

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Community Festivals Fund 2024-25</b>
<b>Committee Report To:</b>	Leisure & Development Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	19 March 2024
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	For Decision
<b>To be Discussed In Committee</b>	No

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b>	
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

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	£63,963. Cost to Council £36,163 (part DfC funded)
Included in Current Year Estimates	<b>YES/NO</b>
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	1051
Staffing Costs	n/a

<b>Legal Considerations</b>	
Input of Legal Services Required	<b>NO</b>
Legal Opinion Obtained	<b>NO</b>

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	<u>Yes/No</u>	Date: 04/03/24
	EQIA Required and Completed:	<u>Yes/No</u>	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	<u>Yes/No</u>	Date:03/07/20
	RNA Required and Completed:	<u>Yes/No</u>	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	<u>Yes/No</u>	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	<u>Yes/No</u>	Date:

## 1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present the outcome of the assessment of applications received to the Community Festivals Fund 2024-25 for approval, subject to receipt of confirmation of match funding from the Department for Communities.

## 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 2024-25 has not yet been received from DfC, so to enable timely decisions to be communicated to applicants, some of which having events planned for April and May, approval is being sought in principle. The assumption has been made that the DfC funding award to Council will be at the same rate as 2023-24.

## 3.0 2024/25 Grant Programme

The CFF grant programme was opened for applications on 11th December 2023 with a closing date of Friday 2nd February 2024. 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, two of which have since been withdrawn as they were successful in their applications to the Tourism Event Fund. 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**.

### 3.1 Applications Received:

No. of applications received	46
No. of applications withdrawn	2
No. of ineligible applicants	1
No. of successful applications (scoring 65% and above)	43
Total value of CFF funding recommended	£63,963
Expected budget available £27,800 expected from DfC (2023-24 award) £35,730 Council	£63,530
<b>Under/ Over budget</b>	<b>£433 over budget</b>

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

According to the criteria for the CFF Grant Programme, each day of a 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. One application was deemed ineligible as it did not meet the criteria for sufficient range of activities on the one day applied for. Several applications received less than they applied for as one or more of the days of their festival did not meet this criteria. Detailed feedback will be provided to these applicants to explain the reasons for ineligibility or reduction in amount awarded.

The amount applied for exceeds the expected budget by £433. Since this is a small amount, it is proposed that it will be taken from the general Community Development programme budget. A small amount of underclaiming usually occurs when some organisations don't claim their grant in full and as such the CFF programme may well not be overspent by year end.

#### **4.0 Recommendation**

It is recommended that Members;

- 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 1<sup>st</sup> April, issue letters of offer to the applicants whose festivals are due to take place in April and May to a value of £8,025.

## Annex A: Eligibility and Assessment Criteria for Community Festivals Fund 2024-25

### 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 2024-25 Recommended Awards

Organisation	DEA	Name of Festival	Dates of Festival	Total Amount Requested (£)	Total Score	Funding Awarded (Y/N)	Award Amount Recommended (£)
Apprentice Boys of Derry Campsie Club Rasharkin Br	Ballymoney	Finvoy Fun Festival	14-15 June 24	1,500	68%	Y	1,500
Armstrong Storytelling Trust	The Glens	Glens Storytelling Festival 2024	17-20 Oct 24	3,000	72%	Y	1,500
Articlave District Community Association	Bann	Haunted Halloween Festival 2024	28 Oct-1 Nov 24	3,525	68%	Y	750
Balnamore Community Association	Ballymoney	Cultural Celebration	11-13 July 24	3,385	68%	Y	750
Building Ballysally Together	Coleraine	Community Summer Festival	3-5 July 24	2,990	68%	Y	1,500
Burnfoot Community Development Association	Benbradagh	Burnfoot Back to School Community Festival	23-24 Aug 24	1,163	68%	Y	1,163
Can - Compass Advocacy Network Ltd	Ballymoney	Lammas at Lislagan	19-20 Aug 24	1,500	84%	Y	1,500
Carey Faughs GAC	The Glens	Carey Cultural and Arts Festival	2 - 4 Aug 24	3,000	68%	Y	750
Cloughmills Community Action Team	Ballymoney	June Fair at The Mill , Cloughmills	08-Jun-24	750	84%	Y	750
Cumann Iománaíochta Chaoimhín Uí Loingsigh	Benbradagh	Festival of Hurling	22-28 July 24	3,000	96%	Y	3,000
Cushendun Boat Club	The Glens	Cushendun Maritime Festival	24-25 Aug 24	1,500	76%	Y	1,500
Cushendun Building Preservation Trust	The Glens	Cushendun's Big Arts Weekend 2024	4-6 May 24	3,000	80%	Y	2,775
Dervock & District Community Association	Ballymoney	SONG and DANCE about NATHIN'	7-8 June 24	1,495	72%	Y	750

Dunaghy Community Association	Ballymoney	Summer Festival	11 Jul 24	680	68%	Y	510
Dunloy Football Club	Ballymoney	Dunloy Summer Fun Community Festival	29-30 July 24	1,500	72%	Y	1,500
Focus on Family	Coleraine	Cornfield Fest 2024	29-30 June	1,500	92%	Y	1,500
Friends of Glenariffe	The Glens	Glenariffe Family Fun Day 2024	06-Jul-24	750	96%	Y	750
Friends of Kilmoyle PTA	Ballymoney	Friends of Kilmoyle PTA Summer Fair	07 June 2024	750	72%	Y	750
Garvagh Cultural Awareness Association	Bann	Garvagh Festival	8-11 July 24	3,000	72%	Y	3,000
Glack GAC	Benbradagh	Craic in Glack	20-24 Aug 24	2,900	76%	Y	1,500
Glens of Antrim Comhaltas	The Glens	Dalriada Sounds Festival	21-23 June 24	2,475	72%	Y	750
Gortnaghey Community Association	Benbradagh	Fun In Drum	12-13 July 24	1,500	76%	Y	1,500
Harp Ireland	Bann	Lá na Cruite   Harp Day on the North Coast 2024	19 October 2024	750	Ineligible	N	0
Kilrea Community & Fairythorn Association	Bann	Kilrea Fairy Thorn Festival	16-18 August 24	2,980	76%	withdrawn	0
Kingdom of Dalriada Ulster Scots Society	Ballymoney	Ballymoney Spring Fair	18-20 April 24	3,000	92%	Y	3,000
Limavady Family Centre	Limavady	Community Fun Day	21 August 2024	750	68%	Y	750
Limavady Volunteer Centre	Limavady	Danny Boys Picnic on the Green at LCDI	08 June 2024	750	68%	Y	750
Mae Murray Foundation	Limavady	Inclusive Beach Event	1-2 July 24	1,500	76%	Y	750
Magilligan Community Association	Limavady	Lunasa Festival	2-4 Aug 24	3,000	88%	Y	3,000
Millburn Community Assocaition	Coleraine	Millburn Community Festival	23-24 Aug 24	1,500	68%	Y	1,500
Moneydig Rural Network	Bann	Community Barbeque, Music and Dance	06/07/2024	750	72%	Y	750
Mother Goose Playgroup	The Glens	Haunted House	29-31 Oct 24	4,150	68%	Y	750

North Antrim Bands Forum	Ballymoney	Ballymoney Big Switch On Festival	20-23 Nov 24	3,000	96%	Y	3,000
North Coast Trad	Causeway	Sam Henry Weekend	26-29 Sept 24	3,000	76%	withdrawn	0
Portballintrae Residents Association	Causeway	Summer Festival	6-7 July 24	1,353	72%	Y	1,015
Portrush Heritage Group	Causeway	Swell Portrush	30 Sept - 13 Oct	3,000	96%	Y	3,000
Portstewart Community Association	Causeway	Red Sails Festival	21-28 July	3,000	68%	Y	3,000
Pride of the Park Flute Band	The Glens	Armoy Summer Festival	4-6 July 24	1,500	88%	Y	1,500
Roe Valley Residents Association	Limavady	RVRA Community Festival	10-11 July 2024	1,500	76%	Y	750
St Mary's Faughanvale GAC	Benbradagh	Vale Community Festival	23-25 Aug 2024	3,000	84%	Y	3,000
St. Mary's GAC Rasharkin	Ballymoney	Rasharkin GAC Community Fun Day 2024	08 September 2024	750	68%	Y	750
St. Matthew's GAC Drumsurn	Limavady	The Big Health Weekend	5-7 April 24	4,000	68%	Y	1,500
Stendhal Festival Ltd	Limavady	NatureKnits Festival - Yarnbombing Celebration	26 April 2024	750	76%	Y	750
Stranocum & District Development Group	The Glens	Stranocum Summer Festival	23 August 2024	750	84%	Y	750
Ullans Speakers Association	Ballymoney	Bloody Hutchinson Festival	24-26 Oct 24	3,000	92%	Y	3,000
Windyhall Community Association	Coleraine	Windyhall Community Festival	6,10,11 July 24	1,250	68%	Y	750
				93,846			63,963