

Capital Grants Underspend 2016-17	14th March 2017
LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE For Decision	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Themes	Prosperity Health & Wellbeing Cohesive Community
Lead Officer	Director of Leisure and Development
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A - reallocation

The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Council on the allocation of the Capital Grants budget underspend from the 2016-17 budget period.

Background

In May 2016 Council agreed the Capital Grants programme 2016-17 along with a budget of £750,000.

In May 2016 Friends of Glenarriffe (FOG) was awarded £180,000 from the Capital Grants Programme for the provision of a multi-purpose community hub.

In February 2017 Cushendun Building Preservation Trust was awarded £100,000 for the Cushendun Old Church project.

In February 2017 Council agreed a pre-application stage for the capital Grants Programme. Stage 1 Expressions of Interest deadline is 19th April 2017 with Council decisions on 23rd May 2017. Applicants successful at Stage 1 will be invited to submit an Outline Business Case by 12noon Wednesday 2nd August. Assessments will take place thereafter and a report prepared for the September/October Council meeting.

As the 2016-17 financial year ends on 31st March 2017 and no further allocation will take place before then, the underspend from the 2016-17 budget is £470,000

In February 2017 Council agreed to allocate underspend from the 2016-17 Capital Grants budget to Councils own priority projects as the decision making for the next phase of capital grants is August 2017 and the expenditure for the next phase will thus fall in the 2017-18 financial year.

Council Priority projects considered:

Analysis of the Capital Programme Stage 1 Projects shows that from a financial or timing perspective, the only project that would potentially benefit from using 2016-17 unallocated Sport and Community Council Capital Grant fund in-year 2017-18 is Garvagh Mountain Bike Trail.

This would mean aiming to complete the work in 2017-18 rather than splitting it across 2017-18 and 2018-19.

The other Stage 1 Projects either could not be developed in time to use the money more quickly or are already funded in the 2017-18 MRP (or previously) so displacing one element of MRP provision for another would be a paper exercise and would provide no financial or timing benefit.

There is also potential to accelerate some of the lower value of the ten projects prioritised by Members at the February 2017 Council meeting as follows;

- Christie Park Improvements – Some elements of this could be progressed without planning permission as they are likely to be considered Permitted Development and so delivery may be able to be accelerated within 2017-18
- Killyrammer Community Centre – Subject to Business Case Justification a refurbishment option may be able to be accelerated within 2017-18
- Limavady Diversity Park – Subject to Play Strategy for Business Case Justification but in addition site selection and planning permission will be required so it is unlikely to be deliverable in 2017-18

Recommendation:

It is recommended that officers progress with the named projects and bring back reports to Members as each project is ready to move to the next stage of Councils Capital Project Management System;

- Garvagh Mountain Bike Trail
- Christie Park Improvements
- Killyrammer Community Centre