

Title of Report:	Sports Grant & Bursary Programme Amendment
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 May 2025
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, healthy & engaged communities
Outcome	Citizens will have access to Council recreational facilities and protected natural environments which help them to develop their physical, emotional and cognitive health.
Lead Officer	Head of Sport & Wellbeing

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£20,000 (This would increase the budget of £20,000 already agreed to £40,000)
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	1202 / 30137
Staffing Costs	

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

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

1.0 **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for additional budget and grant parameter amendments to the Sports Grant & Bursary Programme for the 2025-2026 period.

2.0 **Background**

- 2.1 Council's Sports Funding and Bursary Programme provides grant funding to support;
- International / representative costs (maximum grant £400)
 - Coach education (maximum grant £200 generic / £300 sports specific)
 - Safety equipment for sports clubs (maximum grant £300)
 - 'Seeding grant' for new sports clubs to get started (maximum grant £150).
- 2.2 From the start of this grant, Council have received requests to provide financial support to local 'sporting events' The current grant guidelines don't allow for sporting events.
- 2.3 Council are now in a position to increase the current budget from £20,000 to £40,000. This is affordable within the 2025/26 SWB budget.
- 2.4 In the last financial year 2024/25, the grant monies available in the budget had all been allocated in the first six months from the grant opening.
- 2.5 Currently the Coach Education element has two levels of funding support – **generic courses** such as first aid and safeguarding awareness can be awarded a maximum of £200. **Sports specific coach education courses** can be awarded a maximum of £300.

3.0 **Proposals**

- 3.1 Amend the parameters of the grant programme to include funding for 'Sporting Events'.
- Sporting Event:
- The application must be from a constituted Sports Club based in Causeway Coast and Glens or National Governing Body recognised by Sport NI.
 - The Sporting Event must take place in Causeway Coast and Glens.
 - The event must show that it increases sports participation at a local level; or
 - The event can be hosting sporting individuals / teams / countries from outside the area but held in Causeway Coast and Glens to increase sports participation.
 - Sporting events that Council already provide financial support are NOT eligible for this fund.
- 3.2 £4,000 to be allocated solely for applications for Sporting Events. Maximum award for a successful application £400.
- 3.3 Amend the award for a successful Coach Education to be a maximum £300 for generic and sports specific courses.

4.0 **Recommendations**

Members are asked to recommend to Council the following;

- a. Increase the Sports Grant & Bursary Programme budget from £20,000 to £40,000.
- b. Sports Grant & Bursary Programme to now be open to 'local sporting events'.
- c. Amend the award for a successful Coach Education to be a maximum £300 for generic and sports specific courses.