



Title of Report:	Community Festivals Fund 2026-27
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	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Stable and Cohesive Communities
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture Community Development Manager

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	31 st March 2027

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£71,630 (£44,030 net cost to Council)
Included in Current Year Estimates	yes
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	1051
Staffing Costs	n/a

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 Community Festivals Fund Grant Programme 2026/27.

2.0 Background

2.1 In November 2025, Council approved the annual grants programme which included the Community Festivals Fund. The grant programme has an agreed budget of £71,630. The expected budget from the Department for Communities is £27,600 based on the 2025-26 award.

2.2 The purpose of the Community Festival Fund is to support, promote and develop the capacity of communities to host community festival events across the Causeway Coast and Glens. The fund will also enable organisations to celebrate their unique cultural and community identity, to promote diversity and to strengthen good community relations within and between communities.

2.3 The parameters of the programmes are set out below:

- Applicants can apply for 75% grant aid. There are 3 grant levels – up to £1,000, £1750 or £3,250.
- Applicants match fund the remaining 25% from other sources or from their own resources.
- Applicants must score 65% or above to be considered for funding.
- Events must be programmed to be of at least 4 hours consecutive duration and include a range of at least 3 distinct types of activities open to the whole community.
- The assessment and award criteria are detailed at **Annex A**.

3.0 The Process

3.1 In line with approved processes, the Community Festivals Fund Grant Programme for 2026/27 was administered as detailed below:

Action	Date
Date of funding workshop	Funding Unit online workshops 15 th & 16 th December 2025 CFF specific workshop delivered by CD team 14 th January 2026
Opened for Applications	8 th December 2025`
Closed for Applications	6 th February 2026
Grant Assessments Complete	16 th , 19 th , 25 th February 2026
Notifications to applicants	11 th March 2026
Information Report to Council	18 th March 2026

4.0 Outcome

4.1 Council received 48 applications requesting £91,568:

- 6 applications were ineligible.
- 42 applications were assessed and scored.

- 2 applications were unsuccessful, as they scored less than the 65% threshold.
- 40 applications successfully scored above the funding threshold.
- A number of applications were awarded less funding than requested, as not all proposed programme activities or associated costs were deemed eligible.

4.2 Summary of Community Festivals Fund Grant Programme applications & awards.

Organisation	Total Amount Requested	Eligible (Y/N)	Total Score	Amount Awarded
Apprentice Boys of Derry Campsie Club Rasharkin Branch	£1,750	yes	72%	£1,750
Articlave District Community Association	£2,335	yes	80%	£1,750
Balnamore Community Association	£1,639	yes	88%	£1,000
Building Ballysally Together	£2,130	yes	68%	£1,000
Bushvalley Primary School PTA	£975	yes	76%	£975
Can - Compass Advocacy Network Ltd	£1,750	yes	80%	£1,750
Cloughmills Community Action Team	£1,000	yes	72%	£1,000
Coleraine and District Amalgamated Committee	£3,250	yes	68%	£1,750
Cumann Iománaíochta Chaoimhín Uí Loingsigh	£3,250	yes	84%	£3,250
Cushendun Building Preservation Trust	£3,500	yes	76%	£3,250
Dernaflaw Community Association	£999	yes	88%	£999
Dervock & District Community Association	£1,000	yes	72%	£1,000
Drumsumn Community Association	£1,000	yes	68%	£1,000
Dunaghy Community Association	£870	yes	72%	£870
Dunaghy Flute Band	£1,000	yes	72%	£1,000
Friends of Kilmoyle PTA	£900	yes	68%	£900
Garvagh Cultural Awareness Association	£3,000	yes	72%	£3,000
Glack Community Association	£1,750	yes	76%	£1,000
Glack GAC	£1,750	yes	72%	£1,750
Glens of Antrim CCE	£2,999	yes	68%	£1,750
Glór na Maoile	£1,000	yes	92%	£1,000
Gortnaghey Community Association	£1,760	yes	72%	£1,750
Hands That Talk	£1,000	yes	72%	£1,000
Killowen Community Association	£1,000	yes	68%	£1,000
Kingdom of Dalriada Ulster Scots Society	£3,250	yes	92%	£3,250
Limavady Community Development Initiative	£3,250	yes	72%	£1,750
Loughgiel Community Association Ltd	£1,537	yes	80%	£1,537
Magilligan Community Association	£3,249	yes	76%	£3,249
Millburn Community Development Ltd	£1,750	yes	68%	£1,750
Moneydig Rural Network	£1,500	yes	68%	£1,000
Mosside Educational Rural & Culture Society	£1,110	yes	68%	£1,000
North Antrim Bands Forum	£3,250	yes	84%	£3,250
Portrush Heritage Group	£6,200	yes	96%	£2,950
Portrush Yacht Club	£1,000	yes	68%	£1,000
Pride of the Park Flute Band	£1,750	yes	92%	£1,750
St Mary's Faughanvale GAC	£1,000	yes	84%	£1,000
St. Mary's GAC Rasharkin	£750	yes	72%	£750

St. Matthew's GAC Drumsurn	£3,250	yes	72%	£1,950
Stendhal Festival Ltd.	£1,000	yes	68%	£890
Ullans Speakers Association	£3,250	yes	80%	£3,250
ArtAbyss Ltd.	£1,000	yes	40%	£0
Coleraine Irish Dancing Festival	£3,928	no		£0
Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Dún Lathaí / Dunloy Comhaltas	£3,200	no		£0
Dunloy Football Club	£937	no		£0
Granagh Independent LOL 30	£1,100	no		£0
Hare's Corner Cooperative (Forest Connections Community Benefit Society)	£1,000	yes	60%	£0
Macosquin LOL No 8	£1,700	no		£0
Roe Valley Residents Association	£1,750	no		£0

Assessment & Award Criteria

Community Festival Fund Grant Programme	Maximum Grant Amount
1. One day community fun day type events. Events must be programmed to be of at least 4 hours consecutive duration and include a range of at least 3 distinct types of activities open to the whole community.	Up to £1,000
2. Festival events lasting 2 consecutive days or more. Each of the days of the festival must include a range of at least 3 distinct types of activities open to the whole community and be programmed to be at least 4 hours duration. It is not enough to simply duplicate the same event on 2 days – the festival must have different activities on each day that it takes place.	Up to £1,750
3. Festivals lasting 3 consecutive days or more. Each of the days of the festival must include a range of at least 3 distinct types of activities open to the whole community and be programmed to be at least 4 hours duration and attract at least 500 people (participants & visitors). The festival must have different activities on each day that it takes place	Up to £ 3,250

Application form Question that we will score the criteria from	Criteria	Score out of a possible 5	Weighting	Possible Score
1a	Strong community participation		X1	5
1b	Opportunities for people to improve their personal skills or receive training relevant to the project		X1	5
1c	Promotes inclusion and proactively puts measures in place to encourage this		X1	5
6	NIMDM 2017 Ranking/ Access to Services Measure Ranking		X1	5
8,9,10	Demonstrate value for money and maximise income		X1	5
				25
Final Score			x 4	100%