

Capital Grants Programme Grant Decisions	10th October 2017
To: The Leisure and Development Committee For Decision	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities
Outcome	Develop and promote stable and cohesive communities
Lead Officer	Funding Unit Manager
Cost: (if applicable)	£423,587.50

The purpose of this report is to recommend grant decisions for the Capital Grants Programme 2017-18.

Background

The Capital Grants Fund is available to local sports and community organisations that wish to request support towards the development of new, or the enhancement of existing facilities to meet unmet need. It seeks to support external infrastructure projects that are aligned to Council's aims and objectives and which require additional capital funding to achieve completion.

In November 2016 Council agreed the Capital Grants programme for 2017-18 with a budget of £750k.

In February 2017 Council agreed to revise the application process to allow a pre-application stage to include discussion between the potential applicants and senior Council Officers. This was to allow critical discussions on project need, type and scale to help contribute to the creation and submission of viable and sustainable business cases.

The revised programme opened on 1st March 2017 and involves a 2 stage process:

Stage 1: Pre-application discussions and submission of an expression of interest (submission deadline was 19th April 2017).

Stage 2: Submission of Outline Business Case from successful Expressions of Interest (deadline for submission is 12noon on 2nd August 2017).

5 x Expressions of Interest were received before the 19th April 2017 deadline.

The Grant assessment panel of relevant officers assessed the Expressions of Interest against the advertised criteria. Applications are required to pass the 8 eligibility criteria detailed.

Applications Received

- 5 applications were received requesting £1,711,437.50 from the £750,000 available.
- 3 applications passed the eligibility criteria.
- 2 applications failed to pass the eligibility criteria.

In May 2017 Council approved the 3 successful Expressions of Interest and invited Portstewart Regeneration & Cultural Group, St Matthews GAC Drumsum and Loughgiel GAC to progress to stage 2 and submit their Outline Business Cases for assessment and scoring against the agreed criteria.

The closing date for business cases and supporting information to be submitted was 12noon on Wednesday 2nd August 2017. All three applications were submitted by that date.

Following a number of site visits and application clarifications exercise, an assessment panel scored the applications as follows:

Assessment Scores at Full Application

The minimum quality standard for an award, as advertised within the application material, was 70% (or a score of 161 out of 230).

The three applications assessed by the panel scored as follows (the full breakdown of scores is attached at **Annex A**, a summary of the 3 applications is attached at **Annex B**):

Applicant	Score	Outcome	Amount Requested
St. Matthew's Drumsum GAC	163	Pass	£69,000
Portstewart Regeneration & Cultural Group Ltd	162	Pass	£60,000
Loughgiel Shamrocks GAC	163	Pass	£294,587.50
Total Amount Requested:			£423,587.50

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members approve the offer of awards to the applicant clubs as follows:

Applicant:	Award Value:
Portstewart Regeneration & Cultural Group Ltd	£60,000
St. Matthew's Drumsum GAC	£69,000
Loughgiel Shamrocks GAC	£294,587.50

- Officers apply the normal capital grant management processes and preconditions as appropriate to the specific circumstances of each project.
- That the remaining budget of £326,421.50 is used to support other Council prioritised capital projects.

ANNEX A

Table of Application Scores

Applicant		Portstewart Regeneration & Cultural Group Ltd	St. Matthew's Drumturn GAC	Loughgiel Shamrocks GAC
Criteria:	Max			
1. Strategic relevance	20	12	14	16
2. Community/Sporting Need	40	28	32	28
3. Accessible to All	30	24	18	21
4. Increases in Community and Sports Participation	20	14	12	14
5 Value for Money	30	27	24	18
6. Under Represented Groups	30	18	15	21
7. Partnership Funding	30	21	21	21
8. Sustainability and viability	30	18	27	24
Max available	230	162	163	163
Pass mark @ 70%	161	161	161	161
Total Scores:		70.43%	70.86%	70.86%
Outcome: Pass/Fail		Pass	Pass	Pass
Sum Requested @ max 50%		£60,000	£59,000	£294,587.50

ANNEX B

Summary of Stage 2 Applications

Applicant	Project	Total project Costs	Amount requested from Council	Balance of costs
Portstewart Regeneration & Cultural Group Ltd	Regeneration of Cromie Memorial Orange Hall to provide a community hub (credit union, advice services, drop in, education, social welfare & recreation facilities)	£120,000	£60,000 (50%)	DfC Grant £25,000 (secured) Own Fundraising £35,000
St Matthews Drumsumn GAC	Upgrade of toilet & kitchen facilities to increase accessibility & participation for community and make facilities accessible for people with disabilities.	£138,000	£69,000 (50%)	SIF Grant £20,000 (secured) Bank loan £10,000 Own Fundraising £39,000
Loughgiel Shamrocks GAC	Full sized sand carpet pitch (140x80) and multi- use physical activity space.	£589,175	£294,587.50 (50%)	Danske loan £176,725.50 Croke Park GAA loan £117,835.00
		£847,175	£423,587.50	