



Subject:	Advice Funding 2026/27
Date:	11 August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision

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	The main purpose of this report is to: • Seek members approval to make the second 50% payment to organisations funded through Generalist Advice and Welfare Reform Mitigation Face to Face funding.																
2.0	Recommendation																
2.1	Members are asked to; • Consider the contents of the report and • Give approval for officers to progress second 50% grant payments for Generalist Advice and Welfare Reform Mitigation Extension Face to Face for the period 1 October 2026 to 31 March 2027 following due diligence on Interim Monitoring for the period 1 April 2026 to 30 September 2026.																
3.0	Main Report																
3.1	Background information 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 a range of funding programmes including generalist advice and CSP large grants. The CSP also provides 100% funding for other elements of activity such as Social Supermarkets, Welfare Reform Mitigations and Integrated Advice Partnership Fund. Table 1 below shows the financial award for Generalist Advice and Welfare Reform Mitigation Extension 2026/27. Table 1: <table><tr><th>Fund</th><th>DfC Allocation</th><th>BCC Allocation</th><th>Total</th></tr><tr><td>Advice Grant</td><td>£727,984.03</td><td>£497,031.61</td><td>£1,225,015.64</td></tr><tr><td>Welfare Reform Mitigations Extension Face to Face Advice (067983)</td><td>£268,704.00</td><td>£0</td><td>£268,704.00</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>£996,688.03</td><td>£497,031.61</td><td>£1,493,719.64</td></tr></table>	Fund	DfC Allocation	BCC Allocation	Total	Advice Grant	£727,984.03	£497,031.61	£1,225,015.64	Welfare Reform Mitigations Extension Face to Face Advice (067983)	£268,704.00	£0	£268,704.00	Total	£996,688.03	£497,031.61	£1,493,719.64
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3.2	<u>Generalist Advice Provision</u> Members will be aware that Council provides funding for generalist advice provision to 5 Advice Consortia covering: Central, East, North, South and West Belfast. The funding is allocated to the consortia using a funding model based on population and multiple deprivation indicators. The list of advice organisations and consortium funding allocation is contained in Appendix 1. In March members agreed to make an initial payment of 50% funding towards the provision of Generalist Advice and second 50% payments pending Council receiving the CSP LoO for 26/27 based on 25/26 allocations. Council Received the 26/27 LoO in April 2026 which provides the same level of funding as 25/26. Funding Agreements were issued to the Advice Providers based on Council’s agreement to issue the payment of 50%.																

3.3	Based on legal advice, Funding Agreements for 2026/27 will contain a condition that the second payment may vary due to the level of funding received from DfC. If an additional in year allocation is received from DfC, members are asked to approve that it will be allocated on a pro rata basis to funded organisations. <u>Welfare Reform Mitigation Face to Face</u> The Welfare Reform Extension Face to Face allocation is 100% funded by DfC and does not require financial contribution from Council. The funded organisations and their allocation are determined by DfC. DfC has allocated £268,704.81 for 2026/27. Table 2 provides a breakdown of the allocation. Table 2 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Organisation</th><th>Allocation</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Advice Space- Central and Citywide</td><td>£125,585.24</td></tr> <tr> <td>Advice Space (EBIAC)-East</td><td>£35,779.89</td></tr> <tr> <td>Falls Community Council (NDA)- West</td><td>£35,779.89</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ballynafeigh Community Development Association-South</td><td>£35,779.89</td></tr> <tr> <td>North Belfast Advice Partnership (LIA)- North</td><td>£35,779.89</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Organisation	Allocation	Advice Space- Central and Citywide	£125,585.24	Advice Space (EBIAC)-East	£35,779.89	Falls Community Council (NDA)- West	£35,779.89	Ballynafeigh Community Development Association-South	£35,779.89	North Belfast Advice Partnership (LIA)- North	£35,779.89
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4.0	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no resource implications of the activity outlined in this report.												
5.0	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> Any reduction in the available budget has the potential to impact on service delivery which may have equality, good relations or rural needs implications for Belfast City Council.												
6.0	Appendices												
6.1	Appendix 1 – Generalist Advice Funding Allocation 2026/27												