



<b>Subject:</b>	Community Provision Funding Update
<b>Date:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Director Neighbourhood Services, CNS
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Kelly Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision, CNS

**Restricted Reports**

Is this report restricted? Yes  No

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Some time in the future

Never

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

**Call-in**

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes  No

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this paper is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provide information requested by members at P&amp;C committee meeting in October 22.</li></ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Note the contents of the report.</li></ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<b>Background</b>  At October committee members requested that officers present the following information: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Analysis of how capacity and revenue grants had been allocated on a geographic basis previously.</li></ol>

2. Identification of capacity issues including potential solutions to this in terms of enhancing/increasing capacity to apply for, and be successful in availing of, these grants.
3. Further breakdown in relation to community of interest/targeting of section 75 groups.

### 3.2 Geographic analysis of awards

Council made the decision to make some level of award to all applications that were received through the last open call for Capacity and Revenue funding in 20/21. Awards were made across 4 bands with the allocation being linked to the score achieved, further detail on the allocations is provided below. The quality threshold was 50%. Members agreed to include a 4<sup>th</sup> funding band for groups falling below the quality threshold.

### 3.3

<b>Capacity Building</b>				
<b>Funding Band</b>	<b>Scores</b>	<b>Maximum Award</b>	<b>Number of Applicants</b>	<b>Potential Allocation</b>
1	70% and above	Up to £42,000	13	£548,600
2	60-69%	Up to £28,150	10	£281,500
3	50-59%	Up to £23,500	10	£235,000
4	49% and Below	Up to £9,700	1	£9,700
<b>Revenue</b>				
<b>Funding Band</b>	<b>Scores</b>	<b>Maximum Award</b>	<b>Number of Applicants</b>	<b>Potential Allocation</b>
1	70% and above	Up to £18,000	30	£558,000
2	60-69%	Up to £13,000	26	£338,000
3	50-59%	Up to £9,000	20	£180,000
4	49% and Below	Up to £3,000	8	£24,000

A breakdown of awards by geographic area and community of interest and the band that they were awarded funding is provided below. The highlighted row indicates the % allocation that each area would receive if the current population/deprivation figures were used.

### 3.4

#### Capacity Building Grant

	<b>North</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>% Allocation using Area model</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>100%</b>
% of Successful Capacity Building Applications by Area	29.41%	26.47%	14.71%	29.41%	100%
Number of Organisations	10	9	5	10	34
Level of Award by Funding Band	B1-3	B1-3	B1-3	B1-4	<b>B1-13</b>
	B2-4	B2-2	B2-2	B2-2	<b>B2-10</b>
	B3-2	B3-4	B3-0	B3-4	<b>B3-10</b>
	B4-1	B4-0	B4-0	B4-0	<b>B4-1</b>
<b>Allocation</b>	<b>£288,138.00</b>	<b>£276,900.00</b>	<b>£168,850.00</b>	<b>£287,448.12</b>	<b>£1,021,336.12</b>

3.5

**Revenue Grants for Community Buildings**

	North	South	East	West	Total
% Allocation using Area Model	25%	17%	24%	34%	100%
% of Successful Revenue Applications by Area	33.33%	14.29%	11.90%	40.48%	100%
Number of Organisations	28	12	10	34	84
Level of Award by Funding Band	B1 -10	B1-2	B1-4	B1-14	B1-30
	B2-7	B2-5	B2-4	B2-10	B2-26
	B3-11	B3-1	B3-1	B3-7	B3-20
	B4-0	B4-4	B4-1	B4-3	B4-8
<b>Allocation</b>	<b>£322,973.79</b>	<b>£122,000.00</b>	<b>£127,733.00</b>	<b>£412,698.84</b>	<b>£985,405.63</b>

3.6

**Identification and Response to Capacity issues**

Council officers previously carried out an analysis of capacity issues with a range of community organisations in Summer/Autumn 2019. At that point the priority areas, as identified by the sector, were:

- Ensuring compliance with GDPR
- Financial planning
- Ensuring appropriate policies/procedures are in place

Council officers currently respond to these, and other identified needs, by providing mentoring support and training to groups and the team has also developed 3 toolkits; *Running a Community Organisation*, *Facilities Management*, and *Collaborative Working*, to support organisations. Officers will also support groups to access external funding opportunities.

Furthermore, the recent introduction of the micro/medium grant approach allowed 115 new organisations to access funding and develop experience in delivering small scale programmes in 20/21, 21/22 and 22/23.

Officers provide support for groups who wish to make applications for a range of Council funding and grants opportunities. In advance of the recent round of capacity and revenue funding officers provided 1-2-1 guidance to applicants, and also held 5 Information sessions with a total of 94 representatives from a wide range of organisations attending these sessions.

The sector has been significantly impacted by Covid 19 and the cost-of-living crisis which has seen many organisations review their areas of priority. Increasing costs have also created challenges with some organisations having to reduce their hours of operation. Community Development Officers and other staff are in regular contact with organisations at a local level and are aware of the challenges that they are experiencing.

Once decisions have been made in relation to the 23/26 Capacity and Revenue funding awards, officers will make contact with those organisations who were unsuccessful in receiving funding and offer support for them to plan services and access support through other means.

As per the City & Neighbourhood Department's 3-Year Business Plan, as well as in support of the draft actions identified under the 'Community and Neighbourhood Regeneration' theme of the Belfast Agenda Refresh 22-26 (e.g. 'Develop models for capacity building across all sectors and mainstream learning across the city'), officers will continue to review, revise and refresh our approaches to building capacity, and provision of community development support, working alongside stakeholders to ensure we are incorporating good/ best practice and responding to current and emerging needs.

### 3.7 **Communities of interest/targeting of Section 75 groups**

Capacity and Revenue Grants are administered through the Central Grants Unit within Council. Grants are widely advertised, and information is shared with officers from across council who can raise awareness of funding opportunities with groups and partners that they work with. The availability of these grants is promoted through a campaign which includes the placing of advertisements in local and regional newspapers as well as promotion across Belfast City Council's website, social media and officer networks. Applications to the Capacity & Revenue Grants, as with all grants through the Central Grants Unit, are open and equitable to all eligible organisations.

In addition, as outlined in 3.6, information sessions are held to provide further detail on the criteria and application process.

Council does not collect information specific to applications from S75 groups or community of interest groups. However, officers have carried out an analysis of the applications supported in the 2020/21 round of Capacity and Revenue funding which shows that 12% of Capacity Building and 16% of Revenue awards were made to organisations working with identified/or easily identifiable communities of interest. Capacity grant awardees included 2 BME, 1 LGBTQ+ and 1 Women's Group, and Revenue grant awardees included 8 Women's Centres, 3 BME and 2 Special Needs.

Prior to the advertising of the 23/26 Revenue and Capacity Grants Programme, officers sought approval from committee to ensure that the definition of 'community' within the guidance and criteria for the programme was extended to include communities of interest and as a result the guidance stated that the grants scheme was open to *'community development organisations that support, advocate and take action in relation to the interests of their members and communities, where communities will be defined as geographic communities and/or communities of interest.'*

### 3.8 **Current applications**

An initial analysis of the number of applications received for the 23/26 programme is outlined in the table below and shows the number of applications received by area compared with the area allocation model which is used for some council funding and is based on figures for population size and levels of deprivation within DEAs. Please note that these are initial figures that may differ once applications have been considered and scored (i.e. when the assessment stages is

complete). It is worth noting that some organisations who previously applied have not on this occasion and that there is also a total of 27 new applicants to the 23/26 grant programmes, (18 – Revenue, 9 Capacity).

Area	Capacity	Revenue	Total	Allocation per area based on population size and deprivation	Capacity and Revenue Total %
North	12	26	<b>38</b>	25%	<b>28.8%</b>
South	10	14	<b>24</b>	17%	<b>18.2%</b>
East	6	11	<b>17</b>	24%	<b>12.9%</b>
West	15	38	<b>53</b>	34%	<b>40.2%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Officers will bring an update on the outcome of 23/26 application assessments to committee with options for an allocation approach in December 2022.

3.9 **Financial Implications**

All activity outlined in this report can be delivered within existing budgets.

3.10 **Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessment**

No issues have been identified at present. Any implications will be considered throughout and highlighted to Members.

4.0 **Appendices – Documents Attached**

Appendix 1 - List of Capacity and Revenue Allocations 2020/21