

## **Requests for Financial Assistance**

It was noted that all donations and grants were subject to the general limitation on the application of the Council funds contained in the Local Government Act (NI) 1972. Grants were currently made available through promotion of the Arts, Community Services, promotion of Economic Development, Leisure and Tourism. Members have given consideration to a policy statement for requests for financial assistance of a “general” nature that could not properly be dealt with by another council department. Under a “general” heading the 1972 Act refers to contributions to voluntary groups and contributions for “special purposes”.

The Policy statement for request for financial assistance of a “general” nature entailed that the council would:

1. only consider supporting a request where the applicants have indicated that their application is made on behalf of a group or organisation, the aims of which support those of CBC.
2. only consider supporting an event which was of a local nature and would provide a local benefit (i.e. within the Borough), and would only consider supporting events outside the Borough where the applicant is based locally within the Borough.
3. not provide financial assistance where funding was clearly the responsibility of another statutory body.
4. not provide financial assistance where the request was for the repayment of a debt.
5. not provide financial assistance where the request was retrospective request.
6. not provide financial assistance to charities , regardless of the purpose of the event.
7. not offer any reduction on any facility charge and not offer free use of facilities.
8. only offer financial assistance to an individual up to a limit of £100,
9. determine that the maximum amount available under the “general” heading would be £500.
10. accept only one application from any applicant in each financial year 1 April to 31 March.
11. not provide commercial support to a commercial operation run purely for profit or personal gain.
12. only provide financial contributions for Award dinners and for Anniversary Dinners for special occasions ( ie Silver or Golden Anniversaries and excluding Christmas Dinners ).