



**Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon**
Borough Council

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY

APPLICANT GUIDANCE MANUAL

DECEMBER 2016

**FOR LARGE CAPITAL PROJECT FUND
2017/18 APPLICATIONS ONLY**

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for organisations applying for financial assistance from Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council for Capital Projects through the Large Capital Project Fund 2017/18.

The purpose of the Large Capital Project Fund is to enable high quality capital projects that could bring significant benefit to the Borough to be delivered where a relatively small percentage of the overall funding is required.

It is inevitable that a guidance manual cannot cover every single aspect of funding therefore potential applicants are encouraged to discuss individual applications with a relevant Council officer if they are uncertain about their eligibility.

The guidance document sets out details of the funding programme and describes the process for making applications and details of how they will be assessed. **Groups who read this manual are likely to be in a better position to make a good application than those who do not.**

Please note: Groups planning to submit an application to SOAR's Basic Services Measure cannot apply to the Large Capital Project Fund for match-funding. Separate arrangements are in place for SOAR applicants.

The first point of contact for queries is Glen Dickson on (028) 3831 2420 or by email glen.dickson@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk .

2. What Financial Assistance Does Council Offer for Capital Projects?

- 2.1. Council offers two funding programmes for Capital Projects. There has already been a call for applications to the Small Scale Capital Projects Fund 2017/18 and it is now closed.

The key details of the Large Capital Project Fund 2017/18 are as follows:

Programme	2. Capital Projects Grant
Sub-Programme	b. Large Capital Project Fund
Grant Range	£2,501-£100,000
Maximum Grant Rate	Up to 25%
Project Delivery Period	Project delivery should commence between 1.4.17 and 31.3.18
Call Period	The call for applications will open on 5 th December 2016. There is no set closing date. The call will close for applications once the budget is fully committed.

- 2.2. Applications must demonstrate how their project meets **at least one** of the following Programme Aims:
- Addressing disadvantage

- Promoting tolerance and social inclusion
 - Contributing to the reduction of poverty at local level
 - Improving health and well being
- 2.3. Applications must also demonstrate how their project meets **at least three** of the following Programme Objectives:
- Build capacity and skills
 - Increase opportunities for volunteering
 - Improve facilities, access or services
 - Increase the utilisation of a facility or service
 - Attract a new or larger participant group
 - Contribute to community, sport or arts development
 - Reduce the running costs for a service or facility (eg improve energy efficiency of a venue)
 - Contribute to the environmental improvement of an area
- 2.4. A successful application to the Large Capital Project Fund will count towards a group's maximum of two successful applications to the Financial Assistance Programme allowed per financial year.
- 2.5. Groups who have successfully applied to '2a Small Scale Capital Projects Fund' are ineligible to apply to the Large Capital Project Fund unless their application was for technical assistance.

3. Who Can Apply for Financial Assistance?

- 3.1. Applications will only be accepted from formally constituted, community managed, and autonomous organisations. Such organisations should be not-for-personal profit, with wider community interests at heart, working at a local community level. The organisation's governing document must clearly state that:
1. Membership is inclusive of the identified community and open to its full range of opinion;
 2. Each year the organisation holds an Annual General Meeting (AGM) at which each member has an equal vote;
 3. The organisation has a management committee or board of directors which is appointed at the AGM using a clear democratic process for the selection of members i.e. election;
 4. The committee/board presents the report for the year at the AGM; and
 5. An annual statement of accounts is presented at the AGM

It is important that the groups funded are inclusive of their identified community and open to its full range of opinion i.e. do not exclude any part of that community. Each member must have equal status and be entitled to vote at the AGM.

Decisions about the organisation and its activity must only be made by members and no other organisation can have the ability to impose a decision on the group i.e. they must be fully autonomous organisations. Groups must be managed by their community which means that the management committee/board has to come from the membership and be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The management committee or board must be accountable to their membership for

the work done and money spent during the year. The committee must present a report and financial accounts which are formally adopted by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

Values inherent to community development include social justice, self-determination, working and learning together, sustainable communities, participation and reflective practice. These values are aligned to Council's statutory duties in tackling inequality and promoting good relations and the groups that Council fund must in no way contribute to inequality or poor relations.

3.2. Council will not consider applications from:

- Organisations that
 - discriminate against any particular racial group, political grouping or religious body;
 - are in poor financial health or cannot show effective financial control;
 - are not prepared to share learning from their project with Council and other relevant groups.
- Individuals (only constituted groups/organisations can apply for funding)
- Commercial organisations (except social enterprise).
- Statutory organisations (except through a partnership arrangement with Council where key priority outcomes are delivered)

If you are a branch of a larger organisation, please see the guidance in Appendix 9.2 about how you may apply.

3.3. Basic Eligibility Criteria

The overarching principle to be applied to all financial assistance should be that of meeting local needs which have been identified and prioritised by Council or by others but acknowledged by Council. The basic eligibility criteria are that projects must:

- Have a clearly identified need.
- Be able to deliver outcomes which meet this need.
- Fit with a clear corporate objective or priority of Council.
- Be delivered by a credible organisation with the capacity to deliver the project as stated.
- Meet the specific programme aims and objectives

An application that falls outside these eligibility criteria will not be considered further.

3.4. Council will not consider applications for projects which:

- have no significant benefit to the Council area;
- provide no potential benefit to the public, either in the short or long term;
- could be carried out on a commercial basis;
- have already taken place or are already under way at the time of the assessment;
- duplicate what already exists;
- are fundraising events or activities;

- are of a party political nature;
- promote a particular religion; or
- are against Council policy.

4. What Can We Apply For?

- 4.1. This programme is to fund Capital Works projects only, where the project value is greater than £10,000.

It is **not** for funding:

- capital works projects valued at £10,000 or below
- equipment
- technical assistance up to and including design stage

(these projects were eligible for funding under the Small Scale Capital Projects Fund which is now closed.)

- 4.2. Eligible costs

- New facilities (eg community venues, pitches)
- Professional & legal fees associated with capital spend on the planned project
- Land purchase
- Renovation works (e.g. extension, refurbishment, modernisation, conversion, flooring, ground improvement works, lighting, electrical rewiring, plumbing and heating works) required for the delivery of the project
- Non recoverable VAT
- Purchase of fixtures related to the project (see FAQs 9.6 for a definition)
- Renovations or provision to promote enhanced Child Protection and/or Disability Access to enable greater participation in community life
- Capital expenditure to facilitate the provision of mobile services in rural areas
- Measures to reduce maintenance costs (e.g. bore well)

- 4.3. Ineligible Costs (General)

- Any costs or projects which are clearly another statutory agency's responsibility. In certain exceptional cases, where need can be clearly identified and there are compelling reasons why the statutory body concerned cannot fund an important project, Council may take a more flexible approach and fund in partnership with other statutory bodies.
- Projects outside the Council area
- Costs incurred prior to a funding offer from Council (retrospective funding).
- Costs which are not clearly linked to the project.
- Costs that are poor value for money, or that are purchased from outside of Council procurement guidelines.
- Costs that are already covered by other funding or income sources.
- Costs that can be recovered from elsewhere, e.g. VAT.
- Payments made to any members of the applicant group or organisation.

- 4.4. Ineligible Costs (Specific)

- Ongoing maintenance costs (eg painting) where it is a standalone project

- Equipment and fittings (see FAQs 9.6 for a definition)
- Murals
- Sculptures
- Commemorative projects eg gardens, gates, memorials
- Flag poles and flags
- Entrance features to housing estates

4.5. Multiple applications are not eligible for projects relating to the same venue even if submitted by different groups. Applications for projects on the same land may be considered where separate and distinct in nature.

5. Essential Documentation Required

5.1. Applications can be submitted at any stage while the call is open, however a submitted application will not be assessed until all the following is provided:

- a. **Evidence of security of tenure** which must be one of the following:
 - i. Proof of ownership of the property
 - ii. A lease of at least 10 years duration remaining with written permission from the landlord for the project to proceed
 - iii. Where the proposed project is to take place on Council property, the only requirement is that written permission from Council for the project must be provided.

- b. **Evidence of potential project costs** (for all applications) as follows:

For capital works, **one** of the following:

- i. copy of three quotations for the work being applied for (each quotation must compare like with like ie same specification) or
- ii. one cost estimate if produced by a Quantity Surveyor

For land purchase, **one** of the following:

- i. a valuation carried out by a valuer appointed by the Funding Body who are match-funding your project
- ii. if the above does not exist, Council will require a valuation to be carried out by the Council's independent valuer – however, this will only happen if an offer of funding is to be made. In this case the value indicated by the Council's independent valuer will be used when calculating any final grant award.

- c. **Evidence in writing that all required statutory approvals are in place** i.e. planning permission and building control approval., **or** evidence in writing from the statutory agency that statutory approvals are not required for the works being proposed in the application.

- d. **Evidence that the funding shortfall is in place** (ie the finance is secured to pay the balance of project costs). This may take the form of a grant from another funder, a loan, a donation etc. Please note the following:

- i. groups must be able to demonstrate and evidence a cash commitment from their own funds at a minimum rate of 5% of total project costs up to a value of £10,000
- ii. contribution in kind will only be considered in the form of the donation by a third party of land or buildings. In this case the value will have to be independently evaluated as described above for land purchase

- 5.2. In addition, the following documentation must be provided by groups applying for a grant of £25,000 or more:
- A strategic plan or a sports development plan
 - A three-year business plan

6. Completing and Submitting the Application Form

- 6.1. Guidance on how to complete specific questions is included at Appendix 9.7. **It is highly recommended that you take the time to read the guidance offered.**
- 6.2. The following are the important matters in relation to submitting your application:
- All applications **must** be submitted online.
 - There is no deadline for receipt of applications. The call will remain open until the budget is committed. Once that point is reached the call will close to new applications and any applications in the system.

7. Assessment Process

- 7.1. The assessment process will produce one of three outcomes:
- An application may be rejected as it fails to meet the criteria, has failed to reach the pass score, or the programme budget has been committed. In such cases officers will complete a tick box form setting out the reasons for the rejection and the group will receive a letter detailing reasons for rejection.
 - If it is clear there was a lack of clarity on the information requested in the Application Form or Guidance Manual, a decision will be made to review the project after more information is obtained. In this case a letter will go to the group requesting additional information and setting a time limit for this process. Failure to meet the time limit would result in an automatic rejection. Assuming the information is returned within the time limit the project will be reassessed using the standard process or, in certain circumstances simply checked by an officer to make sure that any shortfalls have been addressed. By this stage the applicant would be offered a grant (as below) or rejected.
 - Offer of assistance – a successful application would be given an offer of assistance in writing setting out the amount of funding, the targets and outcomes associated with this, monitoring and evaluation requirements and any other conditions to be applied. Acceptance of this would trigger the need for proof of other key documentation prior to release of grant.
- 7.2. Assessment will be carried out by officers using a standard assessment process. The assessment will include:
- A basic eligibility check (see 3.3 and 3.4)
 - A programme eligibility check ie.:
 - Groups must be community based/not for personal profit (see 3.1 and 3.2)
 - Projects must be located in Council area

- Projects must contribute to the requisite number of programme aims and objectives (see 2.2 and 2.3)

7.3. Applications which pass the eligibility checks will be scored against the assessment criteria:

Criteria	Score Range
Level of need demonstrated	0-5
Ability of group to deliver	0-5
Value for money (cost per significant beneficiary impact)	0-5
Fit with Council objectives and strategies	0-10
Potential long term impact	0-5
Specific programme aims and objectives	0-30

7.4. Applications scoring 70%+ will be recommended an award equivalent to a maximum of 25% of the total eligible project costs.

7.5. Where an existing arrangement exists to contribute to the costs of works undertaken by groups on Council property, the maximum amount available from the Large Capital Project Fund will be reduced by the amount available through that existing arrangement.

7.6. Applications scoring below 70% will be deemed unsuccessful and a grant award will not be recommended.

7.7. Grant recommendations will be considered and ratified by elected members through the Council Leisure and Community Services Committee.

7.8. Review Process

Following the decision to reject an application, the applicant organisation will be informed in writing stating the reasons for the decision. The applicant organisation may request a review of the decision. The formal Review will provide an independent process through which the applicant organisation will have the opportunity to demonstrate in writing to the Review Panel that either:

Option 1 - the decision was wrong because the Council failed to take into account the information contained within the written application or took into account information that was not contained within the written application;

and/or

Option 2 - there was a failure in adherence to procedures and guidance issued with the call for applications or systems that materially affected or could have materially affected the decision.

or

Option 3 - that officers involved in the assessment process have had a clear Conflict of Interest and have failed to declare this in the appropriate manner.

Appeals on any other grounds will not be considered. It should also be noted that no additional supporting documentation will be permitted at this stage.

Requests for a review must be made in writing by the group **within 28 days** of the date of the letter notifying you of the outcome of your application for financial assistance.

7.9. Groups being offered a grant will have to agree to Council's Terms and Conditions of Grant Award. These are numerous but include an undertaking that:

- All works will be carried out and supervised by suitably qualified professionals ie must be members of respective professional bodies
- Council's procurement processes will be followed when delivering the project
- The award will be appropriately acknowledged (see below)

Failure to adhere to the Terms and Conditions of an award will result in the Letter of Offer being withdrawn.

7.10. A period of 12 months from the date of their Letter of Offer must elapse before a group can submit an application for another project. Unsuccessful applicants can re-apply immediately.

8. Acknowledging a Grant Award

8.1. If your organisation is successful in securing financial assistance from Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, it is mandatory to acknowledge this support by including the council logo on all promotional material (both print and non-print) and on any plaques erected. The logo in its various forms and logo usage guidelines are available upon request from:

Armagh Office:

Caitriona Rafferty Tel: 028 3752 9698

Email: caitriona.rafferty@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

Banbridge Office:

Sharon Harrison Tel: 028 4066 0619

Email: sharon.harrison@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

Craigavon Office:

Hugh Carey Tel: 028 3831 2443

Email: hugh.carey@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

8.2. If running an event (eg official opening) you must invite the Lord Mayor to attend. Occasionally you may be asked to attend a photo call/launch event.

8.3. Failure to acknowledge funding in this way may result in your organisation's award being withdrawn, which in turn may affect future applications.

9. Appendices

9.1 Large Capital Projects Fund Programme Eligibility and Assessment Criteria

Grant Programme: 2b – Large Capital Projects Fund		
Summary	For large capital projects where a relatively small amount of match funding from Council is required. Projects should not commence before 1 st April 2017.	
Award	£2,501-£100,000 (max rate 25%)	
Programme Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups must be community based/not for personal profit • Projects must be located in Council area • Projects must contribute to the requisite number of programme aims and objectives 	
Programme Aims	Your project should contribute to at least one of the following aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing disadvantage • Promoting tolerance and social inclusion • Contributing to the reduction of poverty at local level • Improving health and well being 	
Programme Objectives	Your project should deliver at least three of the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build capacity and skills • Increase opportunities for volunteering • Improve facilities, access or services • Increase the utilisation of a facility or service • Attract a new or larger participant group • Contribute to community, sport or arts development • Reduce the running costs for a service or facility (eg improve energy efficiency of a venue) • Contribute to the environmental improvement of an area 	
How will applications be assessed?		
Programme Eligibility (see also Basic Eligibility Criteria, 3.3)	Group is community based/not for personal profit	Y/N
	Project located in Council area	Y/N
	Project contributes to the requisite number of programme aims and objectives	Y/N
Assessment Criteria	Level of need demonstrated	0-5
	Ability of group to deliver	0-5
	Value for money (cost per significant beneficiary impact)	0-5
	Fit with Council objectives and strategies	0-10
	Potential long term impact	0-5
	Specific programme aims and objectives	0-30

9.2 Guidance for Branches of Larger Organisations

We expect groups who wish to apply for financial assistance to have a constitution in their own name. However, we recognise this may prove challenging for local branches of regional or national organisations.

If a branch of a larger organisation does not have a constitution (or a set of rules/bye-laws) in the name of the branch, then the branch has one of two options:

Option 1:

If the branch:

- i. has its own management committee,
- ii. has a UK bank or building society account in the name of the branch and,
- iii. produce their own annual accounts

then the group can apply in their own name providing they get a letter of undertaking from the parent body (see required format below). The letter of undertaking states that ultimate legal and accounting responsibility for the grant will lie with the parent body.

Option 2:

Where Option 1 is not possible, then the group should get the parent body to apply on their behalf.

Letter of Undertaking

The letter of undertaking from the parent body must take the following form:

To: The Financial Assistance Programme Manager.

I confirm that *[write name of organisation applying]* is a branch of *[write name of bigger organisation]* and I am authorised to sign this letter on its behalf.

My organisation supports the application from this branch and I understand that ultimate legal and accounting responsibility for the grant will lie with us as the parent organisation.

I confirm that the answers in the application form submitted by the branch are true and accurate and that both the parent organisation and the branch will comply with the Council's terms and conditions of grant.

Signed:

Date:

Name:

Job title:

9.3 Council Priorities

Council's Corporate Plan

Any financial assistance provided by Council must further the delivery of Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2017 and be consistent with its contents. This document sets out a comprehensive vision, mission and values for the area and for Council. Applicants should consider this document and should be prepared to explain how their application can help further Council's objectives:

1. **Place** - increasing prosperity through developing the economy, employment, connectivity and environment
2. **People** - improving everyone's quality of life, opportunity, safety and wellbeing
3. **Position** - giving the leadership to tackle the issues that matter and influencing decision makers at all levels

This will be undertaken through a range of priorities, of which the following are perhaps most relevant in this case:

Economy

- Increase the tourism, hospitality and entertainment economy
- Maximise external funding opportunities

Planning and Regeneration

- Progress existing regeneration plans

Environment

- Promote and sensitively regenerate the architectural heritage

Well Being

- Promote well-being and reduce health inequalities
- Support people to be safe, healthy and productive
- Encourage active citizenship and volunteering
- Facilitate healthy lifestyle choices
- Encourage recreational use of shared open spaces

Community

- Create welcoming communities and neighbourhoods
- Develop community planning capacity and involvement in local decision making
- Celebrate diversity, promote equality and good relations to build a peaceful shared society
- Increase the range of activities for young and old alike

Culture

- Promote existing and develop new culture and arts programmes and facilities
- Host major events to showcase the cultural significance of the area locally and abroad.

Quality

- Consult with users of all Council services to develop and improve service delivery
- Develop quality standards for all services

Leadership

- Champion key local issues
- Influence regionally on behalf of the area
- Develop the community plan for the area
- Promote civic pride in the Council and the community
- Create productive partnerships for collaborative advantage

Transformation

- Use evidence to inform policy development
- Enable online citizen engagement and business/service transactions
- Develop new effective service models
- Promote a learning culture to drive innovation

Governance

- Provide public accountability and confidence,

Communication

- Keep citizens, elected members, staff and external parties well informed
- Optimise information technology to support planning, 'joined up' service delivery, decision making and performance reporting

Performance

- Maximise the assets of the region to increase its performance
- Deliver excellent services

9.4 Supporting Documents Checklist

The following documents should be supplied at the application stage. They can be supplied in one of the following two ways:

- a) By uploading directly as part of the submission of your application form. This is done by clicking the 'Upload' button on the Documents page of the application website
- b) Alternatively you may provide hard copies of the required documents by posting to or handing in at Craigavon Civic and Conference Centre, Lakeview Road, Craigavon, Co. Armagh, BT64 1AL

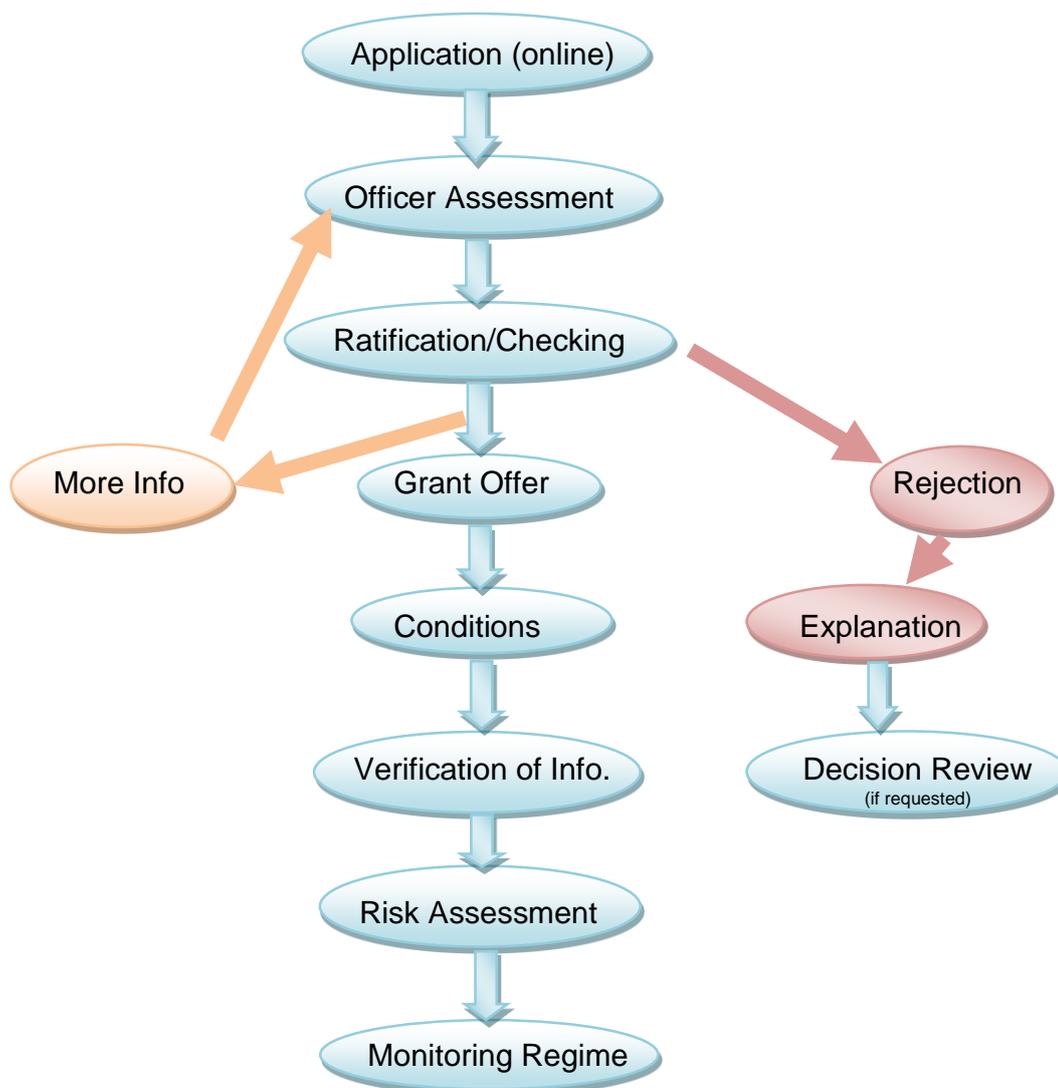
Essential Policies and Documents

As stated elsewhere in this Manual, you can apply at any stage however your application will not be assessed until all the essential documentation is provided. The following checklist will help you to determine what you need to submit.

<u>Documentation</u>	√
<u>State of Readiness</u>	
Evidence of security of tenure	
Evidence of potential project costs	
Evidence in writing that all statutory approvals are in place or are not required	
Evidence that all match-funding is in place	
<u>Governance</u>	
Most recent annual accounts	
Constitution (if not previously provided to ACBCBC)	
<u>Additional Documents</u> (for projects requesting more than £25,000)	
Strategic Plan or Sports Development Plan	
Business Plan (3 years)	

9.5 Application Process Diagram

Generic Application and Assessment Process



9.6 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- i. **Q: We are a branch of a larger organisation – can we apply?**
A: See the specific guidance in 9.2.
- ii. **Q: We will struggle to complete an application online – can we get any help?**

A: Council will offer support to groups to use the online system. Groups looking support should contact Council using the details on page 2 of this Guidance Manual. Support will also be available from Network Support Organisations operating in the Borough. When seeking support groups must bear in mind the following:

- It is essential to request support at an early stage
- To make the most of everyone's time and get the most out of the support being offered, groups should attend the support sessions with the answers to the questions described in Section 5 of this Guidance Manual to hand.

iii. **Q: Can a church apply for funding?**

A: Council can accept applications from churches or other faith organisations as long as the project being applied for does not include the promotion of faith or religion.

iv. **Q: What is the difference between fixtures, fittings and equipment?**

A: Fixtures are items that are fixed to the structure of the building and tend not to be easily removeable. Examples include: electric sockets; light fixtures; central-heating boilers and radiators; plumbing installations; kitchen units.

Fittings and equipment are items that could be relatively easily removed from the premises. Examples include: Carpets, blinds, curtains and curtain rails; ovens; refrigerators; it and av equipment.

If you are not sure, please contact us for guidance.

9.7 Completing the Application Form

This section offers help regarding the type of information we are looking for when answering specific questions. It is designed to help you - so reading it and referring to it when completing the application form is likely to improve your chances of getting funding.

In general, please note the following:

- You should answer each question as fully as possible and do not be afraid to repeat part of an answer to another question if it is relevant to the question you are working on. Officers will not be able to go looking for the answers to questions in other parts of the application.
- You must also assume the person assessing your application knows nothing about your project.

Section 1 – Organisational Details

Please ensure the accuracy of the contact details for the Contact Person as this will be the only person we will contact regarding your application. If your Contact Person changes during the application process or you know the Contact Person will not be contactable during that period, you must provide us with an alternative Contact Person. In the event we need to seek clarification on your application but cannot make contact with the Contact Person, your application assessment will be delayed.

The organisation name on the application form **must** be exactly the same as the

name on the constitution you will provide (see exceptions for branches in 9.2).

1.3 Structure

When you click on this you will be offered a choice of 4 options. Most organisations applying will be Unincorporated Associations but if you are not sure, select 'Other' and then describe what type of organisation you would call yourself.

Section 2 – Funding Application Detail

2.2 Brief Description of the project or activity for which funding is being sought.

This box should provide sufficient detail to enable Council Officers to understand what your project is about and what you will do. It should specifically note how the project will address the need identified in Question 2.5. You should provide as much specific detail as possible. including the type of project (eg Core Costs, Community Festival, Training Course).

How many people will benefit directly from your project?

Please tell us how many people will use the facility or project once the work is complete. This figure should represent the number of different people over the course of a year. For example if the same 30 people use your facility weekly for 40 weeks a year, the number of beneficiaries is 30 (rather than 1200).

How many people will benefit indirectly from your project?

This question is asking about the other people who benefit indirectly as a result of those using your facility. If the 30 people above are young people who frequently engage in anti-social behaviour, 50 local residents might benefit as a result of reduced anti-social behaviour in the community. Not all projects may have indirect beneficiaries.

Where will your project be delivered?

Please tell us the name of the venue or site and address (including postcode) where you will deliver your project.

How have you calculated the figures for beneficiaries?

Please explain here how the figures given in the previous two questions come from.

2.3 Detail all the costs of your project and how much funding you are applying to us for.

- a) Indicate the amount of funding you require from this programme (this must not exceed the maximum and should be the minimum amount necessary to make your project/activity happen). It should be noted that Council may choose to fund less than you request.
- b) Be as specific as possible and detail all costs associated with the project even if you are not asking us to fund all costs
- c) Detail each specific cost on a separate line. Rather than writing in one line 'Project costs' you must detail the costs of your project each on a separate line (eg construction costs, architect's fees, quantity surveyor's fees) giving a cost for each separate item.

d) You can add as many rows as you want

2.4 As you can only apply for 25% from Council, where will the balance of funding come from? Please provide details of source and amounts.

We need to know where you are planning to get the balance of your money from. This might be from another funder, from a loan or your own funds. Please note: We expect at least 5% of your total project costs to come from your own funds (capped at £10,000).

You should also let us know (in answer to Question 3.1) if you are applying to another funder for the same costs as you are requesting from us. **While it is not wrong to apply, it would be fraudulent to accept more than one offer of funding to cover the same costs.**

2.5 Describe the evidence of need for the proposed project and why existing provision does not address this.

We need to know how you know this project is needed. There could be two sides to the need depending on your project ie need for the specific works to be carried out (structural need), or need for the activities that will happen when the work is complete (programme need)

Evidence may include:

- Have you had a condition report produced?
- Are there published statistics which show a need?
- Have you carried out a community survey and what evidence did this produce?
- Did you run a focus group of members to find out what activities they wanted?
- Have you asked people why they are not attending your activities?
- Are you oversubscribed and is there a waiting list?

You should detail as much evidence as possible and be specific. Quote numbers where possible.

Why existing provision does not address this:

- a) Is a similar activity being offered in your community already and is oversubscribed?
- b) If there is no similar activity being offered then you must state this
- c) Council will not fund the same activity in the same areas

Example Answer: Anytown is in the top 25% Super Output Areas (SOAs) in the Proximity to Services domain of the NI Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDMs) 2010 and also has an above average population of older people according to the 2011 census. Our group carried out an audit of older people's needs in 2014 by asking 100 people aged over 55 what they saw as the biggest issues affecting them. The top issue was social isolation (85%) and one of the activities people wished to see in their community (65%) was a weekly older people's group. We then consulted with a focus group of 12 older people in relation to a specific programme and they indicated they would like a luncheon club three times a week. We have asked around and are not aware of any such service being offered locally. As our hall is in constant use during the week, we asked an architect to help us identify the best options for adding additional space to our facility. The architect recommended extending the hall to the back as this would offer us the most space without compromising car parking space.

2.6 Describe your organisation's ability/experience in delivering such a project or activity

We need to be confident your group will be able to deliver the proposed project. Please tell us if:

- a) Your group has delivered such a project before and how often
- b) What relevant training your group members have undertaken to help deliver such a project
- c) You have members on your committee or in your group who have specific skills and experience of managing and delivering projects, even if your group has not delivered such a project in the past
- d) You plan to seek advice and support from outside your organisation to help deliver the project

2.7 a) How does your project relate to Council's priorities?

Council's priorities are detailed in Appendix 9.3. You need to tell us which priorities your project contributes to and how your project helps deliver these. **It is important you do not just list the priorities** – we need to know how your project will help deliver these.

2.7 b) How does your project relate to local, regional, or national strategies?

In this question we want you to think about what other strategies your project is helping to deliver. It might be a health and wellbeing strategy being implemented by the Department of Health, or the Council's Regeneration and Development Strategy for example. Again, **it is important you do not just list the strategies** – we need to know how your project will help deliver these.

2.8 a) Which programme aim (at least one) will your project contribute to?

In answering this question you must detail:

- a) Which programme aim from the drop-down list (at least one) your project meets
- b) How your project will contribute to this aim
- c) What indicator(s) you will choose as a measure of whether you have achieved the programme aim(s)
- d) The target(s) you will set to measure whether you have achieved the indicator
- e) The methods you will use to ascertain whether you have reached your targets

Indicators: these are the differences you are seeking to make in the lives of the people who will benefit from your project (direct and/or indirect beneficiaries) and the community you serve. They are the change you bring about rather than the service you deliver. There should be a minimum of one indicator for each aim

Targets: these are the goals you will set which you will measure to work out if you are contributing to the programme aim(s).

Example Answer:

Programme Aim: *Improving health and wellbeing*

Describe how your project contributes to this Programme Aim: *By adding on an extension to our facility we will be able to offer a wide range of programmes for the older people in our community. The range of programmes will help improve their physical and mental health (much more detail is expected from applicants in the answer to this question but it gives a sense of what is required).*

Indicator(s): *Increased levels of physical activity among the over 55s*

Reduced social isolation among over 55s

Target(s): *60 over 55s attend armchair aerobics class*

50% over 55s report increased levels of physical activity

70 over 55s attend luncheon club each week

90% over 55s feel better after attending luncheon club

How will you measure achievement of target: *attendance at activities; regular questionnaires*

2.8 b) Which programme objectives (at least three) will your project contribute to?

As well as meeting Programme Aim(s) your project should also meet at least three specific Programme Objectives. You should give as much detail as possible in relation to how your project will meet the programme objectives.

See the example above of what we mean by indicators and targets.

The scoring of questions 2.8 a) and 2.8 b) have the most points available so particular care should be taken in your response to this question.

Section 3 – Any Other Information

3.1 Please provide any additional information which you feel is relevant to your application

While Council is under no obligation to use the information provided in this section, and it is unlikely to form part of the scoring of applications, you may wish to provide additional information to explain or clarify any issue raised above. This is also an opportunity to explain anything which does not fit easily into any of the boxes in Section 2 of the application form.

In particular, if you have applied to another funder for the same costs you are applying to us for, then you must detail this information in this section.

3.2 Document/Evidence Checklist

You must complete this checklist indicating which documents you can supply immediately. Not all documents may be required for your project but you should tell us which ones you have.

In response to consultation feedback, as a rule Council will seek limited documentary or other evidence at the application stage. You will only be asked to provide most information if your application is successful, unless it is required specifically for clarification or is essential for assessment. However, failure to provide this information when requested would result in your application being rejected. It is therefore in your own interests to consider whether you can provide any of the documents or evidence that Council may require at this stage. To this end you should indicate on the documents/evidence check list if the relevant items are available at present. If you cannot provide these you should check with the Council Officer to determine whether these will be required and to consider how you arrange to have such evidence should your application be successful. In some cases, for instance Constitution, Council may simply ask you to sign a declaration to say these have not changed and these documents will only be needed if there has been any declared change. Council may choose to spot check these and reserves the right to withhold grant should any declaration prove to be inaccurate or the documents are not available.

Section 4 – Declaration

This is important and you should read very carefully before you sign. Online applicants will be asked to agree the declaration on behalf of the group. Those completing the paper version of the application must have it signed by an Office-bearer and another committee member.