



Subject:	Community Development Grants Programme
Date:	18 May 2018
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
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Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update members on the current situation regarding the Community Development Grants Programme 2018/19 and to offer for consideration a range of options relating to funding allocation.
2.0	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agree to the allocation of £33,333 from non-recurrent resources to fund the shortfall in DfC's contribution towards the Community Development Grants Programme for 2018/19.• Agree the allocation of £23,444 from non-recurrent resources to the Belfast City Wide Tribunal Service for 2018/19.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider and agree the preferred option in relation to the additional allocation of £67,892 for Advice • Receive a presentation by DfC Officials in relation to funding of Advice Provision. • Receive a further paper on Advice Provision in relation to the Evason Report.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	In March, Committee considered a report which provided an update on the current situation regarding the Community Development Grants Programme (CDGP) 2018/19 which offered a range of options for consideration to mitigate against any delay and/or a reduction in the Council's Department for Communities income allocation.
3.2	The Committee agreed to adopt Option 3: Business Continuity - to extend the current contract to all groups in receipt of large grants until 30th June 2018 and proceed to the allocation, in advance of notification of the Department for Communities income, against the current budget of £231,689 for small grants ie, Summer Scheme and Project grants, based on assessment recommendations.
3.3	<p>The Letter of Offer for the Community Support Programme was received by Council at the beginning of April and was considered by Committee in April. Committee decided;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the Department for Communities offer of grant funding under the regional Community Support Programme in 2018/19; • To note a revised level of funding and agreed to a further report outlining the impact on the Council's Community Development Grants programme with options for 2018/19 grants awards.; and • That discussion be undertaken with the Department in relation to the reduction of over £33,333 on the overall contribution.
3.4	Table 1 below illustrates 2018/19 CSP offer and the variance against the 2017/18 allocation.

	2018/19	2017/18	Variance
Community Support General	829,405	863,964	- 34,559
Advice Grant	607,928	540,036	67,892
Total CSP Contribution	1,437,333	1,404,000	£33,333

Table 1- Variance 2018/19 with 2017/18 CSP Allocation

- 3.5 The 2018/19 allocation represents a 4% decrease in the Community Support General element and a 12.6% increase in the Advice Grant which is restricted.
- 3.6 Community Support General incorporates Community Capacity Building Grants, Revenue for Community Building Grants, Small Grants and Non-grant funding for the Council Owned Independently Managed Community Centres and a Service Level Agreement.
- 3.7 The DfC grant income allocation for Advice Grants is ring-fenced, thus cannot be used to supplement the 4% shortfall in Community Support General.
- 3.8 The allocation for the small grants awards has already been agreed by Committee and all contracts have been extended, based on the 2017/18. As noted the large grant recipients have been advised that their 2017/18 awards have been extended to the end of June 2018/19.

Grants Allocation

- 3.9 Community Support General
- The 2017/18 community grants specified reserve has a balance of £59,974 remaining at the year-end relating to unclaimed grants. This unused balance would normally transferred to general reserves as part of the year end accounting processes.
- However if the Committee were minded, an amount of £33,333 could be allocated to meet the 2018/19 DfC reduction. It should be noted that this is a non-recurrent source of finance and so will not address the recurrent shortfall beyond 2018/19, caused by the DfC reduction.

3.10 Belfast City Wide Tribunal Service – Request for BCC Funding

In March 2018 the Committee considered a request from the Belfast City Wide Tribunal Service for BCC support of £100,000 for 2018/19. The Committee agreed to allocate £76,556 of non-recurrent funding at that stage and to revisit the remaining £23,444 shortfall at the year end. The Committee could also agree to allocate a further £23,444, of the unused grants specified reserve to the Belfast City Wide Tribunal Service, ensuring that the full funding request of £100,000 for 2018/19 has been met.

3.11 Advice Grant Allocation Options

The advice grant allocation has increased by £67,892, thus all currently funded projects will not be subject to reduction. The following presents options for the allocation of the £67,892.

- i. *The total amount is allocated to the 5 Advice Consortia based on the Council's agreed allocation model.*

All 5 consortia will receive an increase in their allocation for the provision of generalist advice services across the city.

- ii. *The total amount is used to resource additional service provision to mitigate the impact of Welfare Reform.*

Council can develop formal proposals with the support of the interagency Welfare Reform Taskforce to support a range of services in line with community need. As noted, this will require further consideration with a paper for subsequent consideration by Committee.

3.12 **Welfare Reform**

At April's committee members received a paper on Welfare Reform outlining some of the issues and key actions in relation to its implementation. It was anticipated that DfC would be in a position to finalise further information and related resource for committee consideration however this is not yet available. Officers have however recently met with DfC Officials to discuss. DfC hope to issue a Letter of Variance to current CSP contracts by end of this month. They have also agree to provide a written update in relation to progress against the recommendations in the Evason report. Senior officials have also

	<p>offered to attend committee to outline progress to date and future plans, if committee would find this beneficial.</p> <p>Pending committee consideration, and information from DfC, a further report will be provided to Committee in June.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.13	<p>The options carry varying financial implications which are noted in the body of the report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.14	<p>There are none associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None