STRATEGIC CAPITAL PROJECTS GRANT PROGRAMME 2026/2027
MINI COMPETITIONS – ERNE NORTH AND OMAGH DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS

WELCOME TO THE PRE-APPLICATION WORKSHOP

Please ensure that you enter details onto the group chat or email to grants@fermanaghomagh.com : 1. Name; 2. Group/Club/Organisation you are applying on behalf of; 3. Email address.

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Agenda

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- Funding Approach
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- Application Form
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- Frequently Asked Questions

Introduction and Background

Aims to invest £5m over a five-year period within the community and voluntary sector and will see the quantitative development or enhancement of a minimum of 40 facilities. Capital projects must align with priorities in the Community, Corporate and Inclusive Economy Plans and Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy.

Funding to provide a mechanism for investing in rural and urban areas open to applications from community and voluntary organisations with a project plan to enhance existing facilities or to meet an unmet need.

- £1million budget per year (subject to annual Council estimates process)
- Competitive process
- Year 1 2025/2026 – Year 5 2029/2030
- Mini Competition opened 11 November 2026 and Closes 5pm Wednesday 9 December 2026

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Introduction and Background contd.

Indicative actions that Council is seeking to address and could be supported are:

- The vision of creating places which are sustainable, welcoming and accessible to live, work and relax;
- Infrastructural improvements such as enhanced public realm, better footpaths, street furniture and lighting, and public seating;
- Projects relating to active travel, promoting connectivity and access to services, and/or creating and enhancing green/blue space. Potential projects could include cycle tracks or lanes, cycle parking;
- Connection pathways to access town centres and the centre of settlements and key services, adapting existing routes and/or creating desirable new ingress and egress routes;
- Dereliction and vacant site enhancement;
- Development of new community facilities and enhancements to existing;
- Environmental improvements;
- Conservations and upgrading of rural culture (natural and built);
- Walkways, play facilities and nature trails;
- Signage and local heritage features;
- Improving physical access to amenities or attractions;
- Gateway projects, entrance features and signage.

Funding Approach

- Minimum of 2 projects – Applications only from Erne North and Omagh DEA's
- Funding
  - **Maximum £100k**
    - Minimum of two grants, one per DEA (dependent on project quality and attaining 65% threshold)
    - In year underspend from category 1 to be add to Category 2
- Commitment to promoting social inclusion, equality of opportunity and good relations (Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998)
- All statutory approvals and full match funding (i.e. difference between estimated cost and maximum grant) must be in place at time of submission of application.

Payment of Grant

- Grant award is retrospective NO ADVANCE PAYMENTS
- Phased payments can be considered in line with key milestones
- Key milestones to be valued and certified by appropriately qualified professional, i.e. Architect or Quantity Surveyor
- Procurement process to align with Council Procurement and Council approved
- Award of Contract must be approved by Council
- No self-builds, one tender one Contractor

Application Form – Stage 1 Eligibility

Applicants will be required to demonstrate how they meet the eligibility criteria. The eligibility criteria require evidence to be uploaded with the application. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure all evidence is submitted at time of application. No additional information will be accepted after the closing date.

- Application forms will only be considered from community projects geographically located within the Fermanagh & Omagh District Council area District Electoral Areas of Erne North and Omagh.
- Attendance at a mandatory pre-application Information Event. Applications will be deemed ineligible where there is no evidence of attendance.
- Application Forms must be submitted from properly constituted not for profit groups, with **Constitution/Articles of Association to be submitted with application.**

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Stage 1 Eligibility Contd.

- Application Forms will only be considered from projects that can demonstrate alignment with the Fermanagh & Omagh Community Plan, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council Corporate Plan, Inclusive Economy Action Plan and the Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy which can be accessed via the Council website at www.fermanaghomagh.com

- Provision of evidence that the project has the support of the local community e.g. Letters of support including how those supporting will utilise the project, community surveys. **Evidence to be uploaded with application.**

- Demonstrates that the project will be able to complete within 2 years of the issue of the Letter of Offer.

- Provides evidence that there are no issues with ownership of the land/building where the proposed project will be sited/located including written permissions from owner where land/building/project area is leased. **Evidence of ownership or leasing arrangement , e.g. deeds/lease/solicitors letter to be uploaded with application.** Where applicable, **evidence of written permission for project from owner to be uploaded with application.**

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Stage 1 Eligibility Contd.

- Provide evidence that all statutory approvals are in place at the time of submitting the application, to include Planning Permission, Building Control application/approval**. Evidence of all statutory approvals relevant to the project to be uploaded with application.**
- Provides evidence of full match funding in place at time of application. Bank Statements, Loan agreements etc. **Evidence to be uploaded at time of application clearly demonstrating full value of match funding; i.e., applicant match funding is calculated deducting the grant sum applied for, from the total independent quotation cost, and must be no less than 10% of the grant requested.**
- Groups must be able to provide an independent quotation validating detailed project costs (i.e from a contractor). **Quotation to be uploaded with application.**
- No applicant, group, project or facility awarded a grant through the current Council's Strategic Capital Project Grant Programme or the Small Settlements Regeneration Programme will be able to re-apply for a period of five years from the issue date of a Letter of Offer or three years from the Letter of Offer project end.

Application Form – Stage 2 Quality Assessment and Scoring

The project application will be assessed and scored against the following:

- Need for the Project (community need, identification of unmet demand, generates additional provision, benefits to the local community) 30%
- Value for Money 20%
- Environmental Sustainability 10%
- Route to Project Completion (Clear assessment and plan to achieve identified outcomes) 10%
- Socio Economic Needs Assessment based on project location 15%
- Priority areas based on deprivation – project located in top 30% most deprived (7.5%) and area not in receipt of capital funding in last 5 years (7.5%)

INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH CRITERIA WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE GUIDANCE NOTES.

Application Form – Stage 2 Quality Assessment and Scoring Contd.

- Alignment with Fermanagh and Omagh 2030 Community Plan, Council's Corporate Plan 2024-28, Inclusive Economy Action Plan 2024-28 and Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy.
- 65% scoring threshold
- Ranked in score order within the DEA's of Erne North and Omagh
- Top project in each DEA that exceeds the threshold will be recommended for funding
- Thereafter any residual funding will be allocated according to highest ranked regardless of DEA across all applications from the 2026/2027 scheme.

Outcome

- Recommendations to Grant Aid Panel – January 2026
- Grant Aid Panel recommendations to Regeneration & Community Committee – January 2026
- Ratification by Council February 2026
- Issue of result of outcome and letters of intent February 2026
- Appeals Process – March 2026
- Issue of Letters of Offer – April 2026

NO WORK SHOULD COMMENCE UNTIL A LETTER OF OFFER HAS BEEN ACCEPTED

Applicant Support

Online application available from **11 November 2026**

Application to be submitted by **5pm Wednesday 9 December 2026**

- **Support from FODC Community Services Staff with the application form must be sought immediately as time is required to arrange the support.**

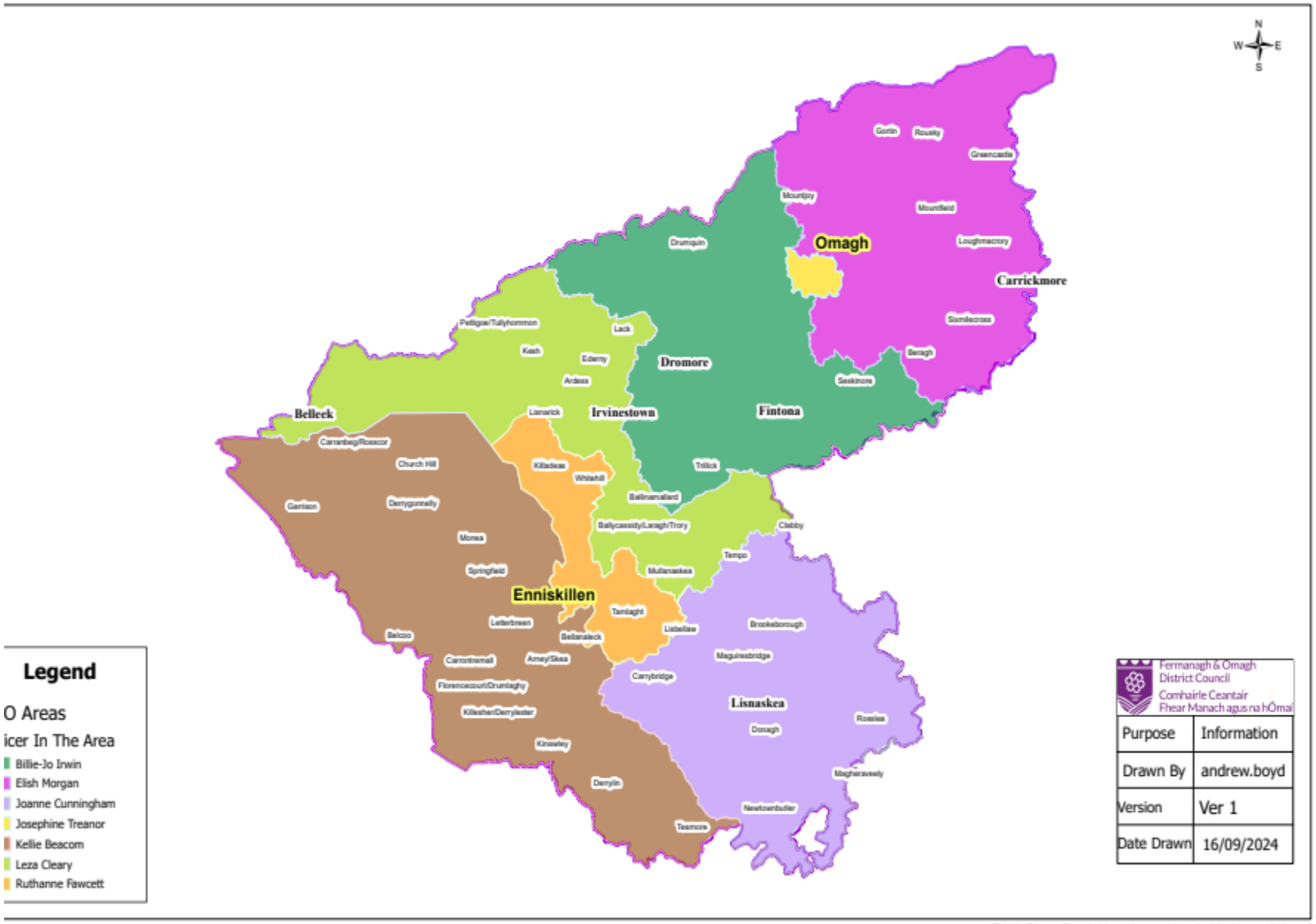
- **Support on the application process can be obtained by contacting the Investment & Funded Programmes Team.**

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Community Support Officer
Tel: 0300 3031777

Leza Cleary	Erne North	leza.cleary@fermanaghomagh.com
Josephine Treanor	Omagh DEA	josephine.treanor@fermanaghomagh.com

Community Service Officer Areas



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Purpose	Information
Drawn By	andrew.boyd
Version	Ver 1
Date Drawn	16/09/2024

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Frequently Asked Questions

- Can an applicant apply for a project that has already commenced?
  - If the applicant can demonstrate that the project is part of a phased plan then an application for the specific phase will be accepted. If the project is not phased and has begun the applicant will not be eligible to apply.
- Does the applicant need to demonstrate the 10% of the grant as match funding in the application or the full estimated amount of match funding?
  - The applicant must demonstrate that all match funding required is available to them. That means the funds are available to meet the difference between the estimated project cost and the total grant applied for.
- When does the project have to be completed by?
  - The applicant must demonstrate on their application that the proposed project can be undertaken within a 2 year period.
- Can an applicant apply if the statutory approvals are pending?
  - No, all statutory approvals must be in place and provided as evidence at time of submission of application.

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Any Questions?

Application closes **– Wednesday 9 December 2026 at 5pm.**

Contact Details: **0300 303 1777**

Investment & Funded Programmes Team	grants@fermanaghomagh.com

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