

20 April 2017

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To: The Cathaoirleach and Each Member of the Municipal District of Newcastle West

Briefing on the Communities Facilities Scheme & Assessment Criteria

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

An information briefing is being provided by the Social Development Directorate to the Members on the Communities Facilities Scheme for 2017 and Assessment Criteria. A budget of €64,500 has been made available to Limerick from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. Based on population data for the Municipal Districts, the allocation under this scheme for your district is €10,000.

The 2017 scheme provides **small-scale capital grants of maximum €1,000** to help grass roots community projects get underway or take the next step towards completion. The funding is targeted at projects that seek to enhance communities, address disadvantage and improve social cohesion at a local level.

Projects could include:

- Improvements to/renovation of community centres
- Community amenities
- Youth clubs
- Sports/recreation facilities
- Improvements to town parks and common areas and spaces
- Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022 projects

Under the Guidelines from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, the **selection criteria and process** is as follows:

- Applications will be checked initially by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) to ensure eligibility under the ethos of the scheme and complementarity with the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for the area.
- The LCDC will make a recommendation and submit the application to the Municipal District.
- The Municipal District will review the application taking into consideration the LCDC recommendation and make a final decision to approve or deny the application.

Eligible applications must meet the following criteria:

- Projects must be in keeping with the ethos of the scheme.
- Projects must be complementary to the LECP

The LCDC will assess eligible applications based on five criteria:

1. Need

Applicants must clearly identify and evidence the need for the project or proposal.

2. Additionality

Grants awarded will be for the purposes that are additional to and not a substitute for mainstream government spending. **Priority will be given to projects which demonstrate that said projects would not be undertaken but for the scheme funding.**

3. Government Policy

The project or proposal must take account of government policies and priorities in the area of economic development, local and community development and social and economic disadvantage.

4. Impact

Applicants must demonstrate the difference their project will make to the community.

5. Sustainability

Projects must be broadly sustainable and demonstrate local support. This is particularly important in the context of the scheme as the core of the scheme is communities.

Following this assessment, the LCDC will recommend projects suitable for funding to the Municipal District Members for their approval.

The scheme has been advertised in the local press and is available on www.limerick.ie

The closing date for applications is 4pm on Friday the 26th of May 2017.

A copy of the Guidelines and Application Form has been attached for information.

Is mise le meas,



Seamus O'Connor
Chief Officer
LCDC