



Title of Report:	UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Communities & Place Commission 2024-25
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	17 September 2024
For Decision or For Information	For Information
To be considered In Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	3. Improvement & Innovation
Outcome	3.1 Council maintains its performance as the most efficient of NI's local authorities.
Lead Officer	Patricia O'Brien (Funding Unit Manager)

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£733,367.00
Included in Current Year Estimates	100% Funded from DHLUC
Capital	£733,367.00
Code	None yet
Staffing Costs	Included

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:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform members that DHLUC, as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund has made an indicative allocation of funding totalling £733,367.00 to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council under the Communities and Place Commission 2024-25.

2.0 Background

In the 2023-24 period Council were awarded £98,600 from DHLUC as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund under the Open and Green Spaces theme which funded 3 amenity projects and 1 x playpark:

- Scally Park Amenity Project.
- Ballylagan Road/Gateside Road Junction Amenity Project.
- Dromore Ave/Barnalt Road Amenity Project.
- Glenullin Playpark Project.

DHLUC have given an indicative allocation of £733,367.00 for 2024-25 under the Communities and Place Commission, subject to the submission of a robust application.

Each of the 11 Local Authorities in Northern Ireland have been given an indicative allocation. **(See ANNEX A).**

The fund opened on 29 August 2024 and applications from Local Authorities must be submitted before 19 September 2024.

The Priority Interventions, along with the Supplementary Interventions under which an application can be made are attached at **Annex 2**.

Application assessments will take place on 23 September 2024 with Ministerial decisions on applications being made on or before 7 October 2024.

All project spend must be completed before **31 March 2025**.

3.0 Proposals

Given the tight timescale both in terms of application turnaround and project completion and spend, applications need to focus on priority interventions that can be delivered within the timeframe.

A supplementary Information Spreadsheet must be completed along with the application, outlining:

- Outputs/Outcomes
- Financial tables
- Key project Milestones
- Risks; and
- Procurement

The funding must be completed by 31 March 2025, although the overall project can continue beyond this point.

Projects may include spend incurred from 1 April 2024 for project activity already underway but not yet completed. This allows Council the flexibility to allocate this funding against a project which has already commenced, to ensure that the budget can be expended before 31 March 2025. Proceeding on this basis, would enable the funding to be offset against alternative projects, which Council can complete at a later date.

4.0 Options

- 4.1 **Option 1:** Officers submit the application based on project(s) identified that will satisfy the criteria in terms of the priority interventions listed and can be completed by 31 March 2025 to the satisfaction of the funder's requirements including adhering to full procurement guidelines. In the first instance, projects will be selected from Council's draft revised capital projects list.
- 4.2 **Option 2:** Officers complete the application to include project(s) on the capital list which have already been procured, contracted and are due to make the required spend before 31 March 2025. Officers will then at a later stage, bring back a report to Council detailing a list of alternative projects to offset the £733,367 funding against.
- 4.3 **Option 3:** Council do not accept the funding.

5.0 Recommendation

Given the need to submit an application before 19 September 2024, along with the requirement to spend £733,367 before the end of March 2025, it is recommended that Officers proceed with an application based on Option 2.



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An application must be submitted on or before 19 September 2024

Communities & Place Funding Allocation

Council Area	24-25 Funding (£)	Assessor
Antrim & Newtownabbey	754,069	Chris Moore
Ards & North Down	847,228	Rebekah Bleakley
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	1,131,880	Chris Moore
Belfast City	1,787,615	Benjamin Ekpenyong
Causeway Coasts & Glens	733,367	Benjamin Ekpenyong
Derry City & Strabane	780,464	Chris Moore
Fermanagh and Omagh	604,497	Benjamin Ekpenyong
Lisburn and Castlereagh	771,666	Rebekah Bleakley
Mid & East Antrim	719,393	Chris Moore
Mid Ulster	777,876	Rebekah Bleakley
Newry, Mourne and Down	942,457	Rebekah Bleakley



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Priority interventions

Priority Intervention areas	Description
N11	Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets.
N12	Funding for new, or improvements to existing community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects.
N13	Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses, and embankments.
N14	Enhanced support for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions.
N16	Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities.
N17	Support for active travel enhancement and measures to improve connectivity in the local areas.
N19	Funding for impactful voluntary and /or action projects to develop social and human capital in local places.
N115	Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities.



Supplementary interventions

Supplementary Intervention Areas	Description
NI5	Design and management of the built and landscaped environment to 'design out crime'.
NI8	Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which encourage people to visit and explore the local area.
NI10	Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams, and leagues; to bring people together.
NI11	Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.
NI12	Investment in community engagement schemes to support community involvement in local regeneration.
NI13	Community measures to reduce the cost of living.
NI14	Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.