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| Title of Report: | Community Festivals Fund (2023-24) |
| Committee Report Submitted To: | The Leisure & Development Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 21 March 2023 |
| For Decision or For Information | For Decision |

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| Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25) | |
| Strategic Theme | Healthy, Active & Engaged Communities |
| Outcome | The Borough comprises cohesive and stable communities which work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to address issues and deliver on opportunities |
| Lead Officer | Head of Community & Culture Community Development Manager |

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| Budgetary Considerations | |
| Cost of Proposal | £62,650 Cost to Council £34,050 (part DfC funded) |
| Included in Current Year Estimates | <u>YES/NO</u> |
| Capital/Revenue | Revenue |
| Code | 33201 |
| Staffing Costs | n/a |

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| Screening Requirements | Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals. | | |
| Section 75 Screening | Screening Completed: | <u>Yes/No</u> | Date: |
| | EQIA Required and Completed: | Yes/No | Date: |
| Rural Needs Assessment (RNA) | Screening Completed | <u>Yes/No</u> | 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 present the outcome of the assessment of the applications received to the Community Festivals Fund 2023-24 for approval.

2.0 Background

The Community Festivals Fund (CFF) was established by the Department for Communities (DfC) in recognition of the positive contribution that festivals can make to communities and to the local economy. A key priority of Department for Communities is 'to enable communities to enhance their quality of life through participation/engagement in culture, arts and leisure activities.' (*Department for Communities Community Festivals Fund Revised Policy and Guidance Framework October 2015*).

Council receives funding from DfC on an annual basis to operate a Community Festivals Fund which it is required to match. Confirmation of grant funding for 2023-24 has not yet been received from DfC and so in order for a decision to be made in principle, the assumption is made that the DfC funding award to Council will be at the same rate as 2022-23.

The CFF grant programme was opened for applications on 12th December with a closing date of 3rd February. The grant opening was publicly advertised as part of Council's annual grant programme. Online grants roadshows were held to provide potential applicants with details of the grant programmes.

Applications were received from 46 organisations, a 28% increase in applications compared to last year. An assessment panel of Council Officers assessed the applications received against the criteria as stated in the Guidance Notes for the programme. Applicants were required to attain a score of at least 65% to be recommended for funding, in line with Council's Grant Funding Policy.

An extract from the Guidance Notes for the grant programme, detailing eligibility and assessment criteria, is attached at **Annex A**.

3.0 Applications Received:

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| No. of applications received | 46 |
| No. of ineligible applicants | 1 |
| No. of successful applications (scoring 65% and above) | 45 |
| Total value of CFF funding recommended | £62,650 |
| Total budget available (incl anticipated £28,600 from DfC similar to 2022-23) | £64,530 |
| Surplus budget | £1,880 |

A list of the applications received, the assessment scores and the grant amount recommended are listed in **Annex B**.

Detailed feedback will be provided to the unsuccessful applicant to explain the reasons for ineligibility and support will be offered, if relevant, to source other appropriate funding.

4.0 Recommendation

- i. Approve awards for funding through Community Festivals Fund as detailed in **Annex B**, subject to confirmation of funding from DfC.
- ii. If confirmation of funding has not been received from DfC by 1st April, issue letters of offer to the applicants whose festivals are due to take place in April and May.

Annex A: Eligibility and Assessment Criteria for Community Festivals Fund 2023-24

Levels of grant award:

| Community Festival Fund Grant Programme | Maximum Grant Amount |
|---|----------------------|
| <p>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 types of activities to suit all sections of the community.</p> | Up to £750 |
| <p>2. Festival events lasting 2 consecutive days or more. Each of the days of the festival must include a range of activities to suit all sections of the 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.</p> | Up to £1,500 |
| <p>3. Festivals lasting 3 consecutive days or more. Each of the days of the festival must include a range of activities to suit all sections of the community and be programmed to be at least 4 hours duration. The festival must have different activities on each day that it takes place.</p> | Up to £3,000 |

Eligible organisations:

- Constituted voluntary and community organisations.
- Applications may be from geographical communities (a town, village, neighbourhood, rural area); or communities of interest (a group of people who have a common interest, concern or characteristic).
- A community festival should constitute a series of events (or a single event with several elements) with a common theme and delivered within a defined time period.
- Each day of the festival must be programmed to be of at least 4 hours duration and include a range of at least 3 activities to suit all sections of the community.
- DfC has stated that all festivals must be culture based, where culture is defined as ideas, customs and social behaviour of a particular people or social grouping.

Ineligible organisations/activities:

- festivals taking place outside the Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council area;
- festivals of a commercial nature, organised to make profit;
- trade, community or professional conferences/conventions;

- core costs for festival organisers or organisations (staffing, annual overheads);
- festivals that are primarily fundraising events, are heavily branded with charity branding or deploy potential sources of income from a festival to a charity;
- awards ceremonies or industry events;
- residential courses and associated events;
- festivals that are social events for an organisation;
- events developed and delivered by public bodies;
- events initiated and led by private sector organisations;
- festivals that are primarily sporting fixtures or competitive events;
- festivals that are primarily tourism focused events where the organisation cannot demonstrate significant community involvement;
- Events which consist mainly of competitions;
- Transport outside of the area/ community that the festival is taking place in;
- Applications for funding which are considered to be the responsibility of another statutory organisation or Council fund or applications that have applied and secured funding from another Council programme.

Assessment Criteria:

Each application is assessed and scored against the criteria listed below as guided by the Department for Communities (DfC) in its Community Festivals Fund Revised Policy and Guidance Framework (Oct 2015). The criteria are all given equal weighting.

- i. Have strong community participation in the organisation and implementation of the project contributing to building a strong sense of community (x 1)
- ii. Provide opportunities for people to improve their personal skills or receive training relevant to the project (x 1)
- iii. Promotes inclusion in your community including targeting social exclusion and /or poverty; addressing rural isolation and encouraging equality of opportunity for all Section 75 groupings (x 1)
- iv. NIMDM 2017 Ranking/ Access to Services Measure Ranking (X 1)
- v. Demonstrate value for money and maximise income (x 1)

Annex B: Community Festivals Fund 2023-24 Recommended Awards

| Organisation | Project Title | Total Amount Requested | Total Score | Amount Recommended |
|--|---|------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Angel Of Hope Memorial Garden | Angel of Hope summer community family day | £920 | 66% | £800 |
| Apprentice Boys Of Derry Campsie Club Rasharkin Branch | Finvoy Fun Festival | £1,500 | 76% | £1,500 |
| Armstrong Storytelling Trust | Glens Storytelling Festival 2023 | £3,000 | 86% | £750 |
| Ballysally Presbyterian Church Youth And Community Project | Summerfest USA Celebration Funday | £750 | 76% | £750 |
| Ballywatt Presbyterian Women Crafters | Coronation Celebration Festival | £750 | 68% | £750 |
| Balnamore Community Association | Cultural Celebration | £1,773 | 80% | £1,500 |
| Burnfoot Community Development Assoc | Burnfoot Community Festival | £1,500 | 76% | £1,500 |
| Cloughmills Community Action Team | June Fair at The Mill | £750 | 76% | £750 |
| Compass Advocacy Network Ltd | Autumn All Inclusive Festival at Lislagan | £1,500 | 90% | £1,500 |
| Cushendun Boat Club | Cushendun Maritime Festival | £750 | 70% | £750 |
| Cushendun Building Preservation Trust | Cushendun Big Arts Weekend 2022 | £3,000 | 82% | £3,000 |
| Dernaflaw Community Association | Dernaflaw Community Festival | £750 | 68% | £550 |
| Dervock & District Community Association | A Beacon of Hope lights up Community Celebrations | £1,920 | 66% | £750 |
| Dunaghy Community Association | Summer Festival | £550 | 68% | £550 |
| Dunloy Football Club | Dunloy Summer Fun Community Festival | £1,480 | 66% | £750 |
| Focus On Family Nurturing & Develop. Ctre | Cornfield Fest 2023 | £3,000 | 86% | £1,500 |
| Friends Of Glenariffe | Glenariffe Family Fun Day | £750 | 74% | £750 |
| Friends Of Harpurs Hill PS | Coronation Street | £750 | 68% | £750 |
| Friends Of Kilmoyle PS | Friends of Kilmoyle Summer Fair | £750 | 72% | £750 |
| Glenariff Improvement Group | A Glens Christmas | £750 | 66% | £750 |
| Glens Of Antrim Comhaltas | County Antrim Fleadh | £3,000 | 66% | £750 |
| Gortnaghey Community Association | Fun In Drum | £750 | 66% | £750 |
| Healthy Kidz CIC | Healthy Kidz Healthy Lives | £3,000 | Ineligible | £0 |
| Heart of the Glens Festival | Heart of the Glens Festival | £3,000 | 90% | £3,000 |

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| Jimmy O' Hara CCE Roe Valley | County Derry Fleadh 2023 | £3,000 | 68% | £750 |
| Juniper Hill Caravan Occupiers' Association | Juniper Hill Community Festival Funday | £750 | 66% | £750 |
| Kevin Lynch Hurling Club | Festival of Hurling | £3,000 | 76% | £3,000 |
| Kingdom of Dalriada Ulster-Scots Society | John Murray | £3,000 | 86% | £3,000 |
| Limavady Family Centre | Summer Family Fun Day | £1,260 | 68% | £750 |
| qLoughgiel Community Association Ltd | Loughgiel Fun Days | £1,500 | 68% | £1,500 |
| Macosquin District LOL No 8 | Macosquin District LOL No 8 12th July Festival | £850 | 70% | £750 |
| Macosquin Village Community Association | The Macosquin Village Community Association Kings Coronation Festival | £1,430 | 72% | £750 |
| Magilligan Community Association | Lunasa Festival | £3,000 | 68% | £3,000 |
| Millburn Community Association | Millburn Community Festival | £1,500 | 66% | £1,500 |
| Moneydig Rural Network | Gig in the dig | £1,500 | 66% | £750 |
| North Antrim Bands Forum | Ballymoney Big Switch On Festival | £3,000 | 84% | £3,000 |
| North Coast Trad | Sam Henry Weekend | £3,000 | 72% | £1,500 |
| North Irish Horse Historical And Cultural Association | King Charles Coronation/ Festival of Monarchs through the ages. | £3,000 | 68% | £750 |
| Portrush Heritage Group | Swell Portrush | £3,000 | 80% | £3,000 |
| Portstewart Community Association | Portstewart Community Red Sails Festival 2023 | £3,000 | 78% | £3,000 |
| Pride Of The Park Flute Band | Armoy Summer Together Festival | £1,500 | 82% | £1,500 |
| St. Canices GAC | Dungiven World GAA Games Cultural Festival | £3,000 | 96% | £3,000 |
| St. Mary's GAC, Rasharkin | Rasharkin GAC Community Fun Day 2023 | £750 | 68% | £750 |
| Stranocum & District Development Group | Stranocum Summer Festival | £750 | 72% | £750 |
| Ullans Speakers Association | Bloody Hutchinson Festival | £3,000 | 76% | £3,000 |
| Windyhall Community Association | Windyhall Community Festival | £1,200 | 66% | £750 |
| | | £82,633 | | £62,650 |