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| <b>Subject:</b>           | Funding Awards for 2025/26 (Capacity Building & Revenue Grants and Generalist Advice)  |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2025   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services   |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager<br>Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision<br>Cormac McCann, Lead Officer, Community Provision |

**Restricted Reports**

Is this report restricted? Yes  No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

|                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| After Committee Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| After Council Decision   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sometime in the future   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Never                    | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Call-in**

Yes  No

| <b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b> |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1.0</b>                                   | <b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>  |
| 1.1  | <p>The main purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise members that the Community Support Programme (CSP) Letter of Offer for 2025/26 has not yet been received by Council from DfC.</li> <li>• Seek members approval to issue Letters of Offer for 2025/26 for Capacity Building &amp; Revenue Grants and Generalist Advice in the absence of a Letter of Offer from DfC.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>2.0</b>                                   | <b>Recommendation</b>  |
| 2.1  | <p>Members are asked to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the contents of the report and</li> <li>• Grant approval for officers to progress funding agreements for the Capacity Building, Revenue for Community Building grants and Generalist Advice for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. 50% payments will be issued in advance upon the return of required paperwork with a second payment made pending return of satisfactory interim monitoring report covering 1 April to 30 September 2025 and available budget.</li> <li>• Note that Council does not have any budget to support activity that is 100% funded through the CSP. Members will note that a separate paper on the Social Supermarket Fund which is 100% funded through the CSP has been brought to committee this evening. A further report on other 100% funded elements will be provided when the CSP Letter of Offer has been received.</li> <li>• Approve the 2024 – 25 doubling of financial allocations for the Revenue of Community Buildings grants to the organisations listed in Appendix 2 for the 2025 – 2026 financial year.</li> </ul> |
| <b>3.0</b>                                   | <b>Main Report</b>   |
| 3.1  | <p><b>Background information</b></p> <p>Members will be aware that the Department for Communities (DfC) provides an annual grant to Council through its Community Support Programme (CSP) Letter of Offer. This funding provides an element of the budget towards Capacity Building and Revenue for Community Building grants as well as Generalist Advice.</p> <p>The CSP also provides 100% funding for other elements of activity such as Social Supermarkets and Welfare Reform Mitigations.</p>   |
| 3.2  | <p>Council has yet to receive a CSP Letter of Offer for 2025/26 and therefore does not have the total budget available to provide the full grant allocation. Any reduction in the DfC allocation will impact on the overall level of the grant budget and potentially awards to the grant recipients. The CSP Letter of Offer is generally received in March - June each year, although members may recall that in 2024/25, DfC funding was released on a gradual basis and the full allocation was not provided until July 2024.</p>  |
| 3.3  | <p><b>Key Issues</b></p> <p><u>Capacity Building and Revenue for Community Buildings Grants</u></p> <p>Members may be aware that in March 2023, Council agreed to provide multi-annual funding covering 3 years 2023-2026 for the Capacity Building and Revenue for Community Building</p>   |

grants. Although the grants are multiannual, Funding Agreements are made on an annual basis.

As part of the rate setting process, Council approved an additional budget envelope of £1.5 million for the 2025 – 2026 financial year, with this funding to double the financial allocation to groups in receipt of the Revenue for Community Buildings grant.

Officers are seeking approval to make payments covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. The total cost of the grants allocation for 2025/26 is £4,847,382.39

- Capacity Building £1,872,358.29
- Revenue for Community Buildings £ 2,975,024.10

3.4 The list of organisations that receive funding is outlined in appendices 1 and 2. Members will note that awards in 24/25 included an uplift which DfC provided in their Letter of Offer, officials have advised that we should plan on the same budget for 25/26. This amount provided an additional £629 for each Revenue for Community Buildings grant recipient.

3.5 Council's contribution to Capacity & Revenue Grant Programmes is 66% of the overall budget thus we can guarantee the first 50% payment.

Generalist Advice Funding

3.6 Members will be aware that Council provides funding for generalist advice provision to 5 Advice Consortia covering: Central, East, North, South and West Belfast. The funding is allocated to the consortia using a funding model based on population and multiple deprivation indicators (2015). The list of advice organisations and consortium funding allocation is contained in Appendix 3.

3.7 Council's contribution to Generalist Advice is 37% of the total allocation. Members are asked to consider if they are content to approve the issue of Letters of Offer and 50% payment.

3.8 A further report will be presented to committee when we receive the Community Support Programme Letter of Offer from DfC. Members are asked to note that Council does not have any budget to support activity that is 100% funded through the CSP.

Financial and Resource Implications

3.9 Members may wish to note that last year the allocation was as below. The council budget is the same for capacity and advice as 24/25; The council budget for revenue increased for 25/26.

| Grant    | CSP funding DfC | 24/25 BCC Contribution | 25/26 BCC Contribution | Total          |
|----------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Capacity | £ 463,075.29    | £1,409,283             | £1,409,283.00          | £ 1,872,358.29 |
| Revenue  | £ 353,052.05    | £1,134,469             | £2,621,990.05          | £ 2,975,024.10 |
| Advice   | £ 667,959.58    | £391,729               | £391,729.00            | £ 1,059,688.58 |
| Total    | £ 1,484,086.92  | £2,935,481             | £4,423,002.05          | £ 5,907,070.97 |

Members will note that Council has the available budget to make a 50% payment to recipients of all three elements (Capacity, Revenue and Advice), however, should there be a reduction in DfC funding this would impact on the overall budget available to cover costs.

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 3.10       | <p>Based on legal advice, Funding Agreements for 2025/26 Capacity Building and Revenue for Community Buildings Grants and Generalist Advice will contain a condition that the second payment may vary due to the level of funding received from DfC.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>Any reduction in the available budget has the potential to impact on service delivery which may have equality, good relations or rural needs implications for Belfast City Council.</p> |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>  |
| 4.1        | <p>Appendix 1 – Capacity Building Grant Allocation 2025/26</p> <p>Appendix 2- Revenue for Community Building Grant Allocation 2025/26</p> <p>Appendix 3 - Advice Funding Allocation 2025/26</p>   |

## Appendix 1

### Capacity Grant Allocations 2025/26 (Based on 2024/25)

|     | Organisation   | Grant Allocation      |
|-----|--|-----------------------|
| 1.  | Boys & Girls Clubs                                       | £ 49,876.00           |
| 2.  | Engage With Age  | £ 31,143.00           |
| 3.  | Cara-Friend  | £ 50,629.00           |
| 4.  | Charter NI   | £ 45,138.00           |
| 5.  | Roden Street Community Development Group                 | £ 50,629.00           |
| 6.  | Southcity Resource And Development Centre.               | £ 50,629.00           |
| 7.  | The West Belfast Partnership Board                       | £ 50,229.00           |
| 8.  | Poleglass Community Association @ Sally Gardens          | £ 49,099.00           |
| 9.  | Conradh Na Gaeilge                                       | £ 50,629.00           |
| 10. | Short Strand Community Forum                             | £ 50,629.00           |
| 11. | Women's Resource And Development Agency                  | £ 50,629.00           |
| 12. | Ballynafeigh Community Development Association           | £ 50,629.00           |
| 13. | Falls Community Council                                  | £ 50,629.00           |
| 14. | Falls Partnership Initiative                             | £ 40,629.00           |
| 15. | Ligoniel Improvement Association                         | £ 42,375.64           |
| 16. | Colin Neighbourhood Partnership                          | £ 36,026.54           |
| 17. | The HUBB Community Development Resource Centre           | £ 29,629.00           |
| 18. | Fóram na nÓg   | £ 44,583.72           |
| 19. | Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group (LORAG)              | £ 50,629.00           |
| 20. | Upper Springfield Resource Centre                        | £ 38,561.76           |
| 21. | Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum                | £ 45,818.34           |
| 22. | Volunteer Now  | £ 48,820.28           |
| 23. | Ashton Community Trust                                   | £ 50,629.00           |
| 24. | Market Development Association                           | £ 31,729.00           |
| 25. | Training for Women Network                               | £ 46,444.00           |
| 26. | East Belfast Community Development Agency                | £ 50,629.00           |
| 27. | Whiterock Children's Centre/Whiterock Creche Association | £ 21,379.00           |
| 28. | Belfast Interface Project. (BIP)                         | £ 50,420.00           |
| 29. | Horn Of Africa People's Aid Northern Ireland (HAPANI)    | £ 50,629.00           |
| 30. | University Of Atypical For Arts And Disability           | £ 50,629.00           |
| 31. | Small Steps  | £ 50,464.59           |
| 32. | lenadoon community forum                                 | £ 34,077.00           |
| 33. | Sailortown Regeneration Group                            | £ 50,629.00           |
| 34. | All Nations Ministries                                   | £ 48,931.00           |
| 35. | Northern Ireland Youth Forum                             | £ 20,529.00           |
| 36. | Ardoyne Youth Enterprises                                | £ 22,541.00           |
| 37. | Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre                       | £ 47,275.00           |
| 38. | GREATER SHANKILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL                       | £ 50,629.00           |
| 39. | St James Forum   | £ 46,629.00           |
| 40. | South Belfast Partnership Board                          | £ 32,088.42           |
| 41. | Taughmonagh Community Forum Ltd                          | £ 50,029.00           |
| 42. | Loughview Community Action Partnership (LCAP)            | £ 10,329.00           |
| 43. | TechDesk CIC   | £ 48,129.00           |
|     | <b>Total</b>   | <b>£ 1,872,358.29</b> |

**Appendix 2****Revenue for Community Buildings Grant Allocations 2025/26 (based on doubling 2024/25)**

|     | <b>Organisation</b>   | <b>24/25<br/>Allocation</b> | <b>25/26<br/>Allocation</b> |
|-----|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1.  | Newstart Education Centre   | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 2.  | Ardmonagh Family & Community Group                                    | £13,629.00                  | £27,258.00                  |
| 3.  | Lagmore Community Forum   | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 4.  | Holy Trinity Centre   | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 5.  | Cancer Lifeline   | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 6.  | Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich  | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 7.  | Mornington Community Project  | £15,064.00                  | £30,128.00                  |
| 8.  | Ionad Uíbh Eachach  | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 9.  | Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain                                       | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 10. | FORTHSPRING INTER COMMUNITY GROUP                                     | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 11. | An Droichead  | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 12. | Divis Joint Development Committee                                     | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 13. | Glen Community Parent Youth Group                                     | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 14. | Feile An Phobail  | £18,629.00                  | £37,258.00                  |
| 15. | Hannahstown Community Association                                     | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 16. | Chinese Welfare Association NI  | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 17. | EastSide Partnership  | £19,509.00                  | £39,018.00                  |
| 18. | Footprints Womens Centre  | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 19. | Falls Women's Centre  | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 20. | Solas   | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 21. | Suicide Awareness & Support Group                                     | £20,235.00                  | £40,470.00                  |
| 22. | Spectrum Centre   | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 23. | Brassneck Youth   | £16,343.00                  | £32,686.00                  |
| 24. | Belfast South Community Resources                                     | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 25. | Manor Street Cliftonville Community Group                             | £13,629.00                  | £27,258.00                  |
| 26. | NBWISP (North Belfast Womens' Initiative & Support Project)           | £15,841.00                  | £31,682.00                  |
| 27. | Oasis Caring In Action Ltd  | £19,129.00                  | £38,258.00                  |
| 28. | Upper Andersonstown Community Forum                                   | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 29. | BLACKIE RIVER COMMUNITY GROUPS  | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 30. | Grace Women's Development Limited                                     | £16,805.96                  | £33,611.92                  |
| 31. | Windsor Women's Centre  | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 32. | Glór na Móna  | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 33. | Lagan Village Youth And Community Group                               | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 34. | Shankill Women's Centre   | £13,629.00                  | £27,258.00                  |
| 35. | Ballymac Friendship Trust   | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 36. | City Life Projects  | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 37. | SCOIL NA FUISEOIGE  | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 38. | Upper Springfield Development Trust: Newhill Youth & Community Centre | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |
| 39. | TAR ISTEACH   | £19,956.00                  | £39,912.00                  |
| 40. | Belvoir Community Hub   | £20,629.00                  | £41,258.00                  |

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| 41. | MOUNT EAGLES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION                                   | £16,179.00 | £32,358.00 |
| 42. | The Vine Centre  | £20,629.00 | £41,258.00 |
| 43. | Wandsworth Community Association                                     | £20,629.00 | £41,258.00 |
| 44. | PIPS Suicide Prevention Ireland                                      | £20,629.00 | £41,258.00 |
| 45. | Arts For All   | £20,629.00 | £41,258.00 |
| 46. | GEMS Northern Ireland Limited  | £19,129.00 | £38,258.00 |
| 47. | Greenway Women's Group   | £20,629.00 | £41,258.00 |
| 48. | Tar Anall  | £11,579.00 | £23,158.00 |
| 49. | Kids Together Belfast  | £20,629.00 | £41,258.00 |
| 50. | St Comgalls  | £20,629.00 | £41,258.00 |
| 51. | Benview community Centre   | £20,623.00 | £41,246.00 |
| 52. | Willowfield Parish Community Association                             | £20,629.00 | £41,258.00 |
| 53. | Walkway Community Association  | £20,629.00 | £41,258.00 |
| 54. | Belfast Activity Centre  | £20,629.00 | £41,258.00 |
| 55. | WOMEN'STEC   | £9,629.00  | £19,258.00 |
| 56. | Conway Youth Centre  | £11,529.00 | £23,058.00 |
| 57. | The Parent Rooms   | £20,629.00 | £41,258.00 |
| 58. | Bloomfield Community Association                                     | £17,996.61 | £35,993.22 |
| 59. | Glenbank Community Association                                       | £14,129.00 | £28,258.00 |
| 60. | Star Neighbourhood Centre  | £16,829.00 | £33,658.00 |
| 61. | Greater Turf Lodge Residents' Association                            | £6,892.84  | £13,785.68 |
| 62. | Belvoir Players Amateur Dramatic Society                             | £20,629.00 | £41,258.00 |
| 63. | Falls Residents Associations   | £8,355.60  | £16,711.20 |
| 64. | Lower Oldpark Community Association                                  | £15,274.21 | £30,548.42 |
| 65. | York Road Civil Defence Management Committee                         | £17,929.00 | £35,858.00 |
| 66. | Ardoyne Association  | £20,629.00 | £41,258.00 |
| 67. | Marrowbone Community Association                                     | £20,629.00 | £41,258.00 |
| 68. | African And Caribbean Support Organisation Northern Ireland (Acsoni) | £15,729.00 | £31,458.00 |
| 69. | Annadale & Haywood Resident Association                              | £14,075.40 | £28,150.80 |
| 70. | Concerned Residents Of Upper Ardoyne (CRUA)                          | £6,479.00  | £12,958.00 |
| 71. | Cumann Chluain Árd   | £20,629.00 | £41,258.00 |
| 72. | Donegall Pass Community Forum  | £20,537.43 | £41,074.86 |
| 73. | Raidió Fáilte Teo  | £20,495.00 | £40,990.00 |
| 74. | Ballysillan Community Forum  | £16,929.00 | £33,858.00 |
| 75. | MIDLAND SOCIAL & RECREATIONAL ASSOCIATION                            | £13,029.00 | £26,058.00 |
| 76. | Small Wonders Childcare  | £20,629.00 | £41,258.00 |
| 77. | GLENCAIRN RESIDENTS GROUP  | £7,629.00  | £15,258.00 |
| 78. | LIGONIEL FAMILY CENTRE   | £8,709.00  | £17,418.00 |
| 79. | Glencolin Residents Association                                      | £6,748.00  | £13,496.00 |
| 80. | Indian Community Centre (Belfast) Ltd                                | £20,629.00 | £41,258.00 |
| 81. | Greater Village Regeneration Trust - TREE Project                    | £18,609.00 | £37,218.00 |
| 82. | TAGIT T/A Tullycarnet Boxing Club                                    | £3,629.00  | £7,258.00  |
| 83. | Lower Shankill Community Association                                 | £3,629.00  | £7,258.00  |
| 84. | Sunningdale Community Cente  | £3,629.00  | £7,258.00  |
| 85. | Tackling Awareness Of Mental Health Issues (TAMHI)                   | £3,629.00  | £7,258.00  |
| 86. | Springfield Charitable Association Ltd                               | £3,629.00  | £7,258.00  |

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| 87. | Whiterock Westrock Residents Association | £3,629.00            | £7,258.00            |
|     | <b>Total</b>                             | <b>£1,487,521.05</b> | <b>£2,975,042.10</b> |

**Appendix 3**  
**Advice Funding Allocation 2025/26 (Based on 2024/25)**

| Consortium | Members   | Allocation            |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| Central    | <b>Advice Space (Central)</b>                   | £ 65,741.91           |
|            | Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre (BURC)       | £ 28,175.10           |
|            | <b>TOTAL Central</b>                            | <b>£ 93,917.01</b>    |
| East       | Advice Space (East)                             | £ 76,570.60           |
|            | East Belfast Independent Advice Centre          | £ 76,570.59           |
|            | <b>TOTAL East</b>                               | <b>£ 153,141.19</b>   |
| North      | <b>The Vine Centre</b>                          | £ 106,672.36          |
|            | Ardoyne Association                             | £ 39,344.29           |
|            | Ballysillan Community Forum                     | £ 19,564.24           |
|            | Ligoniel Improvement Association                | £ 8,509.84            |
|            | Tar Isteach                                     | £ 25,103.02           |
|            | Advice Space (North)                            | £ 75,045.01           |
|            | <b>TOTAL North</b>                              | <b>£ 274,238.73</b>   |
| South      | <b>Ballynaveigh Com Dev. Association (BCDA)</b> | £ 87,820.56           |
|            | Southcity Resource & Development Centre         | £ 65,783.84           |
|            | Advice Space                                    | £ 9,630.89            |
|            | <b>TOTAL South</b>                              | <b>£ 163,235.29</b>   |
| West       | <b>Falls Community Council (FCC)</b>            | £ 54,838.60           |
|            | Advice Space – Andersonstown                    | £ 58,502.70           |
|            | Advice Space – Shankill                         | £ 52,627.85           |
|            | Advice Space - Springfield                      | £ 37,073.08           |
|            | Neighbourhood Dev Assoc (NDA)                   | £ 49,011.51           |
|            | Springfield Charitable Assoc (SCA)              | £ 67,217.81           |
|            | Upper Springfield Dev Trust (USDT)              | £ 55,884.81           |
|            | <b>TOTAL West</b>                               | <b>£ 375,156.36</b>   |
|            | <b>TOTAL</b>                                    | <b>£ 1,059,688.58</b> |

Organisations highlighted are the lead partners in each consortia area