

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY, SPORTS AND CULTURE STRATEGIC POLICY
COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 24th JUNE 2026

ITEM NO. 7

Review of Policy on Community Activities Funding - AI108738

Motion: Councillor John Walsh

"That the Chief Executive review the recent decision in relation to Community Activities funding Scheme to restrict payment to tutors to 50% of an overall grant allocation under Community Activities funding annually, as this is causing significant adverse implications for community groups."

Report:

Following approval by Council in late 2025, the revised scheme has been in operation since January 2026. The Council recognises that community groups require time to become familiar with the updated criteria and to adjust how activities are planned, costed and delivered within the new parameters.

It is recognised also that any change of this nature can give rise to challenges for community groups, particularly where there is strong demand for programme-based activities that rely heavily on qualified tutors and facilitators.

As discussed with Members, demand for Community Activities remains exceptionally high across the County, with over 930 groups eligible to apply annually. In this context, it is necessary to apply consistent criteria countywide to ensure that limited funding resources can be distributed equitably and transparently, and that the greatest possible number of groups across Fingal can continue to be supported.

The cap on tutor payments was introduced to encourage a balanced use of funding, ensuring that grants also contribute towards essential non-pay costs such as equipment, materials, venue hire, insurance, accessibility supports and participation expenses. This approach is intended to support the sustainability and inclusiveness of community activities, while reducing the risk that funding disproportionately benefits a smaller number of tutor intensive projects at the expense of broader community participation.

The Community Development office is engaging with groups to provide practical guidance on budgeting, programme design and alternative funding options and will work with area-based staff to support groups in adapting to the revised scheme.

The impact of the changes to the operation of the CAF scheme is under review and feedback from community groups, elected members and SPC members will continue to inform this process.

With the scheme having been recommended by this SPC and agreed by Full Council, any changes arising from this process will need to be channelled through the same forum for consideration. It is envisaged that a presentation will be made to this SPC on the scheme review before year end.

Source of Report: Cormac Healy, Senior Executive Officer, Economic, Community and Cultural Development