

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

Meeting 12th December 2023

Item No: 8

Ballymun Social Regeneration Fund 2023

A report presented to the Chairperson and Members of the North West Area in March 2023, Item No. 6, advised that a sum of €1,725,000 was allocated to the Ballymun Social Regeneration Fund for 2023. This funding is to continue to support the process of social regeneration in the area. The social regeneration objectives for Ballymun are set out in Sustaining Regeneration – A Social Plan for Ballymun.

19 applications were successful and allocated funding for 2023. Funding is payable quarterly in advance, subject to timely returns of all reports. Annual financial output returns are submitted quarterly for each programme, followed by annual progress reports. As per Clause 5.6 of the Service Level Agreement, any unspent funds paid to the Service Provider must be repaid to DCC within 30 days of the end of the contract period.

A portion of the overall fund was withheld to provide additional support services to the groups and organisations including training workshops, exploring funding streams, and Mentoring Services. An Advocacy workshop was also held on Monday August 28th in the Council Chamber in Ballymun Civic Centre. The workshop was delivered by Mr. Senan Turnbull, Community, Voluntary & Charities Sector Specialist, who is an independent member of the BSRF Assessment Panel. The feedback on the session was extremely positive and many groups said afterwards the information provided was very valuable.

The Assessment Panel continue to meet regularly and all of the funded groups were visited by various members of the panel throughout the year. In line with the Assessment Panel's objective to provide a support service for Social Regeneration funded groups some groups also completed mentoring sessions organised by the panel.

On Thursday October 19th members of the Assessment Panel facilitated a very successful visit to 4 of the 2023 BSR funded groups, by a Maltese delegation (55 persons) who were visiting Dublin as part of a Practice Exchange project. The objectives of the Hiliet il-Komunitá Practise Exchange project include:

- Forming a reputable component of community work practice which can inspire and stimulate communities into action.
- Supporting the Valletta communities to conceptualize how the Valletta regeneration can help them achieve a better standard of living and good quality of life for all communities residing in the neighbourhood.

The Delegation were very impressed by the groups they met and were delighted to spend the day in Ballymun.

All Quarter 3 reports have been received from the 2023 recipients of the fund and Quarter 4 invoices are now being processed for payment. In November we received confirmation that €1.7m for 2024 Ballymun Social Regeneration funding had being approved in as part of the DCC budgetary process, the application process for 2024 BSR funding went live on DCC's Citizen Hub on Friday November 24th. The closing date for all applications is Thursday December 14th at 1pm. There has already been considerable interest shown from groups who intend to apply for funding in 2024. Please see the link to the application form below:
<https://www.dublincity.ie/residential/improving-my-community/ballymun-social-regeneration-fund-2024>

Jackie O'Reilly,
Senior Executive Officer
Area Manager, Ballymun