



Subject:	Sport NI Grants - Get Active NI
Date:	11 th August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Claire Moraghan, Leisure Development Manager

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	☐
After Council Decision	☐
Sometime in the future	☐
Never	☐

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☐ No ☒

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	This report is to provide members with an overview of a funding opportunity from Sport NI through their Get Active NI programme 2026/27 and seek approval for the proposed approach.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are asked to: • Approve the funding application approach recommended and note the application to Sport NI will be submitted before full approval by Council, given deadline of 21 August 2026 • Approve maximum funding allocation per organisation/site under delegated authority to £5,000 and that should reallocation between delivery groups be required, this can also be undertaken through delegated authority. • Authorise officers to work up an application and monitoring process in line with council funding procedures
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Background In June 2026, Sport NI launched “Get Active NI”, a funding stream aligned to the approved Community Plans in each of the 11 District Councils. The programme is matched funded by London Marathon totalling £500,000 and focuses on increasing participation in sport and physical activity and aims to reduce inequality and strengthen collaboration between sport, health, and the community and voluntary sectors.
3.2	A key priority is to target and support the least active sections of the population, ensuring those who face the greatest barriers to participation are provided with opportunities to take part.
3.3	• Children and young people • Women and girls • Communities experiencing high social need • People living in rural areas, and • People with a disability

3.4	The funding allocation model is based on the latest NISRA population data and recognises the demographic profile within each District Council area. The maximum funding allocation for Belfast is £103,000. Projects must be delivered by the 31 March 2027.
3.5	To avail of this funding allocation, Council has to submit a proposal to Sport NI by 21 August 2026 detailing their approach for delivery of the funding and how this approach will meet the requirements detailed under 3.1. A focus of the funding is to strengthen collaboration between sport, health, and the community and voluntary sectors.
3.6	Members will be aware that there are a number of funding streams being overseen by the Leisure Development Unit which are currently open for local sports clubs and organisations. These include the European City of Sport and the recently approved funding process to support sports teams and individuals traveling to represent Belfast. In addition, the Support for Sport Grants will reopen in October for programmes running from April 2027.
3.7	Officers also explored the possibility of an open call for this funding through the Central Grants Unit but given the timescales involved and administrative requirements as well as lead in time, it would not be feasible for groups to deliver within the allocated timeline.
3.8	Therefore, in light of the short delivery timeframe and the requirement to utilise the funding within the current financial year, officers propose a targeted delivery model through a number of established delivery partners. Preliminary engagement with these organisations has confirmed both a clear demand for the proposed interventions and their readiness to mobilise programmes quickly to reach the relevant target populations. These partners also have a proven track record of programme delivery and are well placed to provide robust monitoring and evaluation information to demonstrate outcomes and impact.
3.9	The proposed funding allocations are based on the delivery capacity indicated by each partner and their ability to implement successful programmes within the required timescales.
3.10	The recommended approach includes; All BCC Community and Play Centres and Independently Managed Community Centres to be invited to develop an activity programme up to £5,000 targeting one or more of the identified groups i.e. children and young people, women and girls; Communities experiencing high social need and -people with a disability. Anticipated allocation of £30,000

	• GLL to be invited to develop additional centre based programmes for target groups including extension of the Active and Able programme for children with disabilities up to a maximum of £5000 per programme/site. Anticipated allocation of £30,000. • Through the Age Friendly Programme, invite their associated older people's forums to apply for up to £5,000 for activity programmes across Belfast targeting one or more of the identified groups. Anticipated allocation of £20,000. • To work with the Equality and Diversity Unit to develop a programme of activity based events around Disability Month in December 2026. Anticipated allocation of £5,000. • Area Working Groups to agree groups in need of funding or innovative neighbourhood activity programmes focussed on the target groups. Including cross community sport, female only swimming provision for ethnic minorities etc. Anticipated allocation of £5 k per area group - £20,000.
3.11	The above allocation gives a total of £105,000. If one delivery group does not take up the full allocation as outlined below, Officers would ask that the remaining funds can be reallocated to another under delegated authority of the Director of Neighbourhood Services.
3.12	Anticipated Timeline It is anticipated that Sport NI will advise of the outcome of the application by mid-September with invitations for proposals sent to the organisations agreed within the report by the end of September for delivery from mid-October – 31 March 2027.
4.0	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no financial or resource implications contained within the approach outlined within this report.
5.0	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report. The programme is intended to promote participation among groups who experience barriers to physical activity. Equality and accessibility considerations will be incorporated into programme design and allocation processes.
6.0	Appendices
	None