



<b>Subject:</b>	Social Supermarket Fund 26/28
<b>Date:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jim Girvan - Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Nicola Lane - Neighbourhood Services Manager Margaret Higgins - Lead Officer Community Provision

<b>Is this report restricted?</b>		Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b>					
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Information relating to any individual</li><li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li><li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li><li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li><li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li><li>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</li><li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li></ol>					
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>					
After Committee Decision				<input type="checkbox"/>	
After Council Decision				<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sometime in the future				<input type="checkbox"/>	
Never				<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>Is this report eligible for call in?</b>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
---	-----	-------------------------------------	----	--------------------------

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To advise members that the assessment of applications received through the Social Supermarket Fund 26/28 has now concluded and that a full report on the outcome will be brought to February SP&R for consideration and agreement on allocation of funds.

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	It is recommended that Committee note the contents of the report.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>In response to recommendations in the Welfare Reform Mitigations report, the Department for Communities (DfC) has operated a Social Supermarket Pilot programme since October 2017. Following positive evaluation of the Programme, funding has been made available through the CSP since 20/21 to all council areas.</p>
3.2	<p>The aim of a social supermarket is to offer a sustainable response to food insecurity by seeking to help address the root causes of poverty rather than simply provide food. This is achieved by providing, in addition to food support, a referral network for wraparound support.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that funding for Social Supermarkets is primarily drawn from the DfC Community Support Programme (CSP) Letter of Offer, through a 100% DfC resourced funding stream for this work. Council has not yet received a Letter of Offer for 26/27, and Council does not have any budget to support activity that is 100% funded through the CSP.</p> <p>In recent years, CSP Letters of Offer have not been received until July. Given that applications to the Social Supermarket Fund 26/28 will support activity from 01 April 2026 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2028, the outcome of the assessments is being presented to SP&amp;R so that they can consider funding options in the absence of a DfC LoO.</p>
4.1	<p><u><b>Financial and Resource Implications</b></u></p> <p>The budget received from DfC in 25/26 was £777,811 which has been used to support 19 projects. In November 2025, Council made an additional allocation of £100,000 to support social supermarkets.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	
5.1	<p><u><b>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment</b></u></p> <p>The 26/28 Social Supermarket Fund open call is being screened for Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs Implications</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached or None</b>
	None