Name of the Programme	**Irish in the Community**
Programme Dates	**Funding covers the period: 1 April 2026 - 28 February 2027**
Brief Description	Irish in the Community grant aid is available to groups to deliver projects that utilise and encourage the use of Irish Language in daily life.
Programme Specific Criteria	Applicants should demonstrate how their project meets one the following key priorities of the Council's Irish Language Policy:

Applicants should demonstrate how their project meets one the following key priorities of the Council's Irish Language Policy:

- **Develop and grow Irish Language**
- **Increase visibility of and accessibility to Irish Language**
- **Empower Irish Language speakers and communities**
- **Showcase and celebrate Irish Language in the district**

Further information on the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Irish Language Policy see https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/app/uploads/2021/04/Bilingual-copy-draft-IL-policy-dreacht-Beartas-Gaeilge-2020-2.pdf

Examples of project activity include:
- Irish Language Classes
- Irish Language in Daily Life

Irish Language Classes can be delivered as a course with a minimum of 16 teaching hours or as one day intensive courses with a minimum of 5 teaching hours.

Irish Language in Daily Life is the delivery of activities that increase the opportunity for Irish Language speakers to use the language in their everyday life. Examples of activity include but is not restricted to:
- Flower arranging
- Nature walks
- Sports activities
- Cookery demonstrations
- Book clubs
- Lectures

These events can be delivered bilingually but there must be emphasis on the use of the Irish Language.
The Council welcomes projects that are innovative and imaginative in their use of the language in everyday activities.

If successful it is strongly advised to source a tutor/presenter prior to accepting the Letter of Offer.

Funding constraints:
- Tutors/Facilitators must be external to the organisation and capped at £25 maximum p/hr.
- Refreshments will only be awarded up to a maximum of 20% of grant aid allocation.

	Activities and items that can NOT be funded: • Retrospective applications. • Fundraising events or activities. • Organisations own facility hire - groups cannot claim for and pay for the use of their own facilities • Recognition events • Capital costs • Musical instrument/equipment costs • Salary costs
Scoring Criteria	Applications must meet **ALL** of the following criteria; applicants who fail to demonstrate how their proposal meets any one of these will have their application rejected. The responsibility to provide sufficient detail in any application for Council's consideration rests with the applicant: **1. Description of your Project -** Tell us what you want the funding for. Use these prompts to provide a complete answer:

Prompts:
- What is the project - describe the activity to be delivered. If providing Irish Language class(s)at what level – beginner/intermediate/advanced. Have you sourced tutors for the class(s)
- What is the duration of the project – one off event or longer
- Where will the project take place
- Who are the target project participants
- How will you advertise the project
- How will you acknowledge funding from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

	Score Available	Score Awarded
Project Description Detailed information on the project description, project duration, where the project will take place, the target audience, how the project will be advertised and how FODC funding will be acknowledged. Each prompt question addressed in the response.	8-10	
Some information on the project description, project duration, where the project will take place, the target audience, how the project will be advertised and how FODC funding will be acknowledged. Not all prompt questions addressed in the response.	4-7	
Limited information on the project description, project duration, where the project will take place, the target audience, how the project will be advertised and how FODC funding will be acknowledged. Not all prompt questions addressed in the response.	0-3	

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2. Demonstration of Need –You must demonstrate that there is a need for your proposed project.

Use these prompts to provide a complete answer:
- How do you know there is a demand for your project?
- How have you identified this demand?
- Tell us what has prompted you to deliver the project at this time?

Which FODC Irish Language Policy priority fits best with your project and why?
- o Develop and grow Irish Language
- o Increase visibility of and accessibility to Irish Language
- o Empower Irish Language speakers and communities
- o Showcase and celebrate Irish Language in the district

	Score Available	Score Awarded
Project Need		
Detailed information on demand for the project, how this has been identified, why the project is being delivered now and alignment with the FODC priority. Each prompt question addressed in the response.	8-10	
Some information on demand for the project, how this has been identified, why the project is being delivered now and alignment with the FODC priority. Not all prompt questions addressed in the response.	4-7	
Limited information on demand for the project, how this has been identified, why the project is being delivered now and alignment with the FODC priority. Not all prompt questions addressed in the response.	0-3	

3. Benefits, Opportunities and Inclusion - Tell us how your project will provide opportunities for people to encourage use of Irish Language in daily life and increase visibility across the district.

Use these prompts to provide a complete answer:
- What difference do you hope to achieve by delivering the project?
- How will this difference be measured?
- How will you ensure the project is open and accessible to the whole community?
- What is the legacy of this project?

	Score Available	Score Awarded
Benefits, Opportunities and Inclusion		
Detailed information on what difference the project will make, how this difference will be measured, how the project will be open and accessible to the whole community and the project legacy. Each prompt question addressed in the response.	8-10	
Some information on the difference the project will make, how this difference will be measured, how the project will be open and accessible to the whole community and the project legacy. Not all prompt questions addressed in the response.	4-7	

	Limited information on the difference the project will make, how this difference will be measured, how the project will be open and accessible to the whole community and the project legacy. Not all prompt questions addressed in the response.	0-3		

Applications will be scored and placed in ranking order. Where applications exceed the 65% threshold, they will be ranked in score order. The projects that exceed the threshold will be allocated funding with remaining funds allocated to the next highest ranked projects, until funding has been expended.

Criteria	Score Available	Weighted Value	Weighted Score	Score Awarded
1. Project Description	10	X2	20	
2. Demonstration of Need	10	X4	40	
3. Benefits, Opportunity and Inclusion	10	X4	40	
TOTAL SCORE: (Threshold 65%)			100	

All grants are discretionary, awarded on a one-off basis and must be spent on the delivery as detailed in the approved project Letter of Offer by **28 February 2027.**

Grant Aid is administered on a **deficit** funding basis, no grant will be paid where income exceeds expenditure.

Please note that incomplete or retrospective applications will be deemed invalid and will **not** be considered.

Average Grant Amount	Maximum grant available **£750 - £1,500** Maximum Grant for one off event - **£750** Maximum Grant for a project – more than one day in duration **£1,500** Grant Aid is subject to funding availability.
Responsible Service Area	Community & Wellbeing Directorate
Contact Information for applicant support purposes	Applicants are encouraged to discuss project ideas with Irish Language Officer Fiona Crudden. Telephone: 0300 3031777 Mobile: 07740454962 Email: fiona.crudden@fermanaghomagh.com or gaeilge@fermanaghomagh.com