

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Festive Fund Grant Awards 2025</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	The Leisure and Development Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 September 2025
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	For Decision
<b>For discussion In Committee</b>	<b>NO</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Stable and Cohesive Communities
Lead Officer	Head of Tourism and Recreation Funding Unit Manager

<b>Estimated Timescale for Completion</b>	
Date to be Completed	December 2025

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	£43,000
Included in Current Year Estimates	<b>YES</b>
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	
Staffing Costs	N/A

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes	Date:10.10.17
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

## 1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to recommend grant awards for the Christmas Festive Fund 2025-26.

## 2.0 Background

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council launched the Christmas Festive Fund in 2015 to offer assistance to Community and Voluntary Organisations from the smaller towns, villages and hamlets in the Borough to help celebrate Christmas. This fund is specifically designed to mark the lighting of the Christmas tree and help facilitate outdoor festive celebrations within the Borough.

In June 2023 the Council agreed to the new parameters of the fund, as follows:

**Fund A** - Settlements with a population of 1,000 and above can apply for up to £2,500 towards costs relating to festive entertainment. Priority will be given to projects that promote wide community involvement for **outdoor events**. (Fund A is for 13 principal settlements including Portstewart, Dungiven, Kilrea, Greysteel, Cloughmills, Castlerock, Cushendall, Garvagh, Dunloy, Rasharkin, Ballykelly, Bushmills, Portrush).

**Fund B** - Settlements with a population between 100 -1,000 can apply for up to £750 towards costs relating to festive entertainment. Priority will be given to projects that promote wide community involvement for **outdoor events**.

In 2024/2025, 30 projects were awarded funding totalling £42,362.

## 3.0 Overview of the Fund

The budget set for the Festive Fund per annum is £43,000.

Community groups and voluntary organisations can apply for grant-aid to allow small towns, hamlets and villages to celebrate Christmas by organising outdoor events and activities in their local communities:

- Applicant areas must have a population of over 100 residents or have been allocated a Christmas tree from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.
- Projects/events should take place in the local community between Saturday 29th November and Thursday 18th December 2025.
- Activities must be cross community and open for all residents offering an opportunity for all within the locality to participate.
- Only one grant per settlement will be awarded. Should Council receive more than one application per settlement the application which is the most inclusive and has the most far-reaching community involvement will be selected. Council can also request that applicants work together to produce one all-inclusive event.

## 4.0 Criteria for Eligibility & Assessment

Eligibility Criterion	Pass / Fail
Evidence of a developed outdoor project; with a date within the scope of the advertised fund (activity to take place between <b>Saturday 29th November and Thursday 18th December 2025</b>	
Suitable planning for events with a sufficiently completed Risk Assessment and Event Management Plan	
Town/village/ settlement with a population of over 100 or who have been allocated a Christmas Tree from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	
Confirmation of Outdoor Event	
Full itemized breakdown of costs included	

Assessment & Scoring Criterion	Score (0-5)	Weight	Possible Score
Description of event: Outdoors, marks lighting of tree or turning on of lights, wide community involvement.		X4	20

## 5.0 Outcome

27 applications were received by the closing date. The Funding Unit carried out the Stage 1 eligibility checks with all applications progressing for assessment and scoring against the agreed criteria – summary below:

No of applications received	27
No of ineligible applications	0
No of unsuccessful applications at assessment	0
No of successful applications	27

No applications were received from 4 of the 13 identified towns eligible to apply for Fund A. Council officers continue to work in these 4 areas to facilitate applications to the fund.

A summary of the outcome including applications received and grants recommended is included in **Annex A**.

## 6.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee approves to full Council:

1. The allocation of grant-aid totalling £33,747 to projects numbered 1–27, as set out in **Annex A**.
2. The Festive Fund remain open to facilitate applications from the 4 remaining principal towns of Ballykelly, Bushmills, Portrush and Rasharkin.

## Annex A

### Festive Fund Grant Awards 2025-26:

	Organisation	Score	Project	Funding Recommended
1	Armoy Community Association	80%	Christmas Switch On	£750
2	The Kilrea Community and Fairy Thorn Association	80%	Kilrea Community Christmas Tree lights switch-on event	£2,500
3	Drumturn Community Association	80%	Community Christmas celebration event	£750
4	Burnfoot Community Development Association	80%	Burfoot's Christmas Light Switch On	£750
5	Cloughmills Community Action Team	80%	Christmas Switch On	£750
6	Glack GAC	100%	Glack Santa Sunday	£750
7	Greysteel Community Association	100%	Outdoor Christmas Festive Fair	£2,500
8	Loughgiel Community Association Ltd	80%	Christmas Festive Evening	£750
9	Stranocum & District Development Group	80%	Twilight Christmas Wonderland	£750
10	Carey Faughs GAC	80%	Christmas Switch On	£500
11	Hares Corner Cooperative (Forest Connections Community Benefit Society)	80%	Christmas in Garvagh'	£2,500
12	PRA Portballintrae residents Association	80%	PRA Christmas Festival	£750
13	Dunloy Stronger Together	80%	Dunloy Stronger Together Christmas Switch on Event	£2,400
14	Dervock & District Community Association	100%	The Dervock Christmas Craft & Community Celebration 2025	£750
15	Magilligan Community Association	80%	Magilligan Community Christmas Lights Switch On	£750
16	Portstewart Community Assoc	80%	Lantern Festival	£2,500
17	Apprentice Boys of Derry Campsie Club Rasharkin Branch	80%	Christmas Switch On	£750
18	Dungiven Traders Association	100%	Dungiven Fun Day & Christmas Light Turn On	£2,485
19	Foreglen Community Association	80%	Christmas Tree Lights Switch-On	£750
20	Heart of the Glens Festival	100%	Christmas in Cushendall	£2,500
21	Mosside Presbyterian Church	80%	Christmas Tree Switch on	£660
22	Moneydig rural network	80%	Moneydig tree light up	£750
23	Ballybogey over 50s Club	80%	Christmas Switch On	£750
24	Camus Juxta Bann Macosquin	80%	Putting on Christmas Lights	£750
25	Gortnaghey Community Association	80%	Christmas Lights Turn On	£750
26	Balnamore Community Association	80%	Christmas Switch On	£702
27	Castlerock Community Association	100%	Castlerock's Magical Christmas	£2,500
	<b>Total</b>			<b>£33,747</b>