

**The Chairman and Members of
North West Area Committee.**

Meeting: 20th October 2020

Item No: 10

Ballymun Social Regeneration Fund Review

A report (Item No.11) was presented to the January 2020 North West Area Committee and it was agreed that a review of the Ballymun Social Regeneration Fund would commence in 2020.

Up to and including 2017, this fund was 100% financed by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government but since 2018 the funding has been phased out to the point that in 2020 it was 75% financed by DCC and 25% financed by the Department. In 2021 and beyond, this fund will be entirely financed by DCC.

The Ballymun Social Regeneration fund is subject to the Dublin City Council budgetary process. It is hoped that funding will continue to be available for 2021 with future years also being dependent on this process, the current financial situation caused by the pandemic may impact the level of funding available in 2021.

During the review of the Ballymun Social Regeneration Fund conducted by the A/Area Manager and the DCC Administrator of the fund it was agreed that a more structured approach of the funding process under this fund was required.

Therefore, I recommend that these amended terms and conditions are agreed and a restructured application process is implemented for processing this fund in 2021.

Coilín O'Reilly,
Director of Services – North City

Terms and Conditions
Dublin City Council Ballymun Social Regeneration Fund

Type of Fund

This is an annual fund allocated by Dublin City Council in the Ballymun area to enable identified service providers to deliver a consistent and measurable suite of programmes and services to meet the needs of, and enhance the lives of, all people living in the Ballymun area.

Background to the Fund

The Social Regeneration objectives for Ballymun are set out in the original Sustaining Regeneration, A Social Plan for Ballymun, document. This document was the final milestone on the journey to regenerate Ballymun physically, socially, economically and environmentally. While the physical landscape of Ballymun had been transformed over time, it was clear that in order to be truly sustainable, an inter-agency collaborative effort, supported by pro-active inputs from the community and voluntary sector was required. The Social plan signals the co-ordinated commitment to social regeneration by a wide range of public, private and community interests under seven themes as follows:

- Placemaking
- Education, Lifelong Learning and Training
- Community Safety
- Health and Wellbeing
- Child Development and Family Support
- Arts and Culture
- Recreation and Sport

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government originally provided 100% of this fund but in 2018, it was decided to transfer the fund over incrementally to Dublin City Council as follows:

2017 – 100% Department of the Housing/0% Dublin City Council

2018 – 75% Department of the Housing/25% Dublin City Council

2019 – 50% Department of the Housing/50% Dublin City Council

2020 – 25% Department of the Housing/75% Dublin City Council

2021 and beyond – 100% Dublin City Council subject to the Dublin City Council budgetary process/finding available

Purpose of the Fund

The purpose of the Social Regeneration Fund is to achieve a robust and accountable delivery mechanism for the implementation of the Social Plan. This will be achieved by identifying lead partners and community based networks who will co-ordinate the delivery of the plan across each of the chosen seven themes, identifying needs and gaps in current service provision. Projects and groups that provide additional or new community services, that can be accessed by different sections of the community and that address the initiatives outlined in the seven themes above, are welcome to apply.

Scope of the Fund

To deliver a consistent and measurable suits of programmes and services to meet the needs of and enhance the lives of all people living in the Ballymun Area.

Criteria for Applicants

- Applicants must be from a group/organisation based in the Ballymun administrative area

- Groups/projects must offer proposals that provide programmes to support the initiatives that are outlined in the seven themes of the Social Plan.
- All applicants must agree a work plan and budget in advance with DCC to deliver the required services and these will be supported by an annual Service Level Agreement.
- Funding can only be used for staff resources (75% maximum in 2022, to be reduced to 50% for 2023 applications), programming and general administration costs.
- Funding cannot be used for the purchase of capital items, the payment of redundancy monies or compensation, or the payment of any costs arising due to bankruptcy or insolvency.
- Projects will have to be capable of being delivered within an agreed timeframe.
- Application form and all supporting documentation must be submitted before any application can be considered.

Required Documentation for Funding

- All applicants are required to complete and submit an application form.
- All applicants are required to submit an annual Work plan, Budget, Mission Statement, Insurance details and list of staff/resources to be funded on the programme.

Monitoring and Review

- An assessment panel comprised of seven people (DCC Director of Services North City, DCC Area Manager, DCC programme administrator, two Northwest Area Councillors and two independent members) will assess all applications and decide on the allocation of funding – this panel will also meet regularly to monitor the progress of all programmes.
- The full list of applicants and financial amounts will be brought to Area Committee in report form for noting once agreed by the assessment committee.
- Financial output returns as well as a narrative report will be required quarterly from all successful applicants.
- Annual financial outputs and reports will be required from all groups by January 31st of the following year.
- Annual meetings will be held with DCC and current service providers.

Payment of Funding

Funding will be paid to successful applicants on a quarterly basis in equal instalments in advance once the SLA is signed by all parties.

Application Process

- Application forms and guidelines will be available from the Ballymun Area Office from Monday November 9th 2020.
- The closing date for receipt of applications will be Friday 5th December 2020. Late applications will not be accepted.
- The assessment panel will review all applications and will approve selected applications based on clear criteria as set out in the Sustaining Regeneration document. Please note it may not be possible to award grants to all applicants as funding is limited.
- Successful groups will be required to sign a contract in the form of a Service Level Agreement with DCC, which will clearly outline the responsibilities of both DCC and the service provider during the term of the funding.
- All applicants had the right to request feedback on their applications. Such request must be submitted in writing to the Area Manager, Ballymun Area Office, Main Street, Ballymun, Dublin 9.