



Subject:	Summer Scheme Grants 2027/28
Date:	8 September 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
Yes ☒ No ☐

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues				
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek members approval to deliver funding for summer schemes in 27/28 through two small grants; • Summer Scheme grant • Summer Scheme grant for Children with Additional Needs Members are asked to approve the main elements of both programmes and note the current available detail on what has been supported through the grant programmes. Members are also asked to advise if there is any additional information relating to these grants that they would like officers to gather and report on.				
2.0	Recommendation				
2.1	Members are asked to • Note the content of the report. • Agree for officers to progress the two Summer Scheme Grants as outlined in the report. • Advise if there is any additional information relating to these grants that they would like officers to gather and report on.				
3.0	Main Report				
3.1	Background information Members will be aware that Council has supported the provision of summer schemes for many years via our Summer Scheme Grant. In 2023 the provision was expanded to include a new Summer Scheme grant dedicated to supporting children and young people with disabilities and or/additional needs.				
3.2	Both these grants are advertised as part of the Council's small grants programme which includes grants from a range of different services. These grants are advertised on an annual basis in October each year and are administered by the Central Grants Unit.				
3.3	<u>Summer Scheme Small Grant</u> For a number of years the annual budget for the Summer Scheme Grant has been £170,000. In 26/27, an in year uplift to this budget was provided and grants to the value of £214,418 89 were provided to 89 organisations. A summary of the proposed approach is outlined in the table below. <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Programme aim</td><td>To support the delivery of summer scheme activity in the Belfast City Council area by community and voluntary organisations who operate in Belfast.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Eligibility and assessment criteria</td><td>Eligible projects must deliver activity for children and young people between 5-14 years of age during July and August in the Belfast City Council area.</td></tr> </table>	Programme aim	To support the delivery of summer scheme activity in the Belfast City Council area by community and voluntary organisations who operate in Belfast.	Eligibility and assessment criteria	Eligible projects must deliver activity for children and young people between 5-14 years of age during July and August in the Belfast City Council area.
Programme aim	To support the delivery of summer scheme activity in the Belfast City Council area by community and voluntary organisations who operate in Belfast.				
Eligibility and assessment criteria	Eligible projects must deliver activity for children and young people between 5-14 years of age during July and August in the Belfast City Council area.				

3.4		Applications will be assessed for demonstration of need, experience in delivery, quality, impact and value for money. Awards will be made based on the outcome of the assessment process. If there is not enough available budget to support all projects a threshold for awarding projects will be set and a banded system which awards the highest scoring projects with the highest value of funding will be used.
	Timeline	Grants will open for applications in October 26 and successful applicants will be notified before April 27.
	Maximum award	Up to £2,500 for each individual project. Organisations can only make one application. The total available budget is £170,000. Payments are made on an 80/20 basis in line with the Council's small grants approach. Awards will be approved through delegated authority by the Operational Director of Neighbourhood Services in line with the Council's small grants approach. A summary of funded projects will be brought to committee for noting in April 27.
	<u>Summer Scheme Small Grant for children and young people with disabilities and or/additional needs.</u> In 26/27 19 organisations received support to a total value of £135,431. A summary of the proposed approach is outlined in the table below.	
	Programme aim	To support the delivery of summer scheme activity in the Belfast City Council area by local community, voluntary organisations and Special Educational Need schools who operate in Belfast.
	Eligibility and assessment criteria	Eligible projects must deliver activity for children and young people between 5-17 years of age with disabilities and/or additional needs who have restricted/limited access to any other summer scheme programmes or services during July and August due to support needs. Activity must be delivered for participants in the Belfast City Council area. Applications will be assessed for demonstration of need, experience in delivery, quality, impact and value for money. Awards will be made based on the outcome of the assessment process. If there is not enough available budget to support all projects a threshold for awarding projects will be set and a banded system which awards the highest scoring projects with the highest value of funding will be used.
	Timeline	Grants will open for applications in October 26 and successful applicants will be notified before April 27.

	Maximum award Up to £10,000 for each individual project. Organisations can only make one application. The total available budget is £120,000. Payments are made on an 80/20 basis in line with the Council's small grants approach. Awards will be approved through delegated authority by the Operational Director of Neighbourhood Services in line with the Council's small grants approach. A summary of funded projects will be brought to committee for noting in April 27.
3.5	Applicants can apply for both funds but must demonstrate that they are delivering different programmes through each application.
3.6	<u>Review of Summer provision</u> At previous meetings members requested that an evaluation report on the summer scheme grants be provided. A full analysis of the provision, service delivery and costs will be provided to members following evaluation of both the Summer Scheme and Summer Scheme Additional Needs Grants. The review will also include information about the activity and costs associated with the Council's Community and Play Service summer provision. Funded organisations have until mid October to complete and return evaluation information so officers cannot provide full detail at the time of writing. However, Appendix 1 contains an overview of key information on 24/25 and 25/26 delivery. Elected members agreed at August committee to hold a Community Services workshop on 26th October and a detailed update on Summer provision will be provided at that workshop.
3.7	Members are asked to advise if there is any additional information relating to these grants that they would like officers to gather and report on.
4.0	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
4.1	The available budgets for these programmes for 27/28 are; Summer Scheme small grants - £170,000 Summer Scheme Small Grant for children and young people with disabilities and or/additional needs - £120,000
5.0	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment</u>
5.1	The activity outlined in this report will have a positive impact on equality, good relations and rural needs.
6.0	<u>Appendices - Documents Attached or None</u>
6.1	Appendix 1 - Overview of 26/27 and 25/26 Summer Scheme delivery