Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council

Community Grants Programme

Good Relations (Medium Grants)

Grant Guidance 2027-28

Call 1 - Opens: 02 November 2026

Closes: 27 November 2026, 12 noon

Please read this grant guidance alongside the general Applicant Manual (Revenue Grants)

PLEASE NOTE FOR 2027/28

THERE WILL BE
2 OPPORTUNITIES TO APPLY
TO THE
REVENUE GRANTS

Call 1: 2 November – 27 November 2026

Delivery Period: 1 April 2027 - 31 March 2028

Call 2: 1 March – 9 April 2027

Delivery Period: 1 July 2027 - 31 March 2028

Grant Programme: **Good Relations Medium Grants**		
Summary	Grants will focus primarily on annual core running costs and programme costs. Applications should demonstrate a clear Good Relations focus.	
Award	£2,001 - £10,000 (max 50% of total cost)	
Grant Programme Eligibility	Groups/projects must: • Be a community or voluntary organisation (not for personal profit) • Not have exceeded the maximum number of grant awards in this year *(see Applicant Manual for details)* • Have 90% of beneficiaries in Council area • Have a clear community development focus	
Grant Programme Objectives	Projects must contribute to achieving outcomes under one of the themes of the Executive Office's Good Relations strategy 'Together: Building a United Community': • Our children and young people • Our shared community • Our safe community • Our Cultural expression •	
How will applications be assessed?		
Grant Programme Eligibility	Community based/not for personal profit	Y/N
	90% of beneficiaries in Council area	Y/N
	Clear community development focus to group/project	Y/N
	Group has not exceeded the maximum number of grant awards in this year	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
	Council funding % of total	0-5
	Fit with Council priorities	0-15
	Specific grant programme objectives	0-15

Grant Requirements

The purpose of this grant programme is to support groups based within the Council area who are working to achieve good relations in line with the Executive Office's strategy, *Together Building a United Community* (see detail in table below).

Applications to this grant programme should be for either:

a) Annual core running costs
b) Programme costs

Applications for an event should be made to one of the events grant programmes. Applications to this grant programme for an event will be ineligible.

Together Building a United Community Strategy

Projects should contribute to outcomes under one of these themes:

Theme 1: Our Children and Young People		
Aim	**Project/s**	**Outcomes**
To continue to improve attitudes amongst young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role in building good relations	Under this theme your project should involve children/young people in activities (and where appropriate the planning of activities)	Improving attitudes of children from different backgrounds Young People engaging in bringing the community together
Theme 2: Our Shared Community		
Aim	**Project/s**	**Outcomes**
To create a community where division does not restrict the life of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone.	Projects under this theme should focus on making communities welcoming and bring people together in a positive way i.e. creating an environment that promotes community spirit and good relations.	Increased use of shared space and services Shared space accessible to all
Theme 3: Our Safe Community		
Aim	**Project/s**	**Outcomes**
To create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety	Projects delivered under this theme should address perceptions around safety in the community.	Reduce the prevalence of hate crime and intimidation A community where spaces and places are safe for all
Theme 4: Our Cultural Expression		
Aim	**Project/s**	**Outcomes**
To create a community which promotes mutual respect and understanding, is strengthened by its diversity, and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced.	Under this theme it is expected that projects will encourage participants to explore culture and traditions encouraging learning and respect.	Increased sense of community belonging Cultural diversity is celebrated

Further information on Together Building a United Community (TBUC) Strategy can be found on: https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/together-building-united-community-strategy

Applying for annual core running costs

Where a group is eligible to apply for core running costs:

- Only one application is allowed per annum
- The group must be the owner or leaseholder and responsible for utility bills to claim these costs.

Eligible Groups

- Core running costs are only available for groups based within the Council area.
- Costs for premises outside the Council area are ineligible.
- Groups must be primarily community development focused. This means their core purpose(s) must be about working for the betterment of either:
    - a geographical community (e.g. community associations, resident associations, rural development associations, forums, or network support organisations), or
    - a community of interest (e.g. Section 75 groups).
    - historical/heritage groups

Groups who run a community centre:
Groups are eligible to apply for funding under this grant if they meet the following criteria:

- Group must own or lease (minimum 10-year lease) and run a community centre; and
- Let space in that community centre to groups/businesses who employ at least 5 people.

Ineligible Groups

- Groups who are **not** eligible to apply for annual core running costs include, but are not restricted to:
    - those whose focus is arts or sports
    - groups where the statutory responsibility is with another body (e.g. youth clubs, playgroups and childcare)
    - counselling organisations, advice service providers.

Core running costs are only available for groups based in the Council area. Costs for premises outside the Council area are ineligible.

What costs can be claimed?

Groups can apply for the following costs only:

- Insurance
- Rent
- Heat and light (oil, electricity etc)
- Water rates (excluding sewage)
- Telephone/Broadband
- Cleaning materials
- Stationery
- Accountancy
- Equipment (up to £500)
- 1 x IT Licence fee (e.g. Zoom Licence) up to a maximum of £200
- Microsoft package (up to a maximum of £200

Applying for programme costs

Groups can also apply under this grant programme for a time-bound programme of activity where there is a community development focus to the project, addressing an issue or improving skills. For example, a group could apply for costs associated with delivering a multi-session IT or First Aid class or bring in speakers for their regular meetings.

- The maximum programme duration per application will be 12 sessions. If you apply for more than 12 sessions, your award (if successful) will be restricted to 12 sessions.

What costs will we fund?

Eligible Costs	Ineligible costs
Venue hire – This must be a publicly recognised venue e.g. a Community Centre (not a domestic property)	Alcohol, refreshments, food
Equipment - Hire of equipment no cap, purchase of equipment up to £500, must be linked to the programme. (If you ONLY want to purchase equipment then please apply for a small capital grant.)	Flags, bunting, musical instruments, kits/uniforms Fireworks and beacons of any kind (to include lantern or balloon releases)
Printing costs - for advertising only linked to the programme and not exceeding £200	Projects or activities which are delivered outside the Council area
Materials – must be related to the Event	Fundraising events and projects
Insurance - Public Liability Insurance costs for an event	Gifts, donations, prizes

Programme Facilitator - claimed costs should not exceed £45 per hour and should be independent/external from organisation. (We will assume each session is for 1 person for 1 hour only unless advised otherwise in the application)	Bank/loan interest, legal fees.
Toilets - Hire of a mobile accessible toilet or Portaloo toilet	Salaries, wages, administration and private or unfunded pension costs Payments made to any members of the applicant organisation for goods or services All cash transactions of any kind
	Costs which are not clearly linked to the event or project
	Costs incurred prior to a funding offer from Council (retrospective funding
	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, income sources, or can be recovered from elsewhere (e.g. VAT)
	Any costs or projects which are clearly another statutory agency's responsibility
	Trips or transport of any kind Accommodation costs.

How we will assess your application

Your application will be reviewed by Council officers using a standard process. It can be unsuccessful if it does not meet the rules or does not achieve the pass mark. The assessment process includes:

Stage 1 – Eligibility Checks

- To ensure your organisation is eligible.
- To check that your project fits the specific grant programme.
- To confirm all required documents are uploaded.

Stage 2 – Scoring & Awards
If your application passes the eligibility checks, it proceeds to scoring. Applications are scored based on criteria for that specific grant. Funding is awarded based on your score:

- Score 70% or above = Awarded get 100% of the eligible costs you applied for.
- Score 50% to 69% = Awarded get that percentage of the eligible costs (e.g., 60% score means 60% of your requested amount).
- Score below 50% = Application will be unsuccessful and no funding will be awarded.

If there are more eligible applications than the budget can cover, all successful grants may be reduced by the same percentage to fit the budget.

Interested in applying?

Before applying, read the general Applicant Manual (Revenue Grants) for guidance on:

- Who can apply
- What projects we can fund
- Support for applicants
- Completing your application
- Assessment process and scoring
- Procurement rules when spending your grant.

The Community Grants Programme provided by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council is delivered with financial support from:

Department for Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

The Executive Office