

1. ~~Education~~
2. ~~Family Transmission of the Language—Early Intervention~~
3. ~~Administration, Services and Community~~
4. ~~Media and Technology~~
5. ~~Legislation and the Status of the Language~~
6. ~~Economic Life~~

Under the administration heading, the draft strategy specifically states that local authorities should:

- ~~Adopt Irish language policies and plans and appoint Irish language officers where needed;~~
- ~~Maximise the provision of services through Irish;~~
- ~~Expand/initiate facilities for the use of Irish in their council/committee meetings;~~
- ~~Guard against any diminution of services provided through the Irish language as a result of those authorities with Irish language policies and services being merged under the Review of Public Administration (RPA) with those authorities that do not;~~
- ~~Provide an Irish or bilingual version of all publications, official documents and forms in line with the approach of this Strategy and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;~~
- ~~Facilitate the proper preservation and signposting of Irish place names and the naming of new housing developments to reflect local or national heritage; and~~
- ~~Encourage tourism and cultural initiatives through Irish.~~

The draft strategy envisages ~~Foras na Gaeilge~~ providing support to local authorities to develop language planning initiatives. It also envisages that an Irish Language Bill will be prepared and presented to the Assembly at the earliest possible time.

New Decade New Approach

In January 2020 agreement was reached on the restoration of devolved government in Northern Ireland. This agreement saw the full restoration of the institutions of the Good Friday Agreement including the Executive, the Assembly and the North/South Ministerial Council. The deal offered a new cultural framework that will include a new Office for Identity and Cultural Expression to promote cultural diversity and inclusion

across all identities and cultures alongside a commissioner to protect and enhance the Irish language and a further Commissioner to develop the language, arts and literature associated with the Ulster Scots / Ulster British tradition in Northern Ireland. This was to be made law through an integrated package of legislation that would establish new parts of the Northern Ireland Act.

The framework will be underpinned by an affirmation of the birthright of all the people of Northern Ireland to identify themselves and be accepted as Irish or British, or both, as they may so choose, while acknowledging and accommodating those within our community who define themselves as 'other' and those who form our ethnic and newcomer communities. It will comprise:

- a. An Office of Identity and Cultural Expression to promote cultural pluralism and respect for diversity, build social cohesion and reconciliation and to celebrate and support all aspects of Northern Ireland's rich cultural and linguistic heritage.
- b. Legislation to create a commissioner to recognise, support, protect and enhance the development of the Irish language in Northern Ireland and to provide official recognition of the status of the Irish Language in Northern Ireland. The legislation will also repeal the Administration of Justice (Language) Act (Ireland) 1737.

Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Act 2022

The **Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Act 2022** is an act of Parliament in the United Kingdom providing "official recognition of the status of the Irish language" in Northern Ireland, with Ulster Scots being an officially recognised minority language. The bill was passed into law by the United Kingdom Government in December 2022.

Main provisions

The bill includes the following provisions:

- Official recognition and protection of the Irish language
- Development of the Ulster Scots and Ulster British tradition
- Two commissioners appointed, one for the Irish language and one for the Ulster Scots/Ulster British tradition
- The creation of an Office of Identity and Cultural Expression
- £4 million investment in an Irish language investment fund.

Policy Aim and Objectives

Mid Ulster District Council recognises that we live in a multi-cultural and multi lingual society and that the Irish language is an integral part of the linguistic, cultural and historical heritage of this area.

Irish is the first official language of the Republic of Ireland and was accorded minority language status in Northern Ireland by the UK Government in March 2000. Irish was made an official working language of the European Union on 1st January 2007.

The 2011 census indicates that 22,984 people (17.4%) out of a district population of 132,025 have some knowledge of Irish. In particular 8,063 (6.1%) people could speak, read, write and understand Irish. As such the Council recognises that the proactive promotion of Irish, as well as catering for the needs of its growing Irish speaking population, can enhance the rich linguistic culture of the area and add to the appeal of the area as a tourist destination. This policy will facilitate and encourage the use of Irish in speech and writing, in private and public life.

Policy Aim

Operating within the spirit of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, and having due regard to the status afforded to Irish within that Charter, Mid Ulster District Council aims to take resolute and positive actions that will aspire to promote, enhance and protect the Irish language within the Council and District.

Policy Objectives

- To encourage the use of Irish in both speech and writing within the District and Council.
- To promote a range of initiatives that will reduce intolerance and promote understanding of the Irish language across the District and within the Council.
- To preserve townland names through the use of appropriate signage.
- To recognise and celebrate the Irish language within the broader context of linguistic and cultural diversity across the District and Council.
- To maintain and develop links between groups using Irish with other groups using Irish and/or Ulster Scots.

Policy Guiding Principles

The Mid Ulster District Council Irish Language Policy is based on the requirements of Parts II and III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The policy presents a number of guiding principles from which the Council will implement a range of positive actions to promote, enhance and protect the Irish language whilst encouraging its use in speech and writing in private and public life. ~~Specific measures for implementation relating to each guiding principle are included in Appendix 1.~~

Guiding Principle 1: Support for the Irish Language

Mid Ulster District Council is committed to the protection and encouragement of the Irish Language. The Council recognises that the Irish language is an expression of cultural wealth and there is a need for the Council to promote Irish in order to help safeguard and strengthen it.

To this end:

- The Council will prepare a plan for the Mid Ulster Council area on how it will promote the development and promotion of the Irish language. The development plan will identify opportunities to promote and learn the language; and
- The Council, through implementation of the plan, will encourage better understanding of the shared linguistic heritage of Irish. It will also recognise the contribution that the Irish Language can make to the vibrant society within Mid Ulster.
- **The Council will appoint Irish language officers where needed.**

Guiding Principle 2: Publications

The Council's **primary** corporate identity will be English and Irish although English will remain the language of communication internally. Employees wishing to communicate with each other in Irish will be facilitated. With regard to Council publications, our policy will facilitate Irish speakers to communicate with the Council orally and in written format through the medium of Irish. All written / printed materials produced by Mid Ulster District Council for public consumption will include Irish where appropriate.

To this end:

- Key corporate documents e.g. Corporate Plan, Annual Report will be made available in English and Irish format;
- Design / publishing of material in the Irish language will be of an equal standard with the same material in English; and
- Council literature and forms should be available to the public in English and Irish format where appropriate, according to need and as resources allow.

Guiding Principle 3: Publicity

Mid Ulster District Council will encourage and support radio, TV and ~~video work~~ **social media** that broadcast in English and Irish format.

To this end:

- The Council will build relationships with the Irish language media; and
- Where possible and appropriate, media work carried out by Mid Ulster District Council will contain English and Irish elements.

Guiding Principle 4: Correspondence

Mid Ulster District Council will ensure that users of Irish may submit oral or written communications in Irish. Mid Ulster District Council will correspond in the chosen language of the recipient, where this choice is known.

To this end:

- Users of Irish may submit oral or written correspondence in Irish to Mid Ulster District Council;
- Any correspondence received in Irish will be responded to in Irish; and
- Translation or interpretation will be available to all staff as may be required.

Guiding Principle 5: Presentations / Public Speaking / Events

Mid Ulster District Council will ensure that in planning its presentations, events and festivals that appropriate allowance is made for incorporating the knowledge and use of the Irish language and culture.

To this end Mid Ulster District Council will:

- Use increasing amounts of Irish in presentations;
- Provide simultaneous translation services on request; and
- Where appropriate, incorporate the Irish language and culture within events, festivals and civic celebrations.

Guiding Principle 6: Staff and Administrative Practices

Mid Ulster District Council will train Council officers in the detail of this policy so that they will be able to respond appropriately to enquiries in Irish. Staff will be encouraged to use what Irish they have. Fluency in Irish will not be a requirement for any position that would not ordinarily justify the appointment of an Irish speaker.

To this end Mid Ulster District Council will:

- **Ensure awareness training of the Policy across Council.**
- Offer appropriate training and guidance to staff, **as required**
- Provide translation services to staff; and

- Provide Irish versions of internal documentation for use by staff on request.

Guiding Principle 7: Visibility of Irish

Mid Ulster District Council will enhance the visibility of Irish and foster different means of accessing the language as part of everyday life.

To this end Mid Ulster District Council will:

- Devise a corporate identity to include Irish reproduced in the same quality and presentational standards and status as English;
- Devise a phased implementation plan for the erection of English and Irish internal **name, directional** and external signage on all Mid Ulster District Council owned properties;
- Initiate a settlement signage programme **on request**; and
- Maintain an English and Irish street signage policy.

REMOVE THE FOLLOWING SECTION ENTIRELY AND CREATE AN INTERNAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TO BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY

Appendix 1 – Guiding Principles Specific Measures for Implementation

Timeframe relates to Year 1 – Year 4 of the first term of the Mid Ulster District Council.

Guiding Principle	Measures for Implementation	Timeline
Support for the Irish language	Prepare and implement plan on the development and promotion of the Irish language.	Year 1 – Year 4
Publications	Annual Reports and Corporate Plans will be made available in English and Irish format.	Year 1 and annually
	Mid Ulster District Council's website will include an English and Irish format with the Irish language text updated in line with the English text where possible. Those pages on Mid Ulster District Council's website receiving most user traffic, for example main front pages, will be available initially in English and Irish format. Headings of dynamic sections will also be of English and Irish format, while eventually the entire web site will be English and Irish.	Year 1 – Year 4
	According to needs and as resources allow forms will be produced in English and Irish format.	Year 1
	The format for English and Irish materials will be Irish and English, side-by-side, with both languages of equal size.	Year 1 – Year 4
	According to need and as resources allow, information leaflets, flyers and other Council literature should be available to the public in English and Irish format where appropriate. It is recommended that all such literature should be English and Irish as opposed to being separately produced, in Irish and in English.	Year 1 – Year 4

Guiding Principle	Measures for Implementation	Timeline
	Material aimed exclusively at users of Irish may be produced in Irish only.	Year 1 – Year 4
	Newsletters / bulletins will contain articles in Irish, where appropriate.	Year 1 – Year 4
	Design/ publishing of material in the Irish language will be of an equal standard with the same material in English.	Year 1 – Year 4
Publicity	Relationships with the Irish language media will be established and maintained with press releases being issued in Irish and in English where appropriate.	Year 1 – Year 4
	Where possible and appropriate, radio, T.V. and video work carried out by members of Mid Ulster District Council will contain significant English and Irish elements. Employees will not be excluded from radio, T.V. and video work because of a lack of knowledge of the Irish language.	Year 1 – Year 4
Correspondence	In written communications of English and Irish format, both languages will be placed side by side, with the Irish version on the left and the English on the right, or if this is not practicable, by placing the Irish version above the English.	Year 1 – Year 4
	The letterhead and logo of the organisation will be English and Irish.	Year 1 – Year 4
	Any correspondence received in Irish will be responded to in Irish.	Year 1 – Year 4
	When initiating correspondence, Mid Ulster District Council will correspond in the chosen language of the recipient, where this choice is known.	Year 1 – Year 4
	All staff within each department will be trained in the Courtesy Code for Irish which will also make provision for courtesy to employees of the Council who do not speak Irish but come in contact with a member of the public who wishes to communicate in	Year 1

Guiding Principle	Measures for Implementation	Timeline
	Irish. Contact details for Irish speaking staff will be made known so that a pool of fluent speakers is available to handle enquiries from the public.	
	Translation or interpretation will be available to all staff as may be required.	Year 1—Year 4
Presentations / Public Speaking / Events	Representatives of Mid Ulster District Council, who are comfortable to do so, will aim to use increasing amounts of Irish in their presentations. Standard practice of using Irish at formal occasions and public meetings will be actively promoted.	Year 1—Year 4
	Visual presentation on PowerPoint or other systems will be English and Irish where appropriate. When English and Irish presentations need to be made, simultaneous translation services will be made available to employees who have no knowledge of the Irish language.	Year 1—Year 4
	Where large scale public events are planned, simultaneous translation systems will be made available on request	Year 1—Year 4
	Mid Ulster District Council will ensure that festivals/ civic celebrations which the Council organises or supports make appropriate allowance for incorporating the knowledge and use of the Irish language and culture.	Year 1—Year 4
Staff and Administrative Practices	Guidance will be offered to receptionists and telephonists so that they will be able to respond appropriately to enquiries in Irish.	Year 1
	Irish versions of all internal documentation will be made available for use by staff on request e.g. order forms, pay slips, time sheets etc. Translation services will be made available to employees who have no knowledge of the Irish language but who are required to process internal	Year 1—Year 4

Guiding Principle	Measures for Implementation	Timeline
	documentation that is in Irish. Administrative staff will ensure that all staff can access the Irish language accent command (Alt Gr+vowel) on all computers.	
	Translation, correction and proof reading services will be made available to all staff and external providers of these services will be quality assured.	Year 1 – Year 4
	Irish classes at different levels will be available as part of an in-service training programme for staff who wish to avail of it.	Year 1 – Year 4
	All staff will be encouraged to use what Irish they have. Encouragement will be given to the establishment of informal Irish speaking lunches, conversation classes etc. in employees' own time to be convened by Mid Ulster District Council, with the assistance of external groups/individuals when required.	Year 1 – Year 4
	Mid Ulster District Council recognises the importance of identifying situations or posts in which the use of Irish is an essential duty of the job. Fluency in the Irish language will not be a requirement for any position that would not ordinarily justify the appointment of an Irish speaker.	Year 1 – Year 4
Visibility of Irish	An implementation plan will be devised for branding, logos and the erection of English and Irish internal and external signage on all Mid Ulster Council owned properties including buildings and offices.	Phased
	An approach using English and Irish will be taken to advertising where appropriate.	Year 1 – Year 4
	Council's street signage programme of English and Irish, resident liaison and street name translation index service will be maintained.	Year 1 – Year 4

Guiding Principle	Measures for Implementation	Timeline
	An English and Irish settlement signage programme will be initiated on request.	Year 1 – Year 4