

Title of Report:	Community Development Support Grant 2025-26 Assessment Report
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure and Development
Date of Meeting:	18th March 2025
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee YES/NO	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Healthy, Active & Engaged Communities
Outcome	The Borough comprises cohesive and stable communities which work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to address issues and deliver on opportunities
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture; Community Development Manager

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	31 st March 2026

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£147,640 Total £73,820 net Cost to Council
Included in Current Year Estimates	Yes
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	1059
Staffing Costs	£0

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	NO

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

1.0 Purpose of Report

This report presents the results of the assessment of applications received for the Community Development Support Grant (CDSG), seeking approval contingent upon confirmation of matching funds from the Department for Communities (DfC).

2.0 Background

2.1 The DfC annually allocates funds to the Council through the Community Support Programme, covering 50% of both the CDSG and the Social Connection Grant (SCG) programmes.

2.2 The CDSG supports the operational and overhead expenses of core community development organisations. Grants are awarded for a three-year term, subject to satisfactory annual outcomes and DfC's confirmation of matching funds. Grant amounts are categorized as £1,250, £2,500, and £3,500.

2.3 The SCG offers £500 to local community and voluntary organisations engaged in activities that encourage community participation, particularly targeting socially isolated individuals to foster social connections and combat loneliness.

2.4 The CDSG fund opened on 9th December 2024 and closed on 31st January 2025, aiming for timely decisions ahead of the new financial year, pending DfC's funding confirmation. It is assumed that DfC's allocation to the Council will match the 2024-25 award. Letters of offer will be issued to successful applicants once DfC funding for 2025-26 is confirmed.

2.5 The SCG Programme operates on a rolling basis, opening for applications on 3rd March and will avail of additional unallocated funds from this fund. The total allocation being £14,840 for the 2025-2026 period.

3 Details of Grant

3.1 To qualify for the CDSG, organisations must be multi-functional, offering or hosting various activities and services that address the identified needs of their entire community, rather than focusing on a specific group or issue. Eligibility and assessment criteria are detailed in the Guidance Notes attached as **Annex A**.

3.2 Organisations may apply for grants covering up to 75% of costs, corresponding to the relevant category level. The three grant award categories are:

i. **Category 1 (up to £3,500):** Community development groups that directly provide a programme of activities, possess their own premises—including a hall or adaptable space for various activities with one or more meeting rooms—and regularly (at least monthly) rent the space to at least two other groups.

ii. **Category 2 (up to £2,500):** Community development groups that directly provide a programme of activities and have premises for their own use but do not rent to two or more regular user groups.

iii. **Category 3 (up to £1,250):** Community development groups that provide a programme of activities without owning premises. This category also includes community groups operating Council Community Centres through a Shared Management Agreement, as the Council covers utility costs for these centres.

4 Applications Received

4.1 A summary of the applications received, assessment results, and recommended maximum eligible funding amounts is provided in **Annex B**:

No. of applications received	69
No. of applications from ineligible organisations	8
No. of applications which scored <65%	5
No. of successful applications	56
Total value of CDSG funding recommended	£147,640

4.2 Ineligibility reasons include applications from sports clubs, organisations not based in Causeway Coast and Glens, organisations with a single focus or serving a single beneficiary group (e.g., older people), or organisations that do not directly provide activities at their premises. Community Development team officers will offer detailed feedback to ineligible or unsuccessful applicants and provide support in project development and identifying alternative funding sources.

5.0 Recommendations

Approval is sought for the following:

- i. Approve funding awards through the CDSG for 2025-26 as detailed in Annex B, contingent upon the availability of necessary funding from DfC.
- ii. If DfC funding confirmation is not received by 1st April 2025, issue letters of offer for a six-month period to successful applicants to prevent delays in funding for community groups' operating costs.

Annex A: Eligibility and Criteria for Community Development Support Grant

Eligible organisations:

- Only Community Development Organisations which are open, accountable and representative of the geographical area in which they service, promote and support community development can apply.
- Groups must be multi-purpose, providing or hosting a number of different activities and services for the benefit and to meet identified needs of their whole community, not just for a specific group and/or single issue within that community.
- Groups must demonstrate that they are well run, that they provide a voice for local concerns, are inclusive and have activities open to the whole community, adhere to democratic principles, encourage people to become active and involved in their community, meet local needs and provide local services and are working in partnership with others.
- Eligible organisations will be those that are incorporated to provide programmes and offer services aimed at improving the social, economic and environmental situation of a certain locality i.e. housing estate, village, town or district. This may include Community Associations, Residents' Groups, Town or Village Committees or similar.

Ineligible organisations:

This funding programme will not normally award grants to the following:

- Individuals
- Groups operating outside the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area
- Organisations with charitable fundraising as their main focus
- Organisations who have substantial, demonstrable reserves
- Umbrella organisations that do not have a separate local constitution
- Organisations principally established for the delivery of activities for one specific grouping or single issue e.g. youth groups, 50+ sector (such organisations could apply to the Social Connections Grant)
- Culture, Arts and Heritage Groups (such organisations should apply to the Culture, Arts & Heritage Grant)
- Sports Clubs / Leisure Activity Clubs (such organisations should contact Council's Sport & Well-being section for support)
- Organisations whose primary objectives are concerned with health, education or training
- Schools, pre-school or nursery provision

- Political Organisations
- Religious Organisations

Assessment Criteria:

Organisations should firstly be able to satisfy Council of their eligibility for the Community Development Support Grant Programme:

Is organisation multi-purpose, providing or hosting a number of different activities and services for the benefit and to meet identified needs of their whole community, not just for a specific group and/or single issue within that community?

If eligible then the application will be assessed against the following criteria:

	Criteria	Weighting	Maximum Possible Score
1	Range of activities and beneficiaries	X2	10
2	Needs of the community and how well those needs have been identified	X1	5
3	How well activities of the group address needs of the community and the difference they will make	X1	5
5	Level of Deprivation (NIMDM 2017)	X1	5
6	Value for money including any other funding levered in	X1	5
			30

Annex B: Community Development Support Grant Recommended Awards

Organisation	Amount Requested (£)	Category	Assessment Score (%) (65% threshold)	Funding Recommended	Amount Recommended (£)
Aghanloo Community Association	£3,759	A	67	Yes	£3,500
Armoy Community Association	£3,500	A	87	Yes	£3,500
Articlave District Community Association	£1,250	C	87	Yes	£1,250
Ballinlea Community Group	£3,500	A	77	Yes	£3,500
Ballintoy Young at Heart	£762			Ineligible	£0
Ballybogey Community Centre Ltd	£1,250	C	80	Yes	£1,250
Ballycastle Community Group	£3,500	A	87	Yes	£3,500
Ballymacconnelly Renewal Group	£2,500	B	67	Yes	£2,500
Ballyspallen Community Association	£870	C	70	Yes	£870
Balnamore Community Association	£1,250	C	67	Yes	£1,250
Benbradagh Community Support	£2,000	C	63	No	£0
Benedy Community Association Limited	£3,525	A	73	Yes	£3,500
Bovalley Community Association	£3,200	B	70	Yes	£2,500
Boveedy Community Association	£3,830	A	70	Yes	£3,500

Building Ballysally Together	£3,500	A	70	Yes	£3,500
Burnfoot Community Development Association	£3,500	A	77	Yes	£3,500
Castlerock Community Association	£3,500	A	70	Yes	£3,500
Causeway Voluntary Action Trust	£3,500	A	90	Yes	£3,500
Cloughmills Community Action Team	£3,500	A	83	Yes	£3,500
Coolessan Community Association	£1,660	C	60	No	£0
Cushendall Development Group	£3,500	A	97	Yes	£3,500
Cushendun Building Preservation Trust	£3,500	A	73	Yes	£3,500
Dervock & District Community Association	£2,950	B	67	Yes	£2,350
Dromboughil Community Associat	£3,500	A	87	Yes	£3,500
Drumsumn Community Association	£2,500	B	90	Yes	£2,500
Dungiven Regeneration Club	£2,500	B	67	Yes	£2,500
Dunloy Development Partnership	£5,800	A	70	Yes	£3,500
Dunloy Stronger Together	£1,500	C	77	Yes	£1,250
Eagle Glen Community Partnership Ltd	£3,500	A	70	Yes	£2,625
Feeny Community Association	£2,600	A	87	Yes	£2,600
Focus on Family Nurturing & Development Centre	£3,500	A	83	Yes	£3,500
Friends of Glenariffe	£3,500	A	97	Yes	£3,500
Garvagh Development Trust	£3,500	A	100	Yes	£3,500

Gelvin Area Community Association Ltd	£2,452	B	73	Yes	£2,452
Glack Community Association	£1,250	C	87	Yes	£1,250
Glenshane Community Development Limited	£3,500	A	63	No	£0
Glor Leim an Mhadaidh Community Development Group	£3,500	A	83	Yes	£3,500
Gortnaghey Community Association	£3,500	A	87	Yes	£3,500
Greysteel Community Association	£3,500	A	77	Yes	£3,500
Greysteel Community Enterprise	£3,500	A	77	Yes	£3,500
Grow the Glens CIC	£2,500			Ineligible	£0
Hands That Talk	£3,500	A	83	Yes	£3,500
KACCA Killowen & Churchlands Community Association	£840	C	67	Yes	£840
Killowen Community Association	£1,000	C	67	Yes	£1,000
Largy Community Association	£2,536			Ineligible	£0
Limavady Community Development Initiative	£3,500	A	70	Yes	£3,500
Limavady Hen Shed	£1,250	C		Ineligible	£0
Loughgiel Community Association Ltd	£3,500	A	67	Yes	£3,500
Macosquin Village Community Association	£1,660	C	67	Yes	£1,250
Magilligan Community Association	£1,250	C	83	Yes	£1,250
Millburn Community Development Ltd	£1,250	C	87	Yes	£1,250
Moneydig Rural Network	£1,250	C	80	Yes	£1,250

North Antrim Cultural & Musical Society (NACMS)	£2,625	A	90	Yes	£2,625
Portballintrae Residents Association	£1,617	C	73	Yes	£1,250
Portstewart Community Association	£1,250	C	67	Yes	£1,250
Portstewart Regeneration and Cultural Group	£3,028	A	73	Yes	£3,028
Rasharkin Community Association	£2,511	B	70	Yes	£2,500
Rasharkin Community Centre Ltd	£1,250	C	80	Yes	£1,250
Rathlin Development & Community Association	£3,500	A	80	Yes	£3,500
Roe Valley Residents Association	£3,500	A	93	Yes	£3,500
St. Matthew's GAC Community Hub Drumsurn	£3,500			Ineligible	£0
Steering Positive Minds CIC	£1,250			Ineligible	£0
Stranocum & District Development Group	£1,250	C	77	Yes	£1,250
The Big House	£3,500			Ineligible	£0
The Glens Community Association	£2,500	B	70	Yes	£2,500
The Glens Youth Club	£7,678	A	60	No	£0
West Bann Development	£3,500	A	73	Yes	£3,500
Windyhall Community Association	£1,000	C	43	No	£0
Workers Fellowship	£3,200			Ineligible	£0
TOTAL					£147,640