



<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Capital Grant Scheme</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	Leisure & Development Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	21 May 2024
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	For Decision
<b>For discussion In Committee</b>	No

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Stable and Cohesive Communities
Lead Officer	Funding Unit Manager

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	£600k Capital
Included in Current Year Estimates	<b>N/A</b>
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	
Staffing Costs	£50k pa included in £600k cost of programme

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

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

## 1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members for a Capital Grant Scheme, along with associated budget and staffing resource, which will be targeted towards sporting, community & voluntary groups.

## 2.0 Strategic Aim

To support external infrastructure projects, aligned to Council's aims and objectives, that require additional capital funding for the development of new or the enhancement of existing facilities to meet unmet need.

The grant scheme will only fund community and voluntary sector organisations for capital works at 50% subvention rate. (Capital expenditure is considered to be one-time large purchases of fixed assets).

## 3.0 Amount of Grant-aid

A total capital grant pot of £600,000 per annum is proposed. This budget includes all resource and staff costs associated with the administration and management of the grant programme which are currently projected at £50,000 per annum.

## 4.0 Options for allocation of funding

Two options are presented for consideration by Members.

### 4.1 Option 1:

Council is committed to distributing grants fairly, efficiently and effectively. In order to allow access for all sporting codes, it is proposed that no single sporting code can have access to more than 40% of the overall funding pot in any given year. It is further proposed that community projects will have access to a maximum of 20% of the pot in any given year.

Type of Project	% split of total fund	Max available per year per organisation / individual sporting code	Total funds available per annum	Per application
Sports Groups	80%	£220,000	£440,000	50% of total eligible costs up to a maximum of £220,000
Other Community Facilities	20%	£110,000	£110,000	50% of total eligible costs up to a maximum of £110,000
Resource / Staff costs			£50,000	
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>£600,000</b>	

### 4.2 Option 2:

Council is committed to distributing grants fairly, efficiently and effectively. In order to allow grant funding access to as large a number of organisations as possible, it is proposed that no single organisation can have access to more than 20% of the overall funding pot in any given year.

	% split of fund	Max available per year to specific sporting codes / community projects	Total funds available in pot per annum	Per application
Organisation 1	20%	£110,000	£110,000	50% of total eligible costs up to a maximum of £110,000
Organisation 2	20%	£110,000	£110,000	50% of total eligible costs up to a maximum of £110,000

Organisation 3	20%	£110,000	£110,000	50% of total eligible costs up to a maximum of £110,000
Organisation 4	20%	£110,000	£110,000	50% of total eligible costs up to a maximum of £110,000
Organisation 5	20%	£110,000	£110,000	50% of total eligible costs up to a maximum of £110,000
Resource / Staff Cost			£50,000	
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>£600,000</b>	

## 5.0 **Selection & Assessment**

To be considered for grant-aid, applications must score the quality threshold of 65%. The criteria to be used for assessment and award is attached in **Annex A**.

Council will consider grant aid up to a maximum of 50% of total capital project costs up to a maximum total grant value as per option 1 or option 2.

The level of grant awarded will depend on the following:

- The available budget.
- The number of applications.

Organisations must match fund the remaining 50% from other sources or from their own resources (in kind contributions will not be considered).

The capital grants should be drawn down within a 5-year time frame from the date of grant award.

Organisations/projects that have received a capital grant from Council in the last 3 years (from date of final payment from Council) will not be eligible for an award.

## 6.0 **Timeframe**

<b>Process/Actions</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
1. Capital Grant Report to May Committee	21 May 2024
2. Capital Grant Approval from full Council	4 Jun 2024
3. Development of Capital Grant Application form and Guidelines	Commence June 2024
4. Recruitment of Capital Grants Officer	July – August 2024
5. Open for applications	September 2024

## 7.0 **Recommendation:**

**It is recommended** that the Leisure & Development Committee:

1. Approve a £600,000 per annum capital grant programme.
2. Approve the appointment of a Capital Grants Officer at a cost of approximately £50,000 per annum (included in the £600k).
3. Approve either Option 1 or Option 2 for the fair distribution of the capital grant scheme.
4. Approve the criteria as set out in **Annex A**.

### Eligibility Criteria

All applications will be assessed against the following eligibility criteria. Applications must score a “pass” in all eligibility criterion.

	Criterion	Pass	Fail
1	Applications must be from properly constituted not for profit community or voluntary groups. Council will carry out due diligence of legal status.		
2	Applications will only be considered from Sports Clubs and Community projects geographically located within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area.		
3	Applications will be considered ineligible if either the applicant organisation or the site where the project is to be based have received any capital investment from Council in the past three years		
4	Applicants must submit final signed accounts for the previous two financial years. Only those organisations that Council considers to be financially sound will be considered eligible.		

### Assessment & Scoring

Applications will be evaluated against the following assessment criteria:

	Criterion	Score (0-5)	Weight	Max Points Available
1	<p><b><u>Project description &amp; Strategic relevance:</u></b></p> <p>Assessment against strategic fit with Council’s aims &amp; objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council’s Corporate Strategy</li> <li>• Council’s Community Plan</li> <li>• For Sporting facilities; Pitch Strategy or Council’s Sports Facilities Strategy</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community facilities; Councils Community Development Strategy; Council’s Community Facilities Strategy.</li> </ul>		X3	15
2	<p><b><u>Community/Sporting Need:</u></b></p> <p>Projects must clearly demonstrate a need for the facility.</p> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Projects that are likely to cause significant levels of displacement from existing facilities will not be funded by Council.</li> </ol>		X4	20

	2. Council will not fund facilities that are for the sole use of membership organisations.			
3	<p><b><u>Accessible to All:</u></b></p> <p>Projects will need to demonstrate how the proposed facility will be made attractive, welcoming and accessible to all the community.</p>		X3	15
4	<p><b><u>Project Beneficiaries &amp; Participation:</u></b></p> <p>Projects will need to detail all of the project beneficiaries / those who will benefit from the project.</p> <p>Projects will need to demonstrate how the project will increase participation in community and/or sporting activities.</p>		X3	15
5	<p><b><u>Under Represented Groups:</u></b></p> <p>Council will afford a higher priority to applications that promote participation in community and sporting activities by those currently under represented and in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Older people (50+)</li> <li>➤ People with a disability</li> <li>➤ Women and girls</li> <li>➤ People living in areas of high social need</li> </ul>		X3	15
6	<p><b><u>Sustainability and viability:</u></b></p> <p>The application must make reasonable and evidence based assumptions in relation to construction costs, operational costs and projected income.</p>		X4	20
	<b>Total Maximum Score (65% Threshold)</b>			