



## Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Community Support: Capacity Building Grant
Date:	9 June 2010
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Catherine Taggart, Community Development Manager, ext 3525

### **Relevant Background Information**

The Capacity Building Grant was introduced in mid 2005 as an opportunity to support community organisations with 'development work that strengthens the ability of organisations to build their structures, systems, people and skills.' Piloted during the later half of 2005, the Community & Leisure Services Sub Committee meeting on 29 November 2005 provided authorisation to proceed with a Capacity Building Fund for 2006/07. It was agreed that the grant would be for one year and then subject to review. To align with the planned move of the service to the Development Department and the agreed review of all department grant aid programmes the capacity grant continued with some business improvements.

The report of the Development Department Grants review was considered by Committee at its meeting on 14 October 2009. The outcome being that the Capacity Grant should continue as a multi annual grant. It was the consideration of officers at this time that the Capacity grant required further refinement. However due to the restricted time scale and the uncertainty for community organisations who wished to apply, it was agreed to proceed for a one year interim period as part of the transition to the final multi annual programme. The grant would then open again to application for years two and three.

This report provides the Development Committee with recommendations on applications made to the Capacity Building grant 2010/11. The closing date for application to this fund was 28 January 2010. A total of nineteen applications were received. Four of these applications are new with all other applications from organisations currently in receipt of capacity building funding.

Grant applications were assessed by Sarah Cherry, Juniper Consulting.

#### Principles of the application process

Organisations submit an application including supporting documentation such as annual reports, financial statements and policy documents. A lengthy assessment of all applications

is undertaken, scoring them against each of the criteria identified for the grant. Summary score sheets for each organisation have been attached at appendix 4. Score sheets will provide optimum transparency as to how decisions on applications have been reached. They will also provide Members with an indication of the nature and variety of funding applications received.

#### Assessment criteria

The assessments were undertaken against the agreed criterion, scoring threshold and 'banded' funding agreed by Council in December 2005. The criterion are as follows:

**Community Based Organisations:** Applicants must be based in a recognised community serving a well defined geographical area

**Recognised Organisations:** Applicants must be able to demonstrate they are effectively managed (as defined by BCC) and compliant with Council's grant aid policy.

**Membership Support:** Applicants must have an appropriate membership base of active participative organisations. To this end applicants must be able to demonstrate an ongoing working relationships and a track record of capacity building work with member groups.

**Building Capacity:** Applicants must demonstrate their understanding of and commitment to building capacity, appropriate to their community. This will be reflected in the track record of the applicants and in the programme of work offered for the period under consideration

**Programme of Work;** Applicants must set out the planned programme of work. This will include aims, objectives, proposed outcomes and impact. The programme must be costed, illustrating value for money, leverage and additionality.

Groups must meet the threshold score of 130 marks (65%) to be recommended for funding.

The recommendations have been calculated as follows;

Band A >160<200 Marks (>80%) offer a maximum grant of £49,664.44

Band B > 140<160 Marks (>70%<80%) offer a maximum grant of £33,109.63

Band C > 130<140 Marks (>65%<70%) offer a maximum grant of £27,591.36

#### Level of applications

The cumulative total amount requested by the 2010/11 cohort of applications is £808,626.47. Following assessment, the cumulative total of recommended awards for the 2010/11 period is £620,362.72. The total available budget agreed for this grant type for 2010/11 is £632,150.

#### **Key Issues**

1. To avoid duplication of funding Community Organisations cannot be in receipt of funding for both revenue and capacity building grant.
2. The total level of funding recommended for 17 community organisations is £620,326.72 plus £30,000 to the Play Resource Centre (agreed previously by Committee on 10 March 2010).
3. Two applications have been rejected for funding. These organisations have not provided evidence of a broad programme of capacity building work with member groups. Details can be found at appendix 2
4. Three applications have been received from thematic groups (older people and woman)

5. Applications which overlap have been assessed and scored. Evidence has been sought of distinct and separate capacity building activities.
6. 2010/11 is the interim year for capacity building grant leading to the transition to the final multi annual programme
7. Award of grant for 2010/11 to applicants currently in receipt of capacity building funding will be subject to compliance with all monitoring requirements for the 2009/10 grant.
8. Applications that have been rejected for capacity building grant will be offered the right of appeal against the decision. Appeals must be based on the information provided in the application. No new or additional information will be considered. (Appeal mechanism agreed at Community & Leisure Sub Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2006)  
There is no budget withheld to address potential appeals.

### **Resource Implications**

Budget available budget for this grant category in 2010/11 is £632,150. (The budget for capacity grant is supplemented from DSD Community Support Programme at a level of 73%)

(Total cumulative recommendations £620,362.72)

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of this report and agrees to the following;

1. Appendix - Recommendations for Capacity Building Grant 2010/11; and
2. Appendix - Recommendations for rejection of Capacity Building grant 2010/11

### **Decision Tracking**

Further to agreement and ratification, organisations will be informed whether or not they have been recommended for and awarded funding by letter. Successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with Council.

Timeframe: July/August 2010

Reporting Officer: Catherine Taggart

### **Key Abbreviations**

DSD – Department for Social Development

### **Documents Attached**

Appendix 1 - Recommendations for Capacity Building Grant 2010/11  
Appendix 2 - Recommendations for rejected Capacity Building Grant applications 2010/11  
Appendix 3 - Capacity Grant 2010/11 assessments  
Appendix 4 - Summary score sheets