**Report to Social and Community SPC Sept 2018**

***MOTION: Councillor V. Casserly***

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| ***‘To call on this committee to place a stipulation in terms of grants or funding provided by SDCC to festival or community events to hire a mobiloo for all public events to insure it is accessible for all.’*** |

***REPORT:***

*The Community Services Department and the Local Community Development Teams have the role of providing advice and support to Local Voluntary Committees as requested and this may also lead to providing some funding supports.  Where it is appropriate Local Community Development Team staff may sit on these Committees, for example if a new festival is just being established and a high level of support for a specific timeframe is required.*

**Background:**

The Council operates operate many funding opportunities for community organisations/groups and community committees such as the Community Grants Scheme, support for Festivals and Tidy Towns committees etc.

**Community Grants Scheme – South Dublin County Council Criteria Applied:**

Groups/organisations who apply for grant aid will be registered on the Community Groups Database.

* Application for a grant must be made on the official application form.
* Groups/organisations must be located within the County of South Dublin.
* Groups/ organisations availing of a grant must be formally established and must produce Constitution.
* Bank accounts must be in the name of the group. The Voluntary Non-Profit Making Organisations Registration Form must be completed by the group and returned to the Revenue Commissioners. On receipt of a Tax Reference Number, a copy of same must be submitted to the Community Services Department.
* A copy of the group’s Audited Accounts or Bank Statements for the previous 12 months must be submitted. The submission must meet data protection legislation, the Council will not retain this information.
* In general, grants are not available to groups/organisations that receive core funding from other state agencies.
* Evidence of adequate insurance must be produced and South Dublin County Council must be indemnified where appropriate.
* Documentation, including receipts, must be produced as evidence of goods purchased or of works carried out. If groups/organisations have difficulties in this regard, South Dublin County Council will be prepared to discuss the matter with them to resolve the difficulty.
* South Dublin County Council’s grant contribution must be publicly acknowledged in all associated promotional material pertaining to the project and evidence of this must be supplied.
* In general, except in special circumstances, a group/organisation shall not receive a grant for the same purpose more than once in any twelve-month period.
* Community Grants are not available to individuals/organisations that are engaged in profit making activities.
* Since South Dublin County Council’s Grant Scheme contributes only a percentage of the overall cost of the project, groups must produce evidence that sufficient funds are on hand to finance the balance.
* All Groups must be registered with the PPN (Public Participation Network).

**Report:**

The Council is committed to its core values of accountability, transparency, responsiveness, accessibility, equality, participation, service improvement & measurement, supporting an enhanced local democratic process & governance, community leadership & citizen engagement, responsiveness & efficiency, trust & integrity, accountability & budgetary control and maximizing the use of scarce resources. The Council ensures that these values are embedded in the Organisations activities and are secured through the following governances measures:

* [The Elected Council](https://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Your_Council/About-the-Council/Governance/The-Elected-Council/)
* [The Chief Executive](https://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Your_Council/About-the-Council/Governance/The-Chief-Executive/)
* [Financial Accountability](https://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Your_Council/About-the-Council/Governance/Financial-Accountability/)
* [The Local Government Audit Service](https://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Your_Council/About-the-Council/Governance/The-Local-Government-Audit-Service/)
* [The Internal Auditor](https://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Your_Council/About-the-Council/Governance/The-Internal-Auditor/)
* [The Audit Committee](https://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Your_Council/About-the-Council/Governance/Audit-Committee/The-Audit-Committee.html)
* [Corporate Risk](https://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Your_Council/About-the-Council/Governance/Corporate-Risk/)
* [Codes of Conduct & Behaviour-Ethics Registrar](https://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Your_Council/About-the-Council/Governance/Code-of-Conduct-Behaviour-Ethics-Registrar/)

The Council through the work of it’s local Community Development Teams provide advice and assistance to a large number of local voluntary Community Groups throughout the County who come together to organise local community events and festivals to help celebrate different seasonal events and foster and a sense of community spirit within the local communities in the County.

These groups often also apply for funding assistance to assist cover some of the costs associated with the events and festivals. Groups applying for funding assistance return grant application forms providing details on:

* The Group/Committee structure
* Details of the event/festival being proposed
* Supports provided by/within the local community
* All relevant approvals/permissions have been obtained to conduct the event/festival
* The costings of the event, including the funds raised/in hand by the organising group
* Financial details of the group
* Evidence of all appropriate Insurance policies and related indemnities
* Event Safety Statement where appropriate
* Tax Clearance certificate
* Proof of PPN membership

Applications for funding are assessed using the key considerations of:

1. Impact on local community and local community involvement
2. Availability/existence of other groups doing the same work/duplication of activities
3. Proven track record and ability of the group to deliver the project
4. Provision of clear and accurate project costings
5. Projects/works demonstrating good value for money
6. Existing funds available to the group/funds in hand and availability of other funding sources
7. Projects/works demonstrating sustainability

In relation to this motion calling for a stipulation to be placed it terms of funding providing to community groups who organise festivals or community events to hire a Mobiloo, it should be noted:

All Local Organising Committees are always advised by the Local Community Development Teams that they should take all appropriate and reasonable steps to ensure that the events and activities organised within the festivals are made accessible and inclusive to all.

Adding a stipulation that all local groups organising festivals and community events must hire a Mobiloo, could lead to both budgetary and practical implications for the local organising groups.

It would also not be possibly in terms of procurement guidelines to add the stipulation that the groups must hire a Mobiloo. Mobiloo is just the name one company that provide accessible toilet and changing spaces.

In keeping with the existing practice that local organising committees are already advised to take all appropriate and reasonable steps to ensure that the events and activities organised within the festivals are made accessible and inclusive to all.

It is proposed that the following wording will also be added to the funding application form for community events and festivals:

***“Please provide details of all appropriate and reasonable steps taken by your committee to ensure the proposed community event or festival is made accessible and inclusive to all.”***