

Title of Report:	Enterprise Fund 2026
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 September 2026
For Decision or For Information	For Information
To be discussed In Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2026-31)	
Strategic Theme	Creating Conditions to Deliver Opportunities for our Borough
Outcome	A Thriving Economy
Lead Officer	Head of Prosperity & Place

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	31 March 2027

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£50,000
Included in Current Year Estimates	Yes
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	30022
Staffing Costs	No

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:		Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:		Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed		Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:		Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:		Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:		Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the outcome of the Enterprise Fund Grant Programme 2026/27.

2.0 Background

2.1 In November 2025, Council approved the annual grants programme which included the Enterprise Fund with an agreed budget of £50,000. This budget is 100% Council funded.

The purpose of the Enterprise Fund is to support a new generation of entrepreneurs via a grant to assist young businesses that have been trading less than two years.

2.2 The parameters of the Enterprise Fund are set out below:

- Applicants can apply for 100% grant aid up to a maximum value of £5,000. The total cost of the project must not exceed £10,000. Match funding is not a requirement.
- Applicants must score 65% or above to be considered for funding.
- The assessment and award criteria are detailed at **Annex A**.

3.0 The Process

3.1 In line with approved processes, the Enterprise Fund 2026/27 was administered as per timelines detailed below:

Action	Date
Opened for Applications	11 May 2026
Closed for Applications	05 June 2026
Grant Assessments Complete	10 June 2026
Notifications to applicants	18-22 June 2026
Appeals Panel	03 July 2026
Information Report to Council	15 Sept 2026

4.0 Outcome

4.1 Council received 63 applications to the Enterprise Fund requesting in total £274,433.

- 39 applications were ineligible.
- 24 applications were assessed and scored.
- 12 applications were unsuccessful.
- 12 applications requesting a total of £57,661 successfully scored above the funding threshold.
- A 13.29% reduction was applied to all 12 successful applications to ensure the programme remained within the £50,000 budget.

4.2 Summary of Enterprise Fund applications and awards:

Name of Business	Sector	Location	Total Amount Requested	Revised Rate - 86.7137%
Steel Harpy Gaming	Manufacturing	Coleraine	£5,000.00	£4,335.69
JD Joinery & PVC Ltd	Construction	Benbradagh	£5,000.00	£4,335.69
Koala Coffee	Hospitality	Benbradagh	£4,320.00	£3,746.03

Pocket Processes	Digital / ICT / Comms	Bann	£4,938.00	£4,281.92
Green Edge Outdoor	Services - customer, health & personal care	Bann	£5,000.00	£4,335.69
Truetension Testing NI Ltd	Engineering	Limavady	£5,000.00	£4,335.69
Z4 Properties	Tourism	Limavady	£5,000.00	£4,335.69
Quinn Assist	Services Professional	Bann	£3,462.00	£3,002.01
M-Tec Electrical	Construction	Benbradagh	£4,963.00	£4,303.60
Elles Bakes	Food / Drink Manufacture	Ballymoney	£5,000.00	£4,335.69
HYPNX	Retail	Limavady	£4,978.00	£4,316.61
Lala's Tanning Lounge	Services - customer, health & personal care	Bann	£5,000.00	£4,335.69
Total			£57,661.00	£50,000

Annex A

Assessment & Award Criteria

All questions will be scored out of 5 and weighting will be applied as detailed below

	Criteria	Score out of a possible 5	Weighting	Possible Score
1	Tell us what you propose to purchase with this grant, why your business needs this, and the evidence you have to support your answer		X3	15
2	Tell us about the positive outcomes you anticipate for your business if awarded this grant. Be specific and realistic. e.g. increase in profit, employment, new markets entered, new products or services introduced, new methods of selling, number of PT/FT staff. (Information supplied here must be specific, realistic to your business. The examples provided are not exhaustive)		X3	15
3	How will this grant enhance your competitive edge within the marketplace? (Information supplied here should reflect the day-to-day operations of your business – such as customer relationship management, sales, cash flow, pricing, marketing, staffing – examples provided are not exhaustive)		X2	10
4	Provide details on the ability, skills and experience within your business, explaining how this will assist you in managing this grant and achieving the outcomes you have identified.		X2	10

Applications must score at least 65% in order to avail of funding.