



Subject:	Request for Funding
Date:	20 th March 2026
Reporting Officer:	Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance
Contact Officer:	Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance

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 or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To ask the committee to consider a number of requests for funding that have been received.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The council has received 8 requests for funding, and the Committee is asked to consider the recommendations below for each request:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Glentoran Under 16-Girls travel to USA Cup £x – No Current funding stream so therefore eligible under this fund 2) Clarawood Tenants Hall Renovation £122,720 – Not Eligible as falls under separate funding stream 3) Whiterock Children’s Centre – additional £50k – Eligible under this fund 4) Glór na Móna - £200k for Croí na Carraige – Not Eligible as falls under separate funding stream 5) Mid Falls Alleyway Regeneration – £70k - Not Eligible as falls under separate funding stream 6) Request from MLA re an individual in relation to representing Team Ireland in international Ice Hockey tournament – Not Eligible as deemed a request from an individual and falls under separate funding stream 7) Ligoniel Rec Football Club cost of travel - £2k - No Current funding stream so therefore eligible under this fund 8) An Droichead short-term stabilising support £100k - £150k – No Current funding stream so therefore eligible under this fund
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Chief Executive/Director of Finance has received a number of requests for funding.
3.2	Members are reminded that there is no established budget for these requests however, an amount of £315,600 is available in the Discretionary Funding Reserve for this year. The total of the requests is in the region of £550k to £600k.
3.3	<p>Members are reminded that the relevant eligibility criteria for the fund is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the application for the discretionary payment links to one or more of the council’s corporate priorities. 2. That there is direct benefit to be obtained to the council or its district or inhabitants.

3. That the activity or initiative in respect of assistance being sought is being promoted by a person or organisation living or operating or otherwise having a direct connection with the City.
4. That the request for a discretionary payment does not relate to an event or initiative which falls within a funding stream established through the remit and statutory power of any other committee of the council (in which case it should be so referred).
5. That the request relates to a specific event, activity or initiative as distinct from a request for a contribution to general funds or organisational running costs.
6. That the benefit to be obtained will be commensurate with the payment to be made.

3.4 **Glentoran Under-16s girls' team** are traveling to the USA Cup in Minesota, with the tournament taking place 14th to 18th July. This is one of the most prestigious youth competitions in the world, attracting elite teams from across the globe. It is unsure at this stage of the financial ask. Further details of the request are included within Appendix 1

3.5 As there is no current funding steam to deal with this request it is eligible to be considered under the Discretionary Fund, however, members will also be aware that £100k was allocated a part of the rates setting process for a new funding stream that would consider this type of request. Due to the timing of this event this could be deferred and referred to that fund as the trip is in the 2026/27 financial year.

3.6 **Clarawood Residents Association** are seeking funding of £122,720 to fully refurbish and relaunch Clarawood Tenants Hall as a sustainable, multi-purpose community hub, serving over 500 residents in the Clarawood area. Further details of the request are included within Appendix 2.

3.7 Members may be aware that within the East Area Working Group minutes on the agenda today is a request to provide £40k of LIF funding to this project. On that basis, this project falls within the remit of another funding stream established by the council and should be so referred.

3.8 Members may recall at is meeting of 21st February 2025, the committee agree to provide Discretionary Funding of £500k to **Whiterock Child and Family Centre** for towards the cost of establishing a modern, purpose-built facility. They are now seeking and additional £50k due to the increase in construction costs. Further details of the request are included in Appendix 3. As this refers to a scheme previously approved under this fund, then members are asked to consider the provision of additional funding.

3.9	<p>Glór na Móna are seeking funding of £200k towards the cost of a new Irish Medium youth and community facility, Croí na Carrige. Further details of the request are included in Appendix 4. This project is currently in receipt of £500k under the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund. On that basis, this project falls within the remit of another funding stream established by the council and should be so referred.</p>
3.10	<p>St James's Forum are seeking funding of £70k to undertake a major initiative of alley regeneration to transform them into safe and clead additional space throughout the Mid Falls area in collaboration with SEM Children and New Coming families. Further details of the request are included within Appendix 5. Members will be aware the council has been awarded \$1m for alleyway transformation from Bloomberg Philanthropies. On that basis, this project falls within the remit of another funding stream established by the council and should be so referred.</p>
3.11	<p>A request for funding has been received from the Office of Timothy Gaston MLA seeking support for an individual who is representing Team Ireland in and International Ice Hocket Tournament in Nova Scotia on 26th to 31st March 2026. The original request was sent on 9th January, but to an email address that was no longer valid and was only received on 20th February. Further details of the request are included in Appendix 6.</p>
3.12	<p>The request indicates that the request falls outside of the eligibility [period for funding under the relevant Council grant scheme. On that basis, this project falls within the remit of another funding stream established by the council and should be so referred. Further, within the guidance for discretionary funding, it also indicates that we will not fund requests from individuals, so this request would not be eligible.</p>
3.13	<p>Ligoniel Rec Football Club are travelling to Barcelona on 7th April to take part in the Tarragona Cup 2026 alongside other teams from Ireland, UK and the rest of Europe and are seeking funding of £2k to assist with transport costs to and from Dublin Airport. Further details of the request are included within Appendix 7.</p>
3.14	<p>As there is no current funding steam to deal with this request it is eligible to be considered under the Discretionary Fund, however, members will also be aware that £100k was allocated a part of the rates setting process for a new funding stream that would consider this type of request. However, due to the timing of this event it would be more appropriate to deal with the request under the discretionary fund.</p>

3.15	<p>An Droichead has requested funding of £100k to £150k is seeking short-term stabilising support of approximately £100,000–£150,000 to bridge a temporary cashflow gap and allow the organisation to implement its financial recovery plan. This request represents a short-term stabilising intervention rather than ongoing support. Further details of the request are included within Appendix 8a and 8b. As there is no current funding steam to deal with this request it is eligible to be considered under the Discretionary Fund.</p>
3.16	<p>The Committee is asked to consider the requests and recommendations as set out above. If accepted funding would only be provided on the basis that appropriate due diligence is carried out.</p>
<p>Financial & Resource Implications</p>	
3.17	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The requests fall under the Council’s discretionary expenditure policy and would be funded from the existing reserve.</p>
<p>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</p>	
<p>None.</p>	
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
<p>Appendix 1 – Glentoran Womens U16s Appendix 2 – Clarawood Tenants Hall Appendix 3 – Whiterock Childrens Centre Appendix 4 – Glór na Móna Appendix 5 – Mid Falls Alleyway Regeneration Appendix 6 – Ice Hockey Tournament Appendix 7 – Ligoniel Rec Appendix 8a and 8b – An Droichead</p>	