



Subject:	Department for Communities (DfC) Letter of Offer Community Support Programme 2024/25
Date:	6 th August 2024
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Operational Director Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. 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 matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. 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	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	<p>The main purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inform Members that Council has received the Letter of Offer for the Community Support Programme 24/25 from the Department for Communities (DfC). • advise Members that the Chief Executive has accepted the Letter of Offer, subject to Council approval and seek approval for him to accept subsequent Letters of Variance on behalf of the Council. • seek Members' approval to issue further payments to funded organisations upon their completion of monitoring and relevant administrative checks. • seek agreement from Members on the option to allocate the additional funding provided, based on the detail provided in the report.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the funding allocation of £2,575,577.30 presented in the Letter of Offer from the DfC for the 2024/25 financial year. • Note that the Chief Executive has accepted the Letter of Offer, subject to Council approval and seek approval for him to accept subsequent Letters of Variance on behalf of the Council. • Agree their preferred option relating to the Community Support General additional funding. • Agree the proposed additional funding allocation for; Community Support General, Advice Grant, Welfare Reform Mitigations Extension-Tribunal Representation, Welfare Reform Mitigations- Face to Face Advice and Social Supermarket • Approve the progression of funding payments, where appropriate, following completion of due diligence requirements based on the proposals.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></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>3.2 The CSP also provides 100% funding for other elements of activity such as Social Supermarkets and Welfare Reform Mitigations.</p> <p>3.3 At March Committee, Officers advised that the Community Support Programme (CSP) Letter of Offer for 24/25 had not yet been received by Council from DfC. Therefore, Members granted approval for officers to progress funding agreements and provide 50% payments for the Capacity Building, Revenue for Community Building grants and Generalist Advice.</p> <p>3.4 Council received the CSP 2024/25 Letter of Offer from DfC on 3 July 2024. There is an increase to this year's funding across several elements. A breakdown of the allocation for 2024/25 in comparison to 2023/24 is attached at Appendix 1</p>

Social Supermarket Funding

3.5 Members may be aware that Social Supermarket funding was considered at a Special SP&R meeting on 28th June 2024. Members were advised at this meeting that DfC had indicated that the total allocation for Social Supermarkets would be £672,687.77 in 24/25.

3.6 SP&R agreed to provide an additional council allocation to provide the maximum amount of funding recommended to successful applicants. Further detail is provided in **Appendix 2**. The figure in the LoO is slightly less than indicated, £672,650.06, but this will have no impact as it can be covered through existing budgets.

Additional Funding by CSP Heading

3.7 Table 1 illustrates the available budgets created under each heading by combining the additional allocation CSP increase and 5% Unrestricted Funding (Non-Recurrent).

3.8 **Table 1**

CSP Heading	Additional Funds 2024/25
1. Community Support General	£81,786.34
2. Advice Grant	£59,946.84
3. Welfare Reform Mitigations Extension Tribunal Representation- Appeals	£6,942.02
4. Welfare Reform Mitigations Extension Face to face Advice	£11,738.96

Proposed Allocation of Additional Funds

3.9 It is proposed that additional funding for elements 2-4 should be allocated using the agreed approaches. Further detail is provided in **Appendix 3**. Members are asked to agree the proposed allocations for the 3 elements i.e. Advice Grant, Welfare Reform Mitigations Extension Tribunal Representation- Appeals and Welfare Reform Mitigations Extension Face to face Advice.

3.10 Members are asked to consider and agree their preferred option for allocating the additional funding provided under the Community Support General heading (£81,786.34) as outlined in Table 2. Further detail on the organisations funded through Capacity and Revenue awards is provided in **Appendix 4**.

Table 2

Option	Description	Pro	Con
1	Allocate all the additional funding to the 87 Revenue Funded groups. Each group will receive a non-recurrent payment of £940.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Revenue funding supports running costs in community buildings. Applicants have highlighted the impact of increased running costs which this award would help to address. o Revenue applicants receive an annual award of up to £20,000. This is a lower value than the award to Capacity applicants which is up £50,000 and therefore Revenue, applicants are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Capacity funded organisations do not have access to these additional funds yet are also experiencing increased costs.

			more impacted by increased costs and this option would provide an additional award targeted at those who receive less funding.	
2	Allocate the funding to Revenue and Capacity funded groups. 130 organisations will receive a non-recurrent payment of £629		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Revenue and Capacity organisations will receive additional funding to meet their running costs and provide services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o This option does not take into account the difference in the annual level of funding to both Revenue and Capacity applicants.
<p><u>Financial Implications</u> All awards listed in Appendices 3 & 4 can be made in line with existing budgets for 24/25. Members should note that the Capacity and Revenue awards which are multi annual awards from 23/26 were enhanced with a £1.4 million additional Council allocation. As previously advised, this allocation will have to be provided in 24/25 and 25/26 financial years.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessment</u> This will be considered throughout, and any appropriate issues highlighted to Members. Any amendments to existing scheme or new scheme will be considered in the context of any equality/good relations and rural needs considerations.</p>				
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached			
4.1	<p>Appendix 1 – CSP Allocation Comparison and Variance 2024/25 with 2023/24 Appendix 2 - Social Supermarket Allocations 24/25 Appendix 3 – Allocation Approach for Advice, Tribunal Service and Welfare Reform Mitigations (face to face) and awards 24/25 Appendix 4 - List of funding allocations/awards to Capacity/Revenue groups 24/25</p>			

Appendix 1 CSP Allocation Comparison and Variance 2024/25 with 2023/24

Belfast City Council	1/04/24 to 31/03/25	1/04/23 to 31/03/24	Variance
Community Support General	£867,801.70	£829,405.44	£38,396.26
<i>Unrestricted funding (Non-Recurrent)</i>	<i>£43,390.08</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>£43,390.08</i>
Advice Grant	£636,071.68	£607,928.42	£28,143.26
<i>Unrestricted funding (Non-Recurrent)</i>	<i>£31,803.58</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>£31,803.58</i>
Welfare Reform Mitigations Extension Tribunal Representation - Appeals (067977)	£73,659.07	70,400.00	£3,259.07
<i>Unrestricted funding (Non-Recurrent)</i>	<i>£3,682.95</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>£3,682.95</i>
Welfare Reform Mitigations Extension Face to Face Advice (067983)	£234,779.21	£234,999.21	0
<i>Unrestricted funding (Non-Recurrent)</i>	<i>£11,738.96</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>£11,738.96</i>
Social Supermarket figures inclusive of Unrestricted Grant Funding (Non- Recurrent) uplift	£672,650.06	£418,744.04	£253,906.02
Consolidated Uplift for CS General Advice & Appeals (21/22 carried forward)	0	£34,316.02	-£34,316.02
Consolidated Uplift for CS General Advice & Appeals (22/23 carried forward)	0	£35,482.57	-£35,482.57
CSP Grand Total (Per Year)	£2,575,577.30	£2,231,055.70	

Appendix 2 Social Supermarket Allocations

2024/25 Social Supermarket Funding - Applicants, Scores and Recommended Awards					
	Ref	Organisation	Amount Requested	Score %	Award
1	SS-2425-13-FWC	Footprints Women's Centre	£49,697.53	97.5	£49,697.53
2	SS-2425-28-DSA	Disability Action	£35,000.00	91.3	£35,000.00
3	SS-2425-18-FWS	Forward South Partnership	£49,500.00	88.8	£49,500.00
4	SS-2425-02-SOC	Southcity	£50,000.00	80.0	£50,000.00
5	SS-2425-20-VIN	Vine Centre (NBAP)	£49,500.00	80.0	£49,500.00
6	SS-2425-04-SSC	Street Soccer NI	£22,000.00	76.3	£22,000.00
7	SS-2425-17-ASH	Ashton Community Trust	£50,000.00	76.3	£50,000.00
8	SS-2425-24-USD	Upper Springfield Development Trust	£50,000.00	67.5	£50,000.00
9	SS-2425-21-DGP	Donegall Pass Community Forum	£37,112.00	65.0	£37,112.00
12	SS-2425-11-GWD	Grace Women's Development	£2,500.00	63.8	£1,250.00
10	SS-2425-12-HER	HEReNI	£16,449.17	62.5	£16,449.17
11	SS-2425-01-ITT	In This Together	£50,000.00	61.3	£50,000.00
15	SS-2425-10-HWD	Hanwood Trust	£30,000.00	60.0	£30,000.00
14	SS-2425-09-WBP	West Belfast Partnership Board	£49,500.00	57.5	£49,500.00
16	SS-2425-27-LOR	LORAG	£44,000.00	57.5	£44,000.00
13	SS-2425-05-GRA	Glencolin Residents' Association	£10,000.00	55.0	£10,000.00
17	SS-2425-15-LCP	Loughview Community Action Partnership	£49,936.00	55.0	£49,936.00
18	SS-2425-19-BWS	Boring Wells (The Larder)	£50,000.00	53.8	£50,000.00
21	SS-2425-07-COM	Compass Counselling	£11,800.00	52.5	£11,800.00
19	SS-2425-08-BWA	Belfast Women's Aid	£30,000.00	50.0	£30,000.00
20	SS-2425-16-BLA	Blackie River Community Groups	£50,000.00	47.5	£50,000.00
22	SS-2425-06-PHX	Phoenix Education Centre (NI)	£34,835.00	42.5	£0.00
23	SS-2425-25-GLE	Glentoran Social Partnership	£12,600.00	40.0	£0.00
24	SS-2425-26-AGT	Ag Togáil Clainne le gaeilge	£2,430.00	32.5	£0.00
25	SS-2425-14-HMP	Homeplus NI	£49,960.00	32.5	£0.00
27	SS-2425-23-EMS	EMSONI	£42,500.00	32.5	£0.00
26	SS-2425-22-GLO	Glor na Mona	£10,000.00	31.3	£0.00
28	SS-2425-03-UOA	University of Atypical	£7,300.00	27.5	£0.00
		Total	£946,619.70		£785,744.70

Appendix 3 Allocation Approach for Advice, Tribunal Service and Welfare Reform Mitigations Extension (Face to Face) and Awards.

Generalist Advice Funding

Advice Funding 2024/25 - Advice Consortia Allocation and Proposed Additional Funding (£59,946.84)

Consortia and Members	Generalist Advice 2024/25 Allocation	Council's Funding Allocation	Proposed Additional Funding
Central Consortium: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice Space (Lead) • Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre 	£ 88,603.68	9%	£5,313.33
East Consortium: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice Space (Lead) • East Belfast Independent Advice Centre 	£ 144,397.06	14%	£8,659.12
North Consortium: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vine Centre (Lead) • Ardoyne Association • Ballysillan Community Forum • Ligoniel Improvement Association • Tar Isteach • Advice Space 	£ 258,723.74	26%	£15,514.99
South Consortium: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballynafeigh Community Development Association (Lead) • South City Resource and Development Centre • Advice Space 	£ 154,000.56	15%	£9,235.01
West Consortium: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Falls Community Council (Lead) • Springfield Charitable Association • Neighbourhood Development Association • Upper Springfield Development Trust • Advice Space (Suffolk & Andersonstown) • Advice Space (Falls) • Advice Space (Shankill) 	£ 353,931.96	35%	£21,224.38
Total	£ 999,657.00		£59,946.84

Welfare Reform Mitigations Extension Tribunal Representation- Appeals (£6,942.02)

The total allocation received by Council from the CSP in relation to the WRME Tribunal Representation and Appeals goes directly to fund the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Services. It is proposed that this additional funding of £6,942.02 be used to support the Citywide Tribunal Service.

Welfare Reform Mitigations Extension Face to Face Advice

The funding relating to the WRME Face to Face Advice is funded 100% by DfC. The Department allocates funding as follows for 2024/25

Organisation	Allocation	% Of Total Allocation	5% Uplift Allocation
Advice Space	£ 109,729.40	46.74%	£ 5,486.47
Advice Space (EBIAC)	£ 31,262.48	13.32%	£ 1,563.12
Falls Community Council (NDA)	£ 31,262.48	13.32%	£ 1,563.12
Ballynafeigh Community Development Association	£ 31,262.48	13.32%	£ 1,563.12
North Belfast Advice Partnership (LIA)	£ 31,262.48	13.32%	£ 1,563.12
	£ 234,779.32		£1,1738.96

Appendix 4 - List of 24/25 funding allocations/awards which receive an allocation from CSP

Capacity Building Awards 2024/25

	Organisation	Organisation Postcode	Maximum Grant Allocation
1.	Boys & Girls Clubs	BT9 7JU	£49,247.00
2.	Engage With Age	BT5 4FP	£30,514.00
3.	Cara-Friend	BT1 2DX	£50,000.00
4.	Charter NI	BT4 1AG	£44,509.00
5.	Roden Street Community Development Group	BT12 5AT	£50,000.00
6.	Southcity Resource And Development Centre.	BT12 6HE	£50,000.00
7.	The West Belfast Partnership Board	BT13 2JF	£49,600.00
8.	Poleglass Community Association @ Sally Gardens	BT17 0UJ	£48,470.00
9.	Conradh Na Gaeilge	BT12 6RU	£50,000.00
10	Short Strand Community Forum	BT5 4EQ	£50,000.00
11	Women's Resource And Development Agency	BT7 1NZ	£50,000.00
12	Ballynafeigh Community Development Association	BT7 3GG	£50,000.00
13	Falls Community Council	BT12 6FD	£50,000.00
14	Falls Partnership Initiative	BT12 4JT	£40,000.00
15	Ligoniel Improvement Association	BT14 8DT	£41,746.64
16	Colin Neighbourhood Partnership	BT17 0LG	£35,397.54
17	The HUBB Community Development Resource Centre	BT15 3QF	£29,000.00
18	Fóram na nÓg	BT12 7RG	£43,954.72
19	Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group (LORAG)	BT7 2EW	£50,000.00
20	Upper Springfield Resource Centre	BT12 7JZ	£37,932.76
21	Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum	BT14 6DT	£45,189.34
22	Volunteer Now	BT4 1AF	£48,191.28

23	Ashton Community Trust	BT15 2BP	£50,000.00
24	Market Development Association	BT1 3JD	£31,100.00
25	Training for Women Network	BT4 1NY	£45,815.00
26	East Belfast Community Development Agency	BT5 4FG	£50,000.00
27	Whiterock Children's Centre/Whiterock Creche Association	bt127pg	£20,750.00
28	Belfast Interface Project. (BIP)	BT1 1FF	£49,791.00
29	Horn Of Africa People's Aid Northern Ireland (HAPANI)	BT7 1JG	£50,000.00
30	University Of Atypical For Arts And Disability	BT1 1FF	£50,000.00
31	Small Steps	BT15 3GJ	£49,835.59
32	Lenadoon community forum	Bt11 9PE	£33,448.00
33	Sailortown Regeneration Group	BT15 1DY	£50,000.00
34	All Nations Ministries	BT15 1GY	£48,302.00
35	Northern Ireland Youth Forum	BT11FJ	£19,900.00
36	Ardoyne Youth Enterprises	BT14 7EJ	£21,912.00
37	Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre	BT1 2FN	£46,646.00
38	Greater Shankill Community Council	BT13 1FP	£50,000.00
39	St James Forum	BT12 6EA	£46,000.00
40	South Belfast Partnership Board	BT7 1FY	£31,459.42
41	Taughmonagh Community Forum Ltd	BT9 6QR	£49,400.00
42	Loughview Community Action Partnership (LCAP)	BT15 4BJ	£9,700.00
43	TechDesk	BT13	£47,500.00
			£1,845,311.29

Revenue for Community Buildings Awards 2024/25

	Organisation	Organisation Postcode	Maximum Grant Allocation
1.	Newstart Education Centre	BT13 2QU	£ 20,000.00
2.	Ardmonagh Family & Community Group	BT11 8DX	£ 13,000.00
3.	Lagmore Community Forum	BT17 0TG	£ 20,000.00
4.	Holy Trinity Centre	BT11 8EL	£ 20,000.00
5.	Cancer Lifeline	BT14 7PJ	£ 20,000.00
6.	Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich	BT12 6AH	£ 20,000.00
7.	Mornington Community Project	BT7 1SH	£ 14,435.00
8.	Ionad Uíbh Eachach	BT12 6AW	£ 20,000.00
9.	Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain	BT15 2GZ	£ 20,000.00
10.	FORTHSPRING INTER COMMUNITY GROUP	BT127DG	£ 20,000.00
11.	An Droichead	BT7 2EP	£ 20,000.00
12.	Divis Joint Development Committee	BT12 4JT	£ 20,000.00
13.	Glen Community Parent Youth Group	BT11 9PE	£ 20,000.00
14.	Feile An Phobail	BT12 6AF	£ 18,000.00
15.	Hannahstown Community Association	BT17 0LT	£ 20,000.00
16.	Chinese Welfare Association NI	BT7 1GB	£ 20,000.00
17.	EastSide Partnership	BT4 1HE	£ 18,880.00
18.	Footprints Womens Centre	BT17 0AR	£ 20,000.00
19.	Falls Women's Centre	BT12 6AL	£ 20,000.00
20.	Solas	BT7 2GB	£ 20,000.00
21.	Suicide Awareness & Support Group	BT12 6FB	£ 19,606.00
22.	Spectrum Centre	BT13 3AA	£ 20,000.00
23.	Brassneck Youth	BT17 0LT	£ 15,714.00
24.	Belfast South Community Resources	BT12 5ET	£ 20,000.00
25.	Manor Street Cliftonville Community Group	BT14 6EA	£ 13,000.00
26.	NBWISP (North Belfast Womens' Initiative & Support Project)	BT14 7JG	£ 15,212.00
27.	Oasis Caring In Action Ltd	BT5 4NF	£ 18,500.00
28.	Upper Andersonstown Community Forum	BT11 8NE	£ 20,000.00
29.	Blackie River Community Groups	BT12 7NW	£ 20,000.00
30.	Grace Women's Development Limited	BT14 7PJ	£ 16,176.96
31.	Windsor Women's Centre	BT126HY	£ 20,000.00
32.	Glór na Móna	BT12 7RG	£ 20,000.00
33.	Lagan Village Youth And Community Group	BT6 8FW	£ 20,000.00
34.	Shankill Women's Centre	BT13 1FD	£ 13,000.00
35.	Ballymac Friendship Trust	BT4 1BP	£ 20,000.00

36.	City Life Projects	BT13 2JF	£	20,000.00
37.	SCOIL NA FUISEOIGE	BT17 ORL	£	20,000.00
38.	Upper Springfield Development Trust: Newhill Youth & Community Centre	BT12 6FD	£	20,000.00
39.	TAR ISTEACH	BT15 2AR	£	19,327.00
40.	Belvoir Community Hub	BT8 7EY	£	20,000.00
41.	MOUNT EAGLES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION	BT17 0GZ	£	15,550.00
42.	The Vine Centre	BT14 7AA	£	20,000.00
43.	Wandsworth Community Association	BT4 3FF	£	20,000.00
44.	PIPS Suicide Prevention Ireland	BT15 2GZ	£	20,000.00
45.	Arts For All	BT15 1WA	£	20,000.00
46.	GEMS Northern Ireland Limited	BT 2 7DB	£	18,500.00
47.	Greenway Women's Group	BT60DT	£	20,000.00
48.	Tar Anall	BT13 2DE	£	10,950.00
49.	Kids Together Belfast	BT11 9JQ	£	20,000.00
50.	St Comgalls	BT12 4AQ	£	20,000.00
51.	Benview community Centre	BT14 8HD	£	19,994.00
52.	Willowfield Parish Community Association	BT6 8FE	£	20,000.00
53.	Walkway Community Association	BT5 5DH	£	20,000.00
54.	Belfast Activity Centre	BT95PB	£	20,000.00
55.	WOMEN'STEC	BT15 5EH	£	9,000.00
56.	Conway Youth Centre	BT13 2DE	£	10,900.00
57.	The Parent Rooms	BT14 7GE	£	20,000.00
58.	Bloomfield Community Association	BT5 5EN	£	17,367.61
59.	Glenbank Community Association	BT14 8BJ	£	13,500.00
60.	Star Neighbourhood Centre	BT15 2FS	£	16,200.00
61.	Greater Turf Lodge Residents' Association	BT11 8DH	£	6,263.84
62.	Belvoir Players Amateur Dramatic Society	BT8 7DJ	£	20,000.00
63.	Falls Residents Associations	BT12 4QA	£	7,726.60
64.	Lower Oldpark Community Association	BT14 6EN	£	14,645.21
65.	York Road Civil Defence Management Committee	BT15 3QF	£	17,300.00
66.	Ardoyne Association	BT14 7NN	£	20,000.00
67.	Marrowbone Community Association	BT14 7RG	£	20,000.00
68.	African And Caribbean Support Organisation Northern Ireland (Acsoni)	BT7 1NR	£	15,100.00
69.	Annadale & Haywood Resident Association	BT7 3AU	£	13,446.40

70.	Concerned Residents Of Upper Ardoyne (CRUA)	BT14 7JE	£	5,850.00
71.	Cumann Chluain Árd	BT127AQ	£	20,000.00
72.	Donegall Pass Community Forum	BT7 1DT	£	19,908.43
73.	Raidió Fáilte Teo	BT12 6DL	£	19,866.00
74.	Ballysillan Community Forum	BT148AB	£	16,300.00
75.	MIDLAND SOCIAL & RECREATIONAL ASSOCIATION	BT15 1GT	£	12,400.00
76.	Small Wonders Childcare	BT13 2HZ	£	20,000.00
77.	GLENCAIRN RESIDENTS GROUP	BT13 3TH	£	7,000.00
78.	Ligoniel Family Centre	BT14 8PY	£	8,080.00
79.	Glencolin Residents Association	Bt11 8NZ	£	6,119.00
80.	Indian Community Centre (Belfast) Ltd	BT13 1AB	£	20,000.00
81.	Greater Village Regeneration Trust - TREE Project	BT12 5NB	£	17,980.00
82.	TAGIT T/A Tullycarnet Boxing Club	BT5 7FB	£	3,000.00
83.	Lower Shankill Community Association	BT13 1GF	£	3,000.00
84.	Sunningdale Community Cente	BT14 7QP	£	3,000.00
85.	Tackling Awareness Of Mental Health Issues (TAMHI)	BT14 7BT	£	3,000.00
86.	Springfield Charitable Association Ltd	BT13 2QN	£	3,000.00
87.	Whiterock Westrock Residents Association	BT12 7PJ	£	3,000.00
Totals			£	1,432,798.05