



<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Capital Grants Programme</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	Leisure & Development Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 February 2026
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	For Information
<b>To be discussed 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 Funding

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

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

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

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	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 provide an update on the implementation of the Capital Grants Programme 2025-26.

## 2.0 Background

2.1 In December 2024 Council approved an annual Capital Grants Programme along 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. The fund seeks to support external infrastructure projects that are aligned to Council's aims and objectives and which require additional capital funding to achieve completion.

## 3.0 Levels of Grant Award

3.1 A total capital fund pot of £600,000 per annum is available. Not for profit sporting and community organisations can apply for awards of up to **80%** of total capital costs up to a maximum grant value of £120,000. Organisations must 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.

3.2 The level of grant awarded depends on the following:

- The available budget.
- The number of applications.

## 4.0 Criteria for Assessment

4.1 In November 2025 Council agreed the parameters of the Capital grant Programme along with the criteria to be used for assessment and scoring.

<b>Criteria for assessment &amp; scoring:</b>	<b>Score (0-5)</b>	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Max Points</b>
Project Description & Strategic Relevance		X 3	15
Community/Sporting Need		X 4	20
Accessible to All		X 3	15
Project Beneficiaries & Participation		X 3	15
Underrepresented Groups		X 3	15
Sustainability and Viability		X 4	20
Must Score 65% to be considered eligible for funding			<b>100</b>

## 5.0 Capital Grants 25/26 Timeline

5.1 The Capital Grants Programme 25/26 was implemented as set out below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
1 October 2025	Funding workshop (online)
2 October 2025	Funding workshop (in-person)

8 October 2025	Opened for Expressions of Interest
22 October 2025	Closed Expressions of Interest
3 November 2025	Opened for full applications
1 December 2025	Closed for applications
February 2025	Applications assessment complete
February 2026	Leisure & Development Committee approval
March 2026	Full Council decision
March 2026	Letters of offer / Rejection letters issued

## 6.0 **Expressions of Interest Assessments**

6.1 The funding workshops had 44 online attendees and 17 in-person attendees.

The programme received 23 Expressions of Interest.

7 x applications did not pass programme eligibility and did not receive an invite to full application stage. The projects are detailed below.

Reference	Applicant	Proposed project	Reason for ineligibility
1352595	Ballymoney Evergreen Club	Ballymoney Social Centre Sustainability Project – to improve the accessibility, aesthetics, and sustainability of Ballymoney Social Centre.  The project involves the following works:  - Tarmac and Solar PV Panels	Project is for ancillary services which are not eligible
1330453	Ballymoney United Football Club	Replace the existing old wooden entrance door at the clubhouse with new aluminium double doors fitted with automatic push-button entry and exit.	Replacement of a door / ancillary services not eligible
1351516	Bushfoot Golf Club	Redecoration of walls and ceilings across the bar, restaurant and corridors, sanding and revarnishing of wooden floors, new commercial-grade carpets and Karndean LVT flooring; replacement of tables and chairs.	Redecoration works not eligible.  No alignment to relevant Council strategies.
1330474	Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust	Integrated digital projection infrastructure: Capital equipment items in the form of control and production systems & hardware.	Capital equipment not eligible.

1337780	Glenshane Community Development Limited	Extend and enhance the community café space which it currently lets out to Rosmars Café.	Project is to extend space for a local business and for economic development. Project does not realise required community benefit.
1332830	Killowen And Churchlands Community Association	Refurbishment of female toilets.	No alignment with relevant Council strategies.
1333319	Limavady Cricket Rugby Football & Hockey Club	Provide a designated female referees changing room containing a shower, toilet and changing area.	Does not realise a significant sporting benefit.

6.2 16 x eligible applications were invited to submit a full application to the Capital Grants Programme.

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Proposed project</b>	<b>Sporting / Community</b>
Armoy Community Association	Construction of a community pavilion and changing room facility.	Community
Bann Rowing Club	Structural reconfiguration, retrofitting, and internal refurbishment.	Sport
Burnfoot Community Development Association	Installation of a changing places facility.	Community
Garvagh Tennis Club	Re-surfacing of 2 x Tennis Courts.	Sport
Limavady United Football Club	Upgrade and installation of floodlighting system.	Sport
Dunloy GAC	Installation of a new LED floodlighting system.	Sport
Pádraig Pearse's GAC Kilrea	Development of a new sand-based training field.	Sport
Portstewart Football and Community Club	Installation of new floodlighting system.	Sport
Robert Emmets GAC Cushendun	Refurbishment of former parish hall into a gym facility.	Sport
Roe Valley Residents Association	Refurbishment of 2 x buildings for community use.	Community
St Brigid's Cloughmills GAC	Construction of new changing room facility.	Sport

St Mary's GAC Rasharkin	Construction of new gym and wellbeing / fitness studio.	Sport
St Patrick's Camogie Club	Construction of full-sized, sand carpet, floodlit grass GAA pitch complete with fencing and ball stops.	Sport
St. Matthew's GAC Drumsurn	Construction of new grass playing field.	Sport
The Big House	Construction of a new, large multipurpose meeting space.	Community
The Bushmills Trust	Restoration of the Old National School, a Grade B1 listed building built.	Community

## 7.0 Capital Grant Assessments

7.1 Grant assessments were undertaken on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February. To be considered for funding, applications needed to achieve the quality threshold score of 65%. The outcome of the assessment panel is detailed below.

16 x Applications were assessed and scored. **Annex A** provides details of the submitted applications including proposed projects, grants requested and total project costs.

9 x Applicants did not achieve the threshold score of 65%:

Reference	Applicant	Code	Total Score
1381355	Pádraig Pearses GAC Kilrea	GAA	63%
1401527	Portstewart Football and Community Club	Soccer	60%
1419953	St Mary's GAC Rasharkin	GAA	55%
1385976	Burnfoot Community Development Association	Community Group	52%
1399999	Roe Valley Residents Association	Community Group	50%
1381124	Dunloy Cuchullains	GAA	48%
1388521	Garvagh Tennis Club	Tennis	44%
1449684	Robert Emmets GAC Cushendun	GAA	44%
1386892	The Big House	Community Group	40%

1 x Application achieved the threshold score of 65% but was not the highest scoring application in their sporting code so does not receive an offer of funding.

Ref no	Applicant	Code	Score
1401031	St. Matthew's GAC, Drumsurn	GAA	76%

6 x Applications achieved the threshold score of 65% and qualify for funding:

Ref no	Applicant	Code	Score	Grant requested
1409189	Bann Rowing Club	Rowing	97%	£99,543
1409230	Limavady United Football and Athletic Club	Soccer	94%	£114,000
1388535	St Brigid's Cloughmills GAC	GAA	80%	£120,000
1380203	Armoy Community Association	American Football Ireland / Community	74%	£120,000
1436451	The Bushmills Trust	Community	73%	£120,000
1409235	St. Patricks Camogie Club Dungiven	Camogie	73%	£120,000
<b>Total Grant Requested</b>				<b>£693,543.00</b>

7.2 The total amount of grant aid required to fund the successful projects is £693,543 which is £93,543.00 over the £600k budget. As per previous years the projects will each have a percentage reduction to ensure the 2025/26 Capital Grants Programme stays within budget. Award details are outlined below:

Ref no	Applicant	Code	Score	Grant requested	Funding Allocated
1409189	Bann Rowing Club	Rowing	97%	£99,543	£86,115
1409230	Limavady United Football and Athletic Club	Soccer	94%	£114,000	£98,621
1388535	St Brigid's Cloughmills GAC	GAA	80%	£120,000	£103,812
1380203	Armoy Community Association	American Football Ireland	74%	£120,000	£103,812
1436451	The Bushmills Trust	Community	73%	£120,000	£103,812
1409235	St. Patricks Camogie Club Dungiven	Camogie	73%	£120,000	£103,812
<b>Total Grant Requested</b>				<b>£693,543</b>	<b>£599,984</b>

## 8.0 Next Steps

<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Process / Actions</b>
February 2025	Successful / unsuccessful letters issued
March 2025	Full Letters of Offer issued
March 2025	Successful applicants' workshop
March 2025 onwards	Feedback provided to unsuccessful applicants

## Annex A

Reference No	Applicant	Code	Proposed Project	Project Cost	Grant Requested
1380203	Armoy Community Association	Community Group / American Football	Construction of health and wellness community pavilion and changing room facility	£252,000	£120,000
1381124	Dunloy Cuchullains	GAA	Energy-efficient LED floodlighting system on the training pitch	£186,400	£120,000
1381355	Pádraig Pearse's GAC Kilrea	GAA	Development of a sand-based training pitch	£247,117	£120,000
1385976	Burnfoot Community Development Association	Community Group	Installation of a changing places facility large enough for a user and up to two carers	£105,000	£105,000
1386892	The Big House	Community Group	Extension of our current meeting area through the construction of a new, large multipurpose meeting space.	£200,000	£120,000
1388521	Garvagh Tennis Club	Sports Club	Re-surface our two Tennis Courts as well as purchasing two new nets and two pairs of new posts and painting the courts.	£25,553	£20,442

1388535	St Brigid's Cloughmills GAC	GAA	New changing room facility to replace our existing and outdated facility.	£203,720	£120,000
1399999	Roe Valley Residents Association	Community Group	Redevelopment of a leased, long-term premises in Limavady town centre into a modern, fully accessible Community Training Hub	£105,200	£84,160
1401031	St. Matthew's GAC Drumsum	GAA	A new grass playing field to support the growing number of women and girls participating in sport in our community.	£800,000	£120,000
1401527	Portstewart Football and Community Club	Sport Club	Installation of new 500 lux LED floodlights on the main pitch at Portstewart Football and Community Club.	£96,620	£77,296
1409189	Bann Rowing Club	Rowing	Bann Rowing Club proposes to deliver an Inclusive access and Participation Facilities Upgrade within its historic, listed boathouse in Coleraine town centre.	£124,590	£99,543
1409230	Limavady United Football and Athletic Club	Soccer	Upgrade the existing floodlighting system to a modern, energy-efficient standard suitable for year-round community and sporting use.	£142,500	£114,000

1409235	St. Patricks Camogie Club Dungiven	Camogie	Develop a high-quality sand-carpet, floodlit GAA pitch suitable for training and competitive underage camogie with fencing and ball stops.	£660,300	£120,000
1419953	St Mary's GAC Rasharkin	GAA	New state of the art gym and well-being hub at our grounds on the Townhill Road in Rasharkin.	£380,000	£120,000
1436451	The Bushmills Trust	Community Group	The restoration and adaptive re-use of the Old National School in Bushmills.	£1,205,753	£120,000
1449684	Robert Emmets GAC Cushendun	GAA (Applied as community group)	Refurbishment and conversion of the former parish hall	£53,189	£42,551
<b>Total costs</b>				<b>£4,787,942</b>	<b>£1,622,992</b>