

Capital Grants for Sports Clubs Guidance Notes

(Reviewed Feb 2018)

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1) Introduction

The Capital Grants for Sports Clubs are available to eligible local sports clubs that wish to request support towards the development of new or the enhancement of existing facilities that meet evidenced based need. Clubs must be established for a minimum period of over 5 years.

Applications must be for sporting facilities to enhance additional playing capacity by at least 50%.

Maximum grant awarded £20,000 – Total overall cost for project must accumulate to a minimum of £60,000.

Maximum available grant is not definitively awarded; the amount of total fund granted will be based on merit and criteria provided in each application.

2) Applying for Antrim and Newtownabbey Council Capital Grants

It is important to remember that we assess your application on the information you provide. Your response should be well structured and clearly linked to the question. We will not take into account any information that you do not include in your application.

Please do not try to influence the decision by lobbying Antrim and Newtownabbey Council directly or indirectly.

If your organisation does not meet the eligibility criteria, we will not consider your application for funding. Applications that are not complete or do not provide a detailed project budget are categorised as ineligible.

We do not fund the following:

- Sports Clubs that are:
 - not formally constituted, in other words, they do not have a constitution or memorandum and articles of association;
 - not operating on a not-for-profit basis (*taken from the constitution or memorandum and articles of association*) as we cannot support commercial projects or projects that could be carried out commercially. If, in the reasonable opinion of the Council, the Sports Club applying for funding is a de facto commercial Organisation, whatever the legal make-up of the Organisation, then the Council shall not fund that Sports Club. The decision of the Council shall be final in this regard;
 - able to share out profits (taken from the constitution or memorandum and articles of association);
 - not prepared to share learning from their project with us and other relevant groups/clubs;
 - local authorities or public-sector organisations;
 - not based with Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough;
 - not recognised by Sport NI, Irish or UK Governing body;
 - of a party political nature; Promote a particular religion; Or are against Antrim and Newtownabbey Council policy;
- Applications with a cost threshold less than £60,000;
- If the life span of an asset is less than 15 years;
- Specific minor components in a substantive scheme (*e.g. a minor enhancement programme including minor footpath amendments, gates, car parking, drainage, exterior security lighting, or hand rail provision, etc.*);
- Refurbishment work to premises;
- Works needed to repair and maintain existing facilities;
- Projects which are essentially to maintain and upkeep a facility rather than improve playing competing / training capacity;
- Sports Clubs that are cannot provide evidence of lease/ownership of land (*length of lease to be determined by Council according to project requirements*);
- Overheads allocated or apportioned at rates in excess of those used for any similar work you carry out;
- Costs which are not clearly linked to the project;
- Costs that are poor value for money or that are bought from outside of Antrim and Newtownabbey Council procurement guidelines;
- Costs that are already covered by other funding or income sources;
- Applications that are not complete or do not provide a detailed project budget.

We are unlikely to fund an organisation that is in poor financial health or cannot show effective financial control.

Individuals involved in the delivery of the project, that is, staff, volunteers or board members of the applicant organisation, cannot benefit personally from the award of this grant. This means that they cannot be paid for the provision of goods or services from the grant.

Any applicants/facility who has received funding from the capital grant scheme will not be eligible for further funding for a period of 3 rolling years from completion (completion date is date of last payment from Council). It is also unlikely that you will receive funding if you have previously received a grant from us that was not managed satisfactory or was not completed. This includes if you did not send in the monitoring and evaluation forms within the agreed timescales or if you did not seek approval for changes to your project.

If you are not sure whether your organisation and project meets the eligibility criteria, or you need more guidance on the application form, please contact one of our Grants or Sports Development Officers. You can find contact details at the end of these guidance notes.

3) Specific Conditions for Eligibility

Applications must demonstrate how eligible items will enhance sporting facilities with at least 50% additional playing/competing/training capacity.

1. Sports Clubs must be based within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough;
2. Sport NI, Irish or UK Governing body recognised;
3. Applications must have a cost threshold of £60,000;
4. Any applicants/ Facility who has received funding from the capital grant scheme will not be eligible for further funding for a period of 3 rolling years from completion (*completion date is date of last payment from Council*);
5. Grant aid will only be considered for an asset which has the life span of at least 15 years;
6. Sports clubs who can demonstrate they are a not for profit organisation;
7. Provide evidence of lease/ownership of land (*length of lease to be determined by Council according to project requirements*).

Supporting Documentation

Clubs must provide evidence of the following documentation. These must be uploaded in the supporting documentation section on the Online Grant Manager. Applications will not be assessed in the absence of supporting documentation.

- i. Constitution.
- ii. Organisation's Management/Development Plan.
- iii. Sports Development Plan.
- iv. Equal Opportunities (*only if you employ staff*).
- v. Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Harm policy. If your Organisation does not have a Safeguarding Policy, you must adhere to the Council's Child and Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. Please indicate your agreement to compliance to this Policy.
- vi. Estimated project cost from three separate sources.
- vii. Two years audited annual accounts.
- viii. Evidence that the £60,000 threshold funding has potential to be in place or the club has reserves up to £60,000.
- ix. Submit with application an agreed proposal of works provided by an architect defining start and finish date of project.
- x. Provide evidence of lease/ownership of land (*length of lease to be determined by Council according to project requirements*). Lease will normally be in excess of 15 years or the life of the asset funded for shorter periods.
- xi. Certificate of Practical Completion received.

4) Assessment Process

1. We will log all applications when we receive them.
2. Applications will be processed and scored quarterly (*January, April, September, and November*).
3. Applications will be assessed in the following month and prepared for next available Committee meeting.
4. Applications passed at Committee will then await Full Council approval.
5. Based on the confirmed scores and subject to Council decision, we may make an offer of funding.
6. Payment for grants will be specified in the letter of offer.
7. We aim to release funding 21 business days after verification of satisfactory receipts.

5) General Principles Applying to the Programme

The following general principles will apply to Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's administration of the grant aid programme.

- This is a competitive programme and grant awards will be determined on the basis of merit. Applicants are advised that organisations which have been successful in securing funding in the past will not automatically be guaranteed funding in the future. All applications must be completed in full. Retrospective applications will not be considered i.e. the application must be submitted before event, activity or project takes place.
- Applications to the Council within the context of this programme will be open to all properly constituted groups. Evidence that a constitution has been formally adopted must be supplied. Groups must demonstrate that they can meet the criteria of the programme.
- Groups must demonstrate their commitment to promoting social inclusion, equality of opportunity and good relations.
- Groups will be expected to make efforts to maximise their income by securing other sources of funding e.g. through club funds, loans, external grants.
- It is a prime responsibility of the Council to ensure the proper and efficient use of and accountability for public funding. Organisations will therefore, be required to demonstrate the need for financial assistance. The group's financial reserves levels will be reviewed taking into consideration restricted and unrestricted funds.
- Groups will be required to demonstrate the effectiveness and impact of their grant aid and how it will generate positive and measurable outputs and outcomes for the sports club.

6) Conditions of Grant

1. Depending on the type of project additional conditions may be applied these will be outlined in the letter of offer.
2. Applications will only be considered from Sports Clubs based within the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough area.
3. Applications must be completed online via the Grant Manager System.
4. All applications must have a cost threshold of greater than £60,000 (*Payment of the grant will be a maximum of £20,000, based on the confirmed scores and subject to Council decision. (Payment can be made in two equal amounts over two financial years). Council may raise or lower this amount at its discretion prior to a letter of offer.*

5. All costs must be submitted with a detailed bill of quantities signed off by either a Quantity Surveyor or a suitably qualified architect.
6. Only those aspects of the project that are defined in the architect or Quantity Surveyor submission will be considered eligible for payment.
7. Any applicant/facility which has successfully received funding from the Capital Grants for Sports Clubs (*or equivalent in the predecessor Councils*) will be ineligible to apply for funding for 3 years after completion of the previous project. In this instance, the completion date will be the date the last payment was made to you from Council. The condition applies jointly to the facility/location of previously supported schemes as well as applicant organisation. However Minor Works Grants may be accessed during this period as long as such works are not associated with the funded capital scheme.
8. The fund is not open to revenue requests. All requests for funding will satisfy the definition of capital which is defined for the purpose of this programme as the following:
 - Grant aid for an asset that would be expected to last at least 15 years;
 - Resources unitary in nature, e.g. a building extension, new pitch, provision of enhancement lighting to enable extended use of facilities;
 - Projects over £60,000 or more.
9. Any grant provided by Council must achieve value for money in either improved performance of the asset in question or enhanced direct opportunities for the Borough through the provision of a new asset. Ancillary services (*e.g. car parking, drainage etc.*) will not be considered unless they form part of a substantive capital project.
10. Costs must be proportionate to the overall cost of your project and essential for delivering it. If we do not think that the amount you have asked for is good value for money, we may also offer you less than the amount you applied for. To make sure you provide value for money, we can cap any project costs we are funding. If you are successful, these costs will be shown in the letter of offer.
11. Applications should add value to existing sports provision or opportunity (*e.g. a project or activity which meets unmet demand and/or generates additional services*). Activities should not duplicate current provision.
12. Clubs or organisations which have restrictive memberships will be excluded from the process.
13. Clubs or organisations will obtain and maintain all appropriate statutory approvals and at all times comply with legislative requirements.
14. Applicants will submit accounts for at least the previous **TWO** financial years and must satisfy Council that they are financially sound.
15. Applicants to the process will submit all documentation relevant to demonstrate good governance practices (*e.g. Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Harm, equity statement, financial processes etc.*).
16. Club or organisations will make the supported facility available to Council, local schools and local community groups for up to 5 sessions per week to include at least one evening (*session means one evening or morning*) on request.
17. Reasonable access will be available to Council officials for monitoring and post project evaluation.
18. Clubs or groups must maintain adequate insurance to indemnify Council, users and visitors during and after project completion.
19. Clubs or groups must maintain the facility in a reasonable state of repair.
20. Projects already commenced before Council has issued and received a satisfactorily completed letter of offer will be excluded from consideration.
21. Council's Core Themes are contained within the Corporate Plan and are available at www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk all projects must be compatible and in no way conflict with Council's Corporate Plan.

22. Legal costs incurred by the recipient organisation in relation to this grant are not covered under the letter of offer.
23. The recipient will comply with Public Procurement Policies as defined by Council at the point of grant award.
 - £3,000 to £7,999.99 (excl. VAT), 3 quotations required.
 - £8,000 to £29,999.99 (excl. VAT), 4 quotations required.
24. The recipient organisation may not assign any interest in the property without the written consent of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council.
25. In the event of breach of grant conditions the Club will be required to repay the grant in full if the breach occurs in the first 5 years or at a rate decreasing on an annual basis for fifteen years at the rate of one fifteenth of the capital payment for every full or part year after award of grant. This will be entirely at Council's discretion.
26. Applicants must submit with the application form an agreed programme of works provided by an architect who defines the start and finish date of the project and, confirms that funding is substantively in place to complete the project.
27. If documentation is not provided to confirm the funding package within 6 months of the application closing date then the application will be withdrawn.
28. We may inspect any aspect of your project at any time to ensure that the funding awarded has been used as set out in your application and in accordance with the conditions of grant specified in the letter of offer. We will give you five working days' notice of any inspection and will explain what we are inspecting, why and what information we might need you to provide.
29. Should you run into difficulties that will affect your project, especially its overall costs or timing of completion, you must notify the Council immediately.
30. Antrim and Newtownabbey Council does not provide insurance for any activity you undertake or responsible for any overspend.

7) Application Process

1. The Capital Grant Scheme will be open all year round (*subject to funding availability*).
2. Applications will be evaluated against the criteria and on the achievement of a 70% threshold, will be presented to Committee in priority order as a shortlist of applications.
3. The applicants on the shortlist will make formal request for funding on the basis of:
 - an agreed programme of works provided by an architect defining start and finish date of the project and confirmation that funding is substantively in place to complete the project.
4. Applicants from the shortlist may be asked to make a presentation to Council Committee, accompanied with a report for each application submitted for Council Members' consideration.
5. Successful applicants will be provided with a letter of offer which when signed by the applicant will constitute a legal agreement between Council and the applicant.
6. Decisions for funding applications are final, there is no appeals process. However, unsuccessful applicants may reapply within predetermined timeframes.

Evaluation Criteria

If your Sports Club has met all of the eligibility criteria we will use the following criteria to score your application

Criteria	Weighting %
1. Compliance for Good Governance	Max 10 points
2. What beneficial outcomes will be created by your project? As stated on the application "try to quantify this e.g. number of extra participants, expected income"	Max 10 points
3. On completion of the project, what (if any) new activities or services will you be able to accommodate	Max 10 points
4. Which section of the community is expected to benefit from this project?	Max 10 points
5. Estimated numbers of users per week	Max 10 points
6. How does this project meet the needs of the Council's Corporate Plan? e.g. Place, People, Prosperity & Performance	Max 10 points
7. Please Explain how the club will enhance the facility with additional playing capacity by 50% (stated on the committee report)	Max 10 points
8. Attracting significant external investment to the Borough	Max 20 points
9. Contribution to the local economy	Max 10 points

8) Data Protection Act

- We will use the information you give us on the application form during assessment and for the life of any grant we award you to administer and analyse grants and for our own research.
- We may give copies of this information to individuals and organisations we consult when assessing applications, when monitoring grants and evaluating the way our funding programmes work and the effect they have. These organisations may include accountants, external evaluators and other organisations or groups involved in delivering the project.
- We may also share information with other government departments, organisations providing match funding and other organisations and individuals with a legitimate interest in applications and grants, or for the prevention or detection of fraud.
- We might use the data you provide for our own research. We recognise the need to maintain the confidentiality of vulnerable groups and their details will not be made public in any way, except as required by law.

9) Freedom of Information Act

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives members of the public the right to request any information that we hold, subject to certain exemption that may apply. This includes information received from third parties, such as, although not limited to, grant applicants, grant holders and contractors. If information is requested under the Freedom of Information Act we will release it, subject to exemptions; although we may consult with you first. If you think that information you are providing may be exempt from release if requested, you should let us know when you apply. For further information please visit the Information Commissioner's Office at www.ico.gov.uk.

10) Marketing and promotion

You must acknowledge our support by including our logo on all printed materials associated with your programme of work. Occasionally you may be asked to make appearances and assist us with launches and photo shoots. If you receive funding from us, it does not mean we endorse your project. When you display the council logo on published material, you must include the following sentence: "This publication is grant-aided by Antrim and Newtownabbey Council. The views expressed are not necessarily shared or endorsed by the council. The council does not accept any responsibility for these views." We will give you more information about logos if your application is successful. For information on Council branding and logos please refer to www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/Council/Press-Office.

11) Useful Contacts

Advice on	Contact	Contact Details
General advice about the application process or on filling in the first sections or budgets in the application.	Grants Officer	Email: leisure.grants@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk
If you have any questions in regard to Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Harm	Safeguarding Manager Jenifer Buckley	Tel: 028 90 340084 Email: jennifer.buckley@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk
Communications, PR and Marketing	Joanne Heasley Media and Marketing Officer	Tel: 028 9446 3113 - Ext. 40144 Email: Joanne.Heasley@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk