



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí



Seachtain

na Gaeilge

le en**é**rgia

Cultural Heritage Funding Guidelines

Introduction

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council is offering sponsorship of **£300** per event to support the delivery of local activities as part of four key cultural programmes:

- European Heritage Open Days (EHOD)
- Culture Night
- Leid Week
- Seachtain na Gaeilge

These initiatives aim to celebrate and promote the district's rich cultural and linguistic heritage, encourage community engagement, and enhance access to the arts, heritage, and language across all parts of the district.

Constituted groups and organisations may apply to deliver multiple events across different programme strands, provided each event meets the eligibility criteria and is clearly aligned with the aims of the relevant strand.

Please note that while applications may be submitted across all strands, funding is limited, and support cannot be guaranteed for every submission.

Sponsorship Strands

European Heritage Open Days (EHOD) - 8–14 September 2025

Events should focus on architectural heritage or improving access to heritage.

Examples include:

- Guided walks, talks, or heritage tours
- Traditional skills or craft workshops
- Storytelling, music, dance or theatre performances
- Sports, pastimes or language activities
- Pop-up exhibitions or displays in heritage sites
- Highlights lesser known heritage sites or stories

Culture Night - Friday 19 September 2025

Culture Night celebrates creativity and encourages public participation in the arts.

Example events include:

- Pop-up performances and live music
- Artist open studios or visual art exhibitions
- Multicultural showcases of dance, fashion or music
- Food-related cultural experiences or tastings
- Drama or theatre events

Leid Week - 24–29 November 2024

This programme promotes Ulster-Scots language and culture. Activities might include:

- Language learning sessions or conversation classes
- Storytelling, drama or creative writing workshops
- Music performances featuring traditional Ulster-Scots forms
- Talks, walks or cultural tours
- Pop-up exhibitions on Ulster-Scots heritage

Seachtain na Gaeilge- 1–17 March 2026

A celebration of the Irish language through learning, culture, and media. Suitable event types include:

- Irish language classes or awareness sessions
- Storytelling, poetry readings or author-led events
- Drama or performance activities in or about the Irish language
- Creative writing workshops or literary discussions
- Talks, lectures or presentations
- Digital content such as podcasts, videos or social media campaigns

Who Can Apply?

To be eligible for sponsorship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a constituted group or organisation
- Have a bank account with at least two signatories
- Hold public liability insurance
- Be located within the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area

Eligible Events and Activities

To be considered for support, events must:

- ✓ Be free of charge and open to the public
- ✓ Demonstrate clear public benefit
- ✓ Be held within the events funding timeframe
- ✓ Commit to be included on Council-supported promotional platforms

Assessment Criteria

All applications will be assessed against the following weighted criteria:

- **Community Impact (50%)**
The extent to which the proposed event fosters meaningful community engagement, encourages participation, and strengthens social cohesion, delivering a positive impact within the local area.
- **Inclusivity and Access (50%)**
How effectively the event broadens access to culture and heritage, particularly among underrepresented or new audiences, ensuring wide and equitable participation.

Please note: FODC may reclassify events based on their impact and alignment to funding streams.

Eligible & Ineligible Costs

The list below highlights Sponsorship eligible and ineligible costs

Eligible Costs:

- Marketing and PR
- Health and Safety
- Event Production
- Venue Hire - only eligible if the group does not own or lease its own premises.
- Accommodation & Travel
- Security
- Performance Fees
- Event Evaluation
- Hospitality - Max 20% of Sponsorship
- Tutors/Facilitators must be external; max £25/hr.

Ineligible Costs:

- Staff salaries
- Capital expenditure
- Fundraising activities
- Membership fees
- Tax, VAT payments, loan repayments, bad debt, bank charges, or arrears in payments
- Flags or bunting
- Alcohol
- Capital works or equipment purchases
- Celebrity appearances
- Gifts or donations

Exclusions

Sponsorship will not be provided to the following organisations or activities (please note this list is not exhaustive):

- × Sponsorship will not be provided to the following organisations or activities (please note this list is not exhaustive):
- × Events that are the responsibility of a statutory authority, agency, or public sector body
- × Sponsorship of a political party or individual candidate
- × Sponsorship that discriminates against people based on protected characteristics
- × Religious organisations
- × Organisations in financial or legal conflict with the Council
- × Organisations with a political purpose, including pressure groups and trade unions
- × Organisations involved in the production and sale of weaponry, including firearms
- × Residential courses or training
- × Activities that discriminate against one section of the community
- × Retrospective funding applications
- × Trade or professional conferences, conventions, or associated events

- × Events that are social events for a company or organisation
- × Events where development and delivery are the responsibility of a governing body (e.g., league or cup championships, clubs' own operational activities, competitions, or running costs)
- × Fundraising activities or charitable donation

Monitoring and Evaluation

All successful applicants will be required to complete a brief evaluation form following the event, capturing outcomes, attendance, and feedback.

Appeals Process

- If your application is unsuccessful, or you are not satisfied with the recommendation, you can contact the Sponsorship team to request more information.
- If you are still not satisfied and wish to appeal a decision, please find appeals process below:
- Appeals must be made in writing within 10 working days of date of written decision.
- Should you decide to appeal the Sponsorship decision, you must identify your reasons for requesting an appeal.
- An appeal process does not entail a re-assessment of an application containing new or additional information.
- The appeal process provides applicants with the opportunity to seek reconsideration of a Sponsorship decision where evidence suggests that a procedural error has occurred during the assessment of an application.
- Please note where an application is incomplete or does not meet the eligibility criteria, therefore deemed ineligible; an appeal will not be considered.
- A meeting of the Sponsorship team will be convened to consider your appeal.
- The outcome will be communicated to you.
- The appeals decision is final.

For further details visit:

<https://www.fermanaghmagh.com/events-and-festivals/>

How to Apply

Online applications open at 10am on Thursday 05 June by [clicking here](#)

For further information or support with your application, contact the Sponsorship Team: sponsorship@fermanaghomagh.com

Closing Date

Application Deadline: **5pm on Thursday 03 July 2025.**