



<b>Subject:</b>	Summer Scheme Additional Needs Grant
<b>Date:</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> June April 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jim Girvan – Operational Director, Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Cormac McCann, Lead Officer Community Provision Israel Hontavilla, Community Services Unit Manager

### Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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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

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never


Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To seek permission to open the Summer Scheme Additional Needs grant for 2026 – 2027 with a maximum grant amount of £10,000 per applicant per annum.
1.2	The People and Communities committee on 26 April 2024 agreed to run a pilot grant to support the sector in providing summer scheme activities for children unable to access mainstream provision. A pilot fund of £80,000 was agreed.
1.3	Officers from Neighbourhood Services delivered the pilot scheme in 2024 and following review administered the grant for 2025. With the scheme now mainstreamed and budget confirmed in Departmental estimates, it is appropriate that the professional expertise of Council's Central Grants Unit (CGU) is used to offer this grant within the small grants open call and a maximum amount of £10,000 in accordance with the corporate approach to small grants.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	Members are asked to note and approve the content of the report and appendices.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The Summer Scheme Additional Needs grant is to support participation in summer scheme activity for children unable to access mainstream provision in Belfast. Council funding will support specialist organisations who provide appropriate activity for children with additional needs.
3.2	To enable delivery of the pilot grant in 2024, officers from Neighbourhood services promoted and administered the scheme, linking with Area Based Working Groups prior to approval. In 2024 nine organisations were funded with a total amount of £73,655.
3.3	Recognising the impact of the grant an amount of £80,000 was allocated to the Departmental estimates to enable ongoing delivery of the grant. People and Communities committee sought further budget to extend delivery in 2025. Strategic Policy and Resources committee of 21 February 2025 agreed an additional amount of £40,000 to support delivery in summer 2025. In 2025 fourteen organisations have been awarded funding with a total amount of £116,249.82.
3.4	The purpose of this grant is to support provision of summer schemes for children and young people between 5 and 17 years of age with disabilities and/or additional needs who have restricted/limited access to any other summer schemes due to support needs. Eligible applicants are formally constituted local community and

	voluntary organisations and special educational needs schools whose purpose is to support children who have disabilities and/or additional needs. This must be stated in the organisations governing document. The organisation applying for the grant must be based within and deliver the summer scheme within the City of Belfast boundary. Applicant records must demonstrate the number of participants which reside in each electoral area.
3.5	<p>Funded activity must occur during the school summer break period, e.g. between 30 June 2025 and 29 August 2025, and have a minimum duration of 5 days. Any activity outside these timescales will not be eligible for funding. Applications will be assessed using the following standardised criteria which are in line with other corporate and departmental small grants.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evidence of local need</li> <li>2. Scheme outcomes</li> <li>3. Capacity of scheme</li> <li>4. Applicant experience of organising summer schemes</li> <li>5. Applicant experience of the target group</li> <li>6. Scheme aims</li> <li>7. Project plan</li> <li>8. Budget detail</li> </ol>
3.6	Organisations receiving the Summer Scheme Additional Needs grant are not eligible to also receive funding through the Community Summer Scheme grant i.e. the organisation cannot be funded by more than one grant for the same project.
3.7	Departmental estimates include an amount of £80,000 against this grant, with £20,000 per area North, South, East and West. In line with corporate approach to small grants a maximum amount of £10,000 will be available per applicant.
3.8	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Delivery of this project is within existing financial estimates, Neighbourhood Services and Central Grants Unit workplans.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>This report proposes funding a range of projects which are designed to support improved outcomes for under-represented groups, specifically children with additional needs living in Belfast.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
4.1	List of previously funded organisations and amount awarded.