

Title of Report:	Capital Grants Programme 2025/26
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 September 2025
For Decision or For Information	For Information
To be discussed In Committee	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Stable and Cohesive Communities
Lead Officer	Funding Unit Manager

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£600k Capital
Included in Current Year Estimates	N/A
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	
Staffing Costs	Approx £50k Capital Grants Officer costs

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	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 inform members of the timeline for the opening of the Capital Grants Programme 2025-26.

2.0 Background

In June 2024, Council approved an annual Capital Grants Programme 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 agreed:

- A £600,000 per annum capital grants programme.
- The appointment of a Capital Grants Officer.
- The criteria for assessment and scoring.
- Grant aid of 80% of total capital project costs up to a maximum total grant value of £120,000.
- Organisations 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.

2.1 Assessment & Award Criteria

In November 2024 Council agreed the criteria for the Capital Grant Programme as outlined in **Annex A**.

In February 2025, a report was presented to Council detailing the outcome of the Capital Grants Programme 2024/25.

- Council received 36 expressions of interest.
- Council received 28 applications requesting over £2.5m:
 - 7 applications were ineligible.
 - 21 applications were assessed and scored.
 - 14 applications were unsuccessful.
 - 7 applications totalling £599,860 were approved for funding.

3.0 2025/26 Capital Grants Programme Timeline

The Capital Grants programme for 2025/26 will open for Expressions of Interest on 1st October 2025 and for full applications on 3 November 2025. The programme will be administered in-line with the agreed assessment and award criteria detailed in **Annex A**. The timeline below will be implemented for the 2025/26 Capital Grants Programme.

Action	Date
Capital grants workshops	24 th & 25 th September 2025
Expression of interest process	1 st – 15 th October 2025
Opened for full applications	Monday 3 rd November 2025
Closed for applications	Monday 1 st December 2025
Eligibility checks	Monday 8 th / Tuesday 9 th December 2025

Grant assessment panels	Monday 15 th / Tuesday 16 th December 2025
L&D committee approval	Tuesday 13 th January 2026
Full Council approval	Tuesday 4 th February 2026
Letters of offer / Rejection letters issued	February 2026
Successful applicants' workshop	April 2026

Annex A

	Capital Grants Programme: Stage 1 Eligibility Criteria	Pass	Fail
1	Applications must be from properly constituted not for profit community or voluntary groups. Council will carry out due diligence of legal status and governance.		
2	Applications will only be considered from Sports Clubs and Community projects geographically located within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area.		
3	Applications will be considered ineligible if either the applicant organisation or the site where the project is to be based have received any capital investment from Council in the past 3 years		
4	Applicants must submit final signed accounts for the previous two financial years. Only those organisations that Council considers to be financially sound will be considered eligible.		
5	Applicant organisations must provide legal title. If they do not own the building or land outright is there a long term lease in place, are there mortgages or loans secured on the property /land that would make the applicant or project ineligible.		

	Stage 2: Assessment & Award Criteria	Score (0-5)	Weight	Max Points Available
1	<u>Project description & Strategic relevance:</u> Assessment against strategic fit with Council's aims & objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Sporting facilities; Pitch Strategy or Council's Sports Facilities Strategy OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community facilities; Council's Community Development Strategy; Council's Community Facilities Strategy. 		X3	15
2	<u>Community/Sporting Need:</u> Projects must clearly demonstrate a community or sporting need for the facility. Need can be demonstrated in a number of ways including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Council policies and strategies e.g. Sports facilities Strategy & Framework for Community Centre Provision ➤ Fulfilment of national or governing body standards ➤ Binding commitments to use by local groups/organisations ➤ Condition reports on existing provision ➤ The residual capacity or otherwise in similar facilities close by <u>Note:</u>		X4	20

	<p>1. Projects that are likely to cause significant levels of displacement from existing facilities will not be funded by Council.</p> <p>2. Council will not fund facilities that are for the sole use of membership organisations.</p>			
3	<p><u>Accessible to All:</u> Projects will need to demonstrate how the proposed facility will be made attractive, welcoming and accessible to all the community.</p>		X3	15
4	<p><u>Project Beneficiaries & Participation:</u> Projects will need to detail all of the project beneficiaries / those who will benefit from the project. Projects will need to demonstrate how the project will increase participation in community and/or sporting activities.</p>		X3	15
5	<p><u>Under Represented Groups:</u> Council will afford a higher priority to applications that promote participation in community and sporting activities by those currently under represented and in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Older people (50+) ➤ People with a disability ➤ Women and girls ➤ People living in areas of high social need 		X3	15
6	<p><u>Sustainability and viability:</u> The application must make reasonable and evidence based assumptions in relation to construction costs, operational costs and projected income.</p>		X4	20
	Total Maximum Score (65% Threshold)			