



|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Title of Report:</b>                 | <b>Capital Grants Programme</b>   |
| <b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>   | Leisure & Development Committee   |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>                 | 18 February 2025  |
| <b>For Decision or For Information</b>  | For Decision  |
| <b>To be discussed In Committee YES</b> | <i>By virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland)</i><br>Contains confidential information in relation to pricing. |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b> |  |
| Strategic Theme                              | Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities |
| Outcome                                      | Stable and Cohesive Communities          |
| Lead Officer                                 | Patricia O'Brien, Funding Unit Manager   |

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Budgetary Considerations</b>    |  |
| Cost of Proposal                   | £600k (+) Capital                        |
| Included in Current Year Estimates | <b>N/A</b>                               |
| Capital/Revenue                    | Capital                                  |
| Code                               |  |
| Staffing Costs                     | Approx £50k Capital Grants Officer costs |

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| <b>Legal Considerations</b>      |     |
| Input of Legal Services Required | Yes |
| Legal Opinion Obtained           | Yes |

|  |  |     |                       |
|--|--|-----|-----------------------|
| <b>Screening Requirements</b>            | Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals. |     |                       |
| Section 75 Screening                     | Screening Completed:   | Yes | Date: 17 January 2025 |
|  | EQIA Required and Completed:   | No  | Date:                 |
| Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)             | Screening Completed  | Yes | Date: 17 January 2025 |
|  | RNA Required and Completed:  | No  | Date:                 |
| Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) | Screening Completed:   | Yes | Date: 17 January 2025 |
|  | DPIA Required and Completed:   | No  | Date:                 |

## 1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to recommend grant decisions for the Capital Grants Programme 2024-25.

## 2.0 Background

In June 2024, Council approved a Capital Grants Programme for 2024/2025 along with associated budget of £600,000. The Fund was approved for local sports and community organisations for the development of new or the enhancement of existing facilities to meet unmet need. Council approved:

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Capital Grant Programme</b> | A £600,000 per annum capital grants programme  |
|                                | The appointment of a Capital Grants Officer  |
|                                | Grant aid of 80% of total capital project costs up to a maximum total grant value of £120,000. |

## 3.0 **Purpose of Capital Grants Programme**

The Capital Grants Fund is available to local sports and community organisations who wish to request support towards the development of new or the enhancement of existing facilities to meet unmet need. It seeks to support external infrastructure projects that are aligned to Council's aims and objectives and which require additional capital funding to achieve completion.

## 4.0 **Levels of Grant Award**

A total capital fund pot of £600,000 per annum is available. Not for profit sporting and community organisations can apply for awards of up to **80%** of total capital costs up to a maximum grant value of £120,000. Organisations must match fund the remaining 20% from other sources or from their own resources. In order to ensure fair and equitable access, no single sporting code can have access to more than 20% of the overall funding pot in any given year.

The level of grant awarded will depend on the following:

- The available budget.
- The number of applications.

## 5.0 **The Process**

As with the approved processes, the Capital Grants Programme was developed through the following stages:

| <b>Date</b>     | <b>Action</b>                      |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 8 October 2024  | Opened for Expressions of Interest |
| 29 October 2024 | Closed Expressions of Interest     |
| November 2024   | Invites to Capital Grants Workshop |

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 11 November 2024 | Opened for Full Applications to 2024/25 programme |
| 17 January 2025  | Closed for Applications                           |
| 31 January 2025  | Grant Assessments Complete                        |

Following the above processes, the programme received the following applications:

- 36 expressions of interest submitted
- 28 full applications submitted (Annex A)

## 6.0 Capital Grant Assessments

### 6.1 Stage 1 Eligibility Assessments

7 x applications did not pass the programme eligibility and did not proceed to assessment stage:

| Applicant                               | Reason for ineligibility   |
|---|--|
| Dungiven Outdoor Bowling Club           | Security of tenure not confirmed at application date or following clarification request.   |
| Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust | Security of tenure not confirmed at application date or following clarification request.   |
| Roe Valley Enterprises Ltd              | Security of tenure not confirmed at application date or following clarification request.   |
| The Big House                           | Security of tenure not confirmed at application date or following clarification request.   |
| Coleraine Harbour Commission            | As a semi statutory body the applicant is deemed not eligible. They are not a constituted not for profit community or voluntary group. |
| Ballymoney Evergreen Club               | Security of tenure not confirmed at application date or following clarification request.   |
| Roe Valley Residents Association        | Security of tenure not confirmed at application date or following clarification request.   |

### 6.2 Stage 2 Assessment & Scoring

Grant assessments were undertaken on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> and Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025. To be considered for funding, applications needed to achieve the quality threshold score of 65%. The outcome of the assessment panel is detailed below.

21 x Applications were assessed and scored:

14 x Applicants did not achieve the threshold score of 65%:

| Reference | Applicant                                  | Code                        | Total Score |
|-----------|--|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 821542    | Padraig Pearse GAC Kilrea                  | Gaelic Football             | 63%         |
| 752305    | St. Matthew's GAC Drumsumn                 | Gaelic Football / Community | 60%         |
| 830271    | Foreglen GAC                               | Gaelic Football             | 57%         |
| 756095    | CAN (Compass Advocacy Network Ltd)         | Community                   | 50%         |
| 824266    | St. Mary's GAC Rasharkin                   | Gaelic Football             | 46%         |
| 771480    | Burnfoot Community Development Association | Community                   | 36%         |
| 745888    | Glenshane Community Development Limited    | Community                   | 34%         |
| 824004    | Bushfoot Golf Club                         | Golf                        | 34%         |
| 786438    | Bann Rowing Club                           | Rowing                      | 33%         |
| 816873    | Limavady United Football and Athletic Club | Soccer                      | 33%         |
| 763221    | St Brigid's Cloughmills GAC                | Hurling                     | 31%         |
| 830311    | Robert Emmets GAC Cushendun                | Hurling                     | 27%         |
| 826419    | Carey Faughs GAC                           | Hurling                     | 23%         |
| 822601    | Feeny Community Association                | Community                   | 20%         |

7 x Applications achieved the threshold score of 65%:

| Ref no                       | Applicant                      | Code                   | Score | Grant requested    |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------|--------------------|
| 822813                       | John Mitchels GAC Glenullin    | Ladies Gaelic Football | 97%   | £120,000.00        |
| 793923                       | Limavady Wolfhounds GAC        | Gaelic Football        | 90%   | £120,000.00        |
| 746036                       | Ballymoney Rugby Football Club | Rugby                  | 87%   | £120,000.00        |
| 746648                       | Friends of Glenariffe          | Community              | 85%   | £118,800.00        |
| 746256                       | McQuillan GAC Ballycastle      | Camogie                | 77%   | £120,000.00        |
| 744145                       | Limavady Recreation Club       | Tennis                 | 71%   | £120,000.00        |
| 744962                       | Ballyspallen Cricket Club      | Cricket                | 71%   | £26,400.00         |
| <b>Total Grant Requested</b> |                                |                        |       | <b>£745,200.00</b> |

## 7.0 Options

Three options for awarding grants are presented for consideration by Members.

### 7.1 Option 1

To keep within the £600,000 approved budget, members approve the 5 highest scoring above threshold applications.

| Ref No                       | Applicant                      | Code                   | Score | Grant requested    | Option 1: Funding Recommended |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 822813                       | John Mitchels GAC Glenullin    | Ladies Gaelic Football | 97%   | £120,000.00        | £120,000                      |
| 793923                       | Limavady Wolfhounds GAC        | Gaelic Football        | 90%   | £120,000.00        | £120,000                      |
| 746036                       | Ballymoney Rugby Football Club | Rugby                  | 87%   | £120,000.00        | £120,000                      |
| 746648                       | Friends of Glenariffe          | Community              | 85%   | £118,800.00        | £118,800                      |
| 746256                       | McQuillan GAC Ballycastle      | Camogie                | 77%   | £120,000.00        | £120,000                      |
| <b>Total Grant Requested</b> |                                |                        |       | <b>£598,800.00</b> | <b>£598,800</b>               |

### 7.2 Option 2

Reduce the funding requested by 20% for all 7 applications that met the quality threshold to fit within the £600k agreed budget.

| Ref no | Applicant                      | Code                   | Score | Grant requested | Option 2: Funding Recommended |
|--------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 822813 | John Mitchels GAC Glenullin    | Ladies Gaelic Football | 97%   | £120,000        | £96,620                       |
| 793923 | Limavady Wolfhounds GAC        | Gaelic Football        | 90%   | £120,000        | £96,620                       |
| 746036 | Ballymoney Rugby Football Club | Rugby                  | 87%   | £120,000        | £96,620                       |
| 746648 | Friends of Glenariffe          | Community              | 85%   | £118,800        | £95,500                       |

|                              |                              |         |     |                    |                 |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------|-----|--------------------|-----------------|
| 746256                       | McQuillan GAC<br>Ballycastle | Camogie | 77% | £120,000           | £96,620         |
| 744145                       | Limavady Recreation<br>Club  | Tennis  | 71% | £120,000           | £96,620         |
| 744962                       | Ballyspallen Cricket<br>Club | Cricket | 71% | £26,400            | £21,260         |
| <b>Total Grant Requested</b> |                              |         |     | <b>£745,200.00</b> | <b>£599,860</b> |

#### 4.3 Option 3

Increase the budget from £600,000 to £745,200 and award the amount requested to the 7 applications scoring above the quality threshold. This will increase the budget by £145,200.

| Ref no                       | Applicant                         | Code                      | Score | Grant requested | Option 3 Funding Recommended |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 822813                       | John Mitchels GAC<br>Glenullin    | Ladies Gaelic<br>Football | 97%   | £120,000        | £120,000                     |
| 793923                       | Limavady Wolfhounds<br>GAC        | Gaelic Football           | 90%   | £120,000        | £120,000                     |
| 746036                       | Ballymoney Rugby<br>Football Club | Rugby                     | 87%   | £120,000        | £120,000                     |
| 746648                       | Friends of Glenariffe             | Community                 | 85%   | £118,800        | £118,800                     |
| 746256                       | McQuillan GAC<br>Ballycastle      | Camogie                   | 77%   | £120,000        | £120,000                     |
| 744145                       | Limavady Recreation<br>Club       | Tennis                    | 71%   | £120,000        | £120,000                     |
| 744962                       | Ballyspallen Cricket<br>Club      | Cricket                   | 71%   | £26,400         | £26,400                      |
| <b>Total Grant Requested</b> |                                   |                           |       | <b>£745,200</b> | <b>£745,200</b>              |

#### 5.0 Timeframe

| Process / Actions                           | Timescale          |
|---|--------------------|
| Capital Grant report to February Committee  | 18 February 2025   |
| Capital Grant approval from full Council    | 4 March 2025       |
| Letters of Offer / Rejection Letters issued | March / April 2025 |

## **6.0 Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee approve one of the 3 options below for the award of Capital Grants 2024/25:

- a) Option 1 (approve the 5 highest scoring applications) at a total cost of £598,800
- b) Option 2 (reduce the funding request by 20% for all 7 applications which met the threshold) at a total cost of £599,860
- c) Option 3 (increase the budget to meet full funding request from the 7 applications which met the threshold) at a total cost of £745,200

## Annex A

| Applicant Name                          | Project Summary (From application)  | Grant Requested | Total project cost |
|---|---|-----------------|--------------------|
| Limavady Recreation Club                | Renewal of tennis courts.   | £120,000.00     | £175,000.00        |
| Dungiven Outdoor Bowling Club           | The purchase of an antivandal that will serve to provide toilet facilities and will also act as focal point for the members of our bowling club.        | £3,720.00       | £6,000.00          |
| Ballyspallen Cricket Club               | In conjunction with Ballyspallen Community Association - to convert their machinery shed into a female changing area with showers and an inside toilet. | £26,400.00      | £33,000.00         |
| Glenshane Community Development Limited | A café expansion focusing on promoting inclusion, addressing inequality and enhancing community well-being.   | £120,000.00     | £150,000.00        |
| Ballymoney Rugby Football Club          | The creation of a full-sized rugby pitch as a Phase 1 project.  | £120,000.00     | £254,951.00        |
| Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust | To conserve and repair a neglected 'at risk' heritage asset of national importance, namely the World War Two Trainer Dome at Artikelly, Limavady.       | £120,000.00     | £931,159.00        |
| McQuillan GAC Ballycastle               | To develop a modern 60m x 25m indoor 4G multi-sport training facility for Camogie.  | £120,000.00     | £500,000.00        |
| Roe Valley Enterprises Ltd              | Transforming a town centre property into a community based multi-use enterprise hub for training, meetings, hot desk, video conferencing etc.           | £63,344.00      | £79,180.00         |



|  |  |             |             |
|--|--|-------------|-------------|
| Friends of Glenariffe                      | Build an additional multi-purpose hall adjacent to existing community hub which will be 30m long x 10m wide x 4.8 metres high.   | £118,800.00 | £148,500.00 |
| St. Matthew's GAC Drumsurn                 | The extension of an existing community building to establish a dedicated Health and Wellbeing Hub.   | £149,874.00 | £149,874.00 |
| CAN (Compass Advocacy Network Ltd)         | To establish Lislagan Farm as a pioneering facility that enhances the lives of individuals with learning disabilities, autism, and mental health issues across Northern Ireland. individuals.  | £120,000.00 | £275,062.00 |
| St Brigid's Cloughmills GAC                | To build a new changing room facility to replace our existing and outdated facility  | £120,000.00 | £200,200.00 |
| Burnfoot Community Development Association | Remodelling and renovation of toilet facilities to to accommodate any users that need additional space and support, alongside the addition of hot water taps, hand driers, baby change facilities, nappy bins and ladies sanitary provision.     | £32,500.00  | £39,000.00  |
| Bann Rowing Club                           | A structural reconfiguration to address needs without impacting on the listed status or appearance of the building while addressing their evolving storage and activity needs, as well as protecting the building from the changing environment. | £1,201.00   | £106,652.05 |
| The Big House                              | Phase 1 of a two phase extension to their facilities creating a much larger multi-purpose space.   | £120,000.00 | £400,000.00 |
| Coleraine Harbour Commission               | To reinforce the Barmouth Moles, ensuring navigability, biodiversity protection, and economic support.   | £120,000.00 | £615,243.00 |
| Limavady Wolfhounds GAC                    | To develop a full sized, sand carpet, floodlit, grass GAA pitch with fencing and ball stops at Limavady Wolfhounds GAC.  | £120,000.00 | £680,800.00 |

|  |   |             |             |
|--|---|-------------|-------------|
| Limavady United Football and Athletic Club                 | A redevelopment project to upgrade floodlighting system to energy-efficient LED lighting that meets premium league standards.   | £84,000.00  | £105,000.00 |
| Ballymoney Evergreen Club (Evergreen Community Centre Ltd) | Bringing the Social Centre at 12 Edward Street, Ballymoney back into the community use. This will involve wide ranging internal construction works.   | £120,000.00 | £245,771.00 |
| Padraig Pearse GAC Kilrea                                  | The development of a sand-based training pitch, which will support the club's growth and facilitate increased participation in Gaelic Games and other sporting/community activities.                                | £120,000.00 | £226,118.00 |
| Feeny Community Association                                | Repainting the community centre, design and replace the kitchen to make it more user friendly and allow for safer storage of kitchen equipment, utensils and food items.  | £13,600.00  | £17,000.00  |
| John Mitchels GAC Glenullin                                | To develop ladies football in Glenullin.<br>- Energy Efficient LED Floodlighting & Fencing: Essential for ensuring safety, usability, and environmental integration of the facilities.                              | £120,000.00 | £174,980.00 |
| Bushfoot Golf Club   | The project involves several key renovations including replacing windows.   | £27,300.00  | £27,300.00  |
| St. Mary's GAC Rasharkin                                   | Gym Development Project is to provide a modern, fully equipped gym, offering inclusive, accessible, and affordable fitness opportunities to a community that currently faces significant barriers to participation. | £120,000.00 | £300,000.00 |
| Roe Valley Residents Association                           | To transform two vacant buildings in Limavady town centre into a welcoming and inclusive space for the community of Limavady and the surrounding areas.   | £96,000.00  | £120,000.00 |

|                                |  |                      |                      |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Carey Faughs GAC               | To develop a pitch and 6m perimeter fence, known as a Multi-Use Games Area.  | £120,000.00          | £192,000.00          |
| Foreglen GAC                   | This project includes:<br>1. Creation of a Second Football Pitch:<br>2. Expansion of the Community Walking Path:<br>3. Creation of a Community Garden: | £120,000.00          | £184,132.00          |
| Robert Emmets GAC<br>Cushendun | To install two GAA ball catch nets on our top training pitch at Robert Emmets GAC Cushendun.   | £24,000.00           | £30,000.00           |
|                                |  | <b>£2,560,739.00</b> | <b>£6,366,922.05</b> |