

Coleraine Borough Council

Policy on Contributions to Other Bodies for Capital Purposes

Policy Issues

1. Who can apply for funding

The policy applies to not-for-profit organisations within the Borough. Examples of such bodies which would be eligible to apply for funding would therefore include sports clubs and community groups.

For-profit organisations would be ineligible for this type of funding.

2. What type of expenditure can be funded

Expenditure on the proposed project should be consistent with, or complementary to, Council's statutory responsibilities. There must be a clear benefit to the community, not just to the organisation itself, and the project should contribute to the infrastructure or social fabric of the Borough. Council may consider land purchase or other "in-kind" support where appropriate.

3. Nature of Proposed Project

It is important that various details of all such projects are outlined fully to Council, in order to ensure that decisions can be made with knowledge of all relevant matters. Such details would include the following:

- A description of the project
- Justification for the project (how it meets local needs/demands)
- Estimated Costs
- Economic Appraisal
- Other sources of funding
- Benefits to the Community

4. How much funding may be made available

It needs to be recognised that the requesting body would be the prime beneficiary of the contribution. There will need to be benefit to the wider community to justify consideration by Council, but a proportion of up to 10-20% of the overall project costs being provided by Council would normally be appropriate.

5. Phasing of Council Funding

Major contributions to other bodies have a significant impact on Council Rates and budgets. Therefore, any aid provided in future will be spread over a number of years (up to 5) to ensure that the impact on Rates in any one year is not too dramatic. The precise phasing would depend on the amount of funding required and the competing demands at the time.

Projects will be considered in Autumn each year, alongside Council's own Capital Expenditure Programme.

6. Evaluation of Projects for possible Funding

Given that the amount of money available for funding such projects is limited, Council will use certain criteria in assessing the extent of assistance, if any, to be given to particular projects. Such criteria include:

- Does the project provide infrastructure in an area currently under-represented within the Borough
- The proposed utilisation of the facility by the group and the wider community
- The benefits to the Borough of having a facility in our area
- Impact on tourism and employment
- Social needs addressed by the project
- Equality Issues
- Amount of funding requested relative to the total amount available and total cost of the project

7. Funding Agreement

Should Council agree to award some funding to a project, the organisation concerned will have to enter into a legal agreement with Council, covering the following matters:

- The project must not commence, or be contractually committed, before a written offer of funding from Council has been received.
- When eligible work is completed, receipts, invoices etc must be made available to officers of the Council.
- Where necessary, planning permission must be obtained.
- Completed work must be inspected by appropriate officers of the Council and certified by them as being complete and up to the required standard.
- Where appropriate, officers of the Council must be satisfied that appropriate arrangements have been made for the ongoing management

and maintenance of the facility, including insurance, and such arrangements for wider community use as are required.

- Security of tenure exists, where appropriate, for any land and buildings concerned
- If the facility receiving funding is disposed of or ceases to be used for the intended purpose within 10 years of funding being provided by Council, the Council will be repaid in full.
- Council's contribution must be secured on the asset itself for an appropriate period of time.