Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council

Community Grants Programme

International Linkages Grant

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: **International Linkages Grant**		
Summary	To facilitate organisations in building effective, strong and active international linkages to maximise the benefit to the ABC Borough gained across trade, investment, culture, tourism & best practice learning.	
Award	Up to £3,000	
Grant Programme Eligibility	Groups/projects must: • Must be a community or voluntary organisation (not for personal profit) • Spend their grant within the ABC Borough	
Grant Programme Objectives	Your project should deliver on three objectives from the list below: • Increase the economic potential of the Council area through development of meaningful, productive international partnerships and civic relationships to support the growth of the area. • Promote the global proposition and attractiveness of the Council area as a location for business investment, tourism and niche sector learning/innovation. • Identify opportunities to seek funding from a range of international sources and also to form key international strategic linkages to advance innovation and network opportunities in key sectors such as agri-food, life and health sciences, tourism development, heritage & culture. • Promote opportunities for Council and local stakeholders to benefit from shared learning and co-operation with regional and international counterparts. •	
How will applications be assessed?		
Grant Programme Eligibility	Community based/not for personal profit	Y/N
	Spend their grant within the Borough	Y/N
Assessment Criteria	Level of Need	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
	Build on existing international relationships	0-10
	Council priorities	0-5
	Specific grant programme objectives	0-15

Grant Requirements

This grant will only be open for applications in Call 1 each year. International Linkages projects must meet the following requirements:

- You must provide evidence of a signed international linkage agreement or friendship agreement between the partners at time of submission.
- Applications should be for time-bound programmes of activity, which contribute to the grant programme objectives.
- The term 'International' in this grant programme relates to anywhere outside Northern Ireland.

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)	Fundraising events and projects
Equipment - Hire of equipment no cap, purchase of equipment for 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	Costs which are not clearly linked to the event or project
Materials - must be related to the project	Gifts, donations, prizes
Insurance - Public Liability Insurance costs for an event/project	Bank/loan interest, legal fees.
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)	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
Food - Reasonable food costs (hospitality) associated with hosting visitors	Alcohol
Travel - Travel to/from the airport and associated travel within our Borough	Costs incurred prior to a funding offer from Council (retrospective funding)
Trips - Entrance fees to any of the arts, culture or tourism sites within the ABC Borough.	Projects or activities which are delivered outside the Council area
Toilets - Hire of a mobile accessible toilet or Portaloo toilet	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 (eg. VAT)

	Any costs or projects which are clearly another statutory agency's responsibility

Additional notes

For this grant programme only, the following costs for this grant are eligible:

- Reasonable food costs associated with hosting visitors
- Travel to/from the airport
- Insurance (normally only allowed when applying for core running costs – other core running costs will be ineligible)

Application questions are largely the same as for other grant programmes and applicants should refer to Section 6 for guidance on how to complete the application form. However, the following question is not asked in other grant programmes:

> ***"Does your project build on existing international relationships? If so describe the nature of the existing relationship and how this project will benefit it?"***

This question asks you to describe what international linkages currently exist through the work of your group, or otherwise through your community. You should also describe how the project you are applying for funding for, will develop those linkages further.

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:



