



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council

Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Charity Support Policy

June 2015

1. Background.

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council receives a significant number of unsolicited requests each year from charities seeking council support in fundraising.

Such requests represent a potentially vast range of worthwhile activities, which requires a coherent basis for ranking or prioritising the requests. This policy is designed to provide consistency in relation to the criteria used to assess applications for assistance.

2. Aim.

The aims of the policy are to:

- i. Demonstrate the Council's Corporate Social Responsibility.
- ii. Allow the Council to celebrate the achievements of charitable organisations and recognise the importance of their contribution to the council area.
- iii. Provide transparent criteria for the provision of support to charities.
- iv. Provide clear guidelines on the type of support available.

3. Criteria.

Applications for support will be measured against specific criteria, in order to ensure consistent and fair consideration. Depending on the nature of the application, additional information may be sought from applicants.

To qualify for support, a Charity must be:

- i. A charity with a registered charity number, compliant with Charities legislation.
- ii. A charity that impacts more than one person.
- iii. A charity whose outcomes/outputs are in accordance with the Council's agreed values and objectives and do not conflict with Council policies.

4. Support Available.

The availability of support together with the criteria and the application process will be made known to all interested bodies via Public Advertisement and the Website.

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council will not make a financial contribution to any Charity.

- i. **Chair of the Council Chosen Charity.** Each year the Chair of the Council will propose a charity whose work will be promoted throughout the Civic Year as appropriate, subject to ratification by Council. To ensure equitable access, no charity can be chosen more often than once every five years.
- ii. **Grant Aid.** Charities are able to apply for Grant Aid under any of the relevant regimes :
 - Community Relations.
 - Community Services.

- Economic Development.
- Sports Advisory Committee.
- Sports Development.
- Arts Advisory Committee.
- Arts and Entertainment.
- Tourism Development.
- Police and Community Safety Partnership.

- iii. **Photo Opportunities.** Charities can request the presence of the Chair or Vice Chair of the Council, subject to their approval, at any event to publicise their achievements or raise awareness of their campaign, or alternatively may be accommodated at a photo opportunity within a Council Facility. The Chair of the most relevant Committee may be nominated to attend on their behalf.
- iv. **External Lighting Policy.** Charities can apply to have Council buildings illuminated to mark specific days of significance to their charity which are associated with a particular colour or colours.
- v. **Use of Council Facilities.** Charities will be allowed to use Council facilities, subject to the proper insurances being in place and the normal conditions of hire being met, including the payment of room hire charges. If a charity is holding an awareness raising event with which the Council wishes to be associated and which helps with the delivery of the Council's aims and objectives, the payment of room hire charges may be waived, subject to Council approval.

5. Responsibilities.

The Chief Executive has overall responsibility for the implementation of the Charity Support Policy. Employees are expected to follow this policy and take the appropriate action to meet the aims and objectives.

6. Linkages.

The Charity Support Policy will link into the Council's policies on External Lighting and Civic Recognition.

7. Review.

The Charity Support Policy will, under normal circumstances, be reviewed every three years. This policy will be subject to scrutiny and, from time to time, updates and re-issues will be circulated.

However, the policy will be reviewed sooner in the event of any one or more of the following:

1. Failure or weakness in the policy is highlighted.
2. Changes in legislative requirements.
3. Changes in Government/Council or other directives and requirements.