



Title of Report:	Tourism Event Funding Programme (TEFP) - Growth & Large Events Fund 2026-2027
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	18 March 2026
For Decision or For Information	For Information
To be discussed In Committee	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Promote our tourist offer locally and internationally
Outcome	Improve prosperity
Lead Officer	Head of Tourism and Recreation Head of Funding Unit Tourism Events Manager

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	March 2027

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£400,000.00
Included in Current Year Estimates	NO (budget planned for 2026/27)
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	1331/62560
Staffing Costs	N/A

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	N/A

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 Tourism Events Funding Programme 2026/27.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In November 2025, Council approved the annual grants programme including the Tourism Event Funding Programme which provides two grant options, namely the Tourism Events Growth Fund and Tourism Large Events Fund. The grant programme has an agreed budget of £400,000.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Grant Fund is to support new and existing event organisers, with outputs that align with the broad aims and objectives of the Council's Destination Management Strategy.
- 1.3 The parameters of the programmes are set out below:
- **Tourism Events Growth Fund** – Events with an overall budget of between £10,000 and £30,000 which attract more than 600 visitors to the Borough, takes place over a minimum of 2 consecutive days (minimum of 5 hours on each day) and encourages overnight stays. Applicants must demonstrate how they will promote the Borough as a tourism destination through branding and marketing activities. In addition, they must demonstrate economic support / benefit from hosting the event and how they will promote the area to the domestic market. The level of grant award available is up to 50% of total project costs, up to a maximum grant award of £15,000.
 - **Tourism Large Events Fund** – Events with an overall budget in excess of £30,000 which attract more than 3,000 visitors to the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough, takes place over a minimum of 2 consecutive days (minimum of 5 hours on each day) and encourages overnight stays. Applicants must demonstrate how they will promote the Borough as a tourism destination through marketing activities. In addition, they must demonstrate economic support / benefit from hosting the event and how they will promote the area to the domestic market and appeal to international visitors. The level of grant award available is up to 50% of total project costs, up to a maximum grant award of £100,000.

Applicants to either grant must score 65% or above to be considered for funding.

The assessment and award criteria are detailed at **Annex A**.

2.0 The Process

- 2.1 In line with approved processes, the Tourism Event Funding Programme for 2026/27 was administered as detailed below:

Action	Date
Open for Applications	8 December 2025
Date of funding workshops	15 & 16 December 2025
1-1 Applicant Sessions with Council's Events Team	16 – 18 December 2025
Closed for Applications	23 January 2026
Grant Assessments Complete	Mid-February 2026
Information Report to Council	18 March 2026
Notifications to applicants	From 1 April 2026

3.0 Outcome of Assessment & Scoring Process

- 3.1 Council received 14 applications requesting a combined total over £500,000:

- 14 applications were assessed and scored.
- 1 application was unsuccessful.

Name of unsuccessful applicant group	Project Title	Eligible Yes / No	Score	Eligible Amount Requested	Amount awarded
Coleraine and District Amalgamated Committee	Easter Ballymonday Crimson Festival	Yes	5%	£21,500	nil

- 13 applications requesting a combined eligible total of £490,342 successfully scored above the funding threshold. There were 6 successful applications from the Large Fund and 7 successful applications from the Growth Fund.
- An 18.4% reduction was applied to all 13 successful applications to ensure the programme remained within the £400,000 budget.
- Successful applicants must attend a project initiation meeting and are offered feedback on their application and areas that could be improved on in the future.
- Unsuccessful applicants are offered an opportunity for feedback on improvement if they wish to apply in the future.

3.2 Summary of Tourism Event Fund applications & awards:

	Name of applicant group	Project Title	Eligible Yes / No	Score	Eligible Amount Requested	Amount awarded
1.	Coleraine and District Motor Club Ltd	North West 200	Yes	96%	£100,000	£81,575.72
2.	Northern Ireland International Youth Football Cup Ltd	Super Cup NI	Yes	78%	£100,000	£81,575.72
3.	Stendhal Festival Ltd	Stendhal Festival	Yes	68%	£100,000	£81,575.72
4.	Arroy Motorcycle Road Racing Club Ltd	Arroy Road Races	Yes	70%	£50,000	£40,787.86
5.	Derry & District Youth FA	Foyle Cup	Yes	73%	£30,000	£24,472.71
6.	North Antrim Agricultural Association Ltd	Ballymoney Show	Yes	75%	£20,850	£17,008.54
7.	Heart of the Glens Festival, Cushendall	Heart of the Glens Festival	Yes	89%	£15,000	£12,236.36
8.	Portstewart Community Association	Red Sails Festival	Yes	68%	£15,000	£12,236.36
9.	North Coast Trad	Sam Henry Weekend	Yes	78%	£14,990	£12,228.20
10.	Kilrea Community & Fairythorn Association	Fairy Thorn Festival	Yes	66%	£14,955	£12,199.65
11.	Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association NI Branch (RSPBANI)	Pipe Band & Drum Majors Fest	Yes	67%	£13,193.50	£10,762.69
12.	Tennis Ulster	Co. Antrim Tennis Tournament	Yes	76%	£8,503.50	£6,936.79
13.	Co Londonderry Agricultural Show Society Ltd	Limavady Agri Show	Yes	65%	£7,850	£6,403.69
					£490,342	£400,000

Assessment & Award Criteria

Criteria	Score out of possible 5	Weighting	Possible Score
Q1. Current Status / Background of the event	Not Scored		
Q2. Event Financial Position	Not Scored		
Q3. Scenario Planning	Not Scored		
Q4. – Financial Breakdown outlining Eligible Project costs	Not Scored		
Q5. Event Management		X 5	25
Q6. Event Sustainability and Skills Retention		X 3	15
Q7. Economic Support / Benefit		X 2	10
Q8. Media & Marketing Impact		X 3	15
Q9. Visitor Experience		X 3	15
Q10. Future Planning - Event Development		X 4	20
Applicants must score 65% to be considered for funding			100