

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Culture, Arts &amp; Heritage Fund 2025-26</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>Leisure &amp; Development Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>18 March 2025</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>To be discussed in Committee YES/NO</b>	<b>NO</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b>	
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; Arts Service Development Manager

<b>Estimated Timescale for Completion</b>	
Date to be Completed	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	£20,000 - £23,811
Included in Current Year Estimates	<b><u>YES/NO</u></b>
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	1010
Staffing Costs	n/a

<b>Legal Considerations</b>	
Input of Legal Services Required	<b>NO</b>
Legal Opinion Obtained	<b>NO</b>

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	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:
	Screening Completed:	Yes/ <u>No</u>	Date:

Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/ <u>No</u>	Date:
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## 1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the outcome of the assessment of the applications received to the Culture, Arts & Heritage (CAH) Grant Programme for 2025-26 and to provide recommendations in relation to grant awards to be made through the programme.

## 2. Background

The Culture, Arts & Heritage Grant Programme aligns with Strategic Priority 4 of the Council's Cultural Strategy, adopted in 2016, which aims to enhance access to and participation in culture, arts, and heritage for marginalized and excluded groups.

The overarching objective of the Cultural Strategy is to ensure that both local ratepayers and visitors have continuous access to high-quality, inclusive, and affordable cultural services, including arts, museums, and heritage initiatives.

Introduced in 2016, the CAH Grant Scheme was developed in response to public consultations that underscored the need for increased support to local groups in promoting and developing cultural, arts, and heritage projects. The scheme is designed to assist community and voluntary groups in broadening cultural access across the council area.

Guidance Notes detailing eligibility and assessment criteria are attached in **Annex A**.

As part of the business planning process, a report was presented to the Council in November 2024 to approve grant funding programmes for the 2025-26 period, including the CAH Grant Programme. The programme was subsequently launched on December 9, 2024, with a closing date of January 31, 2025, for submission of completed applications. Information Roadshows were conducted in December to provide applicants with guidance on the available grant programmes.

A total of 30 applications were received by the deadline, with three applications deemed unsuccessful. The grant assessment panel, comprising relevant Council officers, evaluated all applications based on the criteria outlined in the Guidance Notes. A minimum score of 65% was required to be considered for funding, in accordance with the Council's Grant Funding Policy.

## 3. Applications Received:

A list of the applications received, assessment scores, maximum eligible funding amounts are listed in **Annex B**.

As the budget for this specific programme is capped at £20,000 for the 25/26 period, members are asked to consider two options:

### Option 1

- Applications that scored 91%-100% get 90% of grant amount recommended.
- Applications that scored 81% - 90% get 85% of grant amount recommended.
- Applications that scored 71% - 80% get 80% of grant amount recommended.
- Applications that scored 65% - 70% get 75% of grant amount recommended.

Total £20,000

### Option 2.

All successful applications get the total amount of eligible costs requested.

Total £23, 811.00

In summary:

No. of applications received	30
Total value of applications received	£30,131.00
No. of ineligible applicants	0
No. of withdrawn applications	0
No. of unsuccessful applications (scoring less than 65%)	6
No. of successful applications (scoring 65% and above)	24
<b>Total value of funding Option 1 (eligible amounts)</b>	<b>£19,999.93</b>
<b>Total value of funding Option 2 (eligible amounts)</b>	<b>£23,811.00</b>

**Total amount eligible for funding** **£23,811.00**

**Indicative budget 25/26** **£20,000.00**

Unsuccessful applicants will receive detailed feedback, along with developmental support where relevant, to help identify alternative funding opportunities, including signposting other council grant programmes.

## 4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee approve one of the 2 options below for the award of the Culture, Arts & Heritage Fund

### Option 1:

A percentage reduction is applied to each successful application on a tiered basis, remaining within budget at a total cost of £20,000, as noted within section 3 of the report.

### Option 2.

All successful applications will receive the full amount of eligible costs requested, totalling £23,811.00. The additional budget will be reallocated from unspent grant funds within Community & Culture.

## Annex A

### Eligibility & Assessment criteria for Culture, Arts & Heritage Grant Programme

#### Overview of fund

Organisations applying for funding from the Culture, Arts and Heritage Grant Scheme will have to demonstrate how their organisation contributes to any one of the following Culture, Arts and Heritage Aims identified in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Culture, Arts and Heritage Strategy 2016-2021.

- **Enhancing Our Cultural Venues and Assets** – To use our landscape and our cultural assets and activities to enable opportunities for both local people and visitors to participate in Culture, Arts and Heritage in the area.
- **Investing in Creative Learning and Skills Development** –To support the creative development our young people and our creative practitioners through training, skills development and providing opportunities to showcase work.
- **History, Heritage and Cultural Tourism** – To promote a sense of pride, identity and deeper understanding of our area by bringing together the many stories, histories, identities and languages which are present in the area.

All organisations funded through the Culture, Arts and Heritage Grant Scheme must demonstrate how their project contributes towards the aim most appropriate to address the issues in their area. Organisations will be asked to report back on how effective their project has been in meeting these needs and working towards the appropriate aim.

#### Levels of Grant

Grants are available for a maximum of 100% of the total *eligible* project costs up to a maximum of £1000.00

#### Who Can Apply?

Organisations must be from within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. To be eligible for grant-aid, you will have to show that your organisation is a bona fide organisation that is well run and that it:

- Has a properly adopted "Governing Document" such as a constitution or memorandum and articles of association which clearly show that it is non-profit making and taking. Evidence that a constitution has been formally adopted must be supplied.

For the purposes of this programme only formally constituted organisations which are not-for-profit organisations that are open, accountable and representative of the geographical area in which they service, promote and support the Culture, Arts and Heritage sector can apply. Such as:

- Cultural, Arts and Heritage groups e.g. drama groups, historical societies, photographic clubs etc.
- Community development groups
- Other organisations involved in Culture, Arts or Heritage development work
- Umbrella organisations provided that their work takes place at a local level

Groups must demonstrate that they have appropriate governing arrangements in place and that they provide a voice for local concerns. The initiatives in which they are seeking funding for must be inclusive, open to the whole community and adhere to democratic principles.

### **What can be funded**

Examples of the types of projects which can be funded:

- Training and skills development programmes.
- Projects and events which develop arts and heritage at a local level and make them more accessible for all.
- Learning activities which are not-for-profit and organised by groups for the community e.g. talks, courses, seminars.
- Cultural resources including publication, exhibitions, trails, digital resources.

Examples of eligible expenditure:

- Venue hire
- Hire of equipment
- Tutors (we will only fund a maximum of £30 per hour)
- Performance fees
- Materials
- Insurance
- Marketing and publicity
- Travel may be considered if the applicant can demonstrate that it is an integral part of the project,

### **What cannot be funded**

In general, the following will not normally be eligible for funding through the Culture Arts and Heritage grant scheme:

- Proposals that do not directly benefit Causeway Coast & Glens Council residents
- Applications for funding which are considered to be the responsibility of another statutory organisation or Council fund
- Retrospective expenditure where projects have started or services/items have already been obtained and paid
- Applications received after the closing date specified in the promotional literature
- Applications where a committee member or trustee will have a personal financial benefit
- Costs that are not auditable e.g. cash payments unsupported by an approved petty cash system
- Costs towards ongoing running costs (e.g. electricity, rent, insurance, etc.)
- Building costs, capital expenditure or equipment
- Costs towards banking charges and/or repayment of debt
- Costs that can be claimed back from elsewhere e.g. VAT
- Community Festivals (there is a separate fund for this)
- Carnivals/fun days

- General Appeals
- Religious services where only one section of the community is represented
- Buying or leasing musical instruments, uniforms or sporting equipment
- Activities which are party-political in intention, use or presentation
- Salary costs.
- Alcohol costs
- Gratuities, gifts and prizes
- In some instances there may be an agreed hospitality allocation of funds, which must not exceed 10% of the total Council grant.

### Exclusions

In general, it is important to note that this funding programme will not normally award grants to the following:

- Individuals
- Groups operating outside the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area unless the project/event takes place in the council area and directly benefits those who live in it (see 1.5).
- Organisations and events with charitable fundraising as their main or partial focus
- Organisations who have substantial demonstrable reserves
- Political Organisations

### Assessment and scoring

Criteria	Score out of a possible 5	Weighting	Possible Score
Q1 – Good description provided of a project with a Culture, Arts and Heritage ethos		X 6	30
Q2 – A clear link to the Culture, Arts and Heritage aims as set out in the strategy document		X 4	20
Q3 – Provide a full itemized breakdown of all costs	Not scored		
			50

## Annex B

### CAH Grant Applications 2025-26

#### Successful Applications:

	Name of Organisation	Project Title	Assessment Score %	Amount Requested £	Option 1 £	Option 2 £	Option 3 £
1	Cumann Iománaíochta Chaoimhín Uí Loingsigh	KLHC Culture, Arts and Heritage programme 2025	100%	£1000.00	£892.15	£839.95	£1000.00
2	Eoghan Rua GAC	Community Irish Classes	100%	£1000.00	£892.15	£839.95	£1000.00
3	Hare's Corner Co-operative	Crafting Connections	100%	£1000.00	£892.15	£839.95	£1000.00
4	Hampsey Harp School/Harp Ireland	Lá na Cruite   Harp Day on the North Coast 2025	100%	£1000.00	£892.15	£839.95	£1000.00
5	Tír na nÓg	Youth Theatre Summer Scheme	100%	£1000.00	£892.15	£839.95	£1000.00
6	Glens of Antrim CCE	Traditional Irish Music Lessons	100%	£1000.00	£892.15	£839.95	£1000.00
7	ArtAbyss Ltd.	Makey Uppers Perform "Mystery Bag" at ArtAbyss Children's Festival	100%	£1000.00	£892.15	£839.95	£1000.00
8	Stendhal Festival Ltd.	ReFest: Upcycled Art for Festivals	100%	£950.00	£847.54	£797.95	£950.00
9	Cushendun Building Preservation Trust	Culture Month 2025	100%	£1000.00	£892.15	£839.95	£1000.00
10	St Mary's GAC Faughanvale	Vale Cultural Music & Language	88%	£1000.00	£842.15	£839.95	£1000.00
11	Hope Summer Camp	Youthful Moulding- Group Clay Tile Collage	88%	£861.00	£725.09	£723.20	£861.00
12	Kingdom of Dalriada Ulster Scots Society	Celebrating Musical and Dance Heritage in Ballymoney	88%	£1000.00	£842.15	£839.95	£1000.00
13	Balnamore Community Association	Community Choir	88%	£1000.00	£842.15	£839.95	£1000.00
14	Limavady Hen Shed	Exploration of Local History and Heritage	88%	£1000.00	£842.15	£839.95	£1000.00
15	Cushendun & District Development Association	Art for Skills Development and Pleasure	84%	£1000.00	£842.15	£839.95	£1000.00
16	Dungiven Regeneration Club	Creative Arts Workshops	80%	£1320.00	£792.15	£839.95	£1000.00
17	North Coast Trad	North Coast Trad	80%	£1000.00	£792.15	£839.95	£1000.00
18	Roe Valley Ancestral Researcher	Reminiscence of the Roe Valley	80%	£1000.00	£792.15	£839.95	£1000.00
19	Portrush Summer Theatre	Portrush Summer Theatre	76%	£1000.00	£792.15	£839.95	£1000.00

20	St Mary's GAC Rasharkin	Rasharkin GAC Culture Event	76%	£1000.00	£792.15	£839.95	£1000.00
21	CAN – Compass Advocacy	Farming Traditions in North Antrim	76%	£1000.00	£792.15	£839.95	£1000.00
22	Ballymoney Writers Group	Creative Writing Tuition	76%	£1000.00	£792.15	£839.95	£1000.00
23	Building Ballysally Together	History of Ballysally	76%	£1000.00	£792.15	£839.95	£1000.00
24	Magilligan Community Association	Magilligan Voices	68%	£1000.00	£742.15	£839.95	£1000.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£24,131.00</b>	<b>£19,999.93</b>	<b>£20,000.00</b>	<b>£23,811.00</b>

**Unsuccessful CAH Applications:**

	<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Assessment Score %</b>	<b>Amount Requested £</b>
25	Pub Poetry	Pub Poetry In Season - Performance and Writing Workshops	60%	£1000.00
26	Ballycastle Writers Group	Ballycastle Writers 25/26	52%	£1000.00
27	Hervey Heritage Society	Earl Bishop Trail Booklet Reprint	52%	£1000.00
28	Gaeil Ruairí Óg agus Gaeil na nGlinntí	Pop Up Culture	52%	£1000.00
29	Mountsandel Discovery & Heritage Group	The Salmon People Booklets Reprint	48%	£1000.00
30	The Big House	Pastoral Art Sessions	48%	£1000.00